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HISTORY OF
TREMPEALEAU COUNTY
WISCONSIN

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INTRODUCTION

The hills and valleys of Trempealeau County have made their striking appeal to the human mind since the far distant days of prehistoric man. The venerable heights have witnessed the coming and going of successive races and unnumbered generations. Its crags have watched the building of Indian mounds in the ages now dark with oblivion, and have heard the aboriginal legends told and retold—changing as they drifted through the centuries, until they have died away and been forgotten. They have looked down on the haunt of the Indians whose hunting-ground abounded with game, and whose canoes were the only vessels on the waters of the Mississippi. And they have seen the early French explorers, driven by the restless spirit of adventure and the love of conquest, work their way through the wilderness into the remote regions of the unexplored country. They have beheld the self-sacrificing missionaries braving the perils of the savage-infested regions of the land, for the purpose of lifting the barbarous mind of the Indian to a religious plane; and they have witnessed the fur trader with his hunters, trappers and voyageurs penetrating the remote parts of the county in quest of furs. And at last they saw the coming of the pioneers, who clambered up their sides and broke the silence of the solitude by felling the scattered and scanty trees for cabin homes. These tillers of the soil established permanent homes, and today, far and wide over the surface of the county, are rich farms; thus has the favorite hunting-ground of the Indian been transformed by the march of our Western civilization.

Trempealeau County is in the western part of Wisconsin, on the Mississippi River. It is bounded on the east by Jackson County, on the north by Eau Claire County, on the west by Buffalo County, and on the south by La Crosse County, as well as by Winona County across the Mississippi River in Minnesota.

The area of the county is 748 miles.

Its greatest length from north to south is 42 miles; its average width is 18 miles. The northern part is a rectangle, four townships (townships 21, 22, 23 and 24) long, and three townships (ranges 7, 8 and 9) wide. The southern part would be a rectangle three townships (townships 18, 19 and 20, ranges 7, 8 and 9) were it not extended on the west by the course of the Trempealeau River, and cut off at the southwest by the course of the Mississippi River, and at the southeast by the course of the Black River.

The area belongs entirely to the Mississippi system, and is separated into three distinct divisions, the Trempealeau Prairie Region, the Trempealeau Valley Region and the Beef River Region. The Mississippi bluffs are broken at Trempealeau village, and this opening stretches back into a fertile prairie, reaching from the Black River bluffs to the Mississippi River bluffs, the ancient bed of the Mississippi. This prairie opens at the northeast into the Beaver Creek Valley, which contains the Galesville and Ettrick country. At the northwest, the Trempealeau Prairie opens into valley of the Tamarack River, which flows south between high ridges and then west across the prairie into the Trempealeau River a few miles from its mouth.

The valley of the Trempealeau River occupies the central part of the county. Entering from Jackson County on the east, the river describes a great bend to the north and then flows southwardly, forming for a part of its course the western boundary of the county, dividing a few miles north of its mouth into two branches, and then spreading into marshes and sloughs on its way to the Mississippi. The Trempealeau River receives two important tributaries from the north, Elk Creek and Pigeon Creek, both of which have rich and fertile valleys.

In the northern part the Beef River flows east and west.

The three divisions of the county are separated by high ridges, and all the val-

leys have tributary valleys and cooleys which in turn are likewise bordered by ridges.

The physical geography of Trempealeau County has been the important feature in its settlement. Its pioneers came first to Trempealeau, scattered back on the prairie, and up the Tamarack and Beaver Creek Valleys. From the ridges of Buffalo County to the west and from Jackson County to the east, they poured into the Trempealeau Valley, and from that valley into its tributaries. From the older counties to the east and south they poured into the Beef River Valley. Geographical expediency has also located the incorporated villages, all being at natural trading centers near the mouths of important valleys, and all being the sites of natural water-powers. At or near the present sites of all the incorporated villages, there were stores before the railroads were built. Physical geography has also been an important part in determining the political destinies of the county, political divisions having been made with a view to geographical convenience, and only four of the townships following the lines of the government survey.

The county was created Jan. 24, 1854. The supervisors of Montoville Township met as the supervisors of Trempealeau County, March 11, 1854. Gale Township was created at that meeting, and the first regular meeting of county supervisors consisting of the chairmen of Montoville (Trempealeau) and Gale Townships met May 1, 1854. The commissioner system, with a commissioner from each of three districts, went into effect Jan. 1, 1862, and the supervisor system was revived Jan. 1, 1870. The courthouse was ready for occupancy at Galesville, July 23, 1856. In 1858 a petition was presented to the legislature asking for the removal of the county seat of Trempealeau, and in 1868 the legislature passed a bill authorizing a vote on the subject. Nov. 7, 1876, the vote was taken by the citizens of the county, removing the county seat to Arcadia. A year later the voters removed the county seat to Whitehall, where the supervisors held their first meeting Jan. 23, 1878. A proposition to remove it to Blair was rejected by the voters in 1878, and a proposition to return it to Arcadia rejected in 1882. In 1883 a petition asking for a vote on the removal

to Independence was declared to have too few signatures.

The courthouse at Whitehall was started in 1883 and completed early in 1884. The jail was built in 1886. Courthouse and jail were rebuilt in 1911. The County Insane Asylum at Arcadia was started in 1899 and completed in 1900. Efforts to establish a poor farm and alms house have thus far failed.

The townships of the county are: Trempealeau, created as Montoville by the county supervisors of La Crosse County before Trempealeau County was organized, the exact date not appearing in the LaCrosse records; Gale, created March 11, 1854; Preston, created Nov. 21, 1855; Sumner, created Nov. 20, 1856; Arcadia, created Nov. 20, 1856; Caledonia, created Nov. 11, 1857; Lincoln, created Nov. 13, 1860; Ettrick, Dec. 16, 1862; Burnside, Dec. 31, 1863; Hale, Feb. 16, 1864; Albion, Jan. 20, 1870; Dodge, Jan. 4, 1875; Pigeon, Jan. 4, 1875; Unity, Nov. 20, 1877; and Chimney Rock, Nov. 22, 1881.

The metropolis is Arcadia with a population of some 1,400. The other villages are Whitehall, Trempealeau, Galesville, Dodge, Independence, Blair, Ettrick, Pigeon Falls, Osseo, Strum and Eleva.

The population is 22,928. The Scandinavian element largely predominates. The German and Polish element is next in numbers. In 1860 the population was 2,560, largely from the eastern states. In 1870, the population was 10,732, the ratio of the population elements being practically as at present. In 1880 the population was 17,189; in 1890 it was 18,920; in 1900 it was 23,114. The decrease to 22,928 in 1910 was due to the young people moving to the cities and to the West.

The county is entirely an agricultural one, all of the villages depending upon the people of their immediate rural district for their support.

The earliest explorers of the upper Mississippi River found Trempealeau under the domain of the powerful Dakota Indians, who from their headquarters in the Mille Lacs region of northern Minnesota, used the great river as their route of war and the chase. But pressed hard by the Chippewa, who had secured firearms from the whites, the Dakota abandoned their ancient northern villages, and the early fur traders found them ranging the Mis-

Mississippi from St. Paul southward to Prairie du Chien, and on the prairies to the westward. The Winnebago, who, like the Dakota, or Sioux proper, were members of the Siouan family, had held ancient sway of the valleys of the Rock and Fox Rivers, and the territory around Lake Winnebago and Green Bay, were met at Green Bay by the first explorers, and in early fur trading days were ranging as far westward as the Mississippi. Tradition tells of many a murderous foray against the Dakota and the Winnebago in the vicinity, not only by their hereditary enemies, the Chippewas to the northward, but also by the combined Sauk and Foxes to the southward.

Some time in the middle years of the first half of the nineteenth century, Decorah of the Winnebago had a village at what is now Decorah's Prairie, and Wabasha of the Dakotas had a village near Trempealeau Mountain, while Red Bird of the Winnebago had a village near the mouth of the Black River, from which he and his followers, as well as Winneshiek and his followers, ranged Trempealeau County. The Winnebago were allies of the Dakota, and the two mingled in friendly intercourse and even in marriage. Dakota dominion in Trempealeau County ended in 1837, when the chiefs and head men signed a treaty relinquishing all their lands east of the Mississippi and the islands therein, and withdrew west of the river. The Winnebago, however, in spite of many efforts at removal, persisted in staying in Trempealeau County, and some of their descendants are to be found straying here to this day.

The shadowy Spanish sovereignty had no influence on Trempealeau County, where its vague substance nominally continued until the approach of the French, or on the neighboring lands across the Mississippi River, where it continued until after the securing of the "Louisiana Purchase" by the United States.

The French Period in Trempealeau County extended from the discovery of Wisconsin in 1634 until the fall of New France. The adventurous Father Louis Hennepin, in company with Accault and Auguel, passed the mountain with his savage captors in 1680, on that memorable trip which was to give to civilization its first knowledge of St. Anthony Falls,

about which now centers the greatest milling industry in the world. A few months later the rocks of Trempealeau heights beheld the historic rescue of that missionary by the gallant young Sieur du Luth.

Nicholas Perrot was the first to actually visit Trempealeau County. In the winter of 1685-86 he built a Post and established his winter quarters about two miles above the present village of Trempealeau. Just when he abandoned this post is not known. At least he was in this region for several years thereafter. Linctot reoccupied this same post in the fall of 1731. The site of the post is now definitely fixed, as its ruins have been unearthed and mapped. Linctot was succeeded late in 1735 by St. Pierre, who removed the post higher up the river early the following spring. Other Frenchmen during the French period noted Trempealeau Mountain, and some stopped here.

The English period officially dawned with the signing of the treaties of 1762 and 1763, but the last French garrison had left Wisconsin in 1760. During this period, Jonathan Carver, a Connecticut Yankee, viewed this region in 1766 and published the first description of Trempealeau Mountain. This description, which is fairly accurate, has been preserved in Carver's works to this day. British domain in reality continued from the arrival of the English detachment at Green Bay in 1761 until the beginning of the American military occupancy at Prairie du Chien and Green Bay in 1816. But in the meantime, American sovereignty had been inaugurated by the Treaty of 1783; had been exercised by the passing of the Ordinance of 1787; had been confirmed by the Treaty of 1796; and had been interrupted by the British military occupancy during the war of 1812 and the hostility of the Indians immediately following that war.

The dashing Lieut. Zebulon M. Pike, on his way up the river in 1805, camped near Trempealeau Mountain and spoke glowingly of the scenery. In 1817 came Major Stephen H. Long with his little band in a six-oared skiff. He climbed some of the hills in this region and advanced some interesting theories as to the original contour of Trempealeau Mountain and Prairie.

With the establishment of Ft. Snelling at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers in 1819, Trempealeau

County was placed within the pale of civilization, and soldiers, traders and visitors were frequently passing. About the same time, a sawmill was built at the Falls of the Black River. Gen. Lewis Cass, James D. Doty and Henry R. Schoolcraft passed Trempealeau Mountain in 1820 and described its peculiar formation and position. A mill was built in 1822 on the Menomonee branch of the Chippewa. In 1823, Long, accompanied this time by the scholarly William H. Keating, again passed Trempealeau Mountain, and the same year the sleeping echoes were awakened with the puffing of the "Virginia," the first steamboat to navigate the upper Mississippi. Among the distinguished people aboard was J. Constantine Beltrami, the famous Italian explorer. He wrote of Trempealeau Mountain with his characteristic enthusiasm.

Trempealeau Bay continued to be the rendezvous of the traders.

The first trapper and trader known to have actually built a cabin in Trempealeaus County, after the early French explorers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, was Joseph Rocque, an early trader and guide. Winnebago tradition locates a cabin of his on Beaver Creek, in Trempealeau County near Galesville, where a branch of the stream is still known as French Creek.

In 1835 Featherstonhaugh visited the Trempealeau country and describes the view from the summit of Trempealeau Mountain. Catlin, as well as the Dragoons of the Albert Miller Lee Military Expedition, came the same year. The following year Daniel Gavin, representing the Protestant Missionary Society of Basle, Switzerland, established a mission among the Sioux at Trempealeau Bay, and with the assistance of Louis Stram, a fellow countryman, endeavored to teach the Indians agriculture; but Wabasha, their chief, did not take kindly either to the mission or the farming; and after the treaty of 1837, by which all the Sioux claim east of the Mississippi was ceded to the United States, Gavin abandoned the mission and proceeded north to more favorable fields at Red Wing. Although the enterprise was temporary, it was the first made in the county in the nature of a permanent settlement, and was the first farming therein under the direction of a white man.

The next attempt at settlement came about under the auspices of the fur trade. Francois la Bathe, a shrewd half-breed, and a near relative of Wabasha, induced John Doville and Antoine Reed to proceed to the present village of Trempealeau and cut cordwood on the island opposite for steamboats, and in so doing hold the Trempealeau River front as a landing and thus prevent any trade drifting away from Wabasha's village, at the present city of Winona, the American Fur Company being the real factor back of this move.

Then came the period of actual settlement, when James A. Reed brought his family from Prairie du Chien and located on the site of modern Trempealeau. Under his direction, Doville, his son-in-law, tilled the soil broken by Stram at the bay, and became the first Trempealeau County farmer, as he sowed grain and raised potatoes, while Stram had devoted himself to gardening only.

During the next ten years a number of families moved into the new settlement which was known as Reed's Town, or Reed's Landing. These families were mostly of French origin, though some were mixed bloods, and they thrived largely by the fur trade, though nearly all raised good gardens, and those who were fortunate enough to have stock used the prairie as a common grazing ground.

It was not, however, until after 1850 that any large number of settlers came into Trempealeau County, and the real influx did not start until 1855, but from that date until 1870 may be considered the real pioneer period in the county's history. Settlers poured into the new country, penetrating its remotest valleys and taking up the choicest lands of the various sections, and the class of people that came to cast their lot in the undeveloped country were largely farmers of experience; and but few came unprepared to grapple with the wild forces of nature and subdue the hunting ground of the Indian.

However, conditions were entirely new. Little sawed lumber was available. Some of the pioneers lived in their wagons for a while; some built log cabins; some constructed dugouts; some few went to far-off sawmills and obtained boards. The county was but little wooded, and material even for log cabins was scarce. Except on the prairies, it was not thought

possible to sink wells, and water for household and farming purposes had to be secured from the creeks. Horses were not suited to the inclement winters, the inferior protection of straw sheds, and the coarse fodder of marsh grass, and so oxen were the principal beasts of burden. Tools were few and hard to obtain. Market places were far distant. The people from the eastern states missed their convenient stores, the nearby schoolhouses, their village churches, and their cultural opportunities. The immigrants from the British Isles and from central Europe missed the day-by-day routine which their ancestors had for centuries followed, and were thrown as never before on their own resources. The Scandinavian, though in a more fertile land than one of which he had ever dreamed, missed the waterfalls and mountains of his native land, and was confronted with the necessity of entirely changing the methods of farming to which he was accustomed. These Europeans also missed their churches, their schools, and the neighborhood gatherings of childhood friends.

In settling along the principal streams of the county, the pioneer followed a law that has been adhered to since the race began; in fact, the stream may be considered the trail leading into the interior of the country.

For the first few years the valleys were sparsely settled. Then came more pioneers, and communities were formed and named as a usual thing after the first settler, though sometimes they took their names from some home country or from a class of people natives of a common country. Thus there are Reed's town, Galesville, Scotch Prairie, Bishop's Settlement Caledonia, Williamsburg, as instances of the naming of a community. The same holds true of the valleys which were most generally named in honor of the first settler, as Lewis Valley, Newcomb Valley, Holcomb Cooley and Latsch Valley.

Many of these first settlements became the present villages, and some of the villages will become cities in the future. Reed's Town became the present Trempealeau; Judge Gale's village grew into modern Galesville; Bishop's Settlement developed into Arcadia; Old Whitehall moved a mile became Whitehall; Fields' Colony became Osseo. But Skillins' Cor-

ners, later called Williamsburg, Coral City and New City became reverse examples of the settlements growing into villages, and today their past glory is only a memory, recorded on a page of local history, for conditions were unfavorable for the growth of a town in those localities.

During the pioneer days, the first drawback was the hard winter of the deep snow in 1856-57; the next was the financial crisis of 1857. Then, just when prosperity was dawning, came the Civil War. However, from an economic standpoint, the increased value of agricultural products recompensed for the loss of labor caused by the absence of so many men, and the county received no severe setbacks. In fact, the population increased, for there was a large influx of settlers from the old country, men who were not liable to military service. The Scandinavians, who had begun to form colonies here in 1855, came in increasing numbers; the Germans, who had started to colonize here in 1857, also flocked in; and during the opening years of the war the Polish and Bohemian settlers began to arrive. The Minnesota Sioux massacre of 1862 caused much unrest among the settlers of Trempealeau County as to the attitude of the neighboring Winnebago camps, and was the occasion of many a fright, the incidents of which are now told with relish, but in reality was of great benefit to Trempealeau County, as many pioneers who had intended to settle on the western Minnesota prairies were deterred from continuing the journey, and thus cast their fortunes here.

During the pioneer period Trempealeau village was a steamboat center, the great grain shipping point of this and neighboring counties. The Black River and the Mississippi River were filled with great rafts of logs from the Wisconsin forests, and even the shallow Trempealeau was used as a logging highway.

The railroad period begins with the building of the Northwestern into Trempealeau in 1870 and the building of the Green Bay through the valley of the Trempealeau River in 1873. The extension of the Northwestern to Galesville in 1883, and the building of the Burlington through Trempealeau in 1886, the building of the Omaha through the northern part of the county in 1887-89, and the build-

ing of the Ettrick & Northern from Ettrick to Blair in 1917 opened up new avenues of trade, but marked no particular epoch.

From 1870 on, Trempealeau County history becomes tinged more and more with modern methods and improvements. The railroad terminated Trempealeau's activities as the main market town of the county and at the same time the steamboat industry on the Mississippi received a most formidable rival. With the building of the Green Bay, Whitehall, Arcadia and Blair became important points, Dodge became a trading center, and soon Independence was started. The county advanced rapidly now, as the railroad made the markets of the world more accessible, and with the progress came the inevitable changes that have been the wonder of our western civilization. People quickly adapted themselves to the new conditions and fell in with the trend of things. The farmer discarded his breaking-plow and rode across his fields with the modern sulky, while his oxen were fattened and sold to market to make way for well-bred horses. The mattock was flung into a corner of the tool shed to rust out its existence, while the stump-pulling machine took its place and made grubbing a mechanical piece of labor rather than slow, plodding work. The cradle and flail were hung on the wall, and in their place came the reaper, binder and steam thresher. The old tallow candle that burned through the pioneer days was laid aside, and the kerosene and, still later, gasoline and even the electric light cast a glamor on the household and lighted the room so that grandmother could knit even better than she could before the old fireplace.

The population increased rapidly, nearly 7,000 by 1877. At the beginning of this period there were but two graded schools, one at Galesville and one at Whitehall, and but one district, that of Arcadia, where there were two school houses. With the creation of the new villages, graded schools became more general, and in a short time high school studies were introduced. New churches were established; old congregations built new edifices.

But with all this prosperity, the elements of disaster were present. The farmers were devoting their attention al-

most exclusively to wheat raising. A few experiments were made with other crops, but wheat was the staple. The taking of rich crops off the same pieces of land year after year was depleting the soil. The cinch bugs were appearing in increasing numbers. Smooth-talking agents persuaded farmers to purchase machinery on time payments. Better machinery soon made its appearance, and the unfortunate purchasers of the earlier machinery found themselves with inferior equipment and with heavy bills to pay. The price of wheat was going down. Many lost their property through inability to meet their notes. In 1878 came the wheat failure. About this time also came the rush to the prairies of western Minnesota and to the Dakotas. Many people deserted the county.

But with the dawn of the eighties there came improved methods and increasing prosperity, though for ten years there was little increase in population. The farmers turned their attention to diversified crops, to stock, to swine and to sheep. In 1883 creameries were started at Arcadia and Galesville, and in 1885 a co-operative creamery was started at Ettrick. Banks sprang up here and there. A small bank had been established in 1878 at Whitehall and moved to Arcadia, and before 1890 flourishing banks were in operation at Galesville, Whitehall, Independence and Arcadia. Telephone connection was established with the outside world from Galesville in 1895, and soon Arcadia likewise secured outside connections, and in 1900-02 lines were built and exchanges opened in the Trempealeau and Beef River valleys.

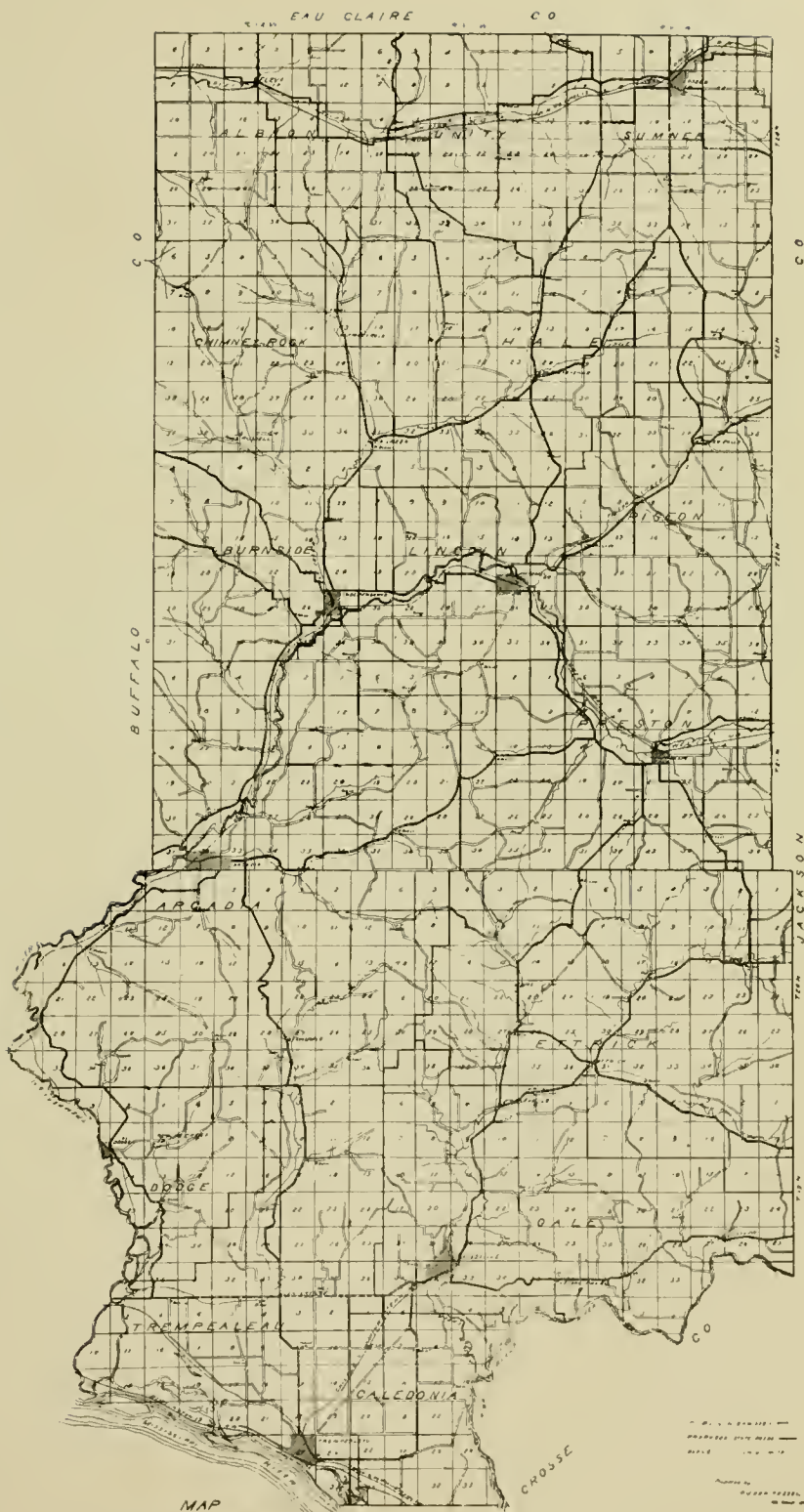
During the past ten years scientific agriculture has occupied the minds of Trempealeau County farmers, stimulated largely by the agricultural department of the federal government and by the efforts of the agricultural department of the University of Wisconsin, more particularly by the University Extension Division. As there are few new fields to subdue, the farmer must develop his old fields to a higher stage of efficiency. This he is doing, as the increasing acreage of alfalfa and the better quality of corn and small grain show. Blooded herds and constantly developing graded herds are numerous. The automobile has come into

wide use, and since 1907 an extensive system of road improvement has been conducted with state aid. The farmers from Illinois and Iowa have brought experience in tobacco raising, so that the tobacco industry is now an important one in the county. The schools have introduced the teaching of domestic science, agriculture and the manual arts. Beautiful farm homes with all modern improvements are to be seen on all sides. Silos dot the landscape like ancient castles, Trempealeau County seed corn is widely known, the creameries not only add to the reputation of the county's products but give the farmer a goodly cash check each month. The present generation is reaping the fruits that have been made possible by more than sixty years of toil by preceding generations.

The year of 1917 has brought its war cloud. A company has been raised within the county, many have volunteered, the conscripts of the National Army have been called into service. The farmers have responded to the President's plea, and, though the early frost has almost destroyed the corn crop and the cucumber crop, there has been a greatly increased acreage and greatly increased yield of all other crops.

The county having reached so great a prosperity, it now seems that this scientific age of agriculture should join forces with the electrical machinery now in the process of completion, and together make farming an ideal vocation—a vocation where the naturalist and scientist combine forces to wrest from Mother Earth a harvest such as would satisfy the most sanguine dreamer. Then we shall see the lightning from the clouds harnessed, and plowing the fields, sowing the grain, and reaping it in harvest time, and in so doing it will simply be the application of natural laws in which the human mind is the directing force.

To the telling of this story of the county in more extended detail, the following pages are devoted. First is given the history of the early days of the area that is now Wisconsin, and then is traced the history of the county from its formation during the geologic ages, through the early settlement of the various localities. Then the county government is given, and the rest of the book is devoted to chapters on various topics of local interest, source material in the form of miscellaneous contributions, and biographies of the lives of those who have helped to make the county.



MAP
TREMPEALEAU CO.

CHAPTER I

EARLY WISCONSIN ¹

I. Physical and Political Geography

1. **Topography**—In the beautiful new capital of the State of Wisconsin a noted artist has portrayed the commonwealth as a strong and beautiful woman, embraced and encircled by the guardian figures of the Mississippi River, Lake Superior, and Lake Michigan. Thus in symbolic form the painter has vividly portrayed the truth that Wisconsin's position at the head-waters of the two great valleys of North America—the St. Lawrence and the Mississippi—has been of supreme importance in the history of the State. To these advantages of position is due its early discovery, its thorough exploration and its value as a link in the penetration of the Old Northwest. The area of the present State is 56,066 square miles, somewhat larger than the whole of England. In extreme length from north to south it is 320 miles, with a maximum width almost as great. Its distance from the Atlantic coast is about a thousand miles— one-third of the entire distance across the continent. The eastern and northern portions of the State drain into the two upper Great Lakes by short streams with rapid courses. The larger portion of the area belongs to the Mississippi system, into which it drains by a series of large rivers; the largest and most important of these is the one from which the State takes its name. The Wisconsin River, rising on the northeastern boundary of the State, cuts across it to the southwest, making a great trough which at the elbow in south-central Wisconsin approaches within three-quarters of a mile of the eastward-flowing Fox River. The Fox, in its upper courses a sluggish stream, winding slowly through lakes and wide spreads of wild rice, after passing through Lake Winnebago, the largest lake wholly within the State, rushes with great force down a series of rapids into the upper end of Green Bay, the V-shaped western extremity of Lake Michigan. Thus a natural waterway crosses the State, uniting by means of a short portage the Atlantic waters with those of the Gulf of Mexico, and dividing the State into a northern and southern portion, which have had widely differing courses of development.

The southeastern half of the State, with plentiful harbors on Lake Michigan and Green Bay, opens unobstructedly towards the south and east. It was therefore the first portion to be permanently settled, and has partaken of the civilization and progress of the Middle West. The northern and western part of the State faces toward the farther West, and its development was delayed by the tardy growth of population at the head of Lake Superior and along the headwaters of the Mississippi. Waterways connecting these two drainage systems pass through this part of Wisconsin, the earliest known of which was that via the Bois Brule of Lake Superior

and the St. Croix of the Mississippi. Other streams connect with the headwaters of the Chippewa, the Black, and the Wisconsin. All these routes were explored during the early years of Wisconsin's history, but their rapid flow and difficult portages have made them impractical as commercial routes.

The heavy forestation of the northern portion of the State has been until recent times the main fact in its history; while as carriers of timber, and as sources of water power the rapid rivers of northwestern Wisconsin have played their part in the production of its wealth and prosperity.

2. **Sovereignty**—Politically, Wisconsin has been included in more different units of government than any of its neighbors. It was first a part of the Spanish empire in North America, which claimed all the continent whose southern borders had been discovered and occupied by Spanish subjects. The Spanish sovereignty in Wisconsin was never more than a shadow, and so far as we know no one of that race ever placed foot upon Wisconsin soil until long after it was possessed by a rival power.

The true history of Wisconsin begins with the coming of the French, who in 1634 sent their first representative to its shores. The period of French occupation was nominally about a century and a quarter; in reality it lasted somewhat less than one hundred years, as more than twenty years elapsed before the first discoverer was followed by others. The real exercise of French sovereignty began in 1671 when St. Luson at the Sault Ste. Marie took possession in the name of Louis XIV "of all other countries, rivers, lakes and tributaries, contiguous and adjacent thereunto (to the Sault and Lakes Huron and Superior), as well discovered as to be discovered, which are bounded on the one side by the Northern and Western Seas and on the other side by the South Sea including all its length and breadth." 2

The French domination of the area we now know as Wisconsin was exercised from the lower St. Lawrence Valley and was directed by the court at Versailles, where paternalism was the fashion, and where the smallest details of administration were decided by the highest powers of the kingdom. It may thus be said that Wisconsin during the French period was ruled directly by the French monarch. Every appointment of a petty officer of the Canadian army to command a log fort by one of Wisconsin's waterways had to be endorsed by the King; every little skirmish with the Indian tribesmen, every disagreement between soldiers and traders had to be reported by the Canadian authorities to the Royal Council, and await its dictum for settlement. Even the power of the governor of New France was frequently overruled by dictation from the Court of France, and orders for the governance of his subjects in Wisconsin were discussed in the presence of the greatest monarch of Europe.

The French domination came to an abrupt end when in the course of the Seven Years' War, Montreal, including all the upper province of New France, surrendered to the arms of England. The last French garrison left Wisconsin in 1760 by the Fox-Wisconsin waterway, and the next year an English detachment took possession of Green Bay and made Wisconsin a constituent part of the British empire. Thus it remained until the close

of the American Revolution. During the first years of the English possession, the Upper Country was ruled by the military authorities at Fort Edward Augustus (Green Bay), and Mackinac, subject to the commander-in-chief of the American armies, and Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Northern Department. After 1774 Wisconsin was a part of the Province of Quebec.

British sovereignty in Wisconsin fell with the treaty of Paris in 1783, which transferred to the new American nation the land south of the Great Lakes and east of the Mississippi. The British government, however, claiming non-fulfillment of certain treaty provisions, but in reality acting in the interest of British fur traders, refused to deliver to the United States the northwestern posts. Thus the inhabitants of Wisconsin, while technically on American territory were practically ruled by English officers. In 1796 after Jay's treaty with England, the northwestern posts were delivered over to American garrisons, and Wisconsin became an unorganized portion of the Northwest Territory. On May 7, 1800, Indiana Territory was organized with Wisconsin a part of her vast domain. Upon the territorial division into counties Wisconsin became a part of St. Clair, whose limits extended from a line nearly opposite St. Louis to the northern boundary of the United States. In 1802 Gov. William Henry Harrison appointed two justices of the peace and three militia officers in St. Clair County of Indiana Territory to serve at the French-Canadian settlement near the mouth of Wisconsin River. The next year a third justice was appointed for Prairie du Chien, and another commissioned for the sister community at the mouth of Fox River on Green Bay. All these appointees were British subjects and prominent fur traders. Therefore while commissions were issued and writs ran in the name of the United States, British fur traders were in actual control of all government agencies in Wisconsin.

In 1808 the United States increased the number of its representatives by the appointment of an Indian agent at Prairie du Chien. This agent was a French-Canadian by birth, formerly a British subject, who had become a naturalized American by residence in the French settlements of Illinois. By race and interests he was allied with the Franco-British traders of Wisconsin.

In 1809 Illinois Territory was set off from Indiana carrying with it St. Clair County, in which Wisconsin was included. So far as known the officials appointed by the governor of Indiana for Green Bay and Prairie du Chien continued to act under the commissions already received.

The outbreak of the War of 1812 made a sharp division among Wisconsin's few governing officers. The Indian agent was the sole official who maintained his American allegiance. All the other appointees declared for Great Britain, and actively engaged in operations for her benefit. The Indian agent was driven down the Mississippi, and Wisconsin became again a part of the territory of the British empire, guarded by Canadian troops and administered by British officers. In 1814 the Americans made an attempt to repossess themselves of the region on the Mississippi. A force organized at St. Louis ascended the river and built

a post at Prairie du Chien. This American post had been held less than a month, however, when an overwhelming British force from Mackinac and Green Bay captured the new fort and expelled the American garrison.

The Canadian authorities were eager to retain possession of Wisconsin, and during the negotiations for the Treaty of Ghent in 1814 made a determined effort to have the boundary lines redrawn so that Wisconsin should be made a buffer Indian region under British authority. This attempt failed, and in 1815 according to the terms of the Treaty of Ghent, the British garrisons were withdrawn from Wisconsin's soil. Nevertheless, so hostile were the Indian tribes to American reoccupation that not until eighteen months after the signing of the treaty was the American flag raised within the limits of Wisconsin. During this non-governmental period the British fur traders maintained, as they had done since 1761, an ascendancy over the tribesmen that preserved the few settlements from anarchy and destruction. While thus theoretically changing sovereignty several times from 1761 to 1816, Wisconsin was really during the entire period a French-Canadian settlement under British control.

American military occupation began in 1816 when strong posts were built at Prairie du Chien and Green Bay, the garrisons of which overawed the sullen tribesmen. Indian officials were appointed and American traders soon rivaled the operations of the French-Canadians. So bitterly did the latter resent the restrictions imposed upon them by American officers and officials that in 1818 they planned to remove in a body to some place under British jurisdiction, taking the Wisconsin Indians with them. Within a few years, however, the friction was adjusted, and the leading Wisconsin settlers became naturalized American citizens.

In 1818 Illinois was admitted as a State into the Union, and Wisconsin was transferred to Michigan territory. The same year Wisconsin was organized into two counties, Brown and Crawford, justices of the peace were appointed and American sovereignty became operative with this region. In 1824 United States district courts were organized for that portion of Michigan Territory lying west of Lake Michigan. In 1829 Crawford County was divided, all south of the Wisconsin River becoming Iowa County. In 1834 Brown County was reduced by the organization of its southern portion into Milwaukee County. In 1836 Michigan was admitted into the Union, and the Territory of Wisconsin was organized out of that portion of its limits that lay west of Lake Michigan.

Wisconsin Territory was maintained for twelve years. In 1846 there was a movement for Statehood, but the Constitution then drawn was rejected by the people, so that not until 1848 did Wisconsin become the thirtieth State in the American Union.

3. **Boundaries**—The boundaries of Wisconsin were first laid down in the Ordinance of 1787, which decreed that the southern boundary of the fifth or northwestern State of the Northwest Territory should be an east and west line drawn through the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan; that the western boundary should be the Mississippi to its source, thence by a straight line to the Lake of the Woods and the international boundary; that the northern boundary should coincide with the

international boundary through Lake Superior; and that the eastern boundary should be the meridian due north of Vincennes to the international line. The area of Wisconsin as outlined by this ordinance was one and a half times as large as at the present time. By successive measures Wisconsin's boundaries have since been curtailed at the southern, northeastern, and northwestern sides.

The southern boundary was changed when in 1818 Illinois was admitted to the Union. In order to secure for that State a harbor on Lake Michigan, Illinois' northern boundary was shifted from the line due west from the southern point of Lake Michigan, to latitude $42^{\circ} 30'$. This added to Illinois a strip of territory sixty-one miles in width, containing 8,500 square miles, and the site of Chicago. In 1818 there was no one in Wisconsin to protest against this change. In 1838, however, and during Wisconsin's later territorial period, attempts were made to repossess the northern portion of Illinois on the ground that the Ordinance of 1787 was a solemn compact, and as such inviolable without the consent of all parties concerned. The matter never came before the United States Supreme Court, but Wisconsin's territorial legislature passed several vigorous resolutions on the subject to which Congress paid no attention. Strange to say, many Illinois inhabitants dwelling in the disputed strip would have preferred Wisconsin's jurisdiction; at one time an informal referendum on the question in several Illinois counties resulted overwhelmingly in favor of Wisconsin. No official action, however, resulted, and the enabling act for Wisconsin in 1846, fixed its southern line $42^{\circ} 30'$. The eastern boundary as outlined by the Ordinance of 1787 was obliterated when in 1818 Wisconsin became part of Michigan Territory. When in 1834 it became evident that Michigan east of Lake Michigan would soon become a State, it was suggested that all west of Lake Michigan be organized into a new territory. This would have included in Wisconsin the upper peninsula of Michigan, and made our State a topographical unit.

Michigan, however, became engaged in a boundary contest with Ohio concerning the harbor of Toledo. Congress decided this controversy in favor of Ohio, but compensated Michigan by adding to her area the lands east of the Montreal and Menominee River boundary. Wisconsin, then unorganized, had no means of protest. Her northeastern boundary was fixed by the erection of the Territory in 1836.

Wisconsin Territory when organized included all that portion of the Louisiana Purchase lying north of Missouri, and east of the Missouri and White Earth rivers. This vast region embracing Iowa, and the larger part of the Dakotas, and Minnesota was understood to be added to Wisconsin for administrative purposes only. In 1838 Iowa Territory was set off, and Wisconsin was limited to the western boundary as outlined in the Ordinance of 1787. This included within Wisconsin Territory nearly one-third of the present area of Minnesota. At one time it was suggested that a sixth State should be formed of the territory east of the upper Mississippi and south of Lake Superior. Later the portion west of the St. Croix and the St. Louis River line actually became a part of a sixth State, Minnesota, which was organized as a Territory in 1849 and admitted as a State in 1858.

Wisconsin in 1848 became a State with boundaries as at present. Although short of her original allotment of territory, her present area makes her third in size of the five States of the Old Northwest.³

II. The Red Men and the Fur Trade

1. **First Men in Wisconsin**—A large portion of the surface of Wisconsin is covered with small heaps of earth or mounds that are without doubt the work of man, and not of nature. The formation of these earthworks was formerly attributed to a pre-Indian race of men known collectively as the Mound Builders; modern archaeologists, however, have repudiated the theory of a prehistoric race, and now are certain that the true mound builders were none other than the Indians. A peculiar kind of mound occurs in southern and central Wisconsin and in the neighboring regions of northern Illinois, eastern Iowa, and southeastern Minnesota, that is not found elsewhere in the United States. These are the effigy mounds, slight eminences that take the outline of deer, bears, panthers, turtles, various kinds of birds, and in one or two instances of man. The origin of these effigy mounds has been much discussed. It is now accepted by scientists that their makers were a tribe known to the first discoverers of the Northwest as the Puant or Winnebago Indians.

The great number and extent of the mounds scattered over the surface of Wisconsin indicates the presence of a large Indian population in prehistoric times; but at what era in the world's history, or in what way the Winnebago reached Wisconsin we can only infer from a few scattered facts. The migration legends of the Siouan peoples, to which stock the Winnebago belong, indicate that they came from the region near the sources of the Ohio River. Pressed upon by neighboring Algonquian peoples they slowly progressed along the Ohio Valley, leaving great earthworks as they advanced. In the course of several centuries they reached the Ohio's mouth, and there divided, one large branch passing northward along the Mississippi River, gradually separating into many tribes that located chiefly west of the great river. Somewhere, possibly at the mouth of Rock River, one group of this vast horde, attracted by the abundant game of the pleasant valley, moved eastward and northward, and after occupying the valley of Rock River to its headwaters, spread along the Fox River and around the lake now called Winnebago, terminating their migration at the shores of Green Bay. From the size of the trees growing upon the artificial mounds, it is inferred that the settlement of the Winnebago in Wisconsin must have occurred some time before the discovery of America by Columbus.

The Winnebago who peopled Wisconsin's valleys, and built their mounds along her streams and lakes were in what is known as the Stone Age of primitive culture. Contrary to the common belief, they were not a wandering, but a home-loving people, devotedly attached to the places of their birth, the homes of their fathers and the sites of their villages. These villages were so advantageously placed that the sites of most of Wisconsin's present cities were those once occupied by the Indians. The woods and streams supplied their simple needs of food, clothing, and

shelter. From the skins of animals they fashioned their garments, by hunting and by harvesting wild rice they gained their food. Their lodges were built of slender trees covered with bark, and with mats formed of plaited reeds. Gradually they learned a rude form of agriculture, by cultivating the ground with hoes of bone and plows of wood, corn and pumpkins were added to their food supply. They had no domestic animals except dogs, which also served as an addition to their food supply. Their tools and implements of warfare and of chase were made of stone, flints chipped to a point tipped their arrows, axes and hatchets were of edged stone, war clubs swung a heavy stone head. The only metals known were lead and copper. The former mined in a crude fashion was mostly used for ornament. Copper, secured by intertribal trade from Lake Superior, was beaten by hand into ornamental shapes, and occasionally used to tip weapons and domestic implements.

The change of seasons brought to Wisconsin Indians changed modes of living. During the winter season they left their permanent villages and in small groups scattered through the forests, subsisting as best they might on the products of the chase. They built temporary wigwams of pelts thrown over poles, within which fires were kindled that kept them from freezing. Upon the return of spring they sought their villages and corn fields. The summer was the time for religious rites, for council and for warfare. Raids upon neighboring enemy groups were a normal part of the Indian's life. In every village a council house was built where questions of war and alliance were discussed by the chiefs and elders. The religious rites clustered about a unit resembling a clan; the effigy mounds were the symbols of the clan totems. Near to these totems burial mounds were placed. The sacred mysteries of the tribe and clan were there celebrated.

Aside from warfare, intercourse was maintained with other tribes by means of trade. The extent and volume of intertribal trade was considerable. Sea shells found in Wisconsin mounds prove that they had passed from hand to hand among all the tribes between its inhabitants and the Atlantic coast. Shells, bits of metal, articles of dress and ornament, constituted the bulk of the exchange. Shells pierced and strung or wrought into belts were both the medium of exchange and the binding symbol of intertribal treaties and agreements. While the fate of captives taken in war was horrible, envoys were sacred, and treaties were observed inviolate.

The red man's life was by no means idyllic as children of nature have been supposed to lead. Famine and disease stalked his footsteps; war and wild animals carried away his young; struggle and hardships made up his lot in life. None the less it is open to question whether the contact with the white man did not make the condition of the Indian worse. He soon became dependent upon the farmer's products for clothing, implements and weapons. He forgot the arts of his primitive economy. Urged on by the greed of traders he rapidly killed off the wild game or drove it farther into the wilderness, which he had to penetrate in order to secure the store of furs with which to purchase his necessities. Thus hunting became more and more important to his existence, and with increased efforts and superior weapons brought ever-diminishing returns. The red man became

dependent upon the trader for the very means of life. After the French and Indian War when all traders of the French race were withdrawn from Wisconsin, the English traders who after a lapse of two years went to Lake Superior found naked, starving savages who in less than one hundred years had ceased to be self-sufficing, and could live only by means of relations with white men. Thus arose the fur trade, which was not only a commercial or an economic regime, but a system of government, a form of social life, a means of exploitation, and a stage in the development of the American frontier.

2. **The Coming of the White Man**—For one hundred and forty years after the discovery of America by Columbus, Wisconsin's forests slept in quiet, unvexed by the presence of any but their red children. Then suddenly out of the east, and skirting the coasts of Green Bay in a bark canoe driven by strange red men, the first white man came, and "women and children fled at the sight of a man who carried thunder in both hands"—for thus they called the two pistols that he held. "He wore a grand robe of China damask, all strewn with flowers and birds of many colors." "They meet him; they escort him, and carry all his baggage." They call him the Manitouriniou, the wonderful or godlike man. From all quarters they haste to see him until four or five thousand are assembled. "Each of the chief men made a feast for him, and at one of these banquets they served at least six score Beavers." ⁴ Then the mysterious stranger made a peace with them, under such forms and ceremonies as were customary in intertribal negotiations, and vanished into the east whence he had come.

To the whites who had crossed the ocean to begin a small colony on the banks of the St. Lawrence, this first white stranger to visit Wisconsin was known as Jean Nicolet. He had come to the New World with the express purpose of dealing with the red men, learning their languages and customs, and opening a way into their country for trade and missions. Sent by Champlain, the founder of New France, to dwell among the forest inhabitants, Nicolet spent several years among the Algonquin Indians of the upper Ottawa River; then he dwelt among the Huron in the peninsula between Lake Erie and Georgian Bay. There he heard of a far western tribe known as the "people of salt water," whom Nicolet supposed must dwell on the borders of the Western Sea and be akin to the tribes of Tartary. Hence the damask robe, and the hope of a new route to Cathay. Instead of Oriental potentates Nicolet found merely a new tribe of Indians whose name—the Winnebago—meant equally "people of the salt water" or "people of bad-smelling springs," and who were known henceforth to the French as the Puants or Stinkards.

After Nicolet's advent to Wisconsin in 1634, no more of these mysterious white strangers disturbed the dwellers on Lake Michigan and Green Bay for over twenty years. Nevertheless in these far regions great changes were taking place, due to the widespread disturbances in Indian geography caused by the coming of the white man. Upon the peninsula of Ontario then occupied by the Huron tribesmen, the Jesuit missionaries some years before the voyage of Nicolet founded the largest and most successful of their missions. Throughout all the Huron villages they

spread, and impelled by a desire to evangelize distant Indians, two of the fathers had in 1641 accompanied some of their neophytes to the shores of Lake Superior, and named the strait where the waters leap down from this mighty basin, the Sault de Ste. Marie.

But the Huron were not long left to develop their new religion in peace. Suddenly from central New York appeared large bands of their hereditary enemies, the Iroquois; by one blow after another the Huron missions were destroyed, some of the Jesuits fell martyrs to their cause, others escaping sought refuge with the remnants of their mission children under the cliffs of Quebec. The remainder of the Huron fled westward, their alarm was communicated to the Algonquian peoples living beyond them, and for fear of the Iroquois whole tribes left their ancestral homes for shelter in the farther forests. It happened that shortly before this disturbance the Winnebago of southern and central Wisconsin had suffered a severe defeat at the hands of the Illinois tribes living to the south, wherein they were so reduced in numbers that but a small fragment of the former tribe was left in its Wisconsin home. Into this sparsely-settled land the fugitives from Ontario and Michigan poured both by southern and northern routes. They hid from the pursuing Iroquois in the swamps and marshes of our State, and the Winnebago being in no condition to resist, made alliances with the intruding tribes, and yielded to them new homes on the lakes and streams where their ancestors had dwelt. Thus came the Sauk and Foxes, the Miami, Mascouten and Kickapoo. Thus, pressed down from the north and the islands of Lake Michigan, came the Menominee and Potawatomi to mingle with the Winnebago around Green Bay; while the Huron and Ottawa, impelled by a more dreadful fear, sought refuge on the southern shores of Lake Superior and about the headwaters of Black River. Thus in the middle of the seventeenth century Wisconsin became crowded with Indian villages, and was sustaining a larger number of red inhabitants than at any other time throughout her history. This aggregation of tribesmen conditioned her discovery and exploration, and made her a region tempting both to the French fur trader and to the French missionary of the cross.

3. Missionaries and Traders

Before the dispersion of tribes incident to the Iroquois wars the Huron and their neighbors had learned the value of the white man's goods, and had ventured as far as Three Rivers and Montreal, there to exchange their skins and robes for the weapons, clothing and trinkets that the white men had taught them to covet. Immediately there sprang up an intertribal trade that extended so far westward that tribes which had never seen a white man became familiar with his wares. The Ottawa Indians were especially skillful in trade, and so long acted as middlemen for the western tribes that all the region of the Upper Lakes was called by the French the Ottawa Country.

The Iroquois wars of the middle of the seventeenth century interrupted the northwest trade, and both the colony of New France and the interior tribes suffered from the break in the intercourse. Of the two

the French suffered the more, because the Indians had not yet forgotten their wilderness lore and were yet able to be self-sufficing. The lack of the annual harvest of furs from the Northwest had almost ruined the little French colony along the St. Lawrence, when suddenly it was gladdened by the arrival of a caravan of Indians at Three Rivers that came to exchange its hoarded treasure of peltry over northern streams and portages, uninfested by the dreaded Iroquois. Prosperity once more promised for Canada, the Indian visitors were royally treated, and when they embarked for their return voyage two young Canadians accompanied them and wandered for two years or more among the tribes of the Northwest, learning their customs and languages and teaching them the white man's arts.

The explorations of Radisson and Grosseilliers during the latter half of the sixth decade of the seventeenth century were not known to historians until the journals of Radisson were discovered late in the nineteenth century in the Bodleian Library at Oxford. They were written in English by one unfamiliar with that language and their descriptions are so vague that it yet remains an open question where these explorers went and whether or not they were the first white men to view the Mississippi.

Radisson and Grosseilliers made a second voyage to the Ottawa Country two or three years after their first adventure. Upon this occasion they explored Lake Superior and the headwaters of the Mississippi and passed a desolate and famishing winter, probably on the Wisconsin shore of Chequamegon Bay.

Meanwhile the first white missionary to Wisconsin had lost his life in her northern forests. Father Rene Menard in 1660 came to the Northwest with a returning party of trading Indians. They abandoned him on the shore of Keweenaw Bay and after a wretched winter he started with one companion to visit the Huron fugitives, formerly members of the Ontario mission, then thought to be in hiding on the headwaters of Black River. While descending the Wisconsin in a tiny craft, the reverend father stepped aside at some one of its upper portages and was lost in the forest. Whether he was slain by beast or Indian or perished from starvation is not known; no trace of his fate was ever found.

In 1665 the colony of New France was re-enforced by a regiment of soldiers, the Iroquois enemies were punished and concluded a reluctant peace. Thereafter the wilderness waterways became safer and traders and missionaries sought the tribesmen in Wisconsin forests.

Notable among the traders was Nicholas Perrot, who, in 1665, began a career of discovery and exploration in Wisconsin that lasted over thirty years. Among the missionaries Father Claude Allouez was a pioneer. His first mission in 1665 was on the shores of the Chequamegon Bay, where for two years he instructed large bands of Indians from all the Wisconsin region. Even the Illinois visited the good father in his northern home and listened for the first time to the gospel message. In 1669 Allouez transferred his ministrations to the neighborhood of Green Bay where, among the Menominee, Potawatomi and Sauk of the bay shore, the Foxes on the Wolf, and the Miami, Mascouten and Kickapoo of the upper

Fox Valley, he founded missions and worked with unflagging zeal for the conversion of their souls. The first permanent mission in Wisconsin was the mission of St. Francis Xavier, established in 1671 at the De Pere rapids of Fox River by Allouez and his fellow workers. The following decade was the most flourishing in the Jesuit missionary history of Wisconsin. After 1682 their influence and success began to wane, and by the close of the century was almost extinct.

In the meantime the King of France had, in 1671, staged a pageant on the far shore of Sault Ste. Marie, wherein his representative, Simon Francois Daumont Sieur de St. Lusson took possession of all the western country for the French sovereignty. Nicholas Perrot was sent in advance to notify the Wisconsin tribesmen and persuade them to send chiefs as representatives on this great occasion. With wondering awe the simple savages watched the impressive ceremony wherein priests and warriors chanted the praise, both of God and of the great King Louis XIV and declared the latter's benevolence in annexing the Indians' country to his own domain. All unwillingly they assented to an acknowledgment that made them thenceforth subjects of a foreign monarch. Some years afterward Perrot was sent as governor general of the new French territory west of Lake Michigan. He built therein a number of French posts, most of them upon the Mississippi. At Fort St. Antoine upon Lake Pepin in 1689 Perrot took possession for France of the Sioux territory lying along the upper waters of America's greatest river. He likewise was the first white man to explore the lead mines of southern Wisconsin. So long as he ruled in the West the French trade and influence was supreme and the Indians of Wisconsin were his docile instruments.

Wisconsin's great waterway to the Mississippi River was first traversed in 1673 by Louis Jolliet and Father Jacques Marquette. Seven years later Daniel Greysolon Duluth, who had previously threaded the upper portage from Lake Superior to the Mississippi, came eastward by the Fox-Wisconsin route from the Sioux country. By these two voyages connection was established between Wisconsin's portage route and both the lower and the upper Mississippi.

Rapid changes in the Indian geography of Wisconsin occurred during the last twenty years of the seventeenth century. The population that had massed along the Fox-Wisconsin waterway was pressing upon the food supply. Moreover, in 1680 Robert Cavalier de La Salle took possession of the Illinois River Valley and invited the Wisconsin Indians to remove thither for a permanent home. The Miami, Mascouten and Kickapoo acceded to his request; the Potawatomi likewise moved south along the shore of Lake Michigan; the Foxes ventured from Wolf River to the river now called by their name. The Menominee surrounded Green Bay, the Sauk and Foxes controlled the Fox-Wisconsin waterway, the Winnebago occupied the upper Rock River. The Huron and Ottawa left northern Wisconsin for homes on the straits of Mackinac, and all the southern shore of Lake Superior was abandoned to the Chippewa, who at intervals continued their hereditary wars upon the Sioux of the St. Croix and upper Mississippi valleys.

4. **The French Fur Trade**—Along with the shifting of tribal homes grew up changes in the method of handling the fur trade. The Indian hunters no longer made yearly pilgrimages to Montreal to exchange their gathered peltry for the white man's goods. Instead the white men came to them offering their wares, and with tribal consent built in their country at convenient places little log forts, where an officer and a few soldiers kept order over the motley crowd of traders and *coureurs des bois* that enriched themselves by the wilderness traffic. Most of the traders were licensed by the government and subjected to strict rules for the conduct of their trade. The illegal trader, however, flourished and followed his Indian customers into the depths of the forest, beyond the reach of the orders and regulations enforced by the commandants at the wayside posts. These unlicensed traders carried to the red man the alcoholic liquors the white man had taught him to love; and in disregard of the regulations of the French government, the Indian grew more and more debauched and degraded by his association with the whites. Radisson, who had explored the western forests for the French, deserted to the English government, and in 1670 aided in forming the Hudson's Bay Company, that greatest of all fur-trade monopolies, which, after nearly 250 years, is still the greatest fur company in the world.

Its traders early penetrated to the north shore of Lake Superior and drew away many Indians who had previously contributed to the wealth of Canada. The English also attempted to secure the northwest fur trade by the route of the Great Lakes. Utilizing the Iroquois as middlemen, the tribes of Wisconsin were tempted to carry their wares to white men who paid a larger price for furs and gave better goods in return than those of the French merchants.

Thus through illegal traders and foreign rivals the French fur trade was, by the close of the seventeenth century, so demoralized that the Canadian authorities, spurred thereto by the missionaries, determined upon drastic measures. All licenses for traders were revoked, and in 1696 a decree went forth that all the Northwest posts should be evacuated and that missionaries should be the only white men allowed in the Ottawa Country. It was thought that the old custom of yearly caravans would be revived, thus governmental control could be exercised over the trade and the aborigines protected. These measures were only partially successful. *Coureurs de bois* refused to obey the summons to return to New France and shamelessly brought in English goods; soldiers deserted from the garrisons before evacuation, married among the Indian tribes and introduced the white man's arts. Albany and Hudson Bay traders vigorously pressed their advantage, and the Canadian authorities feared that the whole of the Northwest trade would slip from their control.

This danger of disintegration was checked by two events that occurred in the first year of the eighteenth century, by which the French recovered their morale and resumed operations in the Northwest. The first of these was the founding of Detroit, a post whose position barred the English from the upper lakes. The second was the peace with the Iroquois, which was signed at Montreal after a great ceremony, and an exchange of prisoners

among all the warring tribes. The license for the fur trade was then restored, the *coureur des bois* called in by proclaiming pardons for past offenses, and the policy of control by posts and garrisons was re-established throughout the Northwest.

The establishment of Detroit caused new changes in the Indian geography of Wisconsin. The Miami and Mascouten entirely withdrew from the state and moved eastward toward the new post. The Potawatomi progressed southward around the bend of Lake Michigan, while the Winnebago filled in the vacant territory near Lake Winnebago and along the Rock River Valley. In 1706 a large portion of the Fox and Sauk tribes deserted Wisconsin and settled in the vicinity of Detroit, whither the Ottawa and Huron from the neighborhood of Mackinac had preceded them. This new accumulation of savage peoples did not long dwell in harmony. In 1712 a fierce intertribal quarrel broke out in which the commandant of Detroit took sides against the Wisconsin tribesmen. Many of the Sauk, Foxes and Kickapoo were slain, the remainder fled back to their former homes in Wisconsin, where the remnant of these tribes waged barbaric warfare against the French for over thirty years. This hostility closed the Fox-Wisconsin waterway to French traders, rendered their lives insecure on all the western pathways and greatly diminished French influence in the far Northwest.

In the course of these Fox wars the first military invasion of Wisconsin occurred when, in 1716, *Sieur Louvigny* led a considerable army of Canadian soldiers, accompanied by a miscellaneous host of traders, *voyageurs* and Indians through Green Bay to the Fox fort at Little Butte des Morts. The Foxes withstood for a time a considerable siege, which ended in a compromise with the invading forces. The succeeding year a French post was built on the site of Fort Howard, that was maintained until the fall of the French sovereignty in the New World. In 1718, in order to develop the copper mines that were thought to exist on the shores of Lake Superior, an official post was built at Chequamegon. From 1727 to 1750, in order to exploit the fur trade among the Sioux French, posts were erected upon the Upper Mississippi. Chequamegon and the Mississippi posts were abandoned during the French and Indian war. In 1743 a French post was erected on the Mississippi near the lead mines, where a beginning was made in developing this industry. Thus the French found copper, lead and furs in Wisconsin, the most valuable of which was peltry.

After the Fox wars were over the fur trade grew with startling rapidity, and the only rivals to the Canadian traders were the French merchants from Louisiana, whose northern boundary lay between the Rock and Wisconsin rivers. In 1752 the Green Bay post was leased to a relative of the reigning governor, who exploited it so dishonestly that the Marquis of Montcalm declared, "Never have theft and license gone so far." The yearly harvest of Wisconsin furs amounted to 500 to 600 packs valued at a quarter of a million dollars.

Peculation and dishonesty led to the downfall of New France. Unprotected by rapacious officials, the lilies of France fell before the cross of St. George and St. Andrew, and the British replaced the French not only

on the St. Lawrence, but along the Great Lakes and in the eastern part of the Mississippi Valley.

5. **Development and Decline of the Fur Trade Under the British—**The change from French to British sovereignty in Wisconsin was not accompanied by any marked upheaval in the little hamlets and among the Indian villages of the western wilderness. Most of the French traders transferred their allegiance to the new sovereign with only mild regrets. The earliest British officers were conciliatory in attitude, and the Indians docilely exchanged their French medals and flags for those of England. The British traders employed the same voyageurs and coureurs des bois as had served the traffic under the French régime. The language most in use in Wisconsin's forests continued to be French. Beyond the bounds of Wisconsin there was much discontent, which culminated in the revolt known as Pontiac's Conspiracy. In this uprising Wisconsin tribesmen, almost alone among those of the Northwest, refused to participate. Possibly the old grievances against the French, repressed since the Fox wars, still rankled, and made Wisconsin Indians more favorable to their new British masters. Be that as it may, the garrison at Green Bay was escorted by friendly and protecting tribesmen to Mackinac, and there aided in rescuing the captured British officers from the hands of the hostile Chippewa and Ottawa. When Sir William Johnson met the Indian chiefs at Niagara in 1764 he signalized the loyalty of the Wisconsin Menominee by presenting to their chief a medal and a certificate."

With the withdrawal in 1763 of the garrison from Green Bay, Wisconsin's British post was permanently abandoned. Thenceforward the metropolis of the fur trade was at Mackinac, where each summer a great mart was held. Traders brought from Canada an abundance of goods for forest traffic and exchanged them for the peltry that had been gathered during the previous winter and spring at dozens of small posts throughout the West.

With the growth of the trade subsidiary marts were established, and the one in Wisconsin at Prairie du Chien became next in importance to that at Mackinac.

The first years of the British trade in Wisconsin were years of unregulated and fierce competition between rival traders and rival companies. Slight restraints were imposed by the post officers, who in most cases participated in the profits of the traffic. Therefore, this unrestricted rivalry wrought great havoc, both among the fur-bearing animals and their red hunters. Liquor became the ordinary medium of exchange. The traders' outfits were largely composed of kegs of beverages, and so fierce were the drunken orgies of the Indians that it seemed that they would soon exterminate themselves. The traders in like manner grew demoralized and employed all kinds of subterfuges to secure the advantage. Even murder and robbery went unpunished, and the law of force and cunning ruled the forests.

Excess of competition finally suggested its own remedy. In 1778 a representative group of Canadian merchants made at Mackinac a temporary combination to control the trade. Two years later the agreement was

renewed, and became in 1783 the basis of the North West Fur Company, a powerful organization of Scotch merchants, who controlled the Canadian trade for the third of a century. About the same time the Mackinac Company was formed, whose operations lay farther south than those of the North West Company. In 1786 the Mackinac Company had a post opposite the mouth of the Missouri and was competing for the trade of Spanish Louisiana.

The Spanish strove unsuccessfully to bar the British traders from the trans-Mississippi. The lower Missouri trade they succeeded in possessing, but the waters of the upper Mississippi and the Minnesota (then called the St. Peter's) were practically in the hands of the Scotch from Canada, all supplied by means of the Fox-Wisconsin waterway.

The headquarters of the North West Company lay on the northwest shore of Lake Superior; two subsidiary posts in Wisconsin—at Fond du Lac of the great lake, and at Madelaine Island—served the interior forts along the southern shore of Lake Superior. Around these posts small communities gradually grew up, composed chiefly of retired voyageurs and engagees no longer able to endure the hardships of forest wintering. These occupied themselves with a primitive type of agriculture and supplied the products to the active traders. The most important of these settlements was at Green Bay, where, before the close of the French regime, a few families had settled. Thither, after Pontiac's Conspiracy, the Langlades removed from Mackinac, and by their superior education and ability became the recognized leaders of the little community. Charles Langlade, called the "Father of Wisconsin," had been an officer in the French-Canadian army. Under the British he held a commission in the Indian Department, and his influence over both the white and red men of Wisconsin was unbounded. It was Langlade, who, during the American Revolution, rallied the Wisconsin Indians for participation in the defense of Canada and in the invasion of Burgoyne. It was due to his loyalty to the British that George Rogers Clark's agents had so little success in detaching Wisconsin Indians for the American alliance. It was Langlade who was depended upon to protect the Wisconsin settlements against the dangers from the Spanish of Louisiana; and upon his death in 1801 the French-Canadian settlements mourned a protector and a leader. His leadership fell into the hands of his descendants and relatives, the Grignons and Gautiers, who were allied to the better families of Green Bay and Prairie du Chien. The patriarchal condition of society in Wisconsin lasted until the coming of the Americans, who, with their democracy and energy, broke down the class system founded on the fur trade hierarchy, and introduced the elements of modern life into the trading posts and settlements that grew up during the fur trade regime. In the fur trade the bourgeois or master trader was all-powerful, his will and the exigencies of the traffic were the sole source of authority. To make this more binding, each voyageur and engagee was obliged before leaving the main trading post, to sign a contract by which he bound himself in consideration of a small wage and certain supplies "to serve, obey, and faithfully execute all that the said Sieurs, his Bourgeois * * * shall lawfully and honestly order him to do; without trading on his own account,

nor absenting himself from, nor leaving the said service." 7 This constituted a species of peonage, which, to the honor of the fur trading fraternity, was seldom abused. In truth, the tie that bound master and man was not purely economic; it was composed of personal elements of loyalty and attachment. It was compounded from two loyalties—the French system of subordination and responsibility, and the Scotch Highlander's attachment to the head of his clan, and the clan leaders' obligations therefor.

Many of the prominent traders of Wisconsin were Scotchmen, and in the War of 1812 they commanded retinues of voyageurs and Indians, who successively captured Mackinac and Prairie du Chien and drove every American from the vicinity. These traders fondly hoped and loudly boasted that new boundaries would be drawn and the territory now Wisconsin would become a fur-trading preserve. Disappointed in that hope, they planned to adjust the exigencies of the forest trade to the demands of the American system. The Mackinac Company was dissolved and in its stead was organized the American Fur Company, many of whose operators were the Scotch-Canadians who had been partners in the British concern. For twenty years after the American occupation the new company conducted a flourishing trade along the old lines. From 1816 to 1824 the United States sought to better the Indians' condition by the so-called factory system, government posts operated not for profit, but for benevolence toward its Indian wards. The factory system failed because of the powerful opposition of the American Fur Company, and because the factors were unacquainted with the conditions of Indian trade.

Gradually the fur trade, which for two hundred years had ruled Wisconsin, declined. The local traders, deeply in debt to Astor's monopoly, the American Fur Company, mortgaged their lands and lost them. Of recent years a new commerce in furs has sprung up and grows increasingly valuable. But the fur trade as a regime passed from Wisconsin with the coming of the Americans and the development of modern industries.

1—This chapter is adapted by permission from a manuscript history prepared by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

2—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XI, 27-28.

3—For the entire subject of Wisconsin Boundaries, see *Ibid.*, 451-501.

4—*Id.*, XVI, 1-3.

5—*Id.*, XVIII, 206.

6—*Ibid.*, 268-269.

7—*Id.*, XIX, 343.

CHAPTER II

GEOLOGY

(By George H. Squier)

The geology of Trempealeau County is the geology of a considerable tract in western Wisconsin, for, in a region of undisturbed and nearly horizontal rocks, an area so small as a county will rarely show in its geological features any great diversification, and the description of one would apply with slight changes to its neighboring counties.

In entering upon the consideration of this subject it must be fully recognized that the features of the region as we now see them are but a passing phase. Changeless as our hills and valleys may seem to us, nevertheless within the long periods of which geology takes cognizance, they are scarcely more so than are the most ephemeral of the works of man compared with his own span of life. Therefore, just as the historical portion of this work seeks to trace the changing phases which have attended the human occupancy of this region, in the same manner an adequate treatment of the geology of the county must seek to present an outline sketch of the history whose record is found in the rocks.

All the rocks exposed within the limits of this county belong to the upper portion of the Cambrian, and the base of the Ordovician. To a geologist, a condensed statement of this nature conveys much information, but to the reader who is not a specialist in that study, it may have but little meaning, and a further elucidation is needed to place the subject at the command of the average reader.

In order to understand the significance of the statement that our rocks belong near the top of the Cambrian and base of the Ordovician, it is necessary to have some knowledge of the geological time scale. The scale here given is the one commonly accepted as the standard:

Pleistocene.		
Tertiary.		
Cretaceous.		
Jurassic.		
Triassic.		
Permian.		
Pennsylvanian.		
Mississippian.		
Devonian.		
Silurian.		
Ordovician	{	} Our local rocks
	{	
	{	
	{	
Cambrian	{	
	{	
Pre-Cambrian		

All of the periods are subdivided into numerous "formations," but in this list only the subdivisions are indicated that apply to the Cambrian and Ordovician, and only the larger subdivisions even for these. The range of our local rocks is also duly indicated. Since the older rocks are at the bottom, it will be seen that the Potsdam Sandstone (Cambrian) and the Lower Magnesian Limestone (Ordovician) are very ancient. The Lower and Middle Cambrian are not present in this region, consequently the Upper Cambrian rests directly on the Pre-Cambrian.

It is to be understood that the Pre-Cambrian is not a period comparable to the others in the table. It is, indeed, properly not a name at all, but merely a convenient designation for all of the immense series of rocks antedating the Cambrian, and includes a time, perhaps, as long as all succeeding time. The rocks have been so extensively folded and faulted and so generally metamorphosed and intruded by eruptives as to constitute a very complex problem, and while it is evident that the long series is capable of subdivision into periods comparable with those given above, the subdivisions proposed have not been accepted with the same approach to unanimity as these.

Geological history is the record of successive changes wrought by two sets of forces. The one, operating within the body of the earth, causes changes of level of the land surface in its relation to the water level, some being carried below, and some above that level. The other, the various agencies of disintegration, acting upon those surfaces raised above water level, tend to wear them down. This erosion of the land results in two complementary sets of phenomena: (a) the planing down of the land surface until, if sufficient time be allowed, even a mountainous region may be reduced to a nearly level plain but little elevated above the sea level, a "base plane"; and (b) the transference of the material thus eroded from the land surface, mainly by running water, but to some extent by wind, until it comes to rest in some body of water, or at least in some basin from which there is no outlet, where it accumulates and may come to form deposits thousands of feet thick.

In the process of transformation the material becomes more or less assorted, and is deposited, under varying conditions as coarse fragments-conglomerate, sand, or mud. In addition to the material thus removed from the land, the growing deposits include the remains of the successive generations of living creatures which made their home in the water in which the beds are accumulating, and, since there was a continuous change in the forms of life, we thus have furnished us a means of the greatest value in determining what position a particular deposit occupies in the world's time scale.

It will be realized that the geological time scale does not propose to place events with the same exactitude as when we speak of an event as having occurred in a certain year and century, A. D. or B. C. It corresponds more nearly to our custom of dividing human events into periods characterized by some noteworthy set of conditions, as, for example, the time of the crusades or the period of the renaissance. Geologists have given much study to the problem of attaining approximate equality for their divisions.

Having thus considered the broad principles on which geological history is based, we may now address ourselves more specifically to the history of this particular region.

As already indicated, our Potsdam Sandstones, which include some shales and impure limestones, and constitute a part, but probably not all, of the Upper Cambrian, rest directly on the Pre-Cambrian.

While the area of the Pre-Cambrian had been more than once submerged, had received deposits of sediments of great thickness, and had also been intruded by enormous masses of eruptive rocks, its later history consisted, first, in the folding and faulting of the strata so that they formed mountain ranges comparable, perhaps, to the largest of our present mountains, and, second, a long period of erosion during which these were worn down until the region had become one of very slight relief, diversified only by hills of moderate elevation.

When again the region became depressed so as to be covered by a shallow sea, the beds of the Upper Cambrian were deposited. These deposits were made not only over the region in which they are now found, but also over the entire state, including the areas of crystalline rocks to the northward. Not alone the Cambrian, but also Ordovician rocks (Lower Magnesian Limestone, St. Peter Sandstone, Trenton Limestone) overspread all, or a considerable portion of the region. Other beds of the Ordovician and Silurian which now outcrop successively further south and east, undoubtedly extended much further northward and westward than at present, but we have no means of determining how far. We may be fairly confident that the lower Magnesian Limestone (that forming the tops of the bluffs along the Mississippi) overspread the entire country. Nor is there much doubt that the St. Peter Limestone (not now found in the county) did so also. There is considerable ground for the belief that the Trenton Limestone, of which only a few remnants are now found north of the Wisconsin River, in Vernon County, also overspread at least the southern part of the county.

While these processes were going on the region seems to have been affected by only slight changes of level, remaining quite near sea level throughout the Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian, Mississippian and most of the Pennsylvanian. But toward the end of the Pennsylvanian, or in the Permian, there was a period of elevation. In the eastern part of the United States, mountains (the Appalachians) were the result. But in Wisconsin there was only a moderate elevation, not sufficient to warp or disarrange the strata.

The necessary result followed. The region was brought under the influence of eroding agents. Streams began to cut their valleys. When they had cut as deep as they could at the then height of the land, they widened them, and as they had a long time in which to work—through the Permian, Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous—they cut away the entire surface, down to base level, leaving a great plain. Only a few hills—the Blue Mounds, Platte Mounds and others south of the Wisconsin River—which were composed of more than usually resistant rocks, remain to give us some idea as to the thickness of the rocks thus planed away.¹

Some time during the Tertiary there was again an elevation, and the streams resumed their downcutting. Since the valleys which they then formed are those we now see, we are interested in knowing something of the plain as it was when they began to cut.

If we could reconstruct the Tertiary base plain as it was before the streams had cut deeply into it, we should find that near the Mississippi, it coincided closely with the present tops of the higher bluffs—those capped by the Lower Magnesian Limestone—but that it rose gradually to the northward, so that the hills in the northern part do not reach to within three or four hundred feet of the old plain surface. Going northward beyond the county, the plain would be above the present surface of the crystalline rocks over the greater part of the area of the state. This plain, we must realize, then lay so that the surface was nowhere more than three or four hundred feet above the sea level. The elevation during the Tertiary was in the nature of a tilting, as though a board was raised at one end, the other remaining on the surface, the amount of elevation increasing to the northward. It is to be further observed that the old Pre-Cambrian surface on which the Cambrian rests, is in itself a tilted base plain, having such a slope that if it were fully exposed, streams running over it would have swift courses and great erosive power.

We are to suppose the Tertiary base plain as floored with Cambrian or later rocks over the entire area of the state, except that included in Iron, Vilas, Oneida and adjoining counties, where it cut through to the Pre-Cambrian, also cutting some of that, making it an integral part of the plain and producing a surface which did not conform with the slopes of the surrounding Pre-Cambrian areas. The surface of these counties now has a nearly consistent level of about 1,600 feet, and as this surface was the level to which the Tertiary base plain was carried by its tilt, the amount of the tilt or elevation may thus be determined.

The greater part of the present area of the state, floored by Pre-Cambrian, has been stripped of its Cambrian and later rock covering, since that time. If we attempt to visualize the Tertiary base plain and consider the amount of material that has been removed, we shall realize that the aspect of the valleys has undergone constant though slow change.

It will be interesting here to picture the conditions just before the opening of the Pleistocene Period, when the valleys had reached their greatest depth. Of the various artesian wells from which we gain our knowledge of the position of the old rock bottom of the valleys, few, perhaps none, strike that bottom at the deepest part, but they indicate that the old channel of the Mississippi River was somewhere near two hundred feet below the present river level, or, say, three hundred feet below the present level of Trempealeau Prairie. That would indicate that our bluffs, which now rise about six hundred feet above the river, were then nearer eight hundred feet. The valleys were also considerably narrower and more canyon-like. Moreover, the thick deposits of clay that now mantle our lower hills and fill the coulees were then absent and only jagged ledges of rock, thinly covered with sandy soil, would meet the eye. The tributary valleys were also correspondingly deeper, and displayed the same characteristics

in a less degree. It was a region, no doubt, of much scenic attraction, but rather inhospitable.

When, with the development of geological knowledge, scientists came to realize that the deposits which in the early days of geology were called diluvial, were really made by glaciers which had overspread great areas in many parts of the world, it was supposed that there had been but a single invasion, and it was called the Glacial Period. But as the phenomena were more carefully studied it became evident that there had been more than one invasion, several, indeed, separated by periods of relative warmth, seemingly even warmer than the present, and for this whole succession the term Pleistocene came to be applied.

These various invasions did not cover the same area, and the older ones seem to have been more severe; at least they extended much further south than the later. One, west of the Mississippi, advanced as far as northeastern Kansas, and east of that stream one reached southern Illinois. But there was an area, mostly in Wisconsin, and, broadly speaking, including the portion of the state lying between the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers, and northward so as to embrace the larger share of Trempealeau and Jackson counties, which appears never to have been overspread by a glacier. The last—Wisconsin—glacier did not indeed advance nearly so far south as the limits named. There is some little doubt as yet as to the extreme southerly limits reached by the oldest glacier. The greater share of the region shows none of that modification of topography which is a distinctive characteristic of glacial action.

But though the glaciers did not overspread this region, they exercised a notable influence over the conditions within it. This was due (a) to the fact that some streams bearing glacial outwash traversed the region, (b) to the influence of the encircling glaciers on the climate, and (c) to the effect of the glaciers on the water level.

(a) Those streams, some portions of whose drainage basins were invaded by glaciers, received large amounts of glacial outwash—sand pebbles—and all such material capable of being transported by stream action could be carried far beyond the region of glaciation. Within the boundaries of Trempealeau County the Mississippi and Black rivers were the principal carriers of such material. It has been supposed that the Trempealeau Valley lay outside the glaciated region entirely. The writer was first to call attention to the deposits near Taylor and Blair. The Mississippi must have been the carrier of glacial outwash during most, if not all, of the glacial periods; but the Black only for some of the earlier.

(b) The climate of the driftless area—as the region not covered with glaciers is called—would have been subject to the chilling effect of the near-by glaciers. There is also reason to believe that the glaciers acted something like a mountain range in draining the air of moisture, rendering the region rather dry.

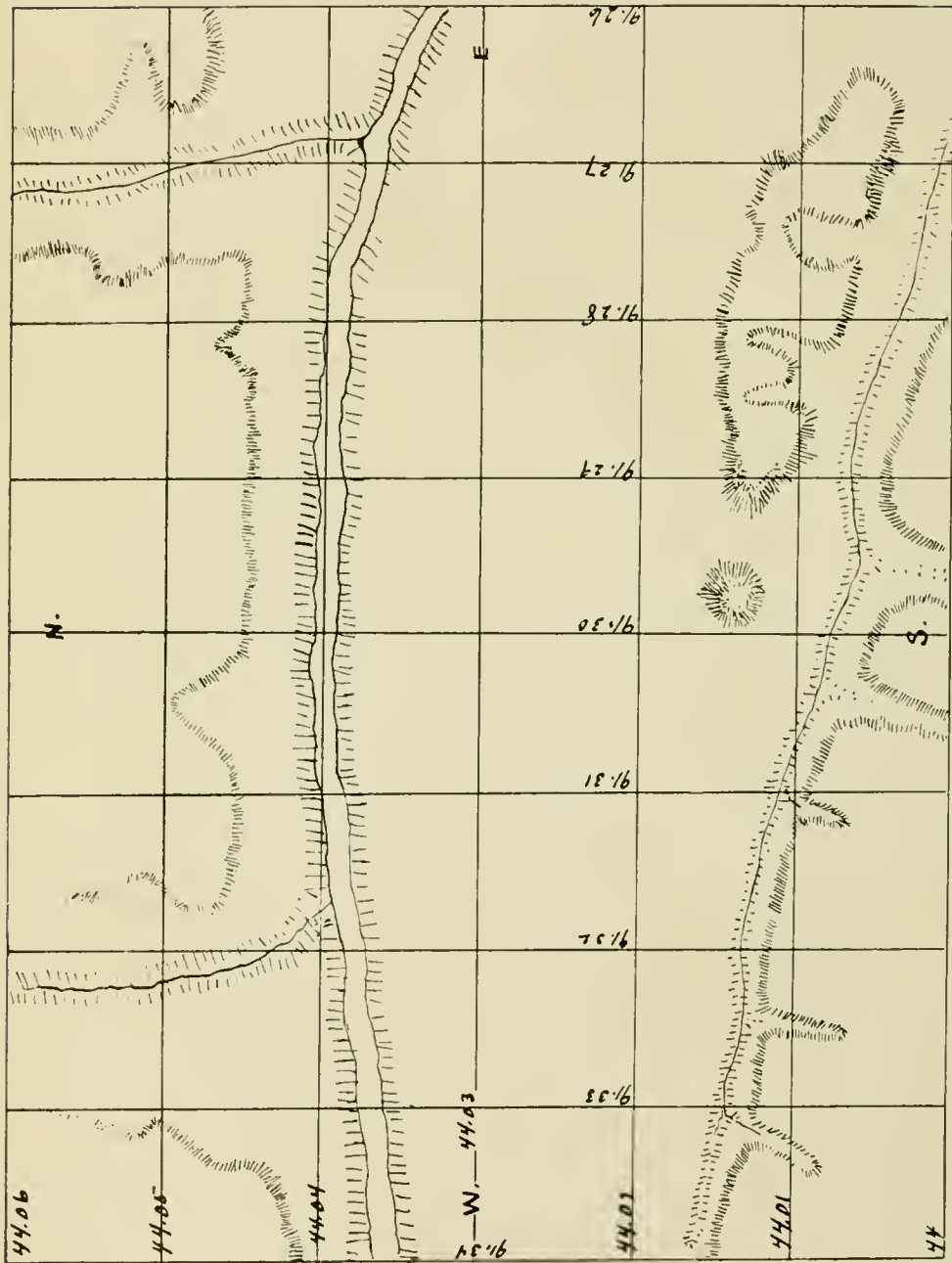
(c) There are two ways in which we may conceive of a glacier as affecting the water level. The first is by isostatic readjustment. This assumes that the crust of the earth has little stiffness and yields readily, either upward or downward in response to any change of weight near the

surface. As some of the glaciers attained a thickness of several thousand feet, they represented a great increase of weight over the surface, and as a consequence there was a downward warping of the crust. If, however, as some believe, the crust is much more resistant to such influences than the theory of "isostasy" supposes, the accumulation of such great masses of ice would, by increasing the gravitative energy of portions of the earth's surface relative to others, produce such a shifting of the center of gravity as to cause readjustment of the water level to compensate. One or the other of these agencies (not both, at least to the extent that the first agency was effective, the second was excluded) must, I think, be assumed to have been operative during each of the glacial periods. But other agencies not necessarily depending on the presence of the glaciers may have modified, increased or diminished, the results. It will be obvious that if a glacier enters a valley at some point below its head, leaving the upper portion free of ice, the result will be a dam, and the impounded water will form a lake. This also might operate in combination with the others, modifying the results. It is not possible in the present stage of the investigation to assign to these several agencies their proportionate share in bringing about the submergencies which we know from ample evidence to have affected the region of the upper Mississippi.

The stage of the submergence was quite variable; it stood, however, for a considerable time at a point between three and four hundred feet above the present river level, though there is much evidence of one actually overtopping the bluffs. The result of the submergence was the deposition of thick beds of lacustrine material over the foothills and lower two-thirds of the bluffs. It is to this deposit that we owe the fact that the foothills furnish many of our finest farms. Without it they would be rocky ledges, or steep slopes, thinly covered with sandy soil.

Studied in detail, these deposits form an extremely complex series which could not even be described without filling many pages and using much illustrative material.

These periods of submergence did not, however, extend through the Pleistocene period; there were other long periods when the Mississippi Valley was occupied by a stream, either one comparable in size to the present stream, or one of vastly greater volume, carrying away the drainage from the glaciers and loaded with glacial outwash. These mostly flowed at a higher level than the present, a level marked by the deposits of Trempealeau Prairie. On the other hand, the warm interglacial periods were times of down cutting, during which the river often flowed at levels below the present. One such has been brought to our knowledge during the present summer (1917) through the sinking of the piers of the Burlington bridge at Trempealeau Bay, showing many feet of mud deposits loaded with shells and wood, also marginal peat bogs, and indicating river levels at from forty to sixty feet or more below the present. We can also trace lines of cliffs marking the shore lines for some of the river stages, though they have been partly obscured by more recent outwash from the bluffs. The interrelations of these various phases are still far from having been fully worked out.



GEOLOGICAL PLATE, NO. 1.

The Mississippi River and its branched streams are represented in open hachures at the stage when they ran in gorge-like valleys, barely wide enough to carry the streams, while the outlines of the valleys as they now exist are shown in close hachures. A large amount of the space now included in the valley was then high land similar to the present bluffs. How the divide between the Mississippi and the parallel branches would have been gradually cut away is evident.

It remains before bringing this article to a close, to notice that feature, which, because it is so conspicuous and distinctive, has attracted the attention of all who have entered the region, Indians apparently as well as whites, the Trempealeau bluffs.

It is, perhaps, generally recognized that these were at one time a part of the west (Minnesota) shore, but the process through which they became separated is not well understood.

In one of the recent publications of our State Geological Survey, Mr. Martin, who, I understood, had not personally studied the situation, gives an explanation which is quite incorrect—impossible, indeed.² His explanations and diagrams assume that the notch at Trempealeau Bay was the continuation of one of the valleys on the Minnesota side. But the valley in question is very much wider than the notch, and no explanation is offered of an adequate agency for the removal of the divide at the place where it is assumed to have been removed.

To correctly understand the process, it must be remembered that when the streams were "young," they were flowing in narrow, gorge-like valleys, and that in the case of the Mississippi, this was probably much nearer the Wisconsin than the Minnesota side of the present valley. On the Minnesota side several of the small streams united in one which partly paralleled the Mississippi, but which, in its meandering, approached it more closely for a stretch of its upper course than it did below. As the streams, having cut down to grade, proceeded to widen their valleys, the narrow divide between this parallel stream and the Mississippi was gradually cut away.

It must be borne in mind that so long as the streams were running on the rock bottoms, this divide might be wholly removed for some distance above our present Trempealeau bluffs without causing the diversion of the Mississippi into the smaller body, because, not only would the steeper grade of the smaller valley have carried its bottom above that of the larger stream, but the greater depth of the channel required by the larger stream would be sufficient to control its flow even though their surfaces had been at the same level. When, however, the conditions had changed so that the Mississippi did not keep its channel cleared out, but instead became gradually filled, its newer course was left unobstructed. Some other attendant circumstances, also, would have made that its most easy and natural course.

Naturally, when the large stream invaded the valley of the small one, there began a rapid process of erosion whereby the salient points and minor flexures were reduced into an adjustment to its own requirements.

The accompanying diagrammatic map is supposed to show the conditions while the valleys were still narrower; the consequences of the widening of the valleys will be readily apparent.

The point where the Trempealeau chain of bluffs connected with the Minnesota shore is a matter of some interest. The projecting headland on the Minnesota shore which may be supposed to have marked the point of junction has, of course, been worn away, but it is believed that the long line of cliffs near Homer has resulted from such rapid wearing back

of the shore line and marks the probable line of junction, as it is also the point toward which the present trend of the Trempealeau bluffs points.

The conspicuous isolation and insular position of Trempealeau Mountain proper may call for a few remarks.

It is obvious that not only the larger streams, but the smaller ones, and the torrent courses were everywhere dissecting the region. Small valleys similar to those now extending into our bluffs would also have existed in the portions now wholly removed. One who is familiar with the present condition of our bluffs will realize how little erosion along their north side would serve to remove the low connecting ridges and leave, instead of a connected chain, three or four disconnected hills. The little valley between Trempealeau Mountain and Brady's Bluff had been cut so low that the flooded Mississippi was able to pass through and further rapid deepening was the result.

In reviewing briefly the facts of the preparation of Trempealeau County for the occupancy of man, a summary of the foregoing facts may prove of interest. At the end of the Pre-Cambrian period, Trempealeau County presented a sloping surface of bare rock, comparatively level, but containing some hills of moderate elevation. In the Cambrian period the region was depressed and covered with a shallow sea. During this and succeeding periods various layers of sandstone (pulverized rock) and limestone (pulverized shells) were deposited in the bed of this shallow sea. Just which of these layers were laid down in Trempealeau County is somewhat uncertain. The Pottsdam sandstone and the Lower Magnesian limestone still remains, the latter being seen in the tops of the Mississippi bluffs. The region remained submerged during the Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian, Mississippian and most of the Pennsylvanian period. But toward the close of the Pennsylvanian, or in the Permian period, the region was elevated above the sea level. Streams began to cut valleys. When they had cut as deep as they could they began to widen these valleys. This process continued during the Permian, Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods until the region was again a great sloping level plain. This plain was surfaced with the Lower Magnesian limestone and coincided with the present tops of the Mississippi bluffs. But it rose rapidly in elevation to the northward so that the present hills in the northern part of the country are three or four hundred feet below what was then the surface of the plain. In the Tertiary period streams began cutting through this plain. A vast amount of material was removed and the present valleys were formed. At the opening of the Pleistocene Period the rock foundation of Trempealeau County lay practically in its present form. The valleys, however, were much narrower and deeper and the sides much steeper. Except for thin deposits of sandy soil, all the county was a region of bare and jagged rocks. Then came the Pleistocene Period with its glacial periods, when glaciers formed and were melted again several times. A larger part of Trempealeau County is in what is called the Driftless Area, and was probably never covered with a glacier. But it was to the glaciers that we owe the present condition of the county. During the time of the glaciers the county received in the Mississippi, Black and, to some extent, the Trempealeau Valley,

sandy pebbles carried by the streams flowing away from the glaciers, and during the several times that the county was submerged during this era, the bare valleys and foothills, lying in the bed of the muddy lakes, formed by the melting glaciers, received the deposits which now constitute the foundation of our soil. At times during the Glacial Periods the Mississippi bed was higher than at present and at times lower. The original bed of the Mississippi was probably over the Trempealeau Prairie, and the Trempealeau Bluffs are probably really an extension of the Minnesota Bluffs, the belief being that in this region the Mississippi is now flowing in what was the bed of a nearly parallel tributary. In the rich deposits left by the glacial lakes vegetation began to grow, and the decomposing vegetation mingling with the deposits formed the soil as it was found by the early settlers.

There is little to be said as to the mineral resources of the county. Its wealth lies in its agricultural resources. It is among the possibilities of the future that iron may be found in the underlying Pre-Cambrian rocks. And while it would be difficult, under present conditions, to mine it profitably, it would be possible that improved mining methods and the exhaustion of the more easily-mined deposits would sometimes make it possible.

Waterpowers have been developed at various points in the county, and the resulting mills have been an important factor in the economic development of the county.

The watercourses and many of the ridges are heavily wooded, thus furnishing the farmers with plenty of fuel and building material. Contrary to usual conditions where the coming of the white men has resulted in the denuding of the forests, there was little timber here when the settlers came but has been allowed to grow up in the past sixty years.

1—It is not to be understood that the history was quite as simple as the sketch indicates. Even a relatively stable portion of the earth's crust is rarely wholly so for prolonged periods. To record the minor oscillations, even if they were always determinable, would be quite unpractical in an article of this character.

2—Martin, *Physical Geography of Wisconsin*, 136-197.

CHAPTER III

ARCHAEOLOGY.

(By George H. Squier)

It is so rarely the case that our present political divisions correspond closely with the outlines of any of the older tribal domains, or habitats, that when such happens to be the case, it is not only a matter of interest, but it furnishes a peculiarly satisfactory theme for the writer.

The lack of correspondence between political divisions and archaeological provinces is due to the fact that the latter were determined far more by topographic conditions than are the former, and the fact that Trempealeau County furnishes an exception is due to the circumstance that the Trempealeau Prairie constitutes the major portion (the adjoining portions of La Crosse County making up the rest) of a peculiarly compact and sharply defined area which we may judge to have been very attractive to the Indians.

There are several reasons why it should have been so. It is a region of unusual beauty and charm. This was due not alone to the bluffs, for the prairie with its rolling grassy hills, free from woods or brush; the park-like aspect of the "oak openings," and the picturesque outlook, all tended to impress themselves on the senses and enthral the imagination of those who came under their spell.

There was an abundance of productive and easily cultivated soil. The bordering streams and lakes yielded ample supplies of fish and water fowl, and the back country the larger game. For them it might well have been a veritable "Garden of Eden," such as one of our local writers has pictured.

Distribution and Character of the Antiquities

Broadly speaking, the earthworks, which may be taken as indicating approximately the locations of the village sites, were disposed in a curving band running from Marshland along the margin of the river terraces to Trempealeau Bay, then from Trempealeau Village along the terrace fronting the Mississippi to Black River, ending with a number of groups on the Black River below and above the mouth of Beaver Creek, and a couple of groups further up the latter stream near Galesville.

These several groups have suffered from cultivation and other agencies of destruction in varying degrees, those along the Mississippi front, perhaps the most; it is doubtful if more than one in ten of those once existing is now in recognizable condition.

Those on the Black, south of Beaver Creek, have also suffered severely. The larger ones are still recognizable as artificial, but the forms cannot be determined. The best preserved are the groups along the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, at what is known as Pine Creek siding, and at Trempealeau Bay, and the one on Black River near Decorah's Peak. The

largest single mound still preserved intact (aside from the platforms which will be separately described) is that on the farm of William Nicholls—the largest of a group of large mounds. Distinguished as to form, the mounds may be classed as (a) conical, mounds having a circular or approximately circular base. They may be of all sizes from a few feet in diameter and a few inches high to those a hundred feet in diameter and a dozen feet high. They may also vary widely in the degree of convexity.

(b) Elongate—those that are notably longer in one direction than the other—two or three times as long. These also vary much in size.

(c) True linear—those several to many times as long as wide. While the length of these may vary greatly from less than a hundred up to several hundred feet, their height and width varies but little. They are always as straight as the topography will permit. They are often in series, end to end, the intervals seeming to be often little more than passageways.

(d) Taper linear—these, as the name indicates, are straight, elongate mounds, usually varying from a hundred to near three hundred feet in length, which show a regular taper from the large end to the vanishing point. The rate of taper is approximately the same in different examples, i. e., the base subtends nearly equal angles. It follows that in the larger examples the large end is broadened and higher than in the smaller.

(e) Effigies—mounds made to represent various birds and animals. Wisconsin probably contains more of this type than all the rest of America. A great number of forms have been described, those most common in this vicinity being birds—apparently two or three species are shown—bear, deer, and a form rather doubtfully referred to the panther type of the eastern part of the state.

Significance and Authorship

The simple "conical" mounds have from the first been recognized as having been mortuary monuments, but their authorship was ascribed to an unknown race, while both the purpose and authorship of the more complex mounds were among the unsolved puzzles of a half century ago; the unknown race which was assumed to have built them being conveniently called "Mound Builders." The studies of the past thirty or forty years have, however, wrought a pretty thorough revolution in our knowledge of the subject. It is now definitely established, though once the contrary was held, that many of our Indian tribes were in the habit of building mounds. Articles of European manufacture have been found in some mounds, and even the building of mounds witnessed by whites.

Having settled the more general question of authorship, we were placed in a fair way to settle the more specific ones, as to the particular tribes concerned, and the purpose. It has also been long recognized that in the effigies, linear and taper linear, Wisconsin possessed a peculiar assemblage of forms but little developed elsewhere. We have also learned that even in Wisconsin this type was confined to a somewhat sharply defined area extending through the south central part of the state. When the whites first entered the region the area was claimed by, and in part occupied by, the Winnebago tribe, the members of which appear to understand the

significance of the effigies. They are simply visible representations of the clan or gens totem. The gens, perhaps even more than the tribe, was the social unit which most profoundly influenced the life, not only of American Indians, but of barbarous races throughout the world, and the object, natural or imaginary, which was assumed as the guardian patron of the gens, was its totem. But few of the tribes made visible representations of it. Those which our Alaskan tribes carve from wood offer another example. The purpose of the linears and taper linears is not as well determined as of the effigies. It is conjectured that the taper linears were conventionalized effigies, and that the linears served in some way in the games and rituals of the tribe. No very direct evidence seems as yet to be available.

These three forms, effigies, linears, and taper linears, are so closely associated that we must regard them as the work of the same tribe, and their distribution furnishes us a good criterion for determining the actual limits of the territory held by that tribe. What we may regard as the state south of Green Bay, extending as a narrow band down the Wisconsin, main body is that taking up the greater share of the eastern part of the but showing only slight evidences along the Mississippi until we reach the rich development of the Trempealeau Prairie, above which it ceased entirely. Both the conical and elongate mounds were built by other tribes besides the Winnebago, so that their distribution is far more general. Outside of Trempealeau Prairie, as above outlined, mounds are not numerous. A group once existed between Arcadia and Independence, and two mounds still exist at Independence. So far as I have been able to learn none have existed above that. But, while earthworks are lacking, artifacts, in the shape of arrow and spear points, also celts, have been found in all parts of the country, Mr. Risinger of Winona having a particularly fine collection, nearly all made from the county.

The Platforms

It might seem that in selecting these for special notice I was giving them undue prominence, but, when it is realized that they are by far the most massive earthworks in the county, and exceeded by few, if any, in the state, or in the Northwest; that they embody novel features, being in this respect practically "sui generis"; that neither their purpose nor authorship is determined, it will, I think, be conceded that such prominence is not unwarranted.

They are easily chief among the features of historic and prehistoric interest, of which Trempealeau is the center, although it would not be far wrong to say that the attention they have received from the archaeologists of the country has been rather in inverse proportion to their real importance. Description: The group (see Fig. 1) consists of three platforms ranged along the crest of the hill, which jutting out toward the village, has its foot on Main street. One platform is on the extreme point, being partly produced by digging off a portion of the crest of the hill but mainly by filling. There is an interval of about seventy-five feet between

this and the next, which is a level place produced by filling sufficiently to bring it to the level of the crest. The next and principal platform immediately adjoins this and is built up to a level seven feet higher than the crest of the hill. Owing to a certain amount of settling and wash around the sides, the level surface was somewhat greater than at present, apparently about sixty-five by eighty feet. The greatest length is transverse to the direction of the hill crest, a circumstance which added very materially to the amount of fill required, the west base being about eighteen feet below the produced surface. The material of which they were constructed was obviously obtained, in the main, from the large holes closely adjoining to the northward; however, an excavation carried down to the base revealed the interesting fact that at least some material had been carried up the hill, the nearest source of that kind of material being somewhere in the vicinity of Woodmen's Hall. Gravel also occurs on the corner of the middle platform, brought from somewhere below, either with studied design or else incidentally.

I have also made numerous measurements, transverse, longitudinal and diagonal, and from these have calculated the cubic contents: Large platform, 93,000 feet; middle, 2,000 cubic feet; on point, 18,000 cubic feet; total, 113,000 cubic feet. The massive character of the construction may be best brought out by some comparisons. The Nicholls mound, the largest conical mound remaining, and at least one of the largest at any time in this vicinity, contains about 38,000 cubic feet. A mound of medium size, say 40 feet in diameter and four feet high, contains some 1,800 cubic feet. One of the pure linear mounds may be taken as having a cross section approximating 18 square feet. The material in the platforms would be sufficient to build a linear of that cross section over 6,000 feet long. These figures will, I think, bear out my assertion as to the pre-eminence of the platforms in the matter of mere size.

Peculiarities: In the emplacement and the apparent careful co-ordination of the platforms, they are without a known parallel in the Northwest; indeed, nothing quite parallel has been reported from any part of the country; but platforms are of somewhat frequent occurrence in the South and Southwest, and two occur in Wisconsin. These are both in the same locality, in Jefferson County, and within what appears to have been an enclosure, on the banks of the Crawfish River. (Two other enclosures with platforms on a smaller scale occur in the near vicinity.) They are now nearly obliterated by cultivation, but in 1850 I. A. Lapham surveyed them, and his plate is reproduced by G. A. West in an article in the Wisconsin Archaeologist (Vol. 6, No. 4, 1907, facing page 242). Of the two platforms one is given as sixty by sixty-five feet on the level top, the other supposed to be fifty-three feet. The height, unfortunately, is not given. The smaller platform is said to be the highest point in the enclosure and to overlook the wall. The wall is said to be from one to five feet high. The other we may perhaps assume not to have been higher than the wall. I have calculated the contents on the assumption that one was five and the other six feet high, giving about 23,000 and 25,000 cubic feet respectively. These calculations have, of course, little value, but seem

to indicate that they are considerably less massive than those at Trempealeau.

Purpose and Authorship—That a construction of such size and built at the expenditure of so much labor was intended to serve a public function is so self-evident that attempted proof would be superfluous; but, whether this function were civil or religious, and who were the builders, are questions in regard to which there is a divergence of opinion.

My own opinion, based on apparent adaptation, is that the purpose was religious, that of sun worship. If this view is correct it involves certain corollaries as to authorship. The other view, held by many who have not made a personal study of the remains, would assign to them a civil purpose and a different authorship. In any line of investigation, when other sources of information are lacking, apparent adaptation is regarded as important evidence. In the study of palaeontology, for example, it is relied on to determine habits of animals long since extinct, and, as is believed, with a good approximation to accuracy. It would seem to be equally applicable in the domain of archaeology.

It may be stated as a broad generalization that it is in their religious constructions chiefly that the idealism, mysticism and mythology of a people find expression, and when we find a variety of adjustments having no apparent explanation from the purely utilitarian standpoint, there is justification for the belief that they were made in conformity to some religious idea. When in addition we find that all the features combine to render the construction peculiarly suited to a certain form of religious observance, the presumption is greatly strengthened. Both of these suppositions find exemplification in the Trempealeau platforms. There are several adjustments which give evidence of careful planning and appear as though designed for the accommodation of a rather complicated ceremonial. If designed for sun worship the location was surpassingly fine, and the evident orientation (toward the position of the sun at the summer solstice, not toward due east), evidenced in the placing of the longer axis of the platform transverse to the hill crest, and in other features, would find its explanation. As the site of a council house, or of a chief's house, the only alternative function that can be suggested, they would have been isolated from the body of the tribe, inconvenient of access, remote from supplies, and open to attack. We may conceive of tribes whose government had become so centralized and separated from the people, that such isolation would be desirable, but this is not true, according to our best knowledge of any of the tribes found in the region when the whites first entered it. So far, therefore, as we may judge from adaptation, the evidence strongly indicates religious use and contraindicates a secular one.

The opposition to this view rests on the belief that it conflicts with certain archaeological generalizations, a belief which, in my opinion, is based on misconceptions. I have already alluded to the fact that archaeological opinion has undergone a great change in the last half century. The ascription of our American antiquities to an unknown, and long vanished race, having been quite displaced by that which ascribes them to tribes identical with, or at least of the same general stock, as those that

we know. Coupled with this earlier belief were numerous rather fanciful hypotheses, based on careless observations which, in the light of more careful recent study, seem almost childish. This whole matter is treated at considerable length and much ability by G. A. West in an article entitled "Indian Authorship of American Antiquities" (Wis. Arch., Vol. 6, No. 4, 1907). It is well worth reading by those interested in the subject. But in discussing the Aztalan (Wis.) remains (pp. 217-232) he reaches some conclusions which I do not think quite in accord with the evidence. That the remains at Aztalan and the other two smaller groups of similar character near by are notable departures from the types seen elsewhere throughout the State is indisputable. However, Mr. West is disposed to place such an interpretation on them as to minimize the unlikeness. In doing so he very justly exposes certain inaccuracies of observation, and extravagances of interpretation current for a time, such as the use of brick in the construction of the enclosing wall, the evidences of human sacrifices, and the ascription of the remains to the Aztecs. Prescott's "Conquest of Mexico" had taken a firm hold on people's imaginations, and served to bring the Aztecs into many situations where they had no place.

The two features of Aztalan which are peculiar are the encircling wall and the platforms. Their peculiarity is seen in the fact that while there are scores of mound groups showing the characteristic assemblage of Winnebago forms, effigies, linears, and taper linears, nothing at all similar to the enclosures is found outside the Aztalan region (a few small inclosures are reported, but they are so obviously different in all essential respects that they cannot justly be placed in the same class) and nothing similar to the platforms save there and at Trempealeau. We are obliged to assume in explanation, either that there was some special reason, the seat of a centralized government, for example, why the tribe used a type of construction there which they deemed needless elsewhere; that some small subdivision of the tribe developed a type of construction markedly different from the others; or that it was built by some quite distinct tribe having very different ideas and building requirements.

Mr. West finds in the linear groups of mounds common in certain topographic situations a parallel to the enclosing wall assuming that the separate mounds of such a group are connected. But such connection is rare, so rare as to be negligible, and even if it were otherwise would fall short of a full explanation. He assigns to the platforms a secular function—the site of the chief's house, or or the council house, and cites as examples some described in the account of De Soto's expedition, but those which he encountered were certainly not used by the Winnebago, nor by any other tribe of the same stock, and there is some reason to believe that one in northern Georgia belonged to a tribe kindred to the Natchez, with whom the chief was both the civil and religious head of the tribe, and where in consequence the platform combined both a civil and religious function. Some of those noted were probably in Florida, a region where, as has been said, "they have hard work to keep their feet out of the water," and where a platform had a decidedly utilitarian purpose.

There are a few effigies and linears at Aztalan, both within and without

the inclosure, which are, no doubt, of Winnebago authorship. The artifacts found in the vicinity are also said to be of the type common in the State, though some of a better quality are hinted at. Because they are indistinguishably commingled all are assumed to be of the same authorship. There is, however, no necessity for such an assumption. If a region has been occupied by different races, a commingling of their artifacts and construction must almost inevitably happen. Mingling of white and Indian remains is not unusual.

However, I have been able to show that at Trempealeau a type of pottery, almost identical with a type common south of St. Louis, but very rare north of that place, occurs quite unmixed with the common type of the region. We may say, therefore, that both the platforms and the pottery find their nearest counterparts in what we may broadly speak of as the Arkansas region.

This fact offers at least a suggestion as to probable authorship. Mr. West remarks in referring to that conjecture that a colony of Mexicans (Aztecs) had built the inclosure and platforms, "Such conclusions are no longer permissible. No such colony ever penetrated to within a thousand miles of Wisconsin." In this assertion he is no doubt correct. There is to my mind nothing to suggest Aztec influence, and I have never for a moment entertained such an opinion. But he ignores the fact that the valley of the Mississippi has been entered, and for a long time occupied by another race, which, on the basis both of language, and their own traditions, has been referred to the Maya stock of Central America. These were the Natchez, and cognate tribes. Their wanderings had carried them considerably more than a thousand miles from their original seat, and to considerably less than a thousand miles from Wisconsin.

There is considerable ground for the belief also that they were in their decadence when they first became known to the whites, and that the area occupied by them had become greatly restricted from what it had once been. That, during their expanding and aggressive stage, offshoots from them should have passed still further up the great river, is more in accord with inherent probability than that they did not. It should be noted in this connection that the Arkansan (from whom the state took its name), a tribe of the same stock as the Winnebago, is, on the basis of Indian tradition, assigned a rather late entry into the region, apparently about the last of that stock to pass into the trans-Mississippi region, and the curtailment of the Natchez territory might in part have been the result of that invasion. Among the Natchez the chief was held as a superior being, a child of the sun, the religious as well as the civil head of the tribe. The sun was the object of worship, the worship involving a complicated ceremonial on the platform, on which a perpetual fire was kept burning. The chief, as a sacred being, also had his residence on the platform.

While we should not suppose that all the tribes had identical customs, we should look for strong family resemblances, and such family resemblances would seem to be indicated by the remains at Trempealeau and Aztalan.

The whole argument, of course, falls short of demonstration, which is

perhaps not to be hoped for. It, however, offers a solution of the problem which violates no inherent probability or well determined fact; is, on the contrary, rather probable and in accord with such facts as we know.

Synopsis of the Argument Regarding the Platforms—1. Their size, and the thought and labor bestowed on them, clearly indicated a public purpose. 2. That purpose, judging from adaptation, was religious—sun worship. 3. They do not belong to the recognized type of Winnebago constructions—are indeed so unlike other constructions of the Northwest as to constitute a type in themselves. 4. The nearest parallels are found in the “Aztalan” groups. 5. These groups are also rather notable departures from the typical Winnebago type. 6. The arguments whereby it is sought to bring them into harmony with Winnebago types are pertinent as showing their Indian authorship, but not as showing their Winnebago authorship. 7. Disproof of their Aztec authorship was uncalled for, since I have never believed in such authorship. 8. A group of tribes of Central American origin were living on the lower Mississippi when whites first entered the region. Their civil and religious beliefs and customs offer a rather striking parallel to what, on the basis of adaptation, we should judge to have been those of the builders of the platforms. 9. The pottery found at Trempealeau is almost identical with that they are known to have made. 10. It is inherently rather probable that offshoots from these tribes should have ascended the Mississippi.

The Antiquity of Man

A find made at Trempealeau Bay during the past season—1917—renders it desirable that something be said on the subject. The find consists of a flat stone, a trifle over three inches long, somewhat under two wide and about one-half inch thick. It is of moderately hard sandstone, unworn, save that at each end there is a carefully-made notch, as though to permit a cord to be fastened about it. The symmetrical position, and the care used in making them, places their formation by any other than human agency quite out of the question. It was taken out of the mud in which it was closely embedded. The mud had been taken from under the west pier of the bridge at a depth somewhere between fifty-four and sixty feet. The mud in which it was embedded was part of an unbroken deposit of similar material containing an abundance of shells and vegetable material, and extending from fifty-four feet to the bottom at sixty-eight feet. From fifty-four feet upward to forty feet the mud alternated to some extent with sand. The deposit gives every evidence of being interglacial. Obviously this would indicate the existence of man anterior at least to the last glacial period. Yet, while the evidence seems clear, and difficult to invalidate, it is best to receive it with caution.

It must be borne in mind that the antiquity of man as a denizen of the world is quite a distinct question from that of the date of his arrival on this continent. In Europe, and adjoining portions of Asia and Africa, evidences have been found indicating his existence practically throughout the Pleistocene period. But in America the evidences are much more

scanty and less decisive, and there has come to be a rather sharp division of opinion as to the validity of such evidence as is available.

A few examples will serve to show the nature and limitations of the evidence. Some half century ago a human skull was found in the auriferous gravels of California under a lava bed. This seemed to carry man back into the tertiary, but the opinion finally prevailed that the lava bed was a displaced mass which had slidden to its present position. Some years ago human remains were found along the Missouri River nearly a hundred feet down. But Professor Chamberlin showed that the bed of that stream is extremely unstable, being rapidly cut away and refilled to great depths, with obvious consequences. For a number of years archaeologists have been finding flint chips in the glacial gravels at various places, notably near Trenton, New Jersey, and near Washington. But it is claimed that these might have been produced by natural agencies, and Professor Chamberlin gives cuts of two groups, one from the above sources, the other from a source where human agency is not presumed. I think that no one could pick out, with confidence, the natural from the supposed artificial group. More recently human remains have been discovered in Florida associated with the remains of extinct animals of the Pleistocene. But it appears that they occur in a little valley which had been partly refilled with wash derived from the surrounding Pleistocene, whereby objects not really contemporaneous are brought into apparent relationship. It will be seen, therefore, that the evidence thus far obtained lacks considerable of being conclusive.

In the case of Trempealeau, Professor Chamberlin, in response to my first letter, was disposed to apply the same explanation as in the case on the Missouri, scour and fill; but, the conditions here are such as to definitely exclude that explanation. It may be said that the weak point in the evidence is that the object was not seen in its actual position in the bed. Still, considering that from fifty-four feet downward the material retained substantially the same character, and quite evidently had not been subject to scour and fill, the lack does not seem to seriously invalidate the evidence.

It is best, however, to be a little conservative in such matters, and reserve one's opinion until the evidence has been studied from all angles.

1—In calculating the volume of conical mounds, I have assumed them to be cones of the given diameter and height, making the diameter equal to the furthest limit to which artificial fill can be traced. It is, of course, not strictly accurate, but gives a reasonably close approximation.

Note.—Charles F. Brown, in the *Wisconsin Archaeologist*, Vol. 5, Nos. 3-4, April to October, 1906, pp. 392-393, gives the following resume of the Archæological remains in Trempealeau County:

Trempealeau Township.—(a) Mounds and earthwork near the Mississippi, opposite Homer. Reported by L. H. Bunnell, *Smithsonian Report*, 1871, p. 430. Large group of mounds on the Gladsten property, south of Pine Creek, near Pine Creek Station.

(b) Mound west of Mr. Booher's residence at Trempealeau. Several mounds in close proximity to the Baptist church at Trempealeau. (G. H. Squier says there was but one.)

(c) Other mounds on the ridges of the bluffs not far from Trempealeau. Human bones and vessels found in them. Mentioned by L. H. Bunnell, *Winona and Environs* (Winona,

1897), pp. 84, 37 and 89. Oval mound on Wm. Nicholls' place at Trempealeau. Tabular mound on the south side of Third street at Trempealeau. (Identical with third item.) Series of three platforms on the crest of a hill at Trempealeau. Mounds and fireplaces near the former location of Fort Perrot. Scattered bones found in some of the mounds.

(d) Group of conical mounds near the southeast corner of Mt. Trempealeau. Also single mounds nearby. Described and mentioned by G. H. Squier, *Wisconsin Archaeologist*, Vol. 4, No. 2 (1905), pp. 25-34. The tabular mound briefly described by L. Kessinger, *History Buffalo County*, pp. 75-76. "Pictograph" rock bearing Indian carvings, on an exposed sandstone ledge on Trempealeau river, 2½ miles northwest of Trempealeau. Described by T. H. Lewis, *American Naturalist*, September, 1889; mentioned by C. E. Brown, *Wisconsin Archaeologist*, Vol. 5, No. 1 (1905).

Gale Township.—(d) Effigy mounds at Galesville and vicinity. Mentioned by George Gale, *The Upper Mississippi* (1867), p. 14; and by L. H. Bunnell, *Winona and Environs* (1897), p. 87, also in *Galesville Transcript*, Nov. 25, 1860. (e) Rock shelter at Galesville, the sides of which are covered with carvings representing snakes, birds, mammals and men. Reported by T. H. Lewis, August, 1905; mentioned by C. E. Brown, *Wisconsin Archaeologist*, Vol. 5, No. 1 (1905), p. 218.

Caledonia Township.—(f) Group of effigy mounds on the west side of Black river, N. ½ Sec. 10, T. 18 N., R. 8 W.

Briefly described by T. H. Lewis, *Science*, Vol. 13, p. 188; also in *Tracts for Archaeology*, Vol. 1 (1880), and figure.

The list as given is a correct bibliography of the subject as far as I am aware. I have indicated above such as are duplications or were based on incomplete knowledge. (G. H. S.)

(a) I have made repeated inquiries as to this group, but can learn of nothing save the Pine Creek group, which is nearly opposite Homer.

(b) This was originally a large conical mound like the Nicholls mound. The top was scraped away some time in the late fifties or early sixties, by Richard Towner, now dead.

This, that near the Baptist church, and others of which I have seen traces, made up a considerable group once occupying the site of Trempealeau.

(c) Although not numerous, there are mounds in several localities on the bluffs. On Trempealeau Mountain, Brady's Bluff, on hill back of Fort Perrot, on the main bluff, and on a lower space of Liberty Peak. These were so scattering that they could not well be plotted, as was done for the Pine Creek group, those at the bay and others.

(d) The mounds about Galesville have been so completely obliterated that scarcely anything can now be recognized.

(e) Unless the one in the park from which the spring issues is intended, I do not know to what he refers. That Indians may have used it for shelter and left markings in it is not improbable, but even in the late sixties when I first visited it, these had been largely supplanted by the work of the whites.

(f) There are, or were, several groups along the west side of Black river containing effigies. It is not clear to which he refers.

Judge Gale's work approached nearer to a systematic study of the archæology of the county than any of the others. His acquaintance was very wide. It is unfortunate that he left so few notes to aid in locating the features he mentions. Mr. Bunnell was a keen observer, but his work was only incidental. Mr. Lewis spent a few days in the vicinity, giving considerable attention to the archæology.

CHAPTER IV

GOVERNMENTAL JURISDICTION

Jurisdiction over Trempealeau County has been claimed by four nations, Spain, France, England and the United States; by the French and English colonial authorities; by the territorial officials of the Northwest Territory and of the Territories of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin; and by the officers of the counties of Crawford, La Crosse, Chippewa, Jackson and Buffalo.

Spain, by virtue of the discoveries of Columbus and others, confirmed to her by Papal grant (that of Alexander VI, May 4, 1493), may be said to have been the first European owner of the entire valley of the Mississippi river, but she never used this claim as a ground for taking actual possession of this part of her domains other than was incidentally involved in De Soto's doings. The name of Florida was first applied to the greater part of the eastern half of North America, commencing at the Gulf of Mexico, and proceeding northward indefinitely.

England, basing her claims on the explorations made by her subjects along the Atlantic coast, issued to various individuals and "companies," charters to vast tracts of land extending from the Atlantic westward.

Practically, however, the upper Mississippi Valley may be considered as having been in the first place Canadian soil, for it was Frenchmen from Canada, who first visited it and traded with its natives. The names of Canada and New France were used interchangeably to apply to the vast French possessions of the American continent. The name, Louisiana, was invented by La Salle and applied by him to the entire Mississippi Valley. But generally speaking, the Canada or New France of the eighteenth century took in the upper Mississippi Valley, while the name Louisiana was used for the lower valley.

At the close of the great European conflict which found its echo in the so-called French and Indian War in America, the area that is now Wisconsin, became by the Treaty of Paris, signed February 10, 1763 (a preliminary treaty having been signed at Fontainebleau, November 3, 1762), a part of the British empire.¹

The success of the American Revolution, resulting in the Treaty of Paris,² September 3, 1783, revived the claims of the coast States; but finally these claims were ceded to the Federal government, in order to form a national domain from which to create new States and Territories.³ The land having been acquired by the Federal authority, many plans were proposed for its government. Thomas Jefferson suggested that the territory be divided into ten States, of which the State of Michigania was to include Trempealeau County.

The Northwest Territory was erected by the Congress of the Confed-

eration (the Constitution of the United States not being adopted until September 17, 1787) by the "Northwest Ordinance," passed July 13, 1787.⁵ Eventually there were formed from the Northwest Territory, in addition to Ohio,⁶ the Territories of Indiana⁷ (May 7, 1800), Michigan⁸ (January 11, 1805), Illinois⁹ (February 3, 1809) and Wisconsin¹⁰ (April 20, 1836). Wisconsin was a part of the Northwest Territory from July 13, 1787 to May 7, 1800; of Indiana Territory from May 7, 1800, to February 3, 1809; of Illinois Territory¹¹ from February 3, 1809, to April 18, 1818; and of Michigan Territory from April 18, 1818, to April 20, 1836, when the Territory of Wisconsin was created.

Crawford County, erected by proclamation of Lewis Cass, governor of Michigan Territory, October 26, 1818, included what is now Trempealeau County.¹² When the Territory of Wisconsin was organized, Crawford County still contained in its vast area the present limits of Trempealeau County. The same relation continued in early Statehood days. In 1845 the part of what is now Trempealeau County north of the Buffalo River, became a part of Chippewa County.¹³ La Crosse County was created in 1851, and the same year was made to include what is now Trempealeau County south of the Buffalo River.¹⁴

Jackson County, when created May 11, 1853, included all of what is now Trempealeau County south of the Buffalo River and north of the line between Townships 18 and 19, the tract south of that line remaining in La Crosse County.¹⁵

Buffalo County, as created July 6, 1853, included all of what is now Trempealeau County, west of the line between Ranges 7 and 8, south of the Buffalo River and north of the line between Townships 18 and 19.¹⁶

In 1854 Buffalo County was enlarged. Its northern boundary was the line between Townships 24 and 25. Its western boundary was the Chippewa River. Its southern boundary was the Mississippi and the line between Townships 18 and 19. Its western boundary was the line between Townships 18 and 19.¹⁷

Trempealeau County, then called Trempe a l'eau, was created by Act approved January 24, 1854. It had practically its present boundaries, with the exception that the southern boundary, east of where the Black River touches the southwest corner of Town 19, Range 7, ran due east on the line between Townships 18 and 19, to the line between Ranges 6 and 7, instead of following the Black River to the line between Ranges 6 and 7, as at present.¹⁸

In 1857 the boundaries of Trempealeau and La Crosse were defined with reference to the channel of the Black River, which was made the boundary between the two counties from the line between Townships 17 and 18, to the line between Ranges 6 and 7.¹⁹ A few days earlier, the boundaries of Trempealeau and Buffalo Counties had been defined in reference to the channel and islands of the Trempealeau and Mississippi Rivers.²⁰

The story of the creation of two counties instead of one along the banks of the Mississippi River between La Crosse County and the Chippewa River, is typical of the days of townsite speculation. In the summer of 1853 there was a flourishing settlement at what is now Trempealeau, extending

to some extent up and down the Mississippi, and spreading out across the Trempealeau Prairie. Settlers had reached Beaver Creek Valley and Judge George Gale that year bought land on which to plat the Village of Galesville. There was a thriving settlement at Holmes' Landing, now Fountain City, and a smaller one at Twelve-Mile Bluff, now Alma.

Marvin Pierce, who was something of a politician, lived at Montoville, now Trempealeau. With him were his two brothers, Wesley and James M. John Buehler was a citizen of Holmes' Landing. It is said that on a trip to his former home in Grant County, he stopped at Montoville, and interested Marvin Pierce in the proposition of establishing a new county. According to the story told by Buehler later in life, Marvin Pierce went up to Holmes' Landing and secured the funds with which to lobby the required bill through the legislature.²¹ The Act was passed July 6, 1853, one of its provisions being the location of the county seat of the newly-formed Buffalo County at Sand Prairie, Lot 1, Section 1, Township 19, Range 12, which James M. Pierce had entered at the United States Land Office a few weeks previous, on June 1.

The people of Holmes' Landing believed that their hopes of developing an important metropolis were about to be realized. Montoville was left in La Crosse County, and could never expect to rival La Crosse for county seat honors. The site of Judge Gale's proposed village was on the extreme edge of the newly-created Buffalo County, and could have no hope of securing county seat advantages. It is true that the people of Holmes' Landing were indignant that the Pierces had taken advantage of the situation and had secured the location of the county seat on a neighboring sand bar instead of actually at their village, nevertheless it was felt that the matter of persuading the supervisors to meet at the village instead of on what was practically a near-by Mississippi island, was a simple one. This feeling was fully justified, for the very first recorded gathering of the county board was held at Fountain City, and at that meeting the home of Henry Goerke, on Lot 6, Section 8, Township 19, was designated as the courthouse.

There seemed absolutely no possibility for the creation of another county between Holmes' Landing and La Crosse, for a constitutional provision prevented the division of any county having an area of 900 acres, without a vote of the people.²²

Judge Gale, however, was a man of considerable inventiveness and influence. He did not propose to see his village site shelved to the edge of a county. He quietly interviewed his friends who were to serve in the legislature, and secured their support for an ingenious plan that he had conceived. In pursuance with this plan the legislature first passed an Act enlarging Buffalo County, extending it to its present western and northern boundaries. Buffalo County thus containing over 900 acres, it was subject to division by the legislature, and immediately a second Act was passed, taking a tract containing Trempealeau from La Crosse County, a tier of townships from Jackson County, and two tiers of townships from Buffalo County, and naming the new county Trempealeau. The county seat was located on the northwest quarter of Section 33, Township 19, Range 8, on

Beaver Creek at Galesville. An election was to be held the first Monday in September, 1854, to designate a county judge who was to serve three years from January 1, 1855. A general election was to be held in November, 1854, to elect all county officers, whose term was to commence January 1, 1855. The board of supervisors of Montoville was to act as a board of supervisors of the county until other towns were organized and elections held.¹⁸

For story of French, Spanish and English domain in this region, see: Moses M. Strong, Civil Government from 1512 to 1831, *History of the Territory of Wisconsin* (Madison, 1885), 151-165.

For story of the territories of which Trempealeau County has been a part, see: F. Curtiss-Wedge, *History of Winona County* (Chicago, 1913), 50-58. See also: Renben Gold Thwaites, Boundaries of Wisconsin, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XI, 451-501.

For story of the counties of which Trempealeau County has been a part, see: Louise Phelps Kellogg, Organization, Boundaries and Names of Wisconsin Counties, *Wis. Hist. Soc., Proceedings*, 1910, 184 et seq.

1—For preliminary treaty of Nov. 3, 1762 (printed from *Gentleman's Magazine*, XXXIII, 477-479), and the Quebec Act (reprinted from *British Statutes at Large*—London, 1776. XII, 184-187), see: Thwaites, ed., Important Western State Papers, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XI, 36-60. The Proclamation of King George established four separate governments in the acquired territory, but none included Wisconsin. The Quebec Act extended the jurisdiction of Quebec to a tract of land embracing Wisconsin. But Virginia, in October, 1778, after the opening of the Revolution, claimed authority over land northwest of the Ohio, by establishing the county of Illinois, embracing a vast tract which included Wisconsin (Strong, *History of the Territory of Wisconsin*—Madison, 1885, 154-155). Virginia's claim was based on the King's grant in 1609 to the London Company, which concluded with the words "and all that Space and Circuit of Land Lying from the Sea-coast of the Precinct aforesaid up into the land throughout, from Sea to Sea, West and Northwest"—Carrie J. Smith, *Making of Wisconsin* (Chicago, 1908), 167.

2—For provisional articles of Nov. 30, 1782 (309-312), definite treaty of Sept. 3, 1783 (314-318), Jay's treaty of Nov. 19, 1794 (318-335), see: *Treaties and Conventions Concluded Between the United States of America and other Powers* (Wash., 1873).

3—For acts of relinquishment see: Lyman J. Nash and Arthur F. Belitz, revisors, *Wisconsin Annotations* (Madison, 1914), 1776-1787. For map of conflicting claims, see: Smith, *Making of Wisconsin* (Chicago, 1908), 168.

4—For map, see: *Ibid.*, 170.

5—For text, see: *Federal and State Constitutions* (Washington, 1877), I, 429-432, or *Wisconsin Annotations*, 1914, 1788-1791.

6—When Indiana was created a territory, May 7, 1800, the eastern part of the old Northwest Territory still retained its original name. This eastern division, with a change of boundary, adopted a constitution and created a state government under the name of the State of Ohio, Nov. 29, 1802. Feb. 19, 1803, Congress declared that Ohio had become one of the states of the Union. For enabling act, see: *2 United States Statutes at Large*, 173, or *Wisconsin Annotations*, 1914, 1796-1797. For recognition act see: *2 United States Statutes at Large*, 201, or *Wisconsin Annotations*, 1914, 1798.

7—*2 U. S. Statutes at Large*, 58, or *Wisconsin Annotations*, 1914, 1795; the enabling act was passed April 19, 1816 (*3 U. S. Statutes at Large*, 289, or *Wisconsin Annotations*, 1914, 1801-1802); the admission act was passed Dec. 11, 1816 (*3 U. S. Statutes at Large*, 299, or *Wisconsin Annotations*, 1914, 1803).

8—*2 U. S. Statutes at Large*, 309, or *Wisconsin Annotations*, 1914, 1799.

9—*2 U. S. Statutes at Large*, 514, or *Wisconsin Annotations*, 1914, 1800; the enabling act was passed April 18, 1818 (*3 U. S. Statutes at Large*, 428, or *Wisconsin Annotations*, 1914, 1804-1805); the admission act was passed Dec. 3, 1818 (*3 U. S. Statutes at Large*, 536, or *Wisconsin Annotations*, 1914, 1806). The enabling act (Section 7) attached Wisconsin to Michigan territory.

10—5 *U. S. Statutes at Large*, 10, or *Wisconsin Annotations*, 1914, 1807-1810; the enabling act was passed Aug. 6, 1846 (9 *U. S. Statutes at Large*, 56, or *Wisconsin Annotations*, 1914, 1811-1812); the admission act was passed May 29, 1848 (9 *U. S. Statutes at Large*, 178, or *Wisconsin Annotations*, 1914, 1813-1814).

11—Except a part of Kewaunee and Dorr counties.

12—*Territorial Laws of Michigan Territory*, I, 327.

13—*Laws of Wisconsin Territory*, 1845, 88.

14—Chapters 131 and 132, *Laws of 1851*.

15—Chapter 8, *General Laws of 1853*.

16—Chapter 100, *General Laws of 1853*.

17—Chapter 1, *General Laws of 1854*.

18—Chapter 2, *General Laws of 1854*.

19—Chapter 42, *General Laws of 1857*.

20—Chapter 16, *General Laws of 1857*.

21—L. Kissinger, *History of Buffalo County* (Alma, 1888), 277, et seq.

22—*Constitution of Wisconsin*, Sec. 7, Art. 13.

23—B. F. Heuston (probable author), Trempealeau County, *History of Northern Wisconsin* (Chicago, 1881), 1035.

CHAPTER V

REIGN OF THE INDIANS

From the days of the early fur traders, Trempealeau County seems to have been occupied more or less in common, by two branches of the Siouan family of North American Indians, the Dakota or Sioux proper, and the Winnebago.¹ The Fox, Sauk and Ojibwa (Chippewa) Indians of the Algonquian family, also appear to have made frequent raids here, and various other tribes made their rendezvous at Trempealeau Bay in fur-trading days.

The Winnebago were an outlying tribe of the Siouan family, believed by some writers to be an older branch than the Dakota themselves. They were visited at Green Bay by Jean Nicolet² as early as 1634.³ He knew them as the Men of the Sea or the Men of the Salt Water, from the aboriginal name, Ouinipegou, which appears in the modern name of Winnebago. Literally the word ouinipeg meant "ill-smelling or dirty water," and the early French called the Winnebago Puants, or "Stinkards."⁴ In early fur-trading days Winnebago were ranging as far westward as the Mississippi River.⁵

For some two centuries thereafter central Wisconsin continued to be their home. The treaty of Prairie du Chien, signed August 19, 1825, by the Chippewa, Sauk and Fox, Menominee, Iowa, Sioux, Winnebago, and a portion of the Ottawa, Chippewa and Potawatomi living on the Illinois, fixed various boundaries.⁶ The eastern line of the Sioux territory was to commence on the Mississippi opposite the mouth of the "Ioway" River, run back two or three miles to the bluffs, and follow the tops of the bluffs to the mouth of Black River, and thence to a point a short distance southwest of Eau Claire on the Chippewa River, "half a day's journey below the falls."⁷

The Winnebago territory lay east of the Sioux. In defining a part of their western territory, the Winnebagoes claimed from the mouth of the Black River, up that stream to a point due west of the source of the left fork of the Wisconsin. Thus a part of Trempealeau County was neutral territory between the Winnebago and Sioux.

By the Treaties of Butte des Morts on Fox River, August 11, 1827; of Green Bay, August 25, 1828, and of Prairie du Chien, August 1, 1829, the boundaries of the Winnebago were gradually curtailed, and on September 15, 1832, at Ft. Armstrong, Rock Island, Illinois, they agreed to relinquish their claim to all land south and east of the Wisconsin and Fox Rivers, and to remove to the "neutral ground" a tract lying west of the Mississippi in northeastern Iowa and southeastern Minnesota. By the treaty of Washington, D. C., November 1, 1837, they relinquished all their land east of the Mississippi. Subsequently, by treaty of October 13, 1846, they agreed to cede the tract assigned them in 1832, and to accept in return a tract north of the Minnesota and west of the Mississippi. The larger part of the tribe

was removed to Long Prairie, in the central part of Minnesota, in 1848, and small bands were moved from time to time in the years immediately following.⁸ In 1855 the Winnebago agency was transferred, under the terms of the treaty signed February 27, and proclaimed March 23, to Blue Earth County, near Mankato, Minnesota, but the Sioux Massacre caused the whites to be apprehensive of the peaceful Winnebago, so (under an Act of Congress approved February 21, 1863) they were removed to Crow Creek, on the Missouri River, in North Dakota. In 1865 they agreed to move to a tract in Nebraska purchased from the Omaha Indians. The removal of the Winnebago to this Nebraska tract, known as the Black Bird Reservation, was accomplished in 1866. There a part of the tribe is still located.

But the Winnebago have never been satisfied with any territory but the lands of central Wisconsin. Only a portion moved to the Turkey River country, in northeastern Iowa, under the agreement of 1832. The removal to Long Prairie, in Minnesota, in 1848 was accomplished under duress and with the aid of soldiers. In fact, upon reaching Winona, the Winnebago expressed their determination to go no further, and bloodshed was narrowly avoided. Before the trouble was ended many had slipped away and found their way back to their homes in Wisconsin. Others went to southeastern Nebraska and joined the Ottawa. The Indians who were taken to Long Prairie soon drifted southward in Minnesota or back to Wisconsin. Later others came back to Wisconsin from Blue Earth and from North Dakota. During the Minnesota Massacre of 1862 it was difficult for the citizens and volunteer soldiers to distinguish between a Dakota and a Winnebago Indian, so that many Winnebago who were absolutely innocent were shot without mercy. The Winnebago were, therefore, in danger from both the whites and the Dakota Indians, and many turned their faces toward the peaceful land of Wisconsin, and soon joined their friends on the old camping grounds.

No sooner was the removal to the Black Bird Reservation accomplished in 1866, than others of the Winnebago took the trail that led to the old familiar haunts among the pine forests. Within two years, a large part of the tribe was back again in Wisconsin.

Soon a new movement was on foot to compel them to return to Nebraska, and by a display of military force, hundreds were again removed to that region in the winter of 1873-74. During the troubles attending the forced removal, no less than 56 Indians were arrested in Trempealeau County.⁹

Taken to far-away Nebraska, the people of the unfortunate race still longed for their native woods and streams, and their thoughts wandered over the old hunting grounds and berry fields of Wisconsin. In the pine woods were the graves of their dead, which made the soil more sacred in their minds, and there were the camping grounds where all of their festivities were held, and they hungered for the scenes and associations of the olden days.

The homeward trail was soon thronged with the returning stragglers, and within a year, half of the tribe were back. This time Fate was kinder to them, for in 1875 the government gave them the homestead right, which

enabled them to gain a home of their own by building houses and doing a certain amount of improving on their land. The larger part of the Winnebago are now scattered through a territory in the Black River Valley and to the westward.

The land they live on will probably never be of any particular benefit to them; it is sandy, poor soil, among the scrub oaks and jack pines. Some little corn is raised, as well as potatoes, and a few of the Indians raise chickens.

During the blueberry season the Indians pick berries and sell them, and during the cranberry season they find employment, and go in bands to the marshes, where they camp until the crop is gathered.

Thus live the descendants of a race which once had at its command the unmeasured sweeps of nature, and the boundless wealth of forest and plain, lake and river.

The Dakota, proper, who shared Trempealeau County with the Winnebago, were the principal division of the Siouan family, and are more commonly called by their family name of Sioux, rather than by their individual name of Dakota. The Siouan family consisted not only of the Dakota, proper, but also of the Winnebago, the Assiniboin, the Minnetare group, and the Osage and southern kindred tribes.¹⁰

The word Sioux, now applied to the whole linguistic family, is a corruption of the word Nadouessi or Nadouescioux, meaning "the snake-like ones," or "the enemies," the name by which the Chippewa and other Algonquin Indians called the Dakotas. Dakota, variously spelled, was applied by this branch of the Siouan family to themselves, and means "joined together in friendly compact." An important division of the Dakotas was the M'dewakanton (commonly rendered Medawakanton) tribe. At one time the Medewakanton had their headquarters about the Mille Lacs region in northern Minnesota, hence their name, which means "The People of the Spirit Lake." Evidently driven out by the Chippewa, who had obtained arms from the whites, they established themselves in seven villages along the Mississippi and Minnesota.¹¹

The Medawakanton relinquished their claim to all lands east of the Mississippi and all the islands in that river by the treaty signed at Washington, D. C., September 29, 1837.¹² Thus in 1837, Trempealeau passed from the dominion of both the Winnebago and the Dakota, and into the possession of the whites. By a treaty signed in 1851 and proclaimed in 1853, the Medawakanton relinquished their vast possessions in Minnesota, and afterward were removed to a reservation on the upper Minnesota River, in the western part of the State of Minnesota. They took part in the Massacre of 1862, and fled or were removed from Minnesota. A larger part of Indians of that blood are now at the Santee Reservation, in Nebraska.¹³ Others are at Flandreau, South Dakota, or scattered through Minnesota.

Aside from the wandering Indian bands which pitched their camp in Trempealeau County from the days of Perrot, three bands seem to have made their home in the locality at various times before the coming of the settlers, the Winnebago bands of Red Bird and Decorah, and the Medawa-

kanton Dakota band of Wabasha. Since the coming of the settlers there have been scattering encampments.

The chiefs of the Wabasha dynasty early became familiar with Trempealeau Mountain and Trempealeau Prairie, and Wabasha II maintained the home of the tribe here for several years. Wabasha I was probably born about 1720.¹⁴ His name is variously rendered—Ouabashas, Wapasha, Wapahasha and Wah-pah-hah-sha—and means red leaf, red cap, or red war banner. He was of mixed Sioux and Algonquian blood, his father having been a Dakota chief and his mother a Chippewa princess.¹⁵ He was head chief of all the Medawakanton Dakota, his own immediate band probably embodying the ancient Mantanton. The band was known to the Dakota themselves as the Ona-pe-ton or Falling Leaf Band. He appears to have moved his village from the Mille Lacs region in Minnesota, first to the lower valley of the Rum River and subsequently to the mouth of the Minnesota, both in the same State. Later he established himself and his band at the present site of Winona.¹⁶ At Winona (Ke-ox-ah) the headquarters of the band seem to have been maintained until the treaty of 1851, though for many decades, apparently until after the time of Pike in 1805, the band had a village on the Upper Iowa River. Wabasha I was greatly honored by the British, made a number of trips to Montreal, received the confirmation of the authorities to his title as head chief of all the Medawakanton, was a general in the British army in the Revolutionary War, and led his troops in the British campaign against the Americans at St. Louis, St. Genevieve, Missouri, and elsewhere. In his old age he was exiled by jealous relatives from his chieftainship and from the Winona village, and probably died in Houston County, Minnesota, about 1806. Wabasha II succeeded him as chief, and reigned until his death in 1836. He is the La Feuille, The Leaf, who came in contact with all the early American explorers beginning with Pike in 1805. He sided with the British in the War of 1812. When Long came up the river in 1817, Wabasha was firmly established at Winona. But a short time before the Black Hawk War, the village was moved to Trempealeau Prairie as a precaution against the raids made by the Sauk of Iowa.¹⁷ The band continued, however, to hold its celebrations and dances at Ke-ox-ah (Winona). Wabasha II took part in the Black Hawk War of 1832, and assisted in exterminating many of the Sauk and Foxes as they were fleeing across the Mississippi River into Iowa after their defeat at the mouth of Bad Axe River. He died of smallpox at the age of about 63, in 1836. The scourge had swept his band, and the whole village was reduced to a few teepees. Wabasha II was highly praised by all the whites with whom he came in contact. In person he was of low stature, and his face was disfigured by having lost one eye. In character he was wise, prudent and brave, a friend of the whites, and what was unusual in those days, absolutely abstemious in his habits, and an earnest advocate of temperance.

He was succeeded by Wabasha III, who after the treaty of 1837 maintained his home and his tribe in Winona until the settlers arrived in 1851.¹⁸ Then he moved across the river into Wisconsin, and spent some time in this vicinity before locating in the western part of Minnesota. Wabasha III

led his warriors in the Dakota outbreak of 1862, although he was opposed to it, and was one of the first to make proposals of peace to the whites, even while his nation was still in arms. After the Massacre he was removed to Missouri and finally to Santee, Nebraska, where he died April 23, 1876, a solitary, broken man, who had inherited the chieftainship of an empire, and had watched his people dwindle before the onrushing wave of a race that had defrauded him of his possessions.

Red Bird, a famous Winnebago chief, is believed to have had a village on the Black River.¹⁹ Red Bird was born in 1788 and died in 1827. Various stories are told of the origin of his name, one being that he wore on each shoulder the plumage of a red bird, in imitation of the epaulettes which he had seen worn by American officers.²⁰ He is described as being perfect in form, face and gesture. In height he was about six feet, straight and without restraint. His proportions from his head to his feet were those of the most exact symmetry, and even his fingers were models of beauty. His face was full of all the ennobling, and, at the same time, winning expressions; it appeared to be a compound of grace and dignity, of firmness and decision, all tempered with mildness and mercy. Until the Red Bird outbreak he had the confidence of the whites to the extent that his presence at Prairie du Chien was looked upon as an assurance of protection from any Indian troubles. But after learning of what he believed to be the basest treachery and cruelty to some of his people by the officers at Fort Snelling, he sought the most terrible revenge. With two companions, We-kau and Chic-hon-sic, he went to the home of Rijeste Gagnier, two miles southeast from Prairie du Chien, killed Gagnier, scalped and wounded an infant, who afterward recovered, and killed a boarder, Solomon Lipcap. The same day Red Bird and his band attacked two boats on the Mississippi, killing a number of whites. Later Red Bird and his two companions gave themselves up to the authorities. Red Bird died in prison at Prairie du Chien, February 16, 1828. His two companions were pardoned by President John Quincy Adams.²¹

The Winnebago, under One-Eyed Decorah, had a village at one time about a mile and a half from Decorah's Peak, on the Black River, and when the first white settlers arrived on the prairie the small elevations on the ground where the Indians had cultivated their corn fields were still to be seen.

Both the Prairie and Decorah's Peak were named after this one-eyed chief, and Winnebago tradition is concerned with a battle fought on the Prairie between the Winnebago and Chippewa. Decorah is said to have watched this battle from the peak that bears his name, and when he saw his followers were being defeated, fled from the scene of conflict and found shelter in a near-by cave, where he remained in hiding until night approached, when he made his way to his brother's camp on the La Crosse River.

There are other versions of this tradition—one giving the Dakota as participating in the battle instead of the Chippewa. But as the Dakota and Winnebago were friendly allied tribes of the Siouan family, and the Chippewa were the Winnebago's most dreaded enemy, it is altogether

probable that the Chippewa were the ones that defeated Decorah and his followers.

Traditions are bound to vary, but they point to their origin in a fundamental fact, and although we get them clothed in garments that have been added by the passing generations, we can still find the original framework intact.

Antoine Grignon,²² who has heard the tribesmen repeat the tradition of the battle of Decorah's Peak, says that the battle must have been fought shortly after the war of 1812, and was a bloody encounter, raging furiously all of one day and well into the evening, when the defeated warriors of Decorah fled from the darkening scent of conflict, leaving their dead strewn upon the field.

After the removal of the Winnebago to Long Prairie, in central Minnesota, Decorah found his way back to Wisconsin again. In 1855 he went with the other Winnebago to Blue Earth County, Minnesota, but when they were removed to North Dakota, he once more started, with his followers, toward Wisconsin. When the Indians, in their canoes, reached the Black River, they paddled up its waters until a suitable camping place was found, when they landed and erected their tepees once more among their native forests.

Decorah and his small band of followers were camped in the little Tamarrack in the summer of 1863, and it was there that Grignon visited him for the last time. "He was an old man then," said Grignon, "his long hair was thin and streaked with gray, and he was nearly blind. But his body was well preserved, and his well-developed muscular form showed what a powerful man he had been. In height he was a little taller than the average Indian, but he was stocky and solid in build. He was discouraged with the outlook for his people, and said that he had not been dealt with fairly by the government. About a year after my visit to his camp old Decorah died at Tunnel City, Wisconsin, in August, 1864."

In the dingy, smoky wigwam, among a few of his loyal band, the old chief departed for the "happy hunting ground," leaving behind the cringing form of poverty that had cursed his old age, and dimmed the glory of his sunset. He, who once held sway over his flourishing village, and counted a territory as his domain, larger than Trempealeau County, fell asleep, the feeble ruler of a single tepee, its very dirt and rags not his own.

There are still lineal descendants of the old chief living among the Winnebago in this State, and over at Galesville on a point of land near the Arctic Springs his granddaughter, Princess Marie Nounka, is buried.

When the first settler arrived in this county Decorah's Peak had virtually been named, but not the Prairie, which was first called Scotch Prairie during the early fifties on account of its Scotch settlement.

The Indians told the tradition of Decorah's Peak to the early traders, and the story repeated from time to time fastened the name of the Winnebago chief to this prominent landmark.

The Decorah family, which embraces in its numbers not only several notable Indian chiefs, but also some of the most distinguished white families in Wisconsin, was founded by Sabrevior De Carrie, a French officer of gentle

blood, who was mortally wounded at the Battle of Quebec, April 28, 1760. This gallant adventurer married in 1729 a famous Winnebago queen, called Hopokoekaw, the Glory of the Morning, sister of the head chief.²³ Their descendants are variously called Decorah, De Carrie, DeKauray, Dakorah, Day Korah, and De Corrah. One of the sons was called Cha-post-kaw-kaw, or The Buzzard. The Buzzard established a village on La Crosse Prairie about 1787. He was killed in a drunken brawl by one of his sons, Mauwah-re-gah. One-Eyed Decorah (Le Borgne) was another son of The Buzzard, and was born near the Portage on the Wisconsin River about 1772, receiving the name of Watch-hut-ta-kah (Wadge-hutta-kaw) or Big Canoe.²⁴ He lived in the vicinity of La Crosse for many years and was noted for the part he took in the capture of Black Hawk at the close of the Black Hawk War. He aided in the capture of Mackenaw in 1812, was out in 1813 when the British attacked Fort Stephenson, and took part in Colonel William McKay's expedition against Prairie du Chien in 1814. He was a signer of the Prairie du Chien treaty in 1825.

He possibly had his village at Gale's Landing (Ferry) on the Black River from before 1826 until 1842.²⁵ It is certain that in 1832 the Winnebago under Old Decorah (Schachip-ka-ka) was chief of a village on the La Crosse River and ranged the Mississippi in this vicinity.²⁶ One-Eyed Decorah that summer was encamped at the entrance to the lower mouth of the Black River, while Winneshiek and Wau-mar-nar-sar hunted up the La Crosse and Black Rivers.²⁷ In 1843, One-Eyed Decorah had a camp on Broken Gun Slough, a branch of the Black River.²⁸

Black Hawk, leader of the Fox and Sauk Uprising in 1832, was captured near Arcadia, in Trempealeau County, according to Indian tradition. Official reports, however, declare that Black Hawk and his followers retreated to the Dalles of the Wisconsin River, and were there captured about two miles above Kilbourn City, by the One-Eyed Decorah and Cha-e-tar, who took them to Prairie du Chien, August 27, 1832, and delivered them to General Joseph D. Street, the Indian Agent.²⁹

The tradition of the capture near Arcadia was related through Antoine Grignon, to Dr. E. D. Pierce, by O-kick-chum-hak (Looking Glass), a medicine man, nearly eighty-five years old, and though it has no foundation in history, it is here given as one of the tales of the Indian lore of Trempealeau County, oft repeated around the vanishing campfires of a dying race.

"After the battle of Bad Axe, where so many of the followers of Black Hawk were cruelly slaughtered, the old chief and two followers fled northward, following the course of the Mississippi River, and carefully avoiding any trading post or trapper's cabin, until they reached the Trempealeau River, known by the Winnebago as the Nee-chum-ne-chum-u-kah, or flooding river, on account of its overflowing its banks during the spring season and when heavy rains occurred. The Hawk now turned his steps to follow the course of "The Flooding River," but he was weary with the effects of the hard campaign, and broken in spirits with its disastrous results, so he made his way but slowly through the tangled underbrush, and along the hills of a strange land. His sad-hearted companions, too, were wont to lag, and though game was plentiful, they were unable to

secure enough to satisfy their craving appetites, which had been made keen by long, hard marching for many months where at one time the flesh of half-starved horses kept them from perishing with hunger.

"But the Sac chief and his faithful companions struggled along up the river, and succeeded in reaching a well-hidden thicket along its banks, opposite Barn Bluff, and near the present village of Arcadia, where they went into camp, as it was toward evening, and they were in sore need of food and rest.

"In the meantime four Winnebago braves, Ne-no-hump-e-kah, or one who clears the water, Ra-koo-a-e-kah, Chosh-chum-hut-ta-kah, meaning Big Wave, and Wa-kow-oha-pin-kar (Good Thunder), were in hot pursuit of Black Hawk, and since the battle of Bad Axe had been following the trail of the noted Sac. They traveled up the Trempealeau Valley, keeping close watch for any signs of the fleeing Indians, and were rewarded by finding fresh traces of the trail, which they pursued with savage interest. One day they lost the trail, and seeing a high barn-shaped bluff in the distance resolved to climb it, and take a look at the surrounding country in the hope of catching a glimpse of the hunted fugitives. It was near sunset when they reached the summit of Barn Bluff, on the same day that Black Hawk and his men went into camp in the thicket on the banks of the Trempealeau River.

"The Winnebago braves looked down on the wild country with its rough hills stretching away in every direction, while the river gleaming with a touch of the sinking sun, threaded its way silently through the valley and was lost from sight in the misty thicket far down below. The Indians scanned the horizon that seemed to touch a continuous range of hills formed into an immense circle. They looked up the river, and down the river, and then away down among the thickets one discovered a thin smoke arising, and caught the glimpse of a campfire.

"A council was quickly held to determine what course to pursue, in endeavoring to capture Black Hawk, should it prove to be his camp. It was decided to steal continuously down in the dusk of the evening and surround the camp, and when its inmates were busy eating to slip up and capture them, for they wanted to take Black Hawk alive. Accordingly as arranged, they made their way downward, guided by the light of the fire, and surrounded the Indians, who were peacefully eating their evening meal. After watching the care-worn men a short time a signal was given, at which the four braves rushed forward to the capture. No force was needed, however, as Black Hawk quietly gave himself up. He was taken to the trading post at La Crosse and turned over to One-Eyed Decorah and Wa-kon-ah-kah (Snake Skin), two noted Winnebago chiefs, and they sent him a prisoner down the river to Prairie du Chien."

After his capture he was sent from Prairie du Chien to Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, in charge of Jefferson Davis, then an officer in the United States army, later President of the Confederate States of America. In April, 1833, he was taken east, was confined for a while at Fortress Monroe, was taken on a tour through the cities of the East, was afterward released, settled on the Des Moines River, and died October 3, 1838.³⁰

A Winnebago Indian village under the chief Ni-No-Humpt-Pinter, occupied considerable territory in Dodge Township when the early settlers arrived. The village began north of what is now Dodge Village, where there was a large Indian field, and extended out into Buffalo County as far as the Engelhart Doelle farm, where there was another large corn field. These Indians had substantial huts and pony stables. The huts were built of limbs of trees protected by bundles of grass on sides and roof, and were banked to a height of four feet or more with soil. The pony stables were constructed in much the same manner. Fences protected the growing corn from the ponies. These fences were of curious structure. First, crotched sticks were driven into the ground. These supported a single line of rails. At regular intervals crossed stakes were driven, meeting just above the single rail, and on the crotch thus formed was laid another rail. This made a double-rail fence, supported by perpendicular crotched sticks, and vertical crossed stakes.

The Indians were peaceable and friendly, visiting at the homes of the settlers at all hours of day and night. They often begged for food, but were generous with their own, and were not given to theft or crime of any kind.

The men had guns and hunted and fished most of the time. Deer were plentiful, but the Indians did not hunt for sport, and seldom killed more than was needed for immediate use, and though plenty of game was to be obtained, the Indians never wantonly slaughtered the wild animals and birds, and were never wasteful. In hot weather, the squaws would dress and skin the deer carcass, cut it into strips, and hang it up to dry.

These Indians reared many children, who were expert swimmers and canoeists, at a time when the current in the river was much swifter than it is now. These youngsters were good-natured, but shy, and were never troublesome. Their parents seemed to feel for them a deep affection, and their lives seemed to be a happy one. They appeared to be healthy and robust, and they and their elders often helped on the settlers' farms, especially in harvest time.

In their social life, they kept largely to themselves. The only inter-marriage with the whites was that of Ma-Sho-Pe-We-Ka, a sister of Black Hawk, with Volney Kingsley, a union to which four children were born.

The early settlers also found other encampments in various parts of the county, and to this day, temporary camps may be found along the waste lands of the river courses.

1—Frederick Webb Hodge, *Handbook of American Indians*, Bulletin 30, Bureau of Ethnology (Washington, 1907), I, 376-382, for the Dakota; I, 958-961, for the Winnebago. Also consult indexes of the published "Collections" of the Wisconsin and Minnesota Historical Societies.

2—Reuben Gold Thwaites, ed. French Régime in Wisconsin (Extract from *Jesuit Relations*, Cleveland issue, XXXIII, 275-279), *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XVI, 1-2. Also see: *Ibid*, 4 (Extract from La Potherie's *Histoire de l'Amerique*, printed at Paris in 1722 and again in 1753). Also: Consul W. Butterfield, *History of the Discovery of the Northwest by Jean Nicolet* (Cincinnati, 1881). Also: Henrie Juan, *Jean Nicolet* (Translated from the French by Grace Clark), *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XI, 1-22. For bibliography see: Butterfield, *Ibid.*, 23-25. An excellent summary of the subject, together with the extract from the *Jesuit Relations*,

XXXIII, 275-279, just mentioned, is found: L. P. Kellogg, *Early Narratives of the Northwest* (New York, 1917), 11-16.

3—Thwaites, editorial note, Jouan, Nicolet, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XI, 1-2.

4—Juan, Nicolet, *Ibid.*, 13, note.

5—Thwaites, The French Régéme in Wisconsin, Part 2, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XVII, 207.

6—Richard Peters, ed., *Treaties Between the United States and the Indian Tribes, U. S. Statutes at Large* (Boston, 1861), VII, 272. See same volume for all Indian treaties from 1778 to 1842.

7—Chas. C. Royce, Indian Land Cessions, *18th Annual Report*, Bureau of Ethnology (Washington, 1899), II, 710-712. See same volume for all Indian Land Cessions.

8—Return I. Holcombe, *Minnesota in Three Centuries* (New York, 1908), II, 207-218. Also: L. H. Bunnell, *Winona and Its Environs* (Winona, 1897), 337-341. Also: Maj. J. E. Fletcher, Report, *Ex. Doc.*, No. 1, Second Session, Thirtieth Congress. Also: Eben D. Pierce, *Recollections of Antoine Grignon*, *Wis. Hist. Soc., Proceedings*, 1913, 118-119.

9—Thwaites, The Wisconsin Winnebago, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XII, 414. (The entire article,—399-433,—is a most excellent history of the Winnebagoes in Wisconsin since 1828.)

10—J. W. Powell, Indian Linguistic Families, *7th Annual Report*, Bureau of Ethnology (Washington, 1891), 111-112.

11—N. H. Winchell, ed., *Aborigines of Minnesota* (St. Paul, 1911), 541 et seq.

12—Peters, ed., *Treaties, U. S. Statutes at Large*, VII, 538. Royce, Indian Land Cessions, *18th Annual Report*, Bureau of Ethnology, II, 766.

13—Holcombe, *Minnesota in Three Centuries*, II, 108-109.

14—For the story of the Wabasha dynasty, see: Winchell, *Aborigines of Minnesota*, 540-558. Also: F. Curtiss-Wedge, *History of Winona County* (Chicago, 1913), I, 18-31. Also: Bunnell, *Winona and Its Environs*, 151-154. Also: Hodge, *Handbook of American Indians*, II, 911.

15—Henry R. Schoolcraft, *The American Indian, History, Conditions and Prospects* (Rochester, 1851), 137.

16—For Indian myth concerning the removal of the band to this region, see: Bunnell, *Winona and Its Environs*, 111-117.

17—*Ibid.*, 209.

18—Curtiss-Wedge, *History of Winona County*, 117, 123-124, 127-128.

19—Edward D. Neill, *History of Minnesota* (Minneapolis, 4th ed., 1882), 394-395. Also: Wm. J. Snelling (supposed author), Winnebago Outbreak of 1827, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, V, 143.

20—Hodge, *Handbook of American Indians*, II, 358.

21—For story of Red Bird troubles, see: Snelling (supposed author), Winnebago Outbreak of 1827, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, V, 143-154. Also: Moses M. Strong, Indian Wars of Wisconsin, *Id.*, VIII, 254-265. Also: Col. Thos. L. McKenny, Winnebago War, *Id.*, V, 178-204. Also: James H. Lockwood, Early Times and Events in Wisconsin, *Id.*, II, 156-168. Also: Ebenezer Childs, *Recollections, Id.*, IV, 172-174.

22—In an interview with Eben D. Pierce, M. D.

23—Jonathan Carver, *Travels* (Philadelphia, 1796), 20. Also: Geo. Gale, *Upper Mississippi* (Chicago and New York, 1867), 81, 82, 189. Also: Mrs. John H. Kinzie, *Wau Bun*, 1856), 89, 486. Also: Lockwood, Early Times and Events in Wisconsin, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, II, 178. Also: Lyman C. Draper's note to: Daniel Steele Dnrrie, Jonathan Carver and Carver's Grant, *Id.*, VI, 224. Also: John T. De La Ronde, Narrative, *Id.*, VII, 347. Also: Augusten Grignon, *Recollections, Id.*, III, 286-289. Also: Andrew Jackson Turner, *History of Fort Winnebago, Id.*, 86, note.

24—Lyman C. Draper's note to: Black Hawk War, *Id.*, V, 297.

25—Gale, Letter in *Galesville Transcript* (Galesville, Feb. 1, 1861), I, No. 46, 2. But Walking Cloud, Thwaites, ed., *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XIII, 465, says that One Eyed Decorah was not a chief until after the Black Hawk War—that it was not until after that war that Decorah settled on the Black River. And Burnett, in a letter to General William Clark, June 29, 1831, speaks of a rumor that a few days previous One Eyed Decorah had left his village at Prairie La Crosse, and gone down to the Sacs and Foxes (Alfred Brunson, *Memoire of Thomas P. Burnett, Id.*, II, 253).

26—Brunson, *Memoire of Burnett, Id.*, II, 257, 259-260.

27—*Ibid.* 261. Also: Thwaites, *The Wisconsin Winnebagoes, Id.*, XII, 430-431.

28—Bunnell, *Winona and Its Environs*, 227.

29—Spoon Decorah, a cousin of One Eyed Decorah, tells still another Indian tradition and locates the capture near the headquarters of the La Crosse River. (Thwaites, ed., *Narrative of Spoon Decorah, Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XIII, 454-455.) Thwaites in a note to *Walking Cloud's Narrative, Ibid.*, 465, refutes the various Indian traditions and discusses the unreliability of Indian tradition in general. Draper, in a note to *Satterlee Clark's Early Times at Ft. Winnebago, Id.*, VIII, 316, mentions the various traditions of the capture and refutes them by a quotation from the official report locating the capture near the Dalles of the Wisconsin. For various accounts of the capture see: De La Ronde, *Narrative, Id.*, VII, 351. Also: John T. Kingston, *Early Wisconsin Days, Ibid.*, 332. Also: Thwaites, *The Black Hawk War, Id.*, XII, 261, text and note. Also: Strong, *Indian Wars of Wisconsin, Id.*, VIII, 285. Also: David McBride, *Capture of Black Hawk, Id.*, V, 293-297.

30—Willard Barrows, *Death of Black Hawk, Id.*, V, 305. Also: Thwaites, *The Black Hawk War, Id.*, XII, 262.

CHAPTER VI

EXPLORERS AT TREMPEALEAU MOUNTAIN

The scenery in the vicinity of Trempealeau Mountain is perhaps as beautiful as any in the great Mississippi Valley. The bluffs along the river extend about three miles above the village, from Liberty Peak to Trempealeau Mountain, and present many varieties of shape and form, from a low, graceful mound to a towering, rugged cliff. The highest elevation is Brady's Peak, which rises to a height of over five hundred feet above the river, and from its summit a broad view may be had of the surrounding country.

Looking up the river from this peak, Trempealeau Mountain appears far beneath, with its wooded sides sloping towards its crest of evergreens, and its base washed by the waters of the bay that separates it from the mainland. Extending from the bay is a chain of lakes; farther up, is Trempealeau River, winding among the woods and tall grasses; and in every direction from the river gleam the waters of sloughs where the wild rice bends above the haunts of the wild duck. Far below, gliding in solemn majesty, is the tawny Mississippi, bounded by ragged bluffs and dotted with islands of innumerable shape and size, that rest on the glassy surface like huge wooded rafts. Across the river rise the Minnesota bluffs, holding in their embrace numerous cozy valleys. The hills seem to roll like great green waves, breaking the land into a succession of valleys; and reposing among them are many sequestered homes.

Indian tradition early associated itself with one peculiarly situated mountain among the Trempealeau range. This, they believed, had been carried off by supernatural force from the neighborhood of a Sioux village on the site of modern Red Wing. When warriors of this tribe found it at its present location they are said to have called it Pah-hah-dah (The moved mountain); while the neighboring Winnebago gave it the appellation of Hay-nee-ah-chah (Soaking Mountain).¹ The French voyageurs translated these terms into *La Montagne qui trempe a l'eau* (The mountain that is steeped in the water).

The first civilized men² to gaze upon the towering crags of Trempealeau Mountain were probably Father Louis Hennepin, a priest of the Order of Recollects of St. Francis, and his two companions, Antoine du Gay Auguel, known from his birthplace as "le Picard," and Michel Accault.³ They were sent out by Robert Cavelier de La Salle from Fort Crevecoeur, near Lake Peoria, Illinois, February 28, 1680. They were on their way up the Mississippi when they were captured by a band of Sioux warriors on the warpath against the Illinois and Miami nations. These Sioux took the white men to the Mille Lacs region, in northern Minnesota. Hennepin does not mention Trempealeau Mountain. He speaks of the Black River

(R. Noire) and declares that the Sioux called the stream Cha-be-de-ba or Cha-ba-ou-de-ba. He is believed to have spent a night at what is now the site of Winona. He mentions the Buffalo River (R. de Beeufs), which he said was full of turtles. It is probable that by Buffalo River he meant the Chippewa River, which he possibly entered through Beef Slough.⁴ He also speaks of Lake Pepin, which he calls the Lake of Tears (Lac des Pleurs). After spending a while in the Mille Lacs region, Hennepin and Auguel leaving Accault as a hostage, were taken down the Mississippi by the Indians looking for supplies which La Salle was to have sent to the mouth of the Wisconsin. On their way down the river, guarded by a chief Ouasicoude (Wacoota) and a company of Indians, Hennepin and Auguel came to St. Anthony Falls (near Minneapolis) which Hennepin named. They continued down the river, and again passed Trempealeau Mountain. July 11, 1680, while hunting for the mouth of the Wisconsin River, the party was overtaken by more Indians, headed by Aquipaguetin, a Sioux chief who had taken Hennepin into his family as an adopted son. Some time was spent in hunting in the region between the Chippewa River and the Wisconsin River. The squaws hid meat at the mouth of the Chippewa and on various islands. Then the party descended the river and hunted over the prairies further south. July 25, 1680, while again ascending the river, the party encountered Du Luth and a bodyguard of French soldiers.⁵ Daniel Greysolon, better known as the Sieur Du Luth (variously rendered), had started out from Montreal on September 1, 1678, explored the Lake Superior region and the territory westward, met the Sioux in the Mille Lacs region, and on July 2, 1779, set up the standard of New France at their village. He returned to Lake Superior from that lake the next summer, ascended the Brule River, made the portage to the St. Croix and was on his way down the Mississippi when he learned that Hennepin and his two companions were in slavery among the Sioux.⁶ Hastening to the rescue, Duluth journeyed down the Mississippi with an Indian and two Frenchmen, and after a canoe trip of two days and two nights, overtook Hennepin and about 1,000 Indians. This meeting probably took place near Trempealeau Mountain or possibly somewhat further south. Du Luth fearlessly took Hennepin in his own canoe and started up the river to the Mille Lacs region, which they reached August 14, 1680. There, at a council he upbraided the Indians in scathing terms. He told them that Hennepin was his brother; he denounced them for making Hennepin and the two companions slaves and taking away Hennepin's priestly robes; he taunted them that after receiving his peace offerings and being associated with Frenchmen for a year, they should have kidnaped other Frenchmen on their way to make them a friendly visit. As a climax, Du Luth returned the peace calumets which the Indians gave him. The savages began to make excuses, but this did not deter Du Luth from his resolution to take Hennepin away. Hennepin himself was rebuked by Du Luth for suffering insult without resentment, as such conduct lowered the prestige of the French. Toward the end of September, Du Luth, Hennepin, and their party once more descended the Mississippi River and reached Canada by way of the Wisconsin River, the Portage, the Fox River and Green Bay.

Thus, in the fall of 1680, Hennepin and Du Luth and their companions beheld for the last time the picturesque surroundings of Trempealeau Mountain.

Hennepin's account of his adventures contains many interesting descriptions of life on this portion of the Mississippi in that far-distant time. One day the Indians in the party captured and killed a deer while it was swimming across the Mississippi. But the weather was so hot the flesh spoiled in a few hours. Thus left without food, the Indians caught a few turtles, but the capture was difficult, Hennepin says, because the turtles would plunge into the water and evade capture. They caught but four fish and were very thankful whenever they could secure a Buffalo fish dropped by an eagle. Hennepin was particularly interested in the peculiar appearance of the Shovelnose Sturgeon. He saw one which an otter caught, and Auguel declared that it reminded him of a devil in the paws of an animal. But after frightening the otter away, they ate the fish and found it very good.

The first white man to maintain a habitation beneath the shadows of Trempealeau Mountain was Nicolas Perrot, who for some twenty years was a trader and interpreter in the Northwest for the French.⁷ Perrot arrived at Green Bay, where he was already well known, in the late summer of the year 1685. He found the Indians restless and inclined to intertribal warfare, so that some time was spent in their pacification. It was later than he had planned, therefore, when he set out for the country of the Sioux, where he hoped to secure a great harvest of valuable furs. After crossing the Wisconsin portage, and proceeding down that river to its mouth, he turned his little fleet of canoes boldly upstream; but as the weather was growing cold and traveling difficult, they "found a place where there was timber, which served them for building a fort, and they took up their quarters at the foot of a mountain, behind which was a great prairie abounding in wild beasts."⁸ To one familiar with the topography of this section, the description of the site of Perrot's wintering quarters in 1685-86 is very clearly that of the Trempealeau bluffs, because these are the only bluffs near the river having a large prairie in their rear, and Trempealeau Mountain, moreover, is a well-known landmark on the upper Mississippi.

In addition to this, ruins have been discovered which clearly prove the existence of a post at this point at an early period.⁹ To connect these ruins with Perrot's post, there is the well-known map of Jean Baptiste Louis Franquelin, published in 1688, and based undoubtedly on information obtained from Perrot himself.¹⁰ Franquelin, an engineer of repute and royal hydrographer, visited New France in 1683 and remained several years. His famous map of Louisiana in 1684, drawn to display La Salle's discoveries, has but few indications of upper Mississippi sites. That of 1688, however, records with much accuracy the upper Mississippi region, and since we know Perrot to have been in Quebec in the autumn of 1687, there is every reason to suppose that he furnished Franquelin with the data appearing thereon. Not far above the mouth of Riviere Noire—the Black River of today—there is written La Butte d' Hyvernement (the

hill of the wintering place), which seems to be intended for Trempealeau Mountain, near where the commandant and his party wintered. Fort St. Nicolas, at the mouth of the Wisconsin, and Fort St. Antoine, above the Chippewa, both founded by Perrot, are likewise indicated.

Just when Perrot left his wintering place on the Mississippi and built Fort St. Antoine higher up the river is not certain, but it was probably during the summer of 1686. He was continuously in the upper Mississippi region until the spring of 1687, when he was ordered to proceed eastward with allies and join the French in a war against certain Indians of New York State. In the meantime he had amassed a stock of furs worth 40,000 livres. In his absence on the warpath these were left at the mission house at Green Bay, which was burned by hostile Indians, with the loss of all his peltry.¹¹

In the autumn of 1687 he set out once more for the Northwest to retrieve his ruined fortunes. After the ice had begun to form on the Fox River he passed down the Wisconsin to the Mississippi and ascended the Mississippi to this region.¹² Whether he then occupied the old wintering place at Trempealeau or Fort St. Antoine further up the river on the lake is not clear.¹³ At Fort St. Antoine, on May 8, 1689, he took possession of the Sioux country in the name of the King of France, annexing the Minnesota and St. Croix River districts and all headwaters of the Mississippi.¹⁴

One of the witnesses to this document was Pierre Charles le Sueur, an explorer and trader, whose work added to the knowledge given to the world by Perrot. In 1695 Le Sueur built a fort on Pelee Island (a short distance above Red Wing), which was maintained about four years, during his own absence in France. He later returned and conducted an expedition in search of copper in the Blue Earth country, Minnesota. In ascending the Mississippi from its mouth, he found that the remains of Fort St. Antoine, on Lake Pepin, and his own island fort above Red Wing, were plainly to be seen.¹⁵ He passed Trempealeau Mountain on his upward journey between September 10 and September 14, 1700. The Red (Black) River, the River Paquitanettes (possibly the Buffalo), the River Bon Secours (Chippewa) and Lake Bon Secours (Pepin) are mentioned in the account of the voyage, as are the prairies extending back from the bluffs.¹⁶ In Trempealeau County one of the party killed a deer.

More than one-fourth of the eighteenth century passed away before another attempt was made to build a post on the upper Mississippi. The Fox Indian wars had made the Fox-Wisconsin waterway untenable, and any approach to the Sioux had to take the difficult route from the end of Lake Superior through the tangled marshes and ponds at the head of the Mississippi.

In 1727, however, the French government determined to establish a post among the Sioux. In September of the same year the new fort was erected near what is now Frontenac, on the Minnesota side of Lake Pepin, and dedicated amid imposing ceremonies as Fort Beauharnois. The failure of the expedition against the Foxes the following year made this post untenable, however, and it was hastily abandoned by the alarmed garrison.¹⁷

In writing from Fort Beauharnois, May 29, 1727, Father Michel Guignas describes the bluffs, islands and scenery in this vicinity, but makes no particular mention of Trempealeau Mountain.¹⁸

In 1731 the Foxes, being temporarily subdued, another expedition to build a Sioux post was placed in charge of Rene Godefroy, sieur de Linctot. With him went his son, Louis Rene, Augustin Langlade, and his brother, Joseph Jolliet, grandson of the explorer; one Campeau, a skilled blacksmith, brother of the one at Detroit, and Father Michel Guignas, chaplain of the expedition.

They arrived on the Mississippi in the autumn of 1731, and, according to the official report, built "a fort On the Mississippyy at a Place called the Mountain * * * (a Montagne qui trempe dans l'Eau) * * *"¹⁹ The winter did not pass without events. During the deep snows food became so scarce that Linctot was obliged to send his voyageurs and traders to winter in the camps of the Indians. One of the voyageurs, named Dorval, had a thrilling experience with refugee Foxes, fleeing from an attack of mission Iroquois and Detroit Huron. Later some of the same fugitives came to Linctot to beg for their lives. The Sioux began coming in large numbers when they learned of Linctot's presence, and a camp of Winnebago wintered near by.

The succeeding years were replete with danger and difficulty for the officers and traders of the little Sioux post. Although the Foxes had been defeated and large numbers of them had been destroyed, desperate remnants remained scattered over the western country, and attacking parties of mission Indians and others allied with the French made frequent excursions to harass the wretched fugitives. The Sioux promised protection to the French, but their situation among the fierce belligerents was almost that of prisoners. In April, 1735, one of the Jesuits wrote from Quebec: "We are Much afraid that father Guignas has been taken and burned by a tribe of savages called the renards."²⁰ The anxiety in Canada over his fate was allayed, however, the same summer, when Linctot finally arrived in the colony, bringing an immense quantity of beaver skins and other peltry.²¹ He reported that he had left Father Guignas with but six men at the little fort in the Sioux country, and asked for himself that he be relieved from command.²²

To succeed Linctot in the post of the Sioux the governor-general of New France chose Jacques le Gardeur, sieur de St. Pierre, sending him with a party of twenty-two men to make their way to the upper Mississippi. This small convoy reached its destination late in 1735, and early the following spring St. Pierre determined to remove the post twenty-five leagues (about sixty miles) higher up the Mississippi.²³ There for a year they held a hostile tribe at bay, employing every device of strategy and dissimulation and finally, on May 30, 1737, abandoned the post with all its goods and belongings in order to save their lives.²⁴

The records would seem to indicate that the post near Trempealeau occupied by Linctot in the autumn of 1731, was maintained until the removal to the fort on Lake Pepin in the spring of 1736.²⁵

Thirteen years later, in 1750, the French government established

another Sioux post under the leadership of Captain Pierre Paul Marin, a well-known Wisconsin commandant.²⁶ He was recalled two years later to serve on the Allegheny frontier, and his son Joseph succeeded to the command. The latter maintained his post for three years, but during the French and Indian War was obliged to withdraw the garrison and destroy the post—the last under French occupation upon the upper Mississippi.²⁷

While of these French commanders, from 1685 to 1755, Perrot, Linctot and St. Pierre were probably the only ones who located in Trempealeau County, it is apparent that this region was familiar to all the French voyageurs of the upper Mississippi throughout this period of French dominion.

French rule in the upper Mississippi Valley ended with the treaty of February 10, 1763, when the Mississippi, nearly to its mouth, became the boundary line between the possessions of England and Spain.²⁸ Three years later, in 1766, Jonathan Carver, a native of Connecticut, set out to explore the new British domains in the Northwest.²⁹ Starting from Boston in June, 1766, Carver traveled to the Strait of Mackinaw and Green Bay, and thence, by the canoe route of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, to the Mississippi. Then he ascended the Mississippi, accompanied by a French-Canadian and a Mohawk Indian. He spent the winter of 1766-67 among the Sioux of the Northwest. In the spring of 1767 he descended the Mississippi to the present location of Prairie du Chien in the hope of securing goods. Disappointed there, he ascended the Mississippi to the Chippewa River and reached Lake Superior by way of that stream and the upper tributaries of the St. Croix. It was afterward claimed that he had made a treaty with the Sioux, granting him a tract of land about a hundred miles wide along the east bank of the Mississippi, from the Falls of St. Anthony (at Minneapolis) to the southeastern end of Lake Pepin.³⁰ It included the north half of Trempealeau County, the south line running east and west somewhat north of Whitehall. On the strength of this alleged treaty many claims were from time to time presented to the United States Government, but Congress has always refused to recognize the claim of Carver's heirs and successors.

Carver passed Trempealeau Mountain three times. In speaking of the locality he says:

"On the first of November I arrived at Lake Pepin, which is rather an extended part of the River Mississippi, that the French have thus denominated, about two hundred miles from the Ouisconsin. The Mississippi below this lake flows with a gentle current, but the breadth of it is very uncertain, in some places it being upwards of a mile, in others not more than a quarter. This river has a range of mountains on each side throughout the whole of the way; which in particular parts approach near to it, in others lie at a greater distance. The land betwixt the mountains, and on their sides, is generally covered with grass, with a few groves of trees interspersed, near which large droves of deer and elk are frequently seen feeding. In many places pyramids of rocks appeared, resembling old ruinous towers; at others amazing precipices; and what is very remarkable,

whilst this scene presented itself on one side, the opposite side of the same mountain was covered with the finest herbage, which gradually ascended to its summit. From thence the most beautiful and extensive prospect that imagination can form opens to your view. Verdant plains, fruitful meadows, numerous islands, and all these abounding with a variety of trees that yield amazing quantities of fruit, without care or cultivation, such as the nut-tree, the maple which produces sugar, vines loaded with rich grapes and plum-trees bending under their blooming burdens, but above all, the fine river flowing gently beneath and reaching as far as the eye can extend, by turns attract your admiration and excite your wonder.

"The lake is about twenty miles long and near six in breadth; in some places it is very deep and abounds with various kinds of fish. Great numbers of fowl frequent also this lake and rivers adjacent, such as storks, swans, geese, brants, and ducks; and in the groves are found great plenty of turkeys and partridges. On the plains are the largest buffaloes of any in America. Here I observed the ruins of a French factory, where it was said Captain St. Pierre resided, and carried on a very great trade with the Naudowessies, before the reduction of Canada.

"About sixty miles below this lake³¹ is a mountain remarkably situated; for it stands by itself exactly in the middle of the river, and looks as if it had slidden from the adjacent shore into the stream. It cannot be termed an island, as it rises immediately from the brink of the water to a considerably height. Both the Indians and the French call it the Mountain in the River."³²

At the close of the Revolutionary War, the land east of the Mississippi became a part of the new United States by the treaty of September 3, 1783.³³ Spain continued in possession of the land west of the Mississippi from 1762 to October 1, 1800,³⁴ when the tract was ceded to France, which nation, however, did not take possession until 1804,³⁵ at which time a formal transfer was made from Spain to France, in order that France might formally transfer the tract to the United States under the treaty of April 30, 1803.³⁶

Two years later the Government determined to send an expedition into the Northwest, in charge of Zebulon M. Pike. He was given orders to negotiate treaties with the Indians, to secure a conformity with the laws of the United States by the Northwest Company and others engaged in the fur trade, to secure the site for a fort near the head of Mississippi River navigation, and to extend geographical exploration. He started from St. Louis August 9, 1805, with twenty soldiers, spent the winter in northern Minnesota, started down the river April 7, 1806, and again reached St. Louis the latter part of that month. On his way up the river Pike slept near the foot of Trempealeau Mountain, on the night of September 13. He speaks of the mountain as *le Montaigne qui Trompe a l'Eau*.³⁷ He reached the mountain in a drizzling rain and left the next morning in a dense fog. On April 16, 1806, he again passed Trempealeau Mountain on his way down the river.

In his geographical notes Pike says: "*La Montaigne qui Trompe dans l'Eau* stands in the Mississippi near the east shore, about fifty miles below

the Sauteauz (Chippewa) River, and is about two miles in circumference, with an elevation of 200 feet, covered with timber. There is a small river which empties into the Mississippi in the rear of the mountain, which I conceive once bounded the mountain on the lower side and the Mississippi on the upper, when the mountain was joined to the main land by a neck of low prairie ground, which in time was worn away by the spring freshets of the Mississippi, and thus formed an island of this celebrated mountain.³⁸

Major Stephen H. Long led an expedition up the Mississippi in 1817. The voyage was made in a six-oared skiff. The party camped near Trempealeau on the night of Friday, July 11. In his entry for July 10 Long says, "Passed the Black River on our right, coming in from the northeast. It is navigable for pirogues somewhat more than 100 miles, to where the navigation is obstructed by rapids. On this river is an abundance of pine timber of an excellent quality. Much of the pine timber used at St. Louis is cut here. This river has three mouths, by which it discharges itself into the Mississippi, the lowermost of which is passable and communicates with the Mississippi twelve or fourteen miles below the junction of the valleys of the two rivers. The bluffs along the river today were unusually interesting. They were of an exceedingly wild and romantic character, being divided into numerous detached fragments, some of them of mountain size, while others in slender conical peaks seemed to tower aloft till their elevation rendered them invisible. Here might the poet or bard indulge his fancy in the wildest extravagance, while the philosopher would find a rich repast in examining the numerous phenomena here presented to his view, and in tracing the wonderful operations of nature that have taken place since the first formation of the world. A little above the mouth of the Black River, both shores of the Mississippi may be seen at the same time, which is the only instance of the kind we have met with on our way from Prairie du Chien to this place. One mile further ahead the bluffs on both sides approach within 800 yards of each other, and the river, in consequence, is narrower here than at any other place this side of Prairie du Chien. Notwithstanding this contraction of its channel, the river here imbosoms an island of considerable size. Encamped at sunset on a small island.

"Saturday, July 12. Within a few yards of the island where we camped is another, considerably smaller, which, for the sake of brevity, I called the Bluff Island, as its former name is very long and difficult to pronounce. It has been accounted a great curiosity by travelers. It is remarkable for being the third island in the Mississippi from the Gulf of Mexico to this place that has a rocky formation similar to that of the neighboring bluffs, and nearly the same altitude. Pike, in his account of it, states the height of it to be about 200 feet. We lay by this morning for the purpose of ascertaining its altitude, which we found by a trigometrical calculation, which my instruments would not enable me to make with much accuracy, to be a little more than 500 feet. It is a very handsome conical hill, but not sufficiently large to deserve the appellation of mountain, although it is called by the name of the Montaigne qui trompe de l'eau, or the mountain that is soaked in the water."³⁹

Long also describes in glowing terms the scenery from Trempealeau to Winona.

The party again landed at Trempealeau on the journey down the river, Sunday, July 20. At their former camping place they found their axe which they had lost there. They ascended Trempealeau Mountain and from there viewed the Indian village at Winona.⁴⁰ As before, Long waxed enthusiastic over the wonderful scenery. He discovered that the bluffs which he had previously supposed to be the main river bluffs were in fact a broken range of high bluff hills, separated from the main bluffs by the wide expanse of Trempealeau prairie. He advances the theory that the Trempealeau bluffs are in reality the eastern point of a promontory originally extending from the Minnesota bluffs, and that the natural course of the river was originally between the Trempealeau bluffs and the main Wisconsin bluffs, Trempealeau prairie being the river's natural bed. While on the top of Trempealeau Mountain, Long and his companion were summoned by three Indians, one of whom had been bitten in the leg by a rattlesnake. The Indians at once cut out a piece of flesh containing the wounded part and applied bandages above it. They refused, however, to allow Long to wash the wound. A short time later Long ascended Queen Bluff near Richmond. His observations there led him to believe that the Mississippi was originally a vast lake filling all the valley, to a height of many hundred feet above the present water level.

With the establishment in 1819 of Fort Snelling, Trempealeau County was placed within the pale of civilization, and thereafter soldiers, traders and visitors were frequently passing. The expedition which established the fort, headed by Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Leavenworth and accompanied by Major Thomas Forsyth, the Indian agent, reached Trempealeau and continued its course up the river in August, 1819. In his journal Major Forsyth mentions that on the night of August 12 he camped five miles below *La Montaigne qui trempe a l'eau*.⁴¹

That same year, on November 2, a sawmill was established on the falls of the Black River, "not much inferior to any in the United States." Seven chiefs of the Sioux nation granted the original permission to do this, and later Lefei (Wabasha), the head chief, made the permission permanent.⁴² The mill was soon destroyed by the Winnebago.

General Lewis Cass, with his party, including Henry Rowe Schoolcraft and James D. Doty, passed Trempealeau Mountain in 1820. They reached the upper Mississippi by way of Lake Superior, and after leaving the region of their explorations came down the Mississippi. On this trip down the river, Cass and Schoolcraft and their men landed at the present site of Winona and camped for the night on the Minnesota bank of the Mississippi, some five miles west of Trempealeau Mountain. Schoolcraft, in his notes, gave the following description of Trempealeau Mountain:

"A few miles below Wabasha's village an isolated mountain of singular appearance rises out of the center of the river to a height of four or five hundred feet, where it terminates in crumbling peaks of naked rock, whose lines of stratification and massy walls impress forcibly upon the mind the image of some gigantic battlement of former generations. Around its

lower extremity the alluvion of the river has collected, forming a large island, covered with a heavy forest, whose deep green foliage forms a pleasing contrast with the barren grandeur of the impending rocks, which project their gothic pinnacles into the clouds and cast a sombre shadow over the broad and glittering bosom of the Mississippi. This singular feature in the topography of the country has long attracted the admiration and the wonder of the voyageurs of the Mississippi, who have bestowed upon it the appellation of The Mountain that sinks in the Water (*La Montagne qui Trompe dans l'Eau*), an opinion being prevalent among them that it annually sinks a few feet. This island-mountain is four or five miles in circumference, with a mean width of half a mile, and by dividing the channel of the river into two equal halves, gives an immense width to the river, and thus increases the grandeur of the prospect. It is further remarkable as being the only fast, or rocky island, in the whole course of this river, from the Falls of Peckagama, to the Mexican Gulf."⁴³

A mill was built in 1822 on the Menomonee branch of the Chippewa, by permission of Lawrence Taliaferro, the Indian agent at Fort Snelling, and with the consent of the Sioux. Joseph Rolette and Judge James Lockwood, both of Prairie du Chien, were the financial backers of the proposition, and Wabasha's band of Sioux were also interested in it.⁴⁴

On his expedition to Lake Winnipeg in 1823 Long again passed Trempealeau Mountain, accompanied by a part of his followers. From Prairie du Chien to Fort Snelling, a part of the expedition, under James F. Calhoun, made the trip on horseback along the west bank of the Mississippi. William H. Keating, who was with the expedition, mentions Trempealeau Mountain. Keating corrects many of Schoolcraft's statements and confirms some of Pike's observations. After giving the French term for the place as *Montagne qui trempe dans l'eau*, which he declares to be but a translation of the Indian name for it, "the mountain which soaks in the water"—he states that the island mountain is only about a mile in circumference, and instead of dividing the river into two equal halves, is very near the east bank. He admits, however, that seen from a distance, it has the delusive appearance of standing in the middle of the river.⁴⁵

The first steamboat to ascend the upper Mississippi, the "Virginia," passed Trempealeau Mountain in May, 1823, and arrived at Fort Snelling, near the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers, May 10. A number of prominent people were aboard. Steamboat traffic thus being opened, Trempealeau Mountain, a landmark and a point of interest to all travelers, became widely known. J. Constantine Beltrami, who explored the Red River of the North and the sources of the Mississippi River, was one of the passengers aboard the "Virginia" when it made its first trip to Fort Snelling. Of Trempealeau he says:

"From this spot (118 miles from Prairie du Chien) a chain of mountains, whose romantic character reminds one of the valley of the Rhine, between Bingen and Coblenz, leads to the Mountain which dips into the water. This place would exhaust all my powers of expression if I had not seen *Longue Vue*. Amid a number of delightful little islands, encircled by the river, rises a mountain of a conical form equally isolated. You

climb amid cedars and cypresses, strikingly contrasted with the rocks which intersect them, and from the summit you command a view of valleys, prairies, and distances in which the eye loses itself. From this point I saw both the last and the first rays of a splendid sun gild the lovely picture. The western bank presents another illusion to the eye. Mountains, ruggedly broken into abrupt rocks, which appear cut perpendicularly into towers, steeples, cottages, &c., appear precisely like towns and villages."⁴⁶

The period of exploration really ends in 1835, when this region was visited by George William Featherstonhaugh and William Williams Mather, by George Catlin, and by a military expedition under Lieutenant-Colonel Stephen W. Kearney, the topographer of the expedition being Albert Miller Lea.

Featherstonhaugh, in his reconnaissance, mentions Trempealeau Mountain, and while narrating the geological history of the landmark, describes the view from its summit. Wabasha's brother related to him that "the Indians called it Minnay Chonkaha, or bluff in the water, and that they resorted to it at the beginning of the wild-geese season, to make offerings to Wakon, or the deity, for success in hunting."⁴⁷

The military expedition reached Winona overland from Iowa, entering the state southwest from what is now the city of Albert Lea. In July, 1835, the soldiers camped on the west bank of the Mississippi, within sight of what Lea called *La Montaigne qui trempe a l'eau*.⁴⁸

Catlin, the famous Indian painter, was forced to winter his boat near Richmond,⁴⁹ not far from Trempealeau Mountain, by reason of obstructing ice, late in 1835. On Catlin's Rocks, in Richmond Township, Winona County, he painted his name in great red letters, and the marks were to be plainly seen for many years thereafter.⁵⁰

Thus Trempealeau Mountain, which had watched the first white man penetrate these solitudes, was now known to the world, and the activities of civilization were soon to be throbbing at its feet. Frenchmen, Englishmen and Americans had examined her wonderful formations, the whistle and chug of the steamboat had become familiar, the rich land over which for so many centuries it had stood guard awaited the axe of the pioneer, the plow of the husbandman.

1—L. H. Bunnell, *Winona and Its Environs* (Winona, 1897), 112-114, 187.

2—Dr. Warren Upham is of the opinion that Radisson and Grosseilliers made their headquarters at Prairie Island, above Red Wing, from April or May, 1655, to June, 1656. But this opinion is not generally accepted. As Dr. Lonise Phelps Kellogg says: "The difficulty of interpreting Radisson's text, written in a language unfamiliar to himself, and several years after the completion of his journeys, adds to the differences of opinion with regard to the route and the locations described." For Upham's conclusions see: Upham, Grosseilliers and Radisson, *Minnesota in Three Centuries* (New York, 1908), I, 127-204. Also: Same author and title, *Minn. Hist. Colls.*, X, Part 2, 449-594. Dr. Reuben Gold Thwaites has reprinted portions of the accounts of the third and fourth voyages of these two adventurers, with copious notes in: *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XI, 64-69. Dr. Kellogg has reprinted the account of the third voyage, with an introduction, in: *Early Narratives of the Northwest* (New York, 1917), 29-65. Several writers are of the opinion that Father Menard ascended the Black River on his way to his tragic death in 1661, and quote Perrot in supporting their contentions. See: Nicholas Perrot, *Memoire (Memoire sur les mœurs, coutumes, et religion des sauvages de l'Amerique Septentrionale)*, reprinted in the original French with notes and translation by

Rev. Father Jules Tailhan (Paris, 1864), this in turn being reprinted in: *Minn. Hist. Colls.*, II, Part 3, 24-30 (original edition). A reprint of the Memoire (Tailhan's edition, 84-93), regarding the Flight of the Ottawa, which Perrot says Menard followed, may be found: Thwaites, ed., French Regime in Wisconsin, Part 1, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XVI, 14-21. But Menard's route is still an open question. For Menard's last letter see: Edward D. Neill, *Explorers and Pioneers of Minnesota* (Minneapolis, 1882), 3-4. For extract from Menard's letter (*Jesuit Relations*, XLVI, 11-13, 127-145) and Menard's labors and death (*Id.*, XLVIII, 12, 115-143) see: Thwaites, ed., French Regime in Wisconsin, Part I, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XVI, 21-25. For life and labors of Menard see also: H. C. Campbell, Père René Ménard, *Parkman Club Publications*, No. 11 (Milwaukee, 1897). Also see: Kellogg, *Early Narratives of the Northwest*, 25, note.

3—Thwaites, ed., Hennepin's *New Discovery* (Chicago, 1903). Or John G. Shea, ed., *A Description of Louisiana*, by Father Louis Hennepin (New York, 1880).

4—For a discussion of the identity of Hennepin's R. de Beauf's with Chippewa River, see: Elliott Coues, ed., *Expeditions of Zebulon M. Pike* (New York, 1895), I, 58, 65, notes. Also: Bunnell, *Winona and Its Environs*, 52-54.

5—Kellogg, *Early Narratives of the Northwest*, 325-334. Also: Shea, ed., *A Description of Louisiana*, 374-377.

6—The vanity of Hennepin did not allow him to admit that he was a captive and a slave, the cruel sport of the Indians. He represented that he accompanied Duluth because of the latter's pleasure in his society and his desire for his companionship. See: Thwaites, ed., Hennepin's *New Discovery*, 293-305.

7—Kellogg, *Early Narratives of the Northwest*, 69-92.

8—E. H. Blair, *Indian Tribes of the Upper Mississippi* (Cleveland, 1911), I, 367.

9—See: Eben D. Pierce, George H. Squier and Louise Phelps Kellogg, Remains of a French Post Near Trempealeau, *Wis. Hist. Soc., Proceedings*, 1915, 111-123.

10—For a reproduction of Franquelin's great map of 1688, see: Kellogg, *Early Narratives of the Northwest*, 342; also read J. Franklin Jameson's note (p. xiv) in the same volume. Also see account of Franquelin's maps in: Parkman, *LaSalle and the Discovery of the Northwest* (Boston, 1891), 455-458. A partial reproduction of the map may be found: Neill, *History of Minnesota* (Minneapolis, 4th edition, 1882), frontispiece.

11—Blair, *Indian Tribes of the Upper Mississippi*, II, 25.

12—Neill (*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, X, 299-300) says that Perrot returning from the New York raid reoccupied the post where he had spent the winter of 1685-86. After writing the article, however, Dr. Neill discovered that he had confused Ft. St. Antoine with Perrot's post at Trempealeau (*Ibid.*, 371).

13—See: Draper, *Early French Forts*, *Ibid.*, 358-371.

14—Thwaites, ed., Important Western Papers, Perrot's Minutes of Taking Possession, *Id.*, XI, 35-36 (reprinted from the New York *Colonial Documents*, IX, 418).

15—Pierre Margry, *Découvertes et Établissements des Français dans L'Amérique* (Paris, 1882), V, 413.

16—Penicault in his *Journal of Le Sueur's Expedition* as reported in: Neill, *Explorers and Pioneers of Minnesota*, 41. Also: Thwaites, ed., French Régime in Wisconsin, Part 1, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XVII, 183. See *Ibid.*, 177, note, concerning Le Sueur's Journal, La Harpe's and Penicault's versions, and Shea's and Thwaites' translations.

17—Thwaites, ed., French Régime in Wisconsin, Part 2, *Id.*, XVII, 10-15, 22-28, 56-59, 77-80.

18—Letter from Father Michel Guignas from the Brevort Manuscripts, printed in Shea's *Early French Voyages*, and reprinted in Neill's *Explorers and Pioneers of Minnesota*, 52; also in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XVII, 22-28.

19—*Ibid.*, 151, 168, 169.

20—Thwaites, *Jesuit Relations* (Cleveland, 1900), LXVIII, 255.

21—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XVII, 230.

22—Thwaites, *Jesuit Relations*, LXVII, 281; Margry, *Decouv. et Etabl.*, VI, 572, 573; *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XVII, 274, note.

23—*Id.*, XVII, 269, 270.

24—*Ibid.*, 269-274.

- 25—Wis. Hist. Soc., *Proceedings*, 1915, 122.
- 26—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XVII, 315, note.
- 27—Neill, Macalester College *Contributions* (St. Paul, 1890), First Series, 214, 218.
- Also: Same author, Early Wisconsin Explorations, Forts and Trading Posts, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, x, 304.
- 28—For preliminary treaty of Nov. 3, 1762 (reprinted from *Gentleman's Magazine*, XXXII, 569-573), and definite treaty of peace of Feb. 10, 1763 (reprinted from *Id.*, XXXIII, 121-126), see: Thwaites, ed., Important Western State Papers, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XI., 36-46.
- 29—For Carver Bibliography, see: John Thomas Lee, Wis. Hist. Soc., *Proceedings*, 1909, 143-183. Also see: Same author and subject, Additional Data, *Id.*, 1912, 87-123.
- 30—For text of the Carver deed and its history, see: Carver Centenary, *Minn. Hist. Colls.*, II, Part 4, 17, 19-21, original edition. Also see: Daniel Steele Durrie, Jonathan Carver and Carver's Grant, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, VI, 221-270.
- 31—Possibly the word "Lake" was inserted in Carver's manuscript by an editor. In the preceding paragraph he mentions the St. Pierre ruins, on the east side of Lake Pepin, and he may have intended to locate Trempealeau as 60 miles below this (the ruin) rather than 60 miles below Lake Pepin.
- 32—Jonathan Carver, *Travels in North America* (London, 1778), 54-56.
- 33—*Treaties and Conventions Concluded Between the United States of America and Other Powers* (Washington, 1873), 314-318.
- 34—Among the many excellent works on the subject may be mentioned: Jamse K. Hosmer, *The Louisiana Purchase* (New York, 1904).
- 35—See: Walter B. Douglas, Spanish Domain of Upper Louisiana, Wis. Hist. Soc., *Proceedings*, 1913, 74-90.
- 36—*Annals of Congress*, 1802-1803, pp. 1006-1008.
- 37—Coues, ed., *Expeditions of Zebulon M. Pike* (New York, 1895), I, 52, 53.
- 38—*Ibid.*, 307.
- 39—Stephen H. Long, Voyage in a Six Oar Skiff to the Falls of St. Anthony in 1817, *Minn. Hist. Colls.*, II, Part 1, 15-17, original edition.
- 40—*Ibid.*, 47-50.
- 41—Major Thomas Forsyth, Journal of a Voyage to the Falls of St. Anthony in 1819, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, VII, 202.
- 42—Durrie, Jonathan Carver and Carver's Grant, *Id.*, VI, 252, 266. Also: *American State Papers*, Public Lands, IV, 22. Also: James H. Lockwood, Early Times and Events in Wisconsin, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, II, 118, text and note. Also: Col. John Shaw, Narrative, *Ibid.*, 230.
- 43—H. R. Schoolcraft, *Narrative Journal of Travels* (Albany, 1821), 334-335. Also: Same author and title (Philadelphia, 1855), 165.
- 44—Lockwood, Early Times and Events in Wisconsin, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, II, 132-141.
- 45—W. H. Keating, *Narrative of Long's Expedition* (Philadelphia, 1824), 271-272.
- 46—J. C. Beltrami, *A Pilgrimage in Europe and America Leading to the Discovery of the Sources of the Mississippi and Bloody River* (London, 1828), II, 178-179.
- 47—G. W. Featherstonhaugh, *Geological Reconnaissance* (Washington, 1836), 130.
- 48—Letter written from Corsicana, Texas, July 7, 1890, by Albert Miller Lee to H. W. Lathrop, librarian of the State Historical Society of Iowa, and published (October, 1890) under the title of Early Exploration in Iowa, *Iowa Historical Record*, vi, No. 4, 548.
- 49—Richmond was originally called Catlin in honor of the painter. Later the name was changed to Forest City and still later to Richmond. It is situated a little below Trempealeau on the Minnesota side of the Mississippi.
- 50—Bunnell, *Winona and Its Environs*, 183.

Portions of the introductory paragraphs have been copied from: Eben Douglas Pierce, Early Days of Trempealeau, Wis. Hist. Society, *Proceedings*, 1906, 246-255.

The original sources from which Dr. Thwaites obtained his material for Vol. XVII of the *Wis. Hist. Collections*, appear with the various documents therein printed, and no attempt has been made to repeat them here. By consulting that volume the inquiring student will find citations of the original sources.

CHAPTER VII

EARLY SETTLEMENT

Trempealeau County, touching, as it does, on its southwestern border the Mississippi River, was easily accessible for the early explorers, travelers, traders, and later for the pioneer settlers.

The boundary rivers and some of the streams of the interior of the county afforded waterways for the canoe, and many of our valleys, such as the Beaver Creek and Elk Creek, were explored by hunters who canoed up the principal streams flowing out of these respective regions.

Trempealeau Bay, lying about half a mile above the site of Perrot's post, afforded an excellent stopping place for traders and travelers during the fur trading regime on account of the abundance of wood and water in that locality and also for the protection from rough weather which the rugged bluffs furnished. During the sharp rivalry between the different fur companies the trader kept an anxious eye on the bay for the return of the bands of trappers from up the Trempealeau River.

The first trapper to whom tradition ascribes a fur trading camp in Trempealeau County, after the early French explorers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, was Joseph Roque,¹ a prominent interpreter and officer of the Indian department in the days when the British ruled over Mackinac and its western dependencies. Roque was much trusted by the British officers, and accompanied (1780) Wabasha on his raid against St. Louis and the forces of George Rogers Clark in Illinois. He ranked as lieutenant in the Indian service, and at the close of the Revolution remained in the pay of the British government, being likewise prominent in the fur trade. During the War of 1812-15 he was employed by the English authorities and accompanied Colonel William McKay as lieutenant and interpreter on his Prairie du Chien expedition in 1814. According to Winnebago tradition, he had a wintering ground on a branch of Beaver Creek, not far from Galesville, and the occupancy of this region by him and a companion gave to this branch its name of French Creek.

Joseph's half-breed son, Augustin, was likewise an interpreter in the service of the British. With his father he accompanied McKay's Prairie du Chien expedition of 1814 with the rank of lieutenant. At the conclusion of the war Augustin took up his home with Wabasha's Indians and established several trading posts on the upper Mississippi. The same Winnebago tradition that ascribes a camp in Trempealeau County to the father, Joseph, also ascribes a post on Beaver Creek to the son, Augustin. The Indian name of Beaver Creek, Seen-tah-ro-cah, is from St. Roque, the original French family name of this hunter. The valley was rich in beaver and elk, and hunting and trapping in this region were productive of rich results.

In 1823 Augustin Roque accompanied Major Stephen H. Long's expedition, but his services were unsatisfactory. Some time before 1826 he

seems to have had a trading post at the mouth of the Buffalo River. In 1826 he moved to the present site of Wabasha. Featherstonhaugh mentions this trading house on Lake Pepin in 1835 and gives his Indian name as Wahjustahchay, or Strawberry.²

The occupancy of this region by the trappers is also attested by documentary evidence. As early as 1820 Louis Grignon had a fur trading camp at Trempealeau Mountain,³ and the following year Augustin Grignon had a camp near the mouth of Black River, to which point he moved from a camp four miles below the Zumbro, which had been burned by the Wabasha Indians at the instigation of Joseph Rolette, who worked for a British firm.⁴ In 1824 Trempealeau Mountain was recommended to the superintendent of Indian affairs as a suitable place for the location of an Indian agent. It was described as being desirable because there was plenty of firewood and because it was convenient to Wabasha's band of Dakota, as well as the place where all the Winnebago and Menominee stopped in ascending and descending the Mississippi.⁵

Trempealeau Bay thus became a prominent rendezvous for trappers and traders, and favorite stopping place for river voyagers.

The story of the settlement of Trempealeau County dates from 1836, when an attempt was made to establish a mission station at this point. A Protestant missionary society of Basle, Switzerland, desirous of sending the gospel to the North American Indians, commissioned two young Swiss for the work. They decided upon the field among the Dakota as the most promising, and proceeded to Prairie du Chien, where they spent a short time studying the language and learning the location of the tribes. Rev. Daniel Gavin concluded to settle near Wabasha's band, while his comrade, Samuel Denton, went on to Red Wing.

At Prairie du Chien Gavin secured the services as interpreter and man of all work of a Swiss emigrant, Louis Stram. Together they proceeded to Trempealeau and built a loghouse east of Mountain Lake, at the site of a clear spring.⁶ Stram opened a farm and endeavored to teach the Indians agriculture, but Wabasha, their chief, did not take kindly either to the mission or the farming, and after the treaty of 1837, by which all the Sioux claim east of the Mississippi was ceded to the United States, Gavin abandoned the mission and joined his confrere in Red Wing.⁷ Although the enterprise was temporary, it was the first attempt made in the county in the nature of a permanent settlement and was the first farming therein under the direction of a white man.⁸

The permanent settlement of Trempealeau County finally came about under the auspices of the fur trade. Francois la Bathe, a shrewd half-breed and a near relative of Wabasha, was confidential agent of Hercules L. Dousman, representative of the American Fur Company at Prairie du Chien. Even before the cession of 1837, La Bathe had tried to secure a steamboat landing site at the modern La Crosse, and as soon as the treaty was concluded he made similar arrangements for Trempealeau by inducing John Doville and Antoine Reed to proceed thither and cut cordwood for steamboats, while holding a stretch of river front as a landing. His object in this was to prevent any trade drifting away from Wabasha's

village, at the present City of Winona.⁹ A wood yard was established at the head of the island opposite Trempealeau, and La Bathe vouched for the sale of all wood the men might cut. Doville remained at Trempealeau and became its first permanent settler. He cultivated the land that the Swiss missionaries had cleared and broke some of his own in the upper part of the present village. He raised stock upon a small scale and devoted his time to farming and cutting cordwood for steamboats.

James A. Reed, in his journeys up and down the Mississippi in the interest of the fur trade, had noticed the Trempealeau Bluffs and resolved to stop and look the country over with a view of settling later if the place came up to his expectation. He climbed Liberty Peak and looked down on the new land and was charmed with its wild grandeur, its lavish wealth still undeveloped, its inviting valleys and wooded slopes. It was a delectable land, steeped in an alluring solitude—untouched as yet by the white settler. Reed decided to locate in the new country. Circumstances delayed him and gave to his son-in-law, Doville, the credit of being the first settler. In 1840, however, his plans were perfected and, bringing his family by boat from Prairie du Chien, he built a log cabin on the banks of the Mississippi River on the site of modern Trempealeau. Not long afterward his wife died, and he later married the widow of Amable Grignon, of Prairie du Chien, who was a sister of Francois La Bathe and a relative of Wabasha.

The locality soon became known as Reed's Town. Outside of the time that he devoted to his duties as government farmer to Wabasha's band of Indians at Winona (from 1842 to 1848) Reed occupied his energies in tending his stock and in hunting and trapping. The Trempealeau bluffs and adjoining prairie offered an excellent stock range for Reed's horses, swine and cattle, which he brought from Prairie du Chien; and the swine proved to be good rattlesnake hunters, killing and eating many of the Winnebagoes' sacred serpents. Reed used his large log home, for a while, as a tavern, and many a weary traveler and homeseeker found a hospitable welcome at his fireside. For a while it was known as Reed's Place; afterward he sold out and it became the Washington Hotel.

The next settlers after the family and relatives of Reed arrived at Trempealeau in June, 1842. The party consisted of Willard B. Bunnell and wife, and his brother, Lafayette H. Bunnell. They were from Detroit, and, seeking a location upon the upper Mississippi, had been induced at Prairie du Chien to settle at Trempealeau. To the younger of these two pioneers much of the early history of the region is due. Gifted with a good memory and a taste for historical studies, he has preserved many incidents of pioneer life that would otherwise be lost. Upon the arrival of this party at Trempealeau Reed went back from the village a few rods and shortly came in with a red deer to supply the family with provisions. Buffalo had disappeared soon after the Black Hawk War, but elk abounded upon Trempealeau River, and beaver were plenty enough to give their name to one of the inland streams.¹⁰

A number of French families, mostly from Prairie du Chien, came up the river and joined Reed, but they were mostly connected with the fur trade and made little progress toward developing the country from an agri-

cultural standpoint. Some of them lived at Reed's home and some built houses near by. Peter Rosseau, who helped Reed build his house, remained for a while. Charles H. Perkins, Joseph Borette, Michael Goulet and Paul and Antoine Grignon were among the early members of the household.

The Bunnells lived at Trempealeau for several years, but spent the first two winters at what is now Fountain City. L. H. Bunnell left Trempealeau in 1847 and enlisted in the Mexican War. W. B. Bunnell and his wife left in 1849 and settled at Homer, in Minnesota. Soon after the arrival of the Bunnells, Alexander Chenevert joined the Reed settlement. In 1844 a Frenchman named Assalin came. He was a carpenter by trade and made the woodwork for the first wagon in the county. He also made sleds and French trains. Antoine La Terreur came the same year. He was a cabinet maker and made much of the early furniture used in the pioneer homes of Trempealeau. Michael Bebault arrived in 1845 and hired out as a wood-chopper on the island. In 1848 Leander Bebault and John La Vigne arrived with their families, and about the same time Edward Winkleman settled here.

It was after 1850 that the settlement of the interior of the county took place, and for a period of fifteen years settlers poured into the valleys of Trempealeau County, principally from southern and eastern Wisconsin. Many were from New York State originally, with a goodly number from the New England States. They came in all manner of ways, but steamboat, by stage, afoot, on horseback, with ox teams and covered wagons, with wagons drawn by horses, and often driving behind their caravan a herd of cattle, while tied to the rear of the wagon in a well-constructed box was the vociferous porker, proclaiming his presence at every stop.

The routes they selected depended on the section from whence they hailed. Many came by way of La Crosse and thence over the rough road to Gordon's or McGilvray's Ferry and crossed these ferries into the county. Others arrived by steamboat and outfitted in La Crosse for their journey into the new country. Some came to Trempealeau by steamboat and then went by stage into the interior. Still others went to Fountain City and took the trail across the bluffs, over the Glencoe Ridge, and through the Glencoe Valley to the Trempealeau River. Some came down the Trempealeau valley from Jackson County. The northern part of the county was settled largely by people who drifted into the county from Black River Falls and vicinity. A few of the pioneers poled up Black River in flat boats to the falls and then took the overland trail back to Trempealeau County. Other settlers came across the Mississippi River from Minnesota, where they had settled in Pickwick or some other of the valleys that reach back from the river. The later settlers came into the Trempealeau County by the railroad, but it was not until 1870 that a railroad was built into the county.

Aside from those who followed the main routes of travel, there were many settlers who sifted into the county from adjoining territory following whatever route was most convenient and striking out across the prairies or up the ravines to find, removed from the settled haunts of man, a plot of land where they might establish themselves and build their future homes.

The best sources of authority regarding the early settlement of Trempealeau County previous to 1850 are Antoine Grignon and L. H. Bunnell, both of whom arrived here in the forties. E. D. Pierce, from stories heard from pioneers, as a boy, from interviews with Antoine Grignon, and conversations with descendants of early settlers, gathered the information for three articles on the subject, all published in the *Proceedings* of the Wis. Hist. Society as follows: Early Days of Trempealeau, 1906, 246-255; Recollections of Antoine Grignon, 1913, 110-136; James Allen Reed, 1914, 107-117. Dr. Bunnell's vivid recollections are found in: Bunnell, *Winona and Its Environs* (Winona, 1877), 183 et seq.

1—Roque (variously spelled) is mentioned as interpreter for the Sioux, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, III, 229; VII, 167; XI, 134-135, 142, 156; XII, 61, 63, 81; and XII, 94, apparently fixes this interpreter as Joseph Roque. Whether Joseph or Augustin is meant in XII, 125, and XIII, 67, is uncertain. *Id.*, IX, 264, presents a confusing problem. Among the lieutenants at Ft. McKay (Prairie du Chien) are given Joseph Rock, Sr., and Augustin Rock, Jr. Whether this is the Joseph of the earlier days is not apparent. The use of "Jr." and "Sr." would indicate that these two men were not father and son, that Augustin indeed was not the son of Joseph but of an Augustin, Sr. It is possible, however, that the use of the "Sr." and "Jr." was a clerical error arising from the fact that one may have been called Roque, Sr., and the other Roque, Jr., without regard to their first names. Augustin is mentioned as an interpreter, *Id.*, IX, 254, 256, and an employe of the American Fur Co., *Id.*, XII, 162. For a mention of the early activities of the Roques in the region, see: L. H. Bunnell, *Winona and Its Environs* (Winona, 1897), 69, 147, 371. "Joe" Roque, known to the early settlers, was the son of Augustin and grandson of Joseph.

2—G. W. Featherstonhaugh, *Geological Reconnaissance* (Wash., 1836), 130.

3—Reuben Gold Thwaites, ed., *Fur Trade in Wisconsin, 1812-1825*, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XX, 160-162, 241-242, 258-259.

4—*Ibid.*, 236.

5—*Ibid.*, 365.

6—Nearly three miles northwest of the village of Trempealeau on the Trowbridge farm. The cellar and stones from the chimney could be seen in 1888. The excavation can still be seen, 1917.—E. D. P.

7—Lyman C. Draper, *Early French Forts in Western Wisconsin*, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, X, 367; also note to same article, 506-507. See also: *Minn. Hist. Colls.*, VI, 134. An official report in 1838 (U. S. *Executive Documents*, 1, 494) says: "Mr. D. Gavin removes this year from the 'Mountain in the Waters, East,' to the west with Wabasha's band of Sioux."

8—The land broken by Stram was afterward used by pioneer settlers, who burned the log house in 1842 to deprive the troublesome Indians of a shelter for themselves and stolen horses, Bunnell, *Winona and Its Environs*, 71.

9—*Ibid.*, 209. Bunnell and others give the name as James Douville. His descendants say it was John Doville. His divorce proceedings (First *Minute Book*, District Court of Trempealeau County, 21) give his name as John Do Ville.

CHAPTER VIII

LOCALITY SETTLEMENTS

When the first white man gazed upon the Trempealeau country he beheld a vastly different land physically than we live in today. It was dressed in its primitive clothes, so to speak. The bluffs, save for the work of the mound builder, had not been defaced by man. The contour of the hills and valleys was influenced only by the alluvium and the wash of storms, for scarcely any land was cultivated, in the modern sense of the word, by the Indians.

Here and there in secluded places along the hills were forests, but generally the country was untimbered and covered with brush and wild grass, which was burned over each year by the Indians.

The Indians, no doubt, had some particular reason for doing this, though it is difficult to conjecture why they deemed it necessary to burn over the land annually. No doubt they could travel through a burned-over country much easier than over one obstructed with a tangle of grass and brush, and traveling more swiftly mean more game. New grass grew better also in the burned-over places, and thus the ponies of the Indians had better grazing on account of this primitive method of land clearing.

Indian trails took the place of our modern roads, and no guide board pointed its inartistic hand to direct the inquiring traveler. Along these indistinct trails many of the early settlers made their way with difficulty and along the wooded streams were obliged to pick their way by blazed trees.

There were many small lakes or sloughs in the county when the pioneer came that have since gone dry. On Trempealeau Prairie were a number of these tiny lakes where James Reed trapped muskrat, but today we see no sign of the former outline of these bodies of water. Arcadia was built in a marshy slough which has since been filled with dirt hauled from a range of hillocks in the rear of the village. On the other hand, we have a number of lakes in our county that were not here in the early day. These artificial bodies of water represent our waterpower and are usually designated by the undignified name of mill ponds. One would hardly dare apply that name to beautiful Lake Marinuka of Galesville, reposing in the valley of Beaver Creek, and possessing all the charm and reflecting qualities of a natural lake.

But perhaps even greater changes have taken place in the flora and fauna of our county since the early day than in the physical features. In order to appreciate more fully these changes, let us picture the early settler and his wild environment; his log cabin in the clearing of one of our secluded valleys, nestling at the foot of a hill where a spring trickles into a dugout water trough a few feet from the cabin door. Standing against the log

barn is the yoke for the oxen, and near-by is the upturned breaking plow, while the mattock and ax repose on a half cut log near the woodpile. At the side of the cabin is the rude wash bench made from a slab of wood and four wooden pegs for legs. We may also see the grindstone in the back yard, and hanging under the rafters of the barn is the scythe, the cradle and the flail. And we must not overlook the lye-leach and soap kettle, nor the half-sled and stone-boat.

Herds of deer can be seen grazing on the hillside, and in the spring and autumn days the honking of wild geese fills the air. The boom and hoot of prairie chickens can be heard in the early spring days, and, during the summer, from across the hot green fields, comes the plaintive note of the plover and the whistle of the gopher. The sound of the drumming partridge comes from the thicket near the clearing, and the whistling quail proclaims his presence by his far-carrying "Bob White."

The bark and chatter of the grey and red squirrel can be heard in the woodlands, while at night the hoot of the owl mingles at times with the howl of the wolf or barking fox.

During the spring and summer the woods ring with the songs of a variety of birds. From early dawn until dark the tireless songsters fill the air with music, and in season the whip-poor-will lashes the silence of the night with his rhythmic strain.

Wild flowers grow in profusion, and many a sloping hillside blushes scarlet with painted cups in the May days, and in June time the wild roses light with a pink glow the wilderness where the pioneer came to build his cabin home.

Along the hills grow blueberries, blackberries and raspberries, while wild plum and cherry thickets offer their fruits in many of the valleys and by the streams in the bottom lands.

In June the odor of wild strawberries comes floating from some hidden patch—a breath of perfume that has the aroma of shortcake, and what a pleasant adventure to hunt out the hidden patch and gather the luscious berries in ruddy clusters.

But time and change have wiped the picture out. Cultivation and pasturing has removed the wild touch—the rustic element—and obliterated many of our wild flowers, while the hunter has killed or driven away all of our big game.

The buffalo disappeared from this region before the coming of the white settler, but elk were found here as late as 1865, and wild deer were seen in our county as late or even later than 1890. The wild pigeons disappeared about forty years ago, and our decreasing wild ducks will soon be of the past. The beaver, the otter, the martin, lynx, the bear and panther, have long since disappeared from our county, and of all the larger native wild animals we have the wolf fox and bobcat, still to be found in the wild recesses of the county today.

The process of extermination is taking place among our wild flowers, and many of the rare varieties will soon become extinct unless some means is taken to preserve them. The white lady-slipper is becoming a very rare flower, and even the yellow lady-slipper is growing alarmingly scarce, as

is also our painted cup that grew in such abundance in the early days; still rarer is the showy orchid and other species of the orchid family.

There seems to be an increasing demand to preserve our noble forests and to keep in a wild state our most beautiful mountain districts. The government has seen fit to establish a large number of forest reserves, besides maintaining its national parks. We all appreciate this, though we cannot all visit these national wonders of beauty, and that is the reason why it seems to us that each county should have its wild playground.

In order to appreciate sweet sounds there must be silent places, and in order to appreciate our tame and subdued surroundings we need the wild touch to recuperate our blunted senses, to rest our minds and restore our mental poise. The natural park, with its native forests, its wild flowers and unsubdued grandeur offers the only relief to these conditions, and it also offers a solution to the problem of keeping our native flora from extermination.

Trempealeau—Reed's Town in the forties consisted of about half a dozen log cabins scattered along the river front near James Reed's large log house, and occupied by French families, most of whom had moved into the new settlement from Prairie du Chien. Beside these there were a few French-Canadians, and after 1846 a few American families joined the community.

The fur trade and the Indian trade furnished the principal industries, though some farming was done on a small scale, and the inhabitants kept their stock (cattle, hogs, and horses) on a common range which extended across Trempealeau Prairie and included the Trempealeau Bluffs.

Life in the French settlement was filled with adventures of the backwoods type, and the hunter and trapper matched his skill of woodcraft with the Indian. With an abundance of fish and game and wild berries and plums, and with the vast expanse of wild grass lands for grazing, there was little need of food shortage.

John Doville, who maintained a wood camp on the island opposite Reedstown, had the first farm in Trempealeau. He sowed oats, wheat, flaxseed, potatoes and beans.

Stram broke the first land in the county, but he used the ground for garden purposes only, while Doville extended his agricultural pursuits to grain raising, and has the honor of being the first Trempealeau County farmer. Though Doville worked on the island and had a temporary camp there, at the woodyard, he found it necessary, on account of high water, to erect a permanent cabin on the main land near the river and not far from the lower end of the present main street. He afterwards built a house on the site, used later for Melchoir's brewery.

In 1842 James Reed found employment in the Government Indian service at Winona, where he was engaged as farmer and storekeeper for Wabasha's band of Sioux. A few years later he was joined by John Doville and Charles H. Perkins, who likewise entered the Indian service. They still kept in touch with Reed's Settlement, however, and when their contract with the Government expired returned to their Trempealeau homes and became permanent settlers in the county.

Intermarriage between these early inhabitants of Trempealeau and the Indians took place as in other frontier settlements, with a resultant mixed blood offspring, whose descendants can be traced down to the present generation.

But few family records of this period remain, though one has been preserved of the Willard B. Bunnell family, which discloses the fact that his son, David Porter Bunnell, who was born in November, 1843, was the first white child born in the territory of Trempealeau County. His daughter, Louise, born in 1848, was also the first white girl born in this locality. Bunnell located on land about a mile above the present village of Trempealeau, which later became the Jack McCarty farm.

The Americanization of Reed's Town came about rather slowly, and it was not until after 1850 that the influx of Americans began.

Travelers and traders journeying up and down the Mississippi often stopped at Reed's hospitable log tavern, and on their departure carried to the outer world rather glowing accounts of the new country, but the town-site speculator had not visited as yet the locality, and little thought was given by the frontiersmen to the future possibilities of the place, and they looked with aversion on the increasing settlers as a hindrance to their wild, free life of hunting and trapping.

In the fall of 1851 there arrived at Reed's Town a man who grasped at once the possibilities of the location for a town site. This was Benjamin F. Heuston, and it did not take him long to interest Ira Hammond and James Reed in a project to found a village. In partnership with Mr. Hammond, he began the erection of a warehouse on the river front, which was completed the following summer.

Others who came in the fall of 1851 were A. A. Angell, Charles Cameron, N. B. Grover, Horace E. Owen and Elizur Smith.

On April 5, 1852, William Hood, as surveyor, made a plat of Reed's Landing, with B. F. Heuston, Ira Hammond and James Reed as proprietors. The new village was formally named Montoville, but almost before the ink on the plat became dry another survey was completed under the direction of Timothy Burns, F. M. Rublee and Benjamin B. Healy, and the name Trempealeau, the terminal of the sentence which the French voyageurs gave to Trempealeau Mountain, was adopted for the doubly named village.

Montoville-Trempealeau thrived for a few weeks, and though overburdened with new names, it was still known as Reed's Town or Settlement by the inhabitants, and as Reed's Landing by the rivermen.

On May 9, 1852, according to the records of the Post Office Department at Washington, a post office was established at Trempealeau, with B. F. Heuston as postmaster. On January 15, 1853, the name of the office was changed to Montville, but on July 17, 1856, the name of the office was again changed to Trempealeau.

For a period of fifteen years Trempealeau remained the only settlement in the territory comprising Trempealeau County. The first ten years of this period was devoted almost entirely to the fur trade. Then came the land seeker, tradesman, speculator and adventurer, and with the rapid influx

of settlers from 1854 to 1856, new portions of the county were opened for settlement, and Trempealeau history thereby became limited to one section of the county.

When B. F. Heuston came here he secured a residence by purchasing the house of John Doville, a small story and a half building, standing on Front street, below what is now the Burlington station. Thus possessed of a permanent location, he prepared to erect a warehouse designed as a steamboat shipping point for the agricultural produce which the promoters believed would result from the rapid influx of settlers and the consequent development of the rich valleys and prairies adjacent to the proposed village. Before winter set in he had completed the stone foundations. In the meantime he procured lumber at Black River Falls, floated it down the stream to the mouth of Beaver Creek, carted it over to the building site, and in the spring completed a warehouse, 24 by 50 feet, two stories high, located on Front street, two or three rods east of what was afterward the site of the Utter House. In the fall James A. Reed, as justice of the peace, married his daughter, Madeline, to his stepson, Paul Grignon.

Early in February, 1852, N. B. Grover, who had previously traded here, came up from La Crosse and opened a shoe shop opposite the later site of the Utter Hotel. In this store he sold notions and a few dry goods, thus establishing the first store in the county. In May of this year George Batchelder and his wife made their appearance and put up a house below the Hammond & Heuston warehouse. Later they opened a hotel, but not before the wife of Charles Cameron had arrived and established a boarding house in the residence which Mr. Heuston had purchased from John Doville. Thomas Marshall came in that spring and put up a house above the Big Spring. Israel Noyes came about the same time. He boarded with the Camerons until October, when he was joined by his wife, and went to live in the second story of the Hammond & Heuston warehouse, where shortly afterward a child was born to them. Marvin and James Pierce came and built a small house on the north side of Front street, above what afterward became the site of Melchoir's brewery. Ira E. Moore and Alvin Carter built a residence near the present location of Hoberton's blacksmith shop. About the same time Alexander McMillan came up from La Crosse and put up a blacksmith shop, the first in the village. These, with Alexander McGilvray, C. S. Seymour, B. B. Healy, Robert Farrington, William Cram, Charles Holmes, Mary Huff, Catherine Davidson, A. M. Brandenburg, Rev. Mr. Watts, and possibly a few others, constituted the list of arrivals in 1852.

There were two interesting social events this year. One was the opening of the Trempealeau House, at which was served a banquet which was long remembered by the old settlers, Mrs. Batchelder, the landlady, having secured many dainties from points further down the river. The Fourth of July celebration was another important event. It was held in the upper story of the Hammond & Heuston building. Mr. Heuston read the Declaration, and talks were made by several citizens.

"In 1852," says Mary Brandenburg, "when the Brandenburgs landed in Trempealeau, then called Montoville, they found among other settlers James Reed in a log house on the river bank at about the Barney McGraw

place. Other settlers were George Batchelder, the first merchant, first school teacher, first store keeper and first hotel keeper; Isaac Noyes, the first postmaster, and Alexander McGilvray, who afterward ran the first ferry boat, and N. B. Grover, an Indian trader, and his brother, Archelaus, both single men, and B. B. Healy. These were most of the early settlers."

In 1853, 1854 and 1855 the arrivals were not numerous. La Crosse was a thriving village and attracted those who desired to grow up with a future metropolis, while the Black River country, with its timber, its springs, and its open meadows, attracted those who were seeking farm lands and rural homesteads. Among the arrivals of these years were J. D. Olds, who had selected a claim in 1851; A. P. Webb, Patrick Drugan, Thomas Drugan, Aaron Houghton, Joseph Gale, Patrick Lowry, Gilbert Gibbs, Oscar Beardsley, Lewis Huttenhow, William Olds, Frank Feeney, Hiram Brown, and others. Some settled in the village, others scattered back on the prairie.

The real influx of population began in 1856. In this year the pioneer mill of the county was erected. That spring, the Messrs. Bredenthal and King, with the determination of establishing a mill in the Black River country, shipped some machinery to the mouth of that river, and made inquiries at La Crosse as to a suitable location. Meeting J. M. Barrett, they persuaded him to join them in their venture, and the three called on S. D. Hastings, who was the La Crosse representative of the townsite proprietors of Trempealeau. Mr. Hastings, in the name of his employers, offered a free site for the new mill south of the village. At that time the river was unusually high, and the location seemed a most suitable one. But while it was in the progress of construction, the water subsided, and the owners of the mill began to realize that their venture was not likely to prove profitable. When they began to operate, these apprehensions were fully verified. Access to the mill was difficult, and the expense of hauling was great. After a while the venture was abandoned, the mill was sold and moved elsewhere, and of the proprietors, only Mr. Barrett remained in Trempealeau.

But the mill was the cause of a rapid growth for the village. Property advanced in value and importance. Many eastern people were at that time seeking in the West opportunities for investment which they believed would bring them large returns. The village was filled with new settlers, houses, cabins and shanties were put up, and the incomers began to buy land in all directions.

This demand created the utmost excitement, and the price of lots appreciated so rapidly that no one was able to predict a possible value in advance. In the spring, the most desirable lots could have been purchased for from \$40 to \$50. In May, when the building of the mill was arranged for, double this price was demanded, and when the mill was completed, as high as \$1,000 was refused for the same pieces of property that could not have found a purchaser a year previous. As an instance, it may be stated that while this scale of prices was maintained, \$2,100 was offered for lots on the river bank opposite what was afterward the Melchior Brewery, and it was declined. They could not now be sold at anything like that figure.

Among the prominent arrivals for 1856, were O. S. Bates, S. D. Hastings and family, Noah Payne and family, W. T. Booker, J. H. Crossen, J. P. Israel and family, S. F. Harris and family, Thomas Van Zant, William Held, A. W. Hickox, C. W. Thomas, John Smith, Dennis Smith, D. W. Gilfillan, D. B. Phelps, C. C. Crane, and many others. The improvements consisted in part of the mill and a large house adjoining for the accommodation of hands employed therein; the Congregational Church put up under a contract with C. C. Crane, and numerous private buildings for residence and commercial purposes. Gilfillan built a hotel. Hastings erected a residence opposite the public square. Robert Jones, a brick residence on Third street, the first brick house in the village, and the Rev. Mr. Hayes put up a frame house on the hill. In addition to Gilfillan's tavern, C. S. Seymour was proprietor of the Trempealeau House, built in 1852, by A. A. Angell, and Frederick Harth occupied the old log house of James Reed, as the Washington Hotel. Jasper Kingsley maintained the only saloon in the village, and the commercial and river interests were divided between J. P. Israel, W. T. Booker. Mills & Van Zant and N. B. Grover.

J. A. Parker came in this year. He was the first lawyer in the village. Dr. Alson Atwood also came in and built a house, and is claimed by some as the first physician to settle in Trempealeau, though it is contended by others that this honor legitimately belongs to Dr. E. R. Utter. Lafayette H. Bunnell, who settled here in the forties, was not a physician until later in life. Money was plenty, it is said, and times unprecedentedly prosperous. Almost every steamer bore hither, as passengers, people who were out prospecting, ready to avail themselves of any opportunity that presented itself for purchase. The Fourth of July was celebrated with unusual pomp, the Baptist Society was organized, and a terrible cyclone passed over the village in August, doing great damage.

A pioneer, John H. Crosen, arriving in Trempealeau on November 13, 1856, has this to say of the village in those days: "There were three stores on Front street, and a few frame residences, with here and there a log house. Further back on Second and Third streets were other residences, perhaps thirty all told, very much scattered. People were coming and going constantly. Each boat brought a new crowd of prospective settlers, and took away some that had looked the country over and gotten their fill, so to speak, and had made up their minds to look elsewhere for locations. And so it went, coming and going, here today and gone tomorrow, although, of course, some remained and became permanent settlers in the village.

"But the steamboat was not the only means of bringing people to Trempealeau. Many came overland in covered wagons. During 1856-57 a number of caravans of settlers passed through here and were ferried across the river to Minnesota, where they took the road leading up the Pickwick Valley onto the Minnesota prairie. I have seen the old ferry owned by Wilson Johnson busy a week steady ferrying teams across the river. This ferry was a horse tread power, and it carried many a prairie schooner over the river.

"These long strings of covered wagons made a picturesque sight winding along the road with their white tops showing against the green

landscape, always reaching towards the west—the land of the setting sun—and many of the occupants of these prairie schooners became the sturdy pioneers of Minnesota.

“During the wheat times, Trempealeau was surely a lively place. I have seen wagons loaded with wheat reaching from the loading dock down Front street and part way up the hill, waiting for their turn to be unloaded—a procession half a mile long, composed mostly of ox-teams, with a few teams of horses. At night you would see fires out on Trempealeau Prairie where the wheat haulers were camped for the night. Every idle man in Trempealeau could find employment there loading wheat on the steamboats, and I have seen two and three boats loading at a time, and steamboat men scouring the town for more help. The flush wheat times lasted until a few years after the Civil War.”

With the opening of the river in 1857, the hopes of the villagers ran high. Every steamboat was bringing new arrivals, new buildings were being erected, the prairie was being settled, the county was growing. But in the midst of this busy activity came the financial crash, nation-wide in its scope. Provisions became scarce and rapidly rose in price. Flour jumped to \$12 a barrel, pork to \$10 a hundred pounds, and other commodities in proportion. Wild game became an important article of food, and kept many of the settlers from starvation. Elk and deer, which even at this late date were to be found herded in the brush of the bluffs, supplied the absence of meat.

However, great faith was still maintained in the future of Trempealeau, and many strangers attempted to take advantage of the situation to secure land at a low price. But the people of Trempealeau, with dogged perseverance, stuck to the high prices that had been maintained during the “boom” years. The result was that many desirable citizens who would have located here and helped to build a metropolis, secured cheaper land in La Crosse, Winona, Red Wing, St. Paul and other places, and the advantage of their money and enthusiasm was lost to the little village in the shadow of the mountain. This short-sighted policy, together with the money stringency, retarded the growth of Trempealeau, and though with returning prosperity, the village was an important shipping point until the coming of the railroad, those who had demanded such high prices for their land never saw their hopes realized, and values of village property gradually declined.

Among those who settled here in 1857 were W. P. Heuston, R. W. Russell, N. W. Allen, Harvey Bowles, F. A. Utter and others, including Wilson Johnston, who established the first ferry from Trempealeau Village to the Minnesota shore.

A good crop of wheat was raised in 1858, and much of it was purchased at Trempealeau for shipment to various points down the river. Fully 1,000 bushels of wheat were shipped this year, and prosperity was revived. The absence of railroads in the interior, and the fact that Trempealeau was the most accessible point for the farmers of this region to merchant their produce, brought the pioneer agriculturists here in such numbers that the

streets lining the river were often packed for hours with teamsters waiting for a chance to unload.

A later settler (Stephen Richmond) arriving September 8, 1870, a year before the opening of the railroad, has said of the village:

"Its one main street extending along the river from Melchior's hotel and brewery and Octave Batchelor's hotel, running east with the then numerous warehouses and business places crowding close together, and its neat homes nestling in sunshine on the hillsides and down to the foot of the Trempealeau Bluffs which appeared as mountains of moderate elevation—the town itself facing the Mississippi River, its streets filled with farmers and lined with farm teams of one hundred or more, a majority of the teams being oxen with wagons loaded with grain for the market, or with goods and supplies for the farmers' homes; and the most disconcerting and puzzling condition to me was the language spoken by many of the people—languages with which I was not then familiar, many persons speaking the German, the Polish, the Bohemian and Scandinavian, this talk being coupled with the oddity of the dress of many and the general inter-social manner of the people and their truly democratic manners and customs, no notice appeared to be taken of difference in nationality. Even the half-breed and the Indian were kindly recognized. I counted 98 teams along Main street loaded with grain, waiting for a turn to unload at the warehouses, then under the management of Solomon Becker, Christ Reiminschneider, and Paul Kribs."

The village trade increased in volume until the completion of the railroad in August, 1871. Farmers came here with their wheat not only from this county, but also from adjoining counties, and during the last few years before 1871 it is said that the shipments sometimes averaged 5,000 bushels a day from the opening of the harvest season until the closing of the river in the early winter. A vast amount of money was thus put into circulation.

The village, however, did not grow materially. A few stores were put up, a few business houses opened, and a few residences constructed, but the men who would have contributed so materially to its prosperity had been frightened away by the high values at which the village proprietors held their property. When the railroad from the east was completed to La Crosse, Trempealeau's importance as a shipping point was increased, and La Crosse grew rapidly. It was therefore felt that with the building of the La Crosse, Trempealeau & Prescott Railroad, Trempealeau would retain its standing as a steamboat point, and grow to great importance as a railroad point. But when the railroad was put in operation it tapped many points that had hitherto been tributary to Trempealeau, and the hopes of the promoters were blasted forever.

In recent years, however, a group of active young business men of another generation are making the village a busy and important little center and the recent creation of Trempealeau Mountain as a State park has revived its former importance.

The Black River Valley in Trempealeau County embraces the eastern part of Caledonia Township, and Decorah Prairie in Gale Township. Tradi-

tion ascribes Indian village sites to Decorah and Red Bird, Winnebago chiefs, in this immediate region. The first white settlers were sturdy Scotchmen.

Caledonia early received settlers in that portion lying along the Mississippi adjacent to Trempealeau. James D. Olds was the first to take a claim in that portion lying properly in the Black River Valley. He came to Trempealeau on May 6, 1851, and walking out on Caledonia Prairie, selected a claim in Section 7, in what is now Caledonia Township. He cut logs, rolled them up for the body of a cabin, and marked out a claim, cutting the name and date on the log.

The first man actually to settle in the locality was William Cram, who started building a cabin south of the Olds claim, in May, 1852.

In 1853 came Joshua Rhodes, accompanied by William Hanson, who lived with him for a while. During the same year came Rufus Comstock, who settled on the claim of James D. Olds. The same year William Olds came in and purchased William Cram's place. Alexander McGilvray, who had reached Trempealeau in 1852, moved his family to the banks of the Black River.

Bostwick Beardsley led the vanguard in 1854 by settling on Section 28. There were numerous other arrivals about the same time. He found in the neighborhood, John, Richard and William Nicholls, Charles Holmes, B. B. Healy and Alexander McGilvray.

This year marked the opening of McGilvray ferry. The ferry was started by Alexander McGilvray. In the summer of 1854, J. D. Olds purchased property at the ford, and built a store and blacksmith shop, and opened a farm.

From this settlement, the pioneers spread onto Decorah Prairie further up the river, where a flourishing Scotch settlement was founded.

Beaver Creek Valley. According to Winnebago tradition, Joseph Roque, a famous Indian guide and trapper, erected a cabin on Beaver Creek near the present village of Galesville, possibly soon after the War of 1812. His son, Augustin, likewise a guide and trapper, is said to have built a cabin and spent a winter hunting in the same locality about 1820.

But to Americans Beaver Creek Valley was not opened for settlement until after the purchase of the Indian rights to all this territory, in 1837, and even then it was several years before an actual settlement took place.

James A. Reed, the first permanent settler in Trempealeau County, hunted and trapped along Beaver Creek as far back as 1840, and in 1843, in company with Willard Bunnell and Antoine Grignon, explored the headwaters of the valley.

While the fur trade played an important role in the opening of Trempealeau County for settlement, but few of the trappers remained to till the soil after the fur had been gathered, but pushed on westward to the unsubdued wilderness.

The agriculturist who came to find a permanent home in the fertile valleys of Trempealeau County was the natural successor of the fur trader, for here there was no pinery to bring the lumberman, as in other portions of the State.

The autumn of 1851 saw the first Beaver Creek settler arrive in the

person of Abram Trepena, who came up from Racine County to look for a homestead. Mr. Trepena came from Oswego, New York, to Racine in 1848, and had resided in the southern part of the State since that time.

There was a vast amount of unoccupied land in this section in that early day, and the homeseeker could take his choice of locations. After looking over the country thoroughly Mr. Trepena finally selected a quarter-section of land in the Beaver Creek Valley about a mile and a half southwest of the present village of Galesville. He then returned to Racine and in the fall of 1852 in company with his family and John Hess came north. They drove two yoke of oxen and carried all of their household goods in two immigrant wagons. On the night of October 11 they arrived at their destination and went into camp, but before they had hardly settled for the night a snow storm of unusual severity came up and continued with unabated fury until morning, and when the new settlers awoke they found the ground covered to a depth of ten inches with freshly-fallen snow. This was indeed a wintry greeting for the pioneers, but with dauntless courage they went to work and arranged their camp for the winter; protecting it with wagon boxes, and making as comfortable a home as a tent could afford.

In the spring the men began the construction of a log house which was completed and occupied by the first of May. They also cleared and broke eight acres of land, and the crop raised during the season indicated the fertility of the Beaver Creek soil.

In 1853 Judge George Gale of La Crosse purchased about two thousand acres of land, including the present location of Galesville, with the water power on Beaver Creek; and, in January, 1854, he procured from the state legislature, the organization of the new county of Trempealeau, with the location of the county seat at Galesville, and at the same time obtained a charter for a university, to be located at that place. In June of the same year the village plot of Galvesville was laid out, and subsequently the flour mills were erected. A. H. Armstrong was the first man to put up a building in the new village and Ryland Parker opened the first grocery store, keeping it in conjunction with a hotel.

One of the first to settle in the township of Gale after Galesville was conceived was B. F. Heuston, who had settled in Trempealeau in 1851. During the winter of 1853 he moved into a house which he had built about half a mile south of what afterward became the site of the county courthouse at Gale. In the fall of 1853, or early in 1854, Peter and George Uhle settled in Crystal Valley, three miles from Galesville. John Dettinger also settled near-by in that year.

Galesville grew rapidly, and in a short time new settlers were turning their eyes to the upper Beaver Creek region. The land seekers were looking for a farming section, and it is not strange that the rolling lands of this fertile valley attracted their attention.

As early as May, 1855, John Cance settled in what is now the town of Ettrick. Cance came from Glasgow, Scotland, to America in 1854, and remained in Jersey City, N. J., a short time, when he decided to move west to Freeport, Ill. He remained in Freeport all winter, and in the spring of 1855 he started for Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, and on May 25

arrived at Beaver Creek. His brother-in-law, Andrew C. Purvis came with him, and the two men took up land and selected suitable building place within a few days of their arrival.

In 1856 Charley White and Mike Cullity settled in the valley, and in 1857-58 Robert Cance and Alexander Cance arrived and located land adjoining their brother's farm. During the next few years Dan Kennedy, Thomas Wall, John Mahony, Darby Whalen, John Lynch and James Corcoran joined the Beaver Creek settlers.

The first settlers in what is now known as North Beaver Creek were Iver Orianson (Torblaa) and Iver Knutson (Syse), who came in 1857.

In 1858 K. K. Hallanger, Amund Olsen, R. Richelson, Thomas and Nels Herreid, Ole Skaar, Simon Nelson, T. R. Thompson, N. B. Henderson, Lars Hanson, Ole Ellingson, Orians Torblaa, Ole Dale, Erick Tronsen and Nels Oakland came. Anve Olsen, Arne Arneson, Torkel Gunderson and Torkel Halderson came in 1859, and Knudt Hagestad in 1860.

The first settlers in the French Creek district were Peter A. Hogden, John A. Hogden and Andrew A. Hogen, who came in 1859. Ole Gilbertson came in 1860, and the same year Gilbert Nelson and Hans Johnson moved into the South Beaver Creek region.

When a postoffice was established in the new settlement and John Cance received the appointment of postmaster, he turned to his native land for an appropriate name for the office. He was a great admirer of Scott's works, and in Marmion introduction to canto second appears the following couplet:

"The scenes are desert now and bare,
Where flourished once a forest fair,"

and again, further along in the same canto, mention is made of "pathless Ettrick." According to a foot note in Marmion, Ettrick Forest was a mountainous region anciently reserved for the pleasure of the royal chase. The game preserve was known far and wide throughout Scotland as Ettrick Forest or Ettrick. And so John Cance chose this ancient Scotch name for the new postoffice, and when the town was organized at the first town meeting held in Cance's residence April 17, 1863, the name Ettrick was again chosen.

Settlers poured into the valley rapidly during the next ten years, and though markets were distant, the slow, but sure, ox team hauled the farm produce that brought a harvest of gold to the hardy pioneers.

L. L. Grinde of Galesville many years afterward recalled many incidents of pioneer life in upper Beaver Creek, where he settled in the fall of 1860. Speaking of that period, he said, "Many of the early settlers lived in dug-outs—just holes hurrowed in the side of a hill or bank, and they remained in these cave dwellings until they were able to build log houses. Often two families would work together on a log structure and when it was completed would occupy it jointly until circumstances were such that another log cabin could be built. Markets at that time were La Crosse, Sparta and Trempealeau, and it took several days to make the round trip. What was called speculator land could be bought in the valley then for five

dollars an acre, and there was still considerable government land which could be taken by pre-emption."

Cornelius Lynch of Ettrick told of his first visit to Beaver Creek in 1859. "A number of settlers were living here then," said Lynch, "in their log houses, but a comparatively small amount of land was being cultivated. There was an abundance of game here at that time, such as deer, wolves and bear and the prairie chickens, pigeons, native pheasants and quail."

Nora Cullity, who was born in Galesville September 22, 1855, and reputed to be the first child born in Beaver Creek Valley related experiences of the early settlers. Our nearest neighbors, she said, were John Cance and Dan Kennedy, and neighbors were appreciated in the sparsely settled country, for it was sometimes necessary for a family to borrow flour sufficient to last until they could get to the distant market. It was customary to change work in the pioneer day, and people turned out to help at a house or barn raising or in threshing time the men generally helped each other and the women were as eager to lend a hand at the quilting bee.

"I have often heard mother tell of watching the wolves on the hills through the chinks in the log house as she sat knitting by the fireside, and their howl often broke the white silence of a wintry night with a startling suddenness."

What changes have taken place in this valley in the last sixty years. The dugout was soon obliterated and the log house that took its place, though it stood for years, has long since faded into oblivion and made way for the frame house, which in turn has been succeeded by the modern pressed brick residence. There are some of the old-time frame houses left in the valley, but no log cabin remains to mark the pioneer epoch—no log school house lingers by the way. No savage war cry has echoed from these hills since the days of Decorah, but of a summer evening one can hear the farmer boy calling the cattle home, and the wildest sound in all the broad valley is the bay of the watch dog.

The large valley, whose length is approximately thirty-five miles, has some of the most progressive farmers in the state. One may find plenty of farms with registered stock, and with modern dwelling houses that would grace the residence section of any city, and then the splendid barns and other farm buildings are in accord with the dwellings. And one will be surprised with the equipment, which is the best that money can obtain, and consists of electric lights, water works, sanitary feeding stalls, the silo and all of the very best and latest farm machinery.

What early settler ever dreamed of all these modern improvements? They had not even the shadow of a dream that approached the reality.

Looking over the names in this locality one is struck with varied human activities, remote and present, which they suggest: The trappers' paradise, Beaver Creek, so named on account of abundance of beaver in its waters in former times; French Creek and Frenchville, names that point back to the days of Rocque, the trapper and trader, who built a cabin near the present Galesville in 1820; Iduna, a name taken from one of the characters in Norse mythology; Ettrick, the ancient Scotch name, and Hegg, which brings to mind the fame of our state in the Civil War; Galesville, which

suggests the sturdy character of that man whose brain felt into the future; the sentinel peak, Decorah, named from an Indian chief with a corrupted French name.

Over a century ago the Winnebago and Dakotas divided hunting ground in the Beaver Creek territory. A century has fled since Decorah stood on his famous peak and watched his braves battle with the Chippewa, and sixty-one years have passed since John Cance came into the valley and built his log cabin, thatching the roof with wild grass so that it resembled the low thatched cottages of far away Scotland.

In the years to come no period of American history will be filled with more romance and hardy adventure than the heroic pioneer age, nor fraught with greater interest, for on this rough hewn foundation our national character has been developed.

Frenchville had its first store in 1867, when Iver Pederson and Ole Scow came from Coon Valley, La Crosse County, and opened a general mercantile establishment. In 1870 Mr. Pederson sold out to Mrs. Ole Scow and moved to Ettrick.

Ettrick had its first store in 1870, when Iver Pederson came here from Frenchville. Seven years later he laid out the village plot of Ettrick, and thenceforth this Beaver Creek settlement took its place among the progressive Trempealeau County villages. Mr. Pederson's enterprise and business capacity were soon revealed in the growth of the new village. As new methods were advanced he adopted them, and before many years had elapsed his business eye saw the need of a flour mill in Ettrick. With characteristic energy, he turned his attention to this new industry, and in 1884 completed a flouring mill having a capacity of seventy-five barrels per day. He was also instrumental in establishing the woolen mills and creamery at Ettrick and was one of the promoters of the Ettrick Bank, of which institution he was president.

Ettrick and the upper Beaver Creek country, though somewhat distant from a railway, has made its disadvantage its opportunity, and instead of hauling large quantities of grain to market, the dairy feature of farming was developed to a high degree, and produce from this source proved to be not only more profitable, but much more conveniently handled than bulky grain, potatoes and hay.

Galesville was founded by Judge George Gale, jurist, educator and author. Unable to enthuse the people of La Crosse with the idea of securing for that place an institution of higher learning, he determined to establish somewhere in the vicinity a university city. After looking about for a while, he selected a beautiful spot in the Beaver Creek most admirably suited to his purpose. Here, amid a picturesque stretch of hill and dale, lay two tables or plateaus, separated by a wide depression or flat, and watered by the meandering course of the creek, whose gorge-like bed seemed especially designed for the building of a dam and the creation of an artificial lake. The land was unsettled and cheap, and Judge Gale had no difficulty in securing 2,000 acres in the vicinity of his chosen site.

His duties at La Crosse prevented his moving at once to his new possessions, so in 1854 he sent Augustus H. Armstrong to start operations

in inaugurating the future village. Mr. Armstrong erected a residence on what is now known as the lower or courthouse table, and as soon as the weather of the late spring permitted, superintended the construction of a mill and dam, the stone and the timber being obtained from the gorge itself.

Dr. William M. Young, a brother of Mrs. Gale, arrived a short time later, followed by Michael Cullity, who erected a shanty on the lower table on the south side of what is now Allen street, between Ridge and Main streets. An interesting example of conditions in those days is seen in the fact that Dr. Young and Mr. Cullity started out at sunrise to obtain the material for this shanty, and before night had it ready for occupancy by the Cullity family. Ryland Parker opened a small store east of the southeast corner of the public square on the present site of the Bank of Galesville. He started a hotel on the corner of Main and Allen streets, lot 2, block 3, original plat. Captain Finch started a home northeast of the northeast corner of the public square, but later sold out to Captain Alexander A. Arnold. Work on the mill progressed slowly. The dam proved inadequate and the harnessed waters soon broke their bonds. Judge Gale therefore secured the services of William O. Clark as builder and Ebenezer Batchelder as millwright, and under their auspices the dam was repaired and sawing started. The grist mill, obtaining power from the same dam, was not put into operation until later.

While the lower table, now the business district, was thus the scene of pioneer activity in 1854, the upper table, now the residence district, was receiving its first settlers. Isaac Clark established his home near the west end of what is now the north side of Clark street, and John French located on the west side of what is now French street. A Mr. Crawford came in about the same time, accompanied by his sister, and lived here a while in their pioneer wagon. The sister was a strong-minded woman, a follower of Lucy Stone, and wore a bloomer suit instead of the conventional feminine attire, thus provoking much satirical and sometimes cruel comment on the part of the other settlers. A. R. Wyman erected a house on the upper table, but later moved onto a farm, leaving his original home to be used for many years as a boarding house for university students. The village was platted on both tables April 22, 1854.

The population of both tables probably did not number thirty people on New Year's Day, 1855. A few settlers arrived during that year. Early in 1856 J. W. Armstrong, then registrar of deeds, occupied a house on Ridge street; Ryland Parker was a merchant on the corner of Allen street and the square; Daniel McKeith had a primitive home; William P. Clark was engaged with Judge George Gale and Ebenezer Batchelder in building a grist mill and operating a sawmill; Franklin Gilbert resided down on the flats upon what afterward became Mill street; A. R. Wyman resided on Ridge street; Isaac Clark on Clark street, and J. C. French on French street. The hotel, of which Ellsworth was landlord, corner of Allen and Main streets, was finished, and in the full flush of success. The improvements completed included among others the courthouse and a schoolhouse. The schoolhouse was on the site of the present high school. The courthouse was still standing as a west part of the building north of the west corner of the public square.

Later in the year the village saw a considerable growth. J. W. Canterbury opened the first blacksmith shop. C. E. Perkins, afterward a prominent county officer, erected a residence on Free street; W. H. Wyman on Elizabeth street; George W. Swift on Clark street; R. B. Cooper on Ridge street, and G. H. Burnham on Allen street. C. C. Averill, Nathaniel Stearns, who had been to Galesville in 1855, and George W. Stearns located here, and the latter two moved into the Armstrong house on Allen street. The Rev. D. D. Van Slyke, organizer of the Methodist church in the village, also built a house. Captain Bartlet completed a house in which the postoffice was this year opened, with Dr. William M. Young as postmaster. Several of the pioneer shanties were replaced with frame houses.

With this beginning, the village experienced a quick growth, enjoying a heyday of prosperity until the close of the Civil War. The panic of 1857 apparently did not retard the progress. In 1859 an attempt was made to transfer some of the business from the lower to the upper table. J. M. Dodge built a store on Ridge street and soon sold to R. A. Odell, who conducted it for several years. This was the only store ever started on the upper table.

Work on Gale College, on the upper table, was started in 1858, the preparatory department opened in the courthouse in the summer of 1859 and the collegiate department opened in the fall of 1861. The first county fair was held in the fall of 1859. The Galesville Transcript was established in 1860.

During this period of prosperity many houses were erected, several church societies perfected their organizations, and the Rev. John Frothingham, first Presbyterian minister to be settled in the county, took charge of his work.

On June 2, 1866, the dam went out, and destruction and desolation marked the rush of waters. The hotel on the flat, put up in 1857; the saw and grist mills and other improvements were swept away in an hour, entailing a loss of not less than \$10,000. The next spring Webster Davis purchased the water power privileges and the debris left by the flood, and began the construction of a new dam and mill on the present site several rods above the old location.

Of Galesville, in the fall of 1870, Stephen Richmond has said:

"It was a beautiful, thriving and famed little city, nestling in the shade of the mighty cliff, which then as now, forms the east bank of Beaver Creek, under the shadow of which towered the granite walls of the Davis Flouring Mill, the whir and busy trundle of which bespoke an active industry. Galesville University stood near the western boundary or outskirts of the village after the fashion of southern colleges and was then a flourishing school under the presidency of Professor Gilliland and a corps of strong, active teachers. The public square in the center of the business part of the village on the lower table was also a reminder of southern cities and villages, on the north side of which stood the courthouse, the remainder of the square being built about by business places, all active with bustle and an air of successful local commerce, presenting a scene and fixing in my memory a very pleasant remembrance of that day, then bespeaking

the intelligence, business ability and financial foresight of a community of people able to cope successfully with all municipal problems. It was a sight not to be in all the years since effaced from my memory.

"On the day of which I try to sketch my mental picture, the public square, the streets, and along the bank of the creek were many teams from the country, and many of the active, hardy, intelligent farmers, their wives and children, who were tributary to Galesville, as their market place, were present. Good order was manifest everywhere, and the democracy of which so many have spoken and written was surely there. Away to the north spread in a sheen of golden ripple lay the Davis mill pond looking in all respects like a lake formed by the handiwork of Providence, while to the southwest could be seen the mighty bluffs and rugged hills in Minnesota ranged along the western side of the Mississippi River. Every line of local municipal activity now present in, and the boast of modern days, appeared to be actively and intelligently represented. The ragged edge of the frontier town and the far-western outpost were absent, and there was an air of permanency, tradition and stability usually lacking in new towns."

Trempealeau Prairie lies in the southern part of Trempealeau County, about fifteen miles long and from three to five miles wide. Over this prairie all the early settlers of the county hauled their grain to market. There were three main routes from the Trempealeau Valley after the ridge was crossed. The Beaver Creek Valley and the Tamarack Valley route joins at Centerville, then called Martin's Corners. The Pine Creek route reached the prairie at Wright's Corners. After the hills, sloughs and log ways were passed, the early settlers were assured of a safe, steady passage to Trempealeau, situated on the south edge of the prairie on the Mississippi River, then the great highway of commerce.

Settlers began to locate on the prairie surrounding Trempealeau at an early date. Their story has been told in connection with the history of the village. Not long afterward a populous settlement sprang up at what is known as West Prairie. The first permanent settler on West Prairie was Hollister Wright, who located in 1853 at what was afterward known as Wright's Corners. He bought out an earlier claimant who had selected a location and planted potatoes. It is said that Wright was walking over the prairie, met a man digging potatoes, and bought him out after a five-minute conversation. In 1854 came W. A. Cram, D. A. Segar, O. Whitcomb and William Lee. These four, with Wright, all had their crops harvested when D. O. Van Slyke arrived in November of that year.

About 1855 settlers came in large numbers, mostly in wagon trains drawn by oxen. They crossed Black River at McGilvray's Ferry on a flat boat propelled by poles and held in place by a rope stretched from one bank to the other. The oxen were often the cause of a great deal of trouble, for, after being turned loose on the prairie at night to feed, it often took all the forenoon to round them up ready to move on.

On the east bank of the Trempealeau settled Isaac Nash, who, with his large family, were well adapted to a new country, because they were versed in the use of the natural resources of the land. From the woods they secured logs for a house and fuel for their stove, while the river

abounded in fish and the land in small game. With the family came Jacob Holbrook, also a man of resource. With an ax and auger he could fashion a bob-sled or an ax-yoke. He operated the first mill and made sorgum syrup.

Among the first settlers were Avery Wellington (he was called "Duke," and the street on which he lived bears that name), William Burns, Seba Atwood and Amos Whiting, educator and leader in public affairs. One of the interesting characters of the time was Dow Ladd, a down-east Yankee, who served as justice of the peace. He was full of whims, and a bitter feud existed between him and the boys of the neighborhood, who often raided his melon patch and annoyed him in other ways.

John Gillies and family, Alex Stevens and family, and John and George Brewin arrived in June, 1855, and settled on South Prairie. No lumber could be obtained at Trempealeau, and John Gillies and Alex McGilvray went to Douglass Mill, near Melrose, and rafted timber down to McGilvray's Ferry, whence it was carted to the prairie.

Many others came this year and the years immediately following, and the prairie was soon thickly settled.

The early settlers were for the most part New Englanders, and, coming from a hilly and rocky country, were attracted by the easy turning of the soil and its quick production.

Often on Sunday evenings the people gathered at some home for kindly greeting and mutual comfort. By common impulse their thoughts turned to far-off New England, with its religious atmosphere, and as their memories lingered on the familiar scenes and places of the past, there floated out on the evening air the hymns and songs of other days—to the boys and girls evenings never to be forgotten.

The first schoolhouse on what is known as West Prairie was built east of the present brick structure as the result of the work of Amos Whiting. The building was later replaced on the present site by a large building which more recently gave place to the brick structure. A Union Sunday school has been held there almost continuously since 1858.

In 1863 a cemetery was laid out on the corner of the farm of I. D. Carhart, under the direction of Amos Whiting, whose daughter was the first to be buried there. The land was given by Mr. Carhart. The cemetery in charge of an association, has been several times enlarged and is now permanently fenced. An artistic pagoda has been erected and a permanent fund provided for its maintenance.

From Trempealeau Prairie the settlers gradually penetrated the Little and Big Tamarack, and slowly working up that valley, settled in Holcomb Cooley, Thompson Valley, Norway Cooley, and in numerous other branching cooleys and valleys.

Dodge was settled in the middle fifties from Trempealeau, Trempealeau Prairie and the Tamarack Valley. The portion first settled was that lying tributary to Tamarack Valley and that lying in the Trempealeau River flats and small cooleys adjacent to West Prairie. In 1855 Martin Whistler crossed Whistler Pass and settled in the Pine Creek Valley, and within a year Ichabod Wood had settled in section 14. Other early English and American settlers in the vicinity of Whistler Pass were John L. Sanderson,

Almon A. Johnson, Joseph Utter and Charles Keith. The first Polish settler in Dodge was Michael Chisin, of Winona, who, in the spring of 1862, settled on the abandoned claim of John Banner.

It was probably about 1862 when the Polish people began to settle in Pine Creek. They were induced to locate here by John Schmangle, a man who spoke English, German and Polish. The first six families were those of Paul Libera, Paul Leishman, Paul Rudnick, Joseph Zabrisky, Anton Zabrisky and Felix Kamarowski. These Polish families were living in the valley when Mathias Brom, a native of Bohemia, settled there in 1863.

In 1863 there were no improved roads into Pine Creek. The market points were Trempealeau Village and Fountain City all the year around, and Winona when the river was frozen. With no improved road over the ridge communication with Arcadia was most difficult.

A mill was built on Pine Creek in the sixties. It was washed out by a flood in 1872 and was not rebuilt.

The first German settler in the Trempealeau Valley in Dodge township was George F. Stafin, who settled in section 11, east of the present village, on March 10, 1857. About the same time came Casper Walwand, the first settler in the immediate vicinity of the present village.

Above Dodge one of the first settlers was John Latsch, afterward a prominent wholesale grocer of Winona. He came here in 1856 and settled near a creek at the mouth of the valley that now bears his name. In 1865 Frank Pellowski settled in the same valley, and in the next five years there arrived so many settlers from Hungary that the valley came to be called Hungary Valley. The name of Latsch Valley is being gradually resumed, especially for that part of the valley near its mouth.

Arcadia, the first settlement in the Trempealeau Valley above Trempealeau Prairie, had its beginning in 1855. Soon after the Indians relinquished their rights to this region, in 1837, James Reed, the first permanent settler of Trempealeau County, made several journeys up the Trempealeau River in search of furs. The Bunnells, Willard B. and Lafayette H., came to Trempealeau in 1842. Willard B. Bunnell hunted and trapped on some of the tributaries of the Trempealeau in the autumn of the same year, naming Elk and Pigeon creeks because of his successful hunts thereupon. In the autumn of 1843 the two brothers Bunnell, in company with Thomas A. Holmes and William Smothers, ascended the Trempealeau as far as the present village of Independence, where the party camped and spent several days hunting elk in the surrounding country.

The valley had been a favorite hunting ground of the Indians long before the coming of white hunters, and tradition concerns itself with some of the principal landmarks, such as Barn Bluff; but the occasional hunters and trappers who penetrated into the interior, enjoying their wild life of adventure, had no purpose to settle the country, and little dreamed the low marshy grounds along the Trempealeau River would ever afford a site for a village such as Arcadia is at the present day.

When the first settlers arrived at Arcadia they found a defense of breastworks, proving that some time soldiers had visited the place. The apparent age of the excavations at that time indicated they had been built

several years before. Julius Hensel, a veteran of the War of Secession and an early settler in Arcadia, reports that the Indians claimed that a company of soldiers came up the valley shortly after the Black Hawk War, and near the present village of Arcadia met a band of Indians. No hostilities occurred, but the soldiers deemed it prudent to be prepared in case any evidence of enmity on the part of the tribesmen should be shown, and therefore erected breastworks. Where the soldiers were going or what their mission may have been has never been ascertained, and any effort to gain more information concerning their movements has thus far been futile.

The first permanent settlement of Arcadia came about in the autumn of 1855, when four men came up from southern Wisconsin by way of La Crosse, with a drove of cattle. They crossed the Black River at McGilvray's Ferry and made their way across country to Fountain City. The few people they met had much to say of the Trempealeau Valley, a region as yet little frequented except by hunters and trappers.

These men were Collins Bishop, George Dewey, George Shelley and James Broughton. Having reached Fountain City and disposed of their stock, they started out one bright autumn morning to see for themselves whether the Trempealeau Valley was a suitable location for their future homes, for they were actuated by no other motive than home-building.

They had lived for several years previous to this time in Dodge County, where the stone was so numerous in the fields that the only sales of land were made when the snow was deep. They spent so much time in looking over the country as they came along that they only got as far as George Cowie's that day, where they stayed all night, and the next morning resumed their journey to the river. Arriving there, they drew cuts to see who should cross and find a suitable fording place. This was soon found, and they crossed the river near the site of the present bridge. For several years all the travel to Fountain City was through this ford.

After passing through the river they followed an Indian trail east to the table land over nearly the same ground now occupied by Main street. Upon reaching the hill they looked around for some mark to indicate a section corner, and about a half mile due east from there saw two burr oak trees standing close together.

These trees were at that time about six inches in diameter at their base, and proved to be witness trees, or, as the pioneers sometimes called them, "bearing trees," so the settlers had no difficulty in establishing section lines with these for a starting point. They located four homesteads, now owned by W. E. Bishop, George Schmidt, J. I. Dewey and M. N. Lehnerts, respectively.

The settlers returned to Mr. Cowie's for the night, and the next day came back and completed their preparations for entering the land, and picked out building spots. They were well satisfied with the appearance of the soil, and while the distant hillsides were covered with brush through which a team could make its way anywhere, they did not doubt that when prairie fires were no longer allowed to run, there would be a sufficient growth of timber for all their needs. The manner of choosing those homesteads was so unique that a brief mention may be of interest.

They agreed to draw cuts for choice of quarter-sections, and the man who had first choice paid \$100 into a common fund, the second paid \$90, the third \$75, and the fourth \$60, and then the whole amount was divided equally between them.

They returned to Fountain City, and late the same autumn Collins Bishop hired James Broughton and a Mr. Davis to build a house on his land. They erected this near the bearing trees, using logs mostly, and boards for the roof. This was the first house built in Arcadia, and some of the boards are still doing service in a barn on the place, built a few years later.

One of the trees was used for firewood the following winter when the snow fell to the depth of four feet on the level, but the other still stands, having now a circumference of twelve feet at its base, and is a fitting emblem of the lives and character of the pioneers who first reposed beneath its branches.

The next spring Collins Bishop took possession of his new home and broke several acres of land, which he planted to corn and potatoes.

In 1856 the settlers petitioned the county board that Preston township be divided and a new town formed. Then it became necessary to decide upon a name. Hitherto the neighborhood had been known either as Bishop's Settlement, in honor of its founder, or as Barntown, on account of the number of barns erected by the early settlers. The petition regarding the formation of a new town was granted, and so, one winter day, the pioneer neighbors met at Bishop's cabin to name the town. The families represented were those of James Broughton, George Shelly, David Bishop, Collins Bishop, Mrs. Annie B. Bishop, Jessie Penny and Noah D. Comstock. To the women was accorded the privilege of selecting the name. Mrs. David Bishop, afterward Mrs. Charles Mercer, offered the name of Arcadia, which had been suggested by Noah D. Comstock.

Mr. Comstock was a man of varied experience and possessed a broad and practical mind. He had crossed the continent in quest of gold in the excitement of the days of "Forty-Nine," but he saw in the quiet valleys of Arcadia a richer promise of gold than in the mountain regions of California. As he gazed on the numerous ranges of hills and the nestling valleys, he was thrilled with the grandeur of the scene. Its pastoral beauty appealed to him, and he saw the agricultural possibilities of the rough land and thought of the rugged mountain region in faraway Greece, the old home of the Arcadian peasants, who led a life of simple contentment amidst their wild surroundings. From Mr. Bishop's window the pioneers looked out on the New Arcadia, and on their way homeward admired with a new pleasure the scenes of their daily life. Rising above the low range of hills that skirt the western horizon was "Barn Bluff," its clear-cut sides white with snow and with the little round peak contrasting sharply with the smooth contour of the distant hills. Toward the southeast rose "Noah's Bluff," and in every direction were ranges of hills encircling the lower basin, where stood the new-born town. And in among those hills were valleys, indented nooks and cooleys, with here and there a flat table land. Winding along among the low bushy bottom lands was the Trempealeau

River, draining the broad fertile valley that as yet was scarcely disturbed by the hand of man.

Until this time it had been known as Bishop's Settlement. In 1857 Daniel C. Dewey and Dr. I. A. Briggs moved to Arcadia. The good doctor not only attended to his medical practice, but found time to cultivate more or less land, and one summer, a few years later, it was noised around that he had a fine watermelon patch. They were not all old settlers in Arcadia by this time, and some of the young settlers started out one pleasant afternoon to investigate the truth of the report, supposing the doctor to be far away. They had no difficulty in finding the melons, but, unless all signs failed, there were no ripe ones. Just at the moment when they were busiest thumping on the melons and hunting for one that might do, they were startled by a slight sound from the fence alongside the patch. They looked up to see the doctor's blue eyes beaming on them in kindly humor as he said, "Well, well, boys, better wait till they are a little riper."

In the spring of 1857 George Shelley began keeping store at his home on the present site of the George Schmidt residence. The first town meeting was held this spring, and Collins Bishop was elected chairman. The school system of Arcadia dates back to 1857 when District No. 1 of the town of Arcadia was established and Sarah MacMaster installed as teacher. The schoolhouse, which afterwards occupied three or four different sites and was used in turn as courthouse, printing office, feed mill and dwelling house, was originally located just across the street from John Danuser's residence in East Arcadia. It was built by James Warren, with lumber rafted down the river to Fountain City and hauled from there with ox teams. But such lumber can scarcely be found today.

Two-by-fours were two inches by four inches, and generally a little more, and the builders had the privilege of throwing out any board found having a knot in it. The next year Albro C. Matterson started a blacksmith shop, and near it stood a frame for shoeing oxen.

In 1860 Dr. Briggs and David Massuere undertook to build a flouring mill, but on account of the Civil War breaking out, were unable to complete it until five years later. In the meantime it was used as a residence until 1865, when the machinery was installed, and the settlers were no longer obliged to make the long trips to Trempealeau or Pickwick for flour. The same year Gay T. Storm erected a store with lumber hauled from Trempealeau, and two or three years later built a brick store building, which still stands. That fall D. C. Dewey, with Dr. Isaac Briggs, opened a store at Dewey's Corners, now called Old Arcadia.

Up to the outbreak of the war the arrivals, while not by any means unusually large, were fairly numerous and were composed of a superior class. With the advent of that calamity immigration entirely ceased. From 1860 to 1867 times were dull and little improvement of any kind was undertaken. During the war the Federal Congress passed a Homestead Bill that attracted a large foreign element which was distributed over the country tributary to the village, and furnished the means of developing the agricultural resources of the vicinity to a wonderful extent. From 1867 times began to improve, and considerable progress was made in all lines, increasing

with each year and culminating in 1873 with the completion of the Green Bay & Minnesota Railroad. The lower town was built up at once, and many buildings from the upper town or "Old Arcadia" were removed to the new location.

In looking over the Arcadia of today, we see the dreams of the pioneers more than realized. Since the day they waded the river and looked for the first time on the Trempealeau Valley, Arcadia has changed from a favorite hunting ground of the Indian to a productive agricultural land; from the home of wild fowl to a populous community, where instead of hills and valleys in a wild state of nature, we have all the evidences of an advanced civilization which is doing its part to "make two blades of grass grow where one grew before."

Bishop's Settlement became the center for travelers looking for land, and in time the valleys leading into Trempealeau Valley received their first settlers.

Burnside was first settled in 1856. Located as it was at the mouth of Elk Creek (Pleasant) Valley, it was a natural center, and its bottom lands near the junction of Elk Creek and Trempealeau River presented an attractive site. The first settlers were members of the Markham family. The story is told in full elsewhere.

Hale. The first settler in Pleasant valley above Burnside was George Hale, the pioneer of the township that now bears his name. He came in 1858 and settled nine miles up Elk Creek. Other early families in Hale were: Allen, Barry, Bruce, Christianson, Donley, Ellis, Heath, Mallery, Maloney, Lockman, Michaels, McFarlin, Olson, Scott, Spaulding, Lally, Smith, Stewart, Tull, Teller, Tallman, Van Tassel and Weeks.

Chimney Rock Township, owing to the nature of its surface was not settled until after the other townships in the county. The first permanent settler was Daniel Borst, who brought his family here in 1865. About the same time Hans Herbjornson settled in Bennett Valley. He was followed by Austin Gunderson, Halvor Austinson, Aslak Torgerson and Gudmund Knudson, all of whom settled in the same valley. A few years later there came an influx of Scandinavian settlers, until the township is now almost entirely peopled by that nationality.

Lincoln Township was settled in 1856 by men who came down the Trempealeau Valley from older parts of the state, men for the most part of English or New England birth. The first were Deacon Alvah Wood, Moses Ingalls and his two sons, Moses D. and Francis W., and Hiram and Albert Stratton.

The Galesville Transcript of September 28, 1860, describes a visit to these pioneers. The first house encountered in the valley after coming up over the ridge from French Creek was that of Henry Lake, the pioneer of Lake Cooley. Lake had arrived from Walworth County New York, in 1855 with 100 head of cattle. In 1860 he already had a large farm, with 130 acres of small grain, 80 acres of clover and 14 acres of peas. He had adopted the plan of sowing timothy with his small grain and thus had pasturage for his stock just at the time the prairie grass failed in the fall. In section 7, Preston, was S. S. Rice, who likewise had a fine farm.

Then came the farms of James Hopkins and Wessel Lowe, in sections 6 and 7, Preston. William Van Sickle was near-by in section 31, Preston. D. W. Wade was in section 36, Lincoln Township. Next down the Trempealeau Valley, in section 25, Lincoln, was Deacon Alvah Wood, upon whose farm was one of the first pieces of land cultivated in this region. A few farms had been opened between the Deacon Wood farm and the home of A. L. Sherwood, in section 21. Mr. Sherwood, whose home was on the bank of the Trempealeau, had beautified his place with a fine lawn shaded with many native trees. Not far away was Hiram Stratton, in section 15, and E. F. Wade, in section 28. Near-by, too, was the home of Frank W. and Moses D. Ingalls and their venerable father, Rev. Moses Ingalls. On the farm was a good field of sorghum, a good acreage of potatoes, a field of large onions, and many roses and other flowers. The people of the valley were doing their trading at Sparta, owing to the fact that there was no good wagon road to Galesville, Trempealeau, La Crosse or Fountain City. A little later, when the roads were improved, Trempealeau became the shipping and trading point for these pioneers.

Whitehall was started in 1860 or 1861 in the locality now known as Old Whitehall, about a mile from the present village, by Ole Knudtson. His biography in the custody of the Trempealeau County Historical Society states that he was born in Norway in 1819, came to Chicago in 1844, located at Woodstock, McHenry County, Illinois, four months later, and in 1859 settled at Mineral Springs in Jackson County. He came to Whitehall June 25, 1860, and opened a hotel and blacksmith shop.

The proprietors of the town site were Benjamin Wing and — Georges. The plat was recorded May 23, 1862.

Soon after the village was started some 200 Indians camped along the flats in the vicinity, and Georges did a flourishing business selling them whiskey. To prevent this, Mr. Knudtson bought him out, on condition that he leave the region.

Of the origin of Whitehall, the Galesville Transcript of September 13, 1861, says:

“The people of Trempealeau Valley in the vicinity of Pigeon Valley have long felt the need of a market for their wheat and a business center in their midst. To this end they are now engaged in erecting a new village and making the waters of the Trempealeau River serviceable in carrying off their produce to the Mississippi. Last week a meeting was called by the citizens to enquire into the practicability of making use of the river for flatboats, and the opinion was confidently expressed by those acquainted with the stream that by laying out \$1,000 in removing obstructions, boats carrying from 15 to 30 tons could be made to run the river. A committee of three was appointed to examine the river and report. If their report is favorable, it is proposed to organize a company, obtain a charter, and raise funds for clearing the channel.

“The site of the new town (which has received the name of Whitehall) is on the bank of Pigeon Creek, one half mile from its confluence with the Trempealeau. As respects its situation for building a town, it cannot be

surpassed. It contains within its limits an excellent waterpower. Arrangements are to be made for the erection of a grist mill early next season.

"Mr. Knudtson has nearly completed his new dwelling—the first in the place. He is a blacksmith by trade, and is now situated to look after the wants of the people in this line. Messrs. Wing and Georges, proprietors of the town site, are building a store. It will be completed and filled with goods before winter. They have the assurance that several families will come to settle in the place next spring. They are selling lots on very reasonable terms to those who intend to build on them."

Pigeon Township lies largely in Pigeon Valley, branching from the Trempealeau Valley near Whitehall. It was first settled about 1860 or 1861 by Edwin Cummings, who located in section 19. Joshua D. Southworth was the second. In 1863 came Phineas Wright, who opened the mill at Coral City. At this point a flourishing village sprang up.

The vanguard of the sturdy Scandinavian element which now peoples the valley arrived in 1864 in the persons of Ole Anderson Aga and Hans Ole Nielson, who came with ox teams from Dane County.

Preston Township was settled in 1855. There were two distinct groups, one group consisting of men of some means from the Eastern States, and the other group consisting of a Scandinavian colony from older Wisconsin counties. Among the Americans were Ebenezer Thurston, Robert Thompson, E. M. Reynolds, John B. Dunning, Simon S. Rice, John Hopkins and others. Richard Porter, by some believed to have been the first settler in the township, died a few weeks after his arrival, before his cabin was erected, as a result, it is said, of an encounter with a band of wolves. In the Scandinavian colony were Gullick Olson, Sivert Johnson, Lars Olson, Bjorgo Olson, Sigbjurne Ellickson, Peder Pederson, Gullick A. Storlee, Bengt Danielson, Nels Halverson, Jacob Tenneson and others. Family traditions and family Bibles differ considerably as to the date of the arrival of these pioneers. Some place Gullick Olson's arrival the year previous, and give him the credit of being the first settler. Others declare that Sivert Johnson and not Gullick Olson was the one who arrived in 1854.

Albion, lying in the Beef River Valley, was settled in 1856, in which year William Moon, Burden Cross, David Chase and A. U. Gibson arrived with their families. Moon, Cross and Chase settled in the eastern part of the township, south of the Beef River, in the vicinity of what afterward was known as Hamlin. Gibson settled some three miles back from the river in the western part of the township adjoining what afterward became the village of Norden. Preparations were at once made for the coming winter. On July 3 Moon broke the virgin soil, put in potatoes the following day, and in the fall gathered a fair quantity, the first crop in the township.

The experience of the Gibsons is a typical one. The family arrived October 7, 1856, from Argyle, Lafayette County, where Mr. Gibson had settled in 1839, and where he had gained a thorough knowledge of coping with the difficulties of pioneer life. Upon coming to Albion with their yoke of oxen, their goods and their stock, the family set to work erecting a home. It was made of tamarack logs, chinked on the inside with moss from near-by swamps and sodded over from the ground up. There was no floor and no

windows, and only one room. A little wild grass was cut for hay, but after being dried proved inadequate for feeding purposes. While planning their life here the Gibsons had shipped a great quantity of flour, pork, beans and other provisions from Galena to Fountain City. But before these provisions could be moved to the cabin home the winter came on, a winter more severe than has since been experienced. Snow started to fall on November 7, 1856, and continued for three days and three nights. When the calm came at last the snow lay seven feet deep on the level and was heaped in great drifts against the hillsides and in the valleys.

The Gibsons, thus shut off from the rest of the world, were miles from their neighbors. To the north, five miles in Eau Claire County, was the Gunn family. To the west, in Buffalo County, Mondovi was seven miles away, and the family of George Rosman was the only one to be found on the trail. Sam Cook, of Dover, ten miles away, was the nearest neighbor to the south. Five miles to the east were the three families at Hamlin.

The Gibson family nearly starved, and all of their stock except the oxen died. The family was kept alive by purchasing a few bushels of seed wheat from the Moon family at Hamlin, carting it five miles over the crust on a hand-sled, and grinding it in a coffee-mill to make coarse flour for bread. A little hay was secured from the same source and transported in the same way. In March, 1857, a child was born to the Moon family. In order to be in attendance, Mrs. Gibson had her two sons take her over the snow five miles on the hand sled, which on the return trip was utilized for carrying a load of hay for the oxen.

An interesting story is told of De Lorma Gibson, a fourteen-year-old boy, and William Morton, a member of the Gibson household. In March, 1857, the man and the boy were hunting, when they came across some bear tracks. Following the dog along the trail, they encountered an unusually large black bear. The man lost his courage, but the plucky boy took the gun, and with one shot broke the bear's neck and cut his throat. With the assistance of Mr. and Mrs. John Gibson, who were summoned, the bear was taken home, where he furnished food for many days to come.

When spring came, Moon, discouraged at the privations of the winter, determined to leave the county. He accordingly traded his 400-acre claim at Hamlin for an 80-acre tract in Dane County, on which a mortgage of \$500 had been placed. Russell Bowers, with whom he traded, arrived in Albion toward the end of June, 1857. His sons are still in the township. At the Bowers home the Hamlin postoffice was established.

Cross, after remaining a few years, became discouraged, and returned to Dane County, from whence he came. Chase enlisted in the Civil War and was killed. Gibson spent the remainder of his life in this vicinity. He lives in history as the one who gave the township its name, Albion, the ancient title of Britain, a word for which he had a great fondness.

M. B. Gibson, a son of A. U., is now the sole authority on early Albion history. He arrived June 9, 1857, bringing the remainder of the family belongings, together with some cattle and a pig. The trip of 200 miles was made with a team of horses, the first horses owned in the township. A stray pig, also the first of his kind in the township, followed the team.

all the way, arrived in good condition, and furnished the family with pork the following winter. A flag which Mr. Gibson brought with him was hoisted near Norden July 4, 1857, probably the first time that the stars and stripes had been flung to the breeze in Beef River Valley.

Soon after the arrival of M. B. Gibson a trip was made to Fountain City for the provisions which had reached there the previous autumn. This food did not last to harvest, so later another trip to Fountain City was made. There corn was obtained. But no milling facilities, so a long trip had to be made to Eau Claire, to have the corn ground into meal. On this meal, with such wild game as deer, elk, bear and rabbit, the family subsisted. Tea, coffee and sugar were almost unknown luxuries. A beverage which was used as a substitute for coffee was made from parched corn and toasted bread crusts. After a few years sugar and syrup were obtained by tapping the trees on the Chippewa River, a considerable distance away.

In 1857 the crops were good, though only a small acreage was planted, and the agricultural equipment was meager. Owing to the lateness of the arrival of the Bowers, the Gibson family rented the 20 acres which Moore had broken, and in the fall the first corn grown in the township was harvested from this tract. The first wheat was raised this year by Barden Cross. The method of threshing was most primitive. A wide circle of ground was cleared, several shocks of wheat laid thereon, and the oxen driven back and forth over it until the grain was all threshed out. The first threshing machine in the neighborhood was a two-horse tread-power owned by George Cole, near Augusta.

An interesting feature of pioneer life was the presence of the Indians in 1857. A band of Sioux and Winnebago camped a short distance below Norden. One day they killed three elk on Beef River. Bear, wolf, deer and elk were then plentiful, and an elk was killed by Russell Bowers as late as 1865. In the fall of 1857 the Indians, about 100 in number, moved to a site just below the present village of Eleva. From there they had trails all over the country, through the most accessible, and over the most convenient crossings of the rivers and creeks. These trails remained for many years thereafter.

The Indians were peaceable and friendly and often called at the Gibson home, where they were never turned away unfed.

Unity Township was not settled until after the two townships on either side. A number of claims were taken in 1856, but so far as is known, none of the claimants were living here at that time. Nearly all the first settlers have moved away. Probably the first two settlers were Dennis Lawler, who settled south of the Buffalo River in the eastern part of the township, and P. B. Williams, who settled in the central part of the township and had land on both sides of the river. These settlers came about 1859. It was not until 1870 that the real influx of settlement came to this township. Among the pioneers may be mentioned Esten Johnson, Ole E. Johnson, Engebret Pederson, Anders Larson, Even Evenson, Martin E. Rognlien, Simon Rise, John Rise, Ole Svendson, Simon Olson, Peder Inislund, Ole Dahl, Paul Christopherson, Nels Kleven, Peder H. Bjornstad, Ole Thomasgaard, John Christianson, Hans Paulson, Martin Olson and Andrew Call.

Sumner was settled in 1856 in the vicinity of the present village of Osseo. The first settlers were E. M. Sexton and W. A. Woodward. A year later a postoffice was established at Beef River Station, a mile from the present village, and George Silkworth appointed postmaster. The present village had its beginning in 1858, when W. H. and C. G. Thomas built and operated the first store. Excellent articles on the subject are found elsewhere in this volume.

Land Office Records. The land office records are of but little value in determining the names of the early settlers. Many people filed on land which they had never seen and which they never occupied, others who were early settlers filed on land a year or more before their arrival, while on the other hand there were those who did not file until they had occupied their land for a considerable period. The list is, however, here appended, as it gives the names of the first land claimants, resident and otherwise, of the various townships in Trempealeau County.

Township 18, range 7. 1852—Feb. 21, Charles F. Legate, 5. 1853—Dec. 29, Charles G. Hanscome, 6, 5. 1854—Aug. 10, Richard Grant, 4.

Township 19, range 7. 1852—June 28, Henry A. Wiltse, 26, 25. 1853—Dec. 13, John Irvine, 30; Dec. 23, William B. Hanscome, 31, 32; July 22, William W. Patrick, Jr., 31. 1854—Oct. 25, Dan Kennedy, Jr., 7; Oct. 25, Michael Cullity, 7; June 16, Frederick Hearth, 19, 30; March 7, Richard Bibby, 27; July 22, Christian Niemeier, 28; Aug. 7, Julius Edwards, 29; July 17, Jacob Pass, 30, 31; July 22, David Grant, 31, 32, 34; Feb. 23, William Patrick, Jr., 31; July 29, Charles V. Spiegel, 32; July 29, John Stellpflug, 33.

Township 20, range 7. 1855—Aug. 6, Robert Thompson, 6; July 18, Richard Porter, 6; Nov. 22, Edward W. Estabrook, 10, 15; July 19, Mary W. Woodward, 14; Aug. 11, George Gale, 14; Sept. 4, Charles Pike, 17, 20, 29; June 14, George B. Newell, 17, 20; June 14, Thomas Wall, 19, 20, 29, 30; Oct. 10, Nathaniel Stearns, 30; July 19, William G. Bliss, 30; Nov. 1, Thomas H. Judd, 31; May 10, Albert J. Cary, 31; May 18, Franz Hoepfner, 32. 1856—June 4, George Gale, 11, 13, 14, 15; April 3, Mary N. Woodward, 13; May 26, William H. Wyman, 30; Jan. 2, Theo. Simonds, 31; Dec. 25, Thomas E. Woods, 1; Aug. 8, Franz Hoepfner, 32.

Township 21, range 7. 1854—Oct. 30, Bircher Olson, 13. 1855—June 29, Lars Olsen, 1; June 19, Syver Johnson, 1, 12; Nov. 14, Peder Pederson, 1, 12; Aug. 17, Henry H. Steinburg, 7; June 27, Simon S. Rice, 7; June 21, George Coburn, 7; June 21, John J. Scrafford, 7, 8; July 19, Mary A. Woodward, 7, 18; Dec. 17, Albe Upham, 7, 15, 31; Sept. 14, Ebenezer Thurston, 8, 9, 17, 31; June 14, Sam A. Beckman, 11, 12; Aug. 3, Robert Thompson, 11, 15; June 11, Julius Edwards, 12; April 14, Gullick Olson Storlee, 13; May 23, Birchard Olsen, 13; Nov. 14, Bert Danielson, 13; Oct. 29, Ninian E. Primm, 13; Sept. 19, William H. Conger, 14, 20, 21, 23, 28, 29; April 14, Niels Halverson, 14; April 14, Jacob Tennerson, 14, 23; Oct. 30, Hiram Walker, 14, 15, 23, 24; Aug. 18, John Fitch, 14; July 2, Richard Porter, 15, 22; Aug. 24, Ann Porter, 15; June 27, Chester Beswick, 17; Sept. 17, Lysander P. Armstrong, 17, 20, 28, 31, 32; Aug. 13, Frederick A. Moore, 17; Aug. 8, Robert A. Lake, 18, 19, 21, 22, 28, 30; Nov. 15, Edwin M. Jones, 18; Oct. 1, George W. Mallory, 20, 21; June 27, Susan H. Reynolds,

21, 32; Sept. 18, Daniel Webster, 22; Nov. 7, Alex L. Collins, 24; April 16, Romanzo Bunn, 28.

Township 22, range 7. 1855—April 5, Fred Boardman, 10; July 12, Julius Edwards, 13; Aug. 8, Dougald O. Cameron, 18; Nov. 13, Bent Pederson, 23; May 18, Gunder Anderson, 23, 25; May 23, Niels Halverson, 24; June 19, Lars Olson, 24; Feb. 6, Cornelius Griswold, 29; Nov. 13, Ransom Steel, 30; June 26, Dan Williams, 36. 1856—May 30, William B. Winston, 3; June 3, George Gale, 3; May 20, William H. Bailey, 3; May 30, Stephen T. Owen, 4, 9; April 23, Sam D. Hastings, 8, 9; May 2, John Larson, 8; May 31, William C. Butts, 9; April 19, Thomas Williams, 17, 18, 19; April 26, Richard C. Washburn, 18; May 20, Francis W. Newland, 18; June 3, George Gale, 19; April 3, Mary N. Woodward, 29; May 30, Leander G. Merrill, 30, 31; April 10, Cyrus H. Hine, 31; May 27, William H. H. Bailey, 36; May 18, Allen Overbaugh, 36.

Township 23, range 7. 1855—Dec. 12, Ezra L. Northup, 1; Dec. 12, George W. Parker, 1. 1856—May 31, Stephen T. Owen, 25; May 30, W. E. Fales, 25, 26, 34, 36; May 29, George Gale, 34, 35; May 30, William B. Winston, 34, 35. 1858—April 6, Chester Stoddard, 8; April 5, George Moyer, 20; April 5, William Moyer, 20; April 5, John M. Jones, 20; April 9, Lucius M. Sheldon, 22, 36; April 5, Ruth Hamilton, 26; April 5, Celinda A. Bliss, 26; April 5, Loren L. Knox, 26; April 16, Henry D. Aglesworth, 28.

Township 24, range 7. 1855—April 15, Charles W. McCormick and J. Rily, 1; Nov. 15, Charles McCormick, 1; Dec. 12, Ezra Northup, 1, 2; Dec. 5, Hiram Hill, 1; Dec. 12, Garwood Green, 2; Dec. 12, William Starr, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11; Nov. 20, Mortimer C. Caskey, 3, 10; Dec. 12, George W. Parker, 14, 15. 1856—Jan. 8, Andrew McCorkle, 1, 9, 10; Jan. 8, Ebenezer M. Saxton, 1, 2, 21; Jan. 23, Charles W. McCormick, 1; Jan. 8, Nathaniel W. Dean, 1, 4, 7, 9; Jan. 15, William E. Keafer, 2, 8; Jan. 19, Garwood Green, 2; Feb. 22, Andrew Billings, 2; April 26, Levi C. Fay and Prosper Merrill, 3, 10, 11; Jan. 11, Robert B. Griswold, 3; April 11, Jeremiah D. Jones, 3; May 24, William H. Chapman, 7; June 4, M. L. Strickland, 7; June 4, Harvey Cooney, 8; June 4, John Dunning, 8, 10, 15; Jan. 8, Linda Linsdale, 10; April 21, Charles F. Taggart, 10; April 15, Lorenzo and Jackson McCauley, 12; April 23, Thomas A. Tomlinson, 13, 14; April 23, Cyrus Woodman, 13; June 3, Edward L. Pierce, 14; April 9, Ezra L. Northup, 15; May 8, David Lewis, 17; May 8, Rowland Rice, 17, 20; June 2, Seth Baker, 20; May 7, William Morgan, 20.

Township 18, range 8. 1851—Nov. 10, Charlotte Vose, 1. 1852—Dec. 10, William J. Barney, 5; March 9, Stephen Hopkinson, 5, 6; March 9, Benning Hooper, 5, 6; March 9, Jacob Meyers, 6; Nov. 30, Thomas Smith, 7; June 26, Barnabus Snow, 7; Dec. 30, Parley Eaton, 7; Dec. 1, John M. Levey, 7; Feb. 20, William Wakefield, 7; March 31, Salmon Moore, 8; March 31, John Warner, 9; March 31, Richard Hall, 9; March 31, Francis Stone, 9; Jan. 31, Lewis Washburn, 18; March 31, Cornell Howland, 29; March 6, Abraham C. Meyers, 30; March 2, William Knox, 31; March 2, William H. Brooks, 31; March 31, William B. Murray, 31; May 10, Jacob T. Holmes, 31. 1853—Oct. 26, Absolom Cary, 1; Dec. 13, William B. Hanscome, 1; Nov. 12, George Gale, 5, 6, 10; March 24, Ira M. Moore, 7; Oct. 18, John

Morris, 7; Oct. 12, Albert M. Olds, 8; June 24, William A. Cram, 8; July 9, Warren Adams, 8; Oct. 31, Theo. B. Edwards, 8; Jan. 15, Eli B. Richardson, 17; June 6, Jacob T. Holmes, 30; Oct. 21, William Gray, 32; Oct. 9, Benjamin B. Healey, 32.

Township 19, range 8. 1852—Oct. 16, Parley Eaton, 7; May 3, Bartholomew C. Smith, 19; Jan. 1, Henry P. George, 29, 33; May 3, Preston Dugbe, 29; May 3, David French, 29; May 3, David Breed, 32; Feb. 27, Henry Stillson, 32; June 22, Elihu B. Washburn, 33; June 1, James Babcock, 35; Sept. 29, Charles T. Janson, 35; May 3, John Hulling, Jr., 21. 1853—Nov. 10, Julius Edwards, 8, 9; June 28, Joseph B. Tollingham, 21; Oct. 26, William Dick, 25; Aug. 26, Homer H. Benson, 28; Jan. 10, Edward I. Lidgerwood, 29, 30; Nov. 21, Robert Bruce, 29; Nov. 12, Theo. B. Edwards, 29, 35; June 6, George Gale, 31, 32; Jan. 10, David Flynn, 31; Aug. 1, William A. Woodward, 32; June 28, Benjamin F. Heuston, 33; Oct. 26, Richard Collins, 35; Aug. 22, John Moore, 36; July 22, William W. Patrick, Jr., 36; Nov. 19, David J. Monroe, 36; July 9, Charles G. Hanscome, 36; Oct. 26, Sarah D. Monroe, 36; Nov. 12, George Shohat, 36; Oct. 26, Absolom Cary, 36.

Township 20, range 8. 1854—Oct. 25, Daniel Kennedy, Jr., 35; Oct. 25, Michael Cullity, 36. 1855—Sept. 17, William H. Congor, 1, 36; Nov. 30, George Coburn and John J. Scrafford, 2; July 19, Mary A. Woodward, 26, 27; May 21, William V. Clymer, 27, 34; July 2, Welcome A. Johnson, 34; July 7, Mary A. Roddy, 34; May 7, David W. Chenoweth, 34; July 7, Mary A. Rodolf, 34; July 14, Daniel Kennedy, 35; May 10, Albert J. Cary, 36; May 14, George Gale, 36. 1856—Aug. 9, Edmund M. Reynolds, 1; May 14, George Gale, 2, 34; May 20, Franklin B. Hawes, 22, 23, 27, 33; Dec. 25, Peter Dufficy, 25; Jan. 21, John Cance, 36. 1857—July 27, John Good, 26. 1858—July 2, Walter Webb, 14, 23; June 21, Morgan A. White, 15; Nov. 16, Theo. B. Edwards, 35; April 5, Cornelius Kennedy, 35.

Township 21, range 9. 1855—Nov. 17, Peter Dunning, 24; Oct. 4, Welcome A. Johnston, 35; Oct. 4, William Congior, 36; Oct. 1, Samuel Mallory, 36. 1856—April 10, Cyrus H. Hine, 1; Feb. 13, Angen Adams, 1; July 9, John Hopkins, 1, 12; March 31, T. S. West, 16; April 22, Herman Synder, 25; Aug. 8, Robert O. Lake, 24, 25. 1857-1858—Sept. 18, Collins Bishop, 31. 1859—June 22, Thomas W. Fuller, 12. 1860—April 24, Sophia Hopkins, 12.

Township 22, range 8. 1855—Oct. 31, Charles C. and William E. Crane, 11, 29; Oct. 31, Moses D. and Francis W. Ingalls, 11, 28; Sept. 21, Alvah Wood, 11, 17, 20, 21, 25; Sept. 21, Nathan Wood, 11; Oct. 31, Isaac H. Soule, 14, 15; Sept. 14, Hiram Stanton, 15; Oct. 29, Norman E. Primm, 21, 22; Sept. 27, James T. Banks, 21; Nov. 12, Warren H. Ellis, 21, 22; Oct. 31, Hiram Walker, 22, 25, 30, 36; Nov. 13, Edwin M. Jones, 22, 26; Oct. 4, Welcome A. Johnston, 23; Nov. 2, George Gale, 24; Aug. 11, William E. Cramer, 24; Aug. 27, Royal Taylor, 24; Oct. 31, Robert H. Wade, 26; Sept. 29, Niman E. Prim, 29; Oct. 31, William and Lyman Smith, 30, 31; Oct. 31, David W. Wade, 36; Oct. 31, Richardson Reeves, 36.

Township 23, range 8. 1856—June 4, John B. Ayer, 30; June 2, Oscar H. Young, 30, 31; May 30, Enoch L. Cummins, 31, 32. 1857-1858—April

5, Ebenezer M. Sexton, 14, 24; April 5, Rufus Watson, 24; April 5, David S. Watson, 24; April 5, Albert W. Knowlton, 26; April 9, Peter Filkins, 26; April 5, Jesse T. Paul, 26; May 21, John Smith, 28; April 6, Frederick C. Moyer, 28; Sept. 11, Patrick Casey, 30; April 5, Christian E. Wyrick, 32; Sept. 8, Welcome A. Johnston, 32; Oct. 2, George H. Hale, 32; June 2, Leroy Stanton, 32; May 15, Seth Clark, 34; Sept. 29, Edward Brown, 34; April 5, Hosea Horsington, 34; May 14, Winchel Stafford, 34; April 6, Benjamin Watson, 36; April 5, Frederick Boardman, 36.

Township 24, range 8. 1856—April 24, William N. Olson, 11; May 9, Daniel Leaming, 12; April 24, John Lawske, 12, 13; May 12, Albert F. Kellogg, 13, 20, 21, 22; May 12, Walter W. Wetmore, 13, 15, 17; April 19, Erastus Taylor, 13; April 19, Mary Rogers, 14; April 24, William N. Wilson, 14; May 9, Ebenezer T. Prentice, 14, 15; June 4, Thomas McTie, 17; June 4, Luther Irish, 17; April 28, John Evrens, 18, 19; April 28, James Power, 18, 19; June 4, Dan C. Barnum, 18, 29; April 28, Edward Scanlan, 18, 19; April 21, Charles G. Brown, 20; April 28, James Dwyer, 20; May 31, William P. Morse, 21; June 2, Luther M. Bates, 23.

Township 18, range 9. 1849—July 9, Edward Winkelman, 26, 27, 28; June 16, James Reed, 27. 1850—Nov. 25, Leander Beebe, 27. 1851—Dec. 23, Jonathan Jackson, 20, 21; Nov. 24, William Roberts, 22; Dec. 16, Frederick Eberhart, 22; Nov. 13, Mitchell Stover, 22; Nov. 18, Charles A. Stevens, 22, 23, 26, 27, 34, 35; Nov. 4, William Nichols, 25; Nov. 18, John Johnson, 25; Nov. 13, Andrew Constick, 26; Nov. 18, Chase A. Stevens, Francis M. Ruble and Timothy Burns, 27; Dec. 10, Cyrus Woodman, 36; Dec. 18, John Johnson, 36. 1852—July 31, John C. Higgins, 1; Jan. 7, John Henley, 1; Jan. 7, William Hyer, 1; Jan. 7, Richard Rosecrance, 1; Feb. 9, James Metcalf, 2; May 5, Frederick Andres, 4; Feb. 29, Jonathan Willey, 4; May 29, Mary A. Bright, 4; March 25, Mary Ann Norman, 5; July 2, John E. Lewis, 5; March 24, Sophia Blake, 6; Jan. 1, James Charles, 8; Jan. 1, Volney French, 8; Aug. 2, Dianthe K. Martindale, 9; Aug. 20, Elizabeth Baker, 9; July 2, Cyrus Woodman, 9, 13, 15, 22, 23, 26; May 4, Thomas Willse, 11; Jan. 7, John Wilkins, 12; March 3, John Thurston, 12; March 3, John Brickford, 12; March 3, Moses Young, 12; March 3, Mark Lucias, 12; March 3, John Nichols, 12; May 5, James Himes, 13; May 5, Peter Van Buren, 13; May 5, Horace Stow, 14; Feb. 20, Eliza Stevens, 14; Feb. 27, Henry P. George, 14; March 24, Alfred Earle, 15; June 22, Lucius G. Fisher, 15; May 3, Obadiah Bernis, 15; Feb. 19, Lewis Reneo, 17; June 11, James B. Gray, 20; May 4, Benjamin H. Buckingham, 20; July 14, Francis W. Woodward, 21, 22; Jan. 1, Francis M. Ruble, 21; Feb. 26, Stephen Bean, 21; April 17, William Campbell, 21; May 10, Charles F. Legate, 22; Sept. 30, David Flynn, 22; Jan. 28, John Quint, 22; June 26, Edmund Gondy, 23; Feb. 21, James Kun, Jr., 23; Sept. 25, Joshua Rhodes, 24; March 1, Samuel Payne, 25; May 19, Alfred Bruson, 26, 35; July 21, Mary Saunders, 26; Feb. 26, William Plaisted, 27; March 1, William Cheever, 36; March 1, Jason Ellis, 36.

Township 19, range 9. 1852—March 8, Lewis Cornell, 25; March 6, Solomon Leonard, 25; March 8, Joseph Hegeman, 25; March 6, Josephine Coffin, 26; March 6, Joseph Weeks, 26; March 25, John M. Johnson, 28;

March 25, James Coyine, 31; April 5, Timothy Harris, 31; July 19, Francis Daniels, 31; March 25, Mary A. Norman, 32; July 19, William Higbee, 33; April 5, Thomas Scott, 33; March 6, John Fay, 33; March 6, Daniel Morrison, 33; March 6, Nathaniel Sanborn, 33; March 6, George Frost, 33; Feb. 26, Jonathan Willey, 33; March 1, Rachael Gilman, 34; July 19, William Higbee, 34; March 1, Mehitable Thompson, 34; Oct. 11, Peter Cochien, 35; Aug. 25, Wayne Clark, 35; Jan. 13, Richard H. Coolidge, 35. 1853—June 15, Hollister M. Wright, 29, 32; July 27, James Reed, 34, 35; Nov. 1, Loretta Woodworth, 35; June 17, Michael Bibeaux, 35; July 13, Charles Cameron, 35.

Township 20, range 9. 1855—Nov. 20, Porter Smith, 3; Nov. 12, David H. Sherman, 5, 6; Oct. 8, Noah D. Comstock, 5, 6; May 24, Jacob Handel, 19. 1856—April 11, Jesse Penny, 3; May 7, Harmon G. Tracey, 3; April 11, Phebe Penny, 4; Feb. 22, Charles Marshall, 4, 5; Feb. 22, James Broughton, 4; April 11, Walter D. Dewey, 4; Feb. 5, George Shelly, 5; Aug. 8, James O. Reiley, 6, 8; April 15, Nathan Corwith, 6, 7; Oct. 21, Noah D. Comstock, 7; April 7, Annie D. Bishop, 18; March 24, Collins Bishop, 18; March 31, F. S. West, 16. 1857—July 1, Phillip Hartman, 7. 1858—July 30, Stephen R. Roath, 1; May 3, Isaac Wesley Hull, 1, 12; April 7, Harmon G. Tracy, 2; May 17, Simeon Palmer, 4, 21, 22, 27; May 3, Christian Berry, 5; April 8, Narcissa T. Robertson, 6; April 7, Nicholas Meyer, 7, 8; May 3, Jeremiah Biddison, 9; May 3, George W. Hall, 11; June 23, Amassa Simons, 11; April 7, Noah D. Comstock, 8, 12; April 5, Clark Averill, 22; April 10, William E. Greene, 23; April 5, Ebenezer Holmes, 23; April 5, Frederick C. Goff, 23, 24; April 10, Giddings W. Keyes, 27; April 13, Ann E. Clark, 28.

Township 21, range 9. 1855—Nov. 12, Dennison K. Smith, 2, 3, 22; Nov. 13, Edwin W. Jones, 3, 11, 32; Nov. 13, Charles R. Steele, 11, 14, 15; Nov. 12, Warren H. Ellis, 22, 27; Nov. 13, Ransom Steele, 26, 27; Nov. 12, David H. Sherman, 28, 32, 33; Nov. 12, Charles H. Fox, 29, 32; July 19, Herman B. Merchant, 31, 32; Dec. 11, George Shelly, 33; Dec. 11, Collins Bishop, 33, 34. 1856—April 15, Milton Barlow, 14; June 3, William Abbott, 21, 28; May 31, William Smith, 21; June 2, Henry D. Elmer, 24; May 30, William Hollenbaugh, 27; July 19, Hiram B. Merchant, 31; March 24, Abner B. Bishop, 34; April 7, Rhoda Shelly, 35; June 2, Owen Roberts.

Township 22, range 9. 1855—Nov. 13, William B. Werden, 24, 25; Oct. 31, William and Lyman D. Smith, 25, 36; Nov. 13, Warren H. Ellis, 26. 1856—May 30, Enoch L. Cummings, 1; May 21, Walter W. Wetmore, 11; June 3, Statira C. Lakin, 12; June 3, George W. Lakin, 13, 24; May 8, Horace Young, 17; May 8, Sherman B. Look, 17, 21; May 7, Joshua Travis, 22. 1857—Sept. 22, Charles Lyne. 1858—Oct. 2, Giles Cripps, 12; June 26, Alfred L. Wright, 14; May 19, Moses S. Johnson, 18; April 28, Caleb F. Gates, 22; Sept. 29, Daniel Cameron, 24; Sept. 21, William E. Montazae, 34. 1859—March 22, John McBurney, 36.

Township 23, range 9. 1858—April 8, John Allen, 2, 24; May 19, Lucius M. Sheldon, 28, 32. 1866—Nov. 24, Martin W. Borst, 34. 1867—July 5, C. Moser and G. Hunner, 28; Nov. 26, Martin W. Borst, 32, 33; May 23, George Meigs, 34. 1868—June 18, John A. Hunner, 19; June 10, Martin W. Borst, 28, 33, 35. 1869—July 27, Virgil Borst, 32. 1870—March 21, Guri Herbransdatter, 4; Sept. 5, Timothy Brown, 10; July 27,

William Z. Barnhart, 31. 1871—July 12, Osten Gonnufsen, 18; May 2, Petter Petterson, 18; May 24, Merit Petterson, 18; May 29, Virgil Borst, 28.

Township 24, range 9. 1856—June 4, Levi Beebe, 2; June 2, Elliot D. Barnard, 3, 13, 14; June 2, Harrison Stebbins, 3, 9; June 2, Sylvanus Morse, 6, 14; June 4, Horace Dickenson, 7; June 3, Richard B. Chandler, 8, 15; June 2, Jerome A. Smith, 8, 10, 22; June 4, Dan C. Barnum, 9; June 4, Hugh Henri, 10; June 4, William Maxwell, 10; June 4, Almon Steel, 11, 14; June 3, David R. Chase, 22; June 3, William Moon, 23; June 4, Frances E. Wolstenholm, 24. 1857—May 30, Richard B. Chandler, 23. 1859—May 11, Walter W. Wetmore, 24.

Township 18, range 9. 1852—June 26, Robert S. Haywood, 2; March 15, Abel M. Bryant, 5; March 13, John R. Tancill, 8; March 13, John Underwood, 8; March 13, Charles F. Legate, 8. 1854—Oct. 27, Abzana A. Whiting, 1; Sept. 4, Elizah Brown, 1, 2; Nov. 13, Lawrence Rione, 1; Oct. 27, Newell Whiting, 12. 1855—June 2, Caroline Atwood, 1; June 2, William F. Burns, 1, 12; May 11, Lawrence Rione, 2; June 2, Sela Atwood, 12. 1856—May 28, Walter W. Wetmore, 1; May 13 Joseph A. Chase, 1; June 4, Simon Palmer, 2, 11, 12; Jan. 5, Lornhannah Marshall, 7; Jan. 4, George Gale, 17.

Township 19, range 10. 1852—Jan. 1, John Lynch, 36; Feb. 20, Charles F. Legate, 36; April 5, Timothy Harris, 10. 1853—July 16, Reese Whisler, 14. 1854—Nov. 8, Isaac Thompson, 12; May 20, Ira B. and Eli D. Hewett, 14; April 8, Benedict B. Utter, 24; April 10, Isaac Nash, 35; May 20, Jonathan W. Nash, 36. 1855—May 16, Giles R. Montague, 2, 11; Oct. 12, Constantine Blodgett, 12; Dec. 18, Isaac Thompson, 12; June 20, George W. Brewin, 25. 1856—Jan. 5, Isaac Thompson, 2; Jan. 5, Constantine Blodgett, 11; May 8, Samuel Whiting, 11; May 19, Joseph M. Hayes, 13; April 14, Milton Barlow, 13, 24; April 15, Henry Corwith, 14, 24; May 7, William Sutter, Jr., 24; May 19, Francis W. Newland, 25; Feb. 8, Katherine A. Wood, 25.

Township 20, range 10. 1854—April 28, Julius Edwards, 29. 1855—May 24, Jacob Handel, 14, 24; Oct. 18, Edward McFadden, 21; May 24, John Grozinger, 22; May 24, Christopher Grozinger, 23, 24; July 5, Dougald D. Cameron, 28. 1856—April 7, Sarah McMaster, 1; March 24, John Gleason, 10, 11, 12; March 24, Cornelius Gleason, 11, 12, 13, 14; April 19, Dan D. Lightner, 15; April 29, Michael Welsh, 33. 1857—May 27, William Hyde, 2; Aug. 28, Noah D. Comstock, 2; May 27, Augustus Hensel, 3; May 28, William Johnson, 9; May 27, Thomas A. Simpson, 10; Aug. 28, David Bishop, 10; July 6, Phillip Hartman, 12; Sept. 9, Hans Olsen, 35. 1858—May 3, Peter Case, 1; April 5, Thomas A. Simpson, 10; Dec. 1, Harvey M. Tucker, 15; Nov. 17, James Bingham, 21; June 18, Theo. B. Edwards, 23; April 8, Mahalia Waller, 25; Feb. 29, Franziska Kuck, 25; April 7, Lucius M. Sheldon, 26; May 19, Rudolph Siequist, 26; Sept. 30, John M. Kline, 27, 34; Aug. 6, Timothy Kirk, 28.

Tax Records. The early tax records, to a certain, are valuable in fixing the early settlers in the various townships. Their insufficiency, however, as a foundation in compiling the story of the early settlers lies first, the fact that "resident owner" on the tax books often meant resident of the county rather than resident of the township; second, in the fact that no

effort was made by the assessors to secure a correct spelling of names, and, third, to the fact that many of the actual settlers were not payers of real estate taxes.

Township 19, range 7. 1854—John Irvine, section 31. 1855—Kennedy, 7; Alex. Valence, 23; Richard Bibby, 27; David Cook, 24; Christian Neimeier, 28; Henry Fakka, 29; John Stellflug, 29, 33; Jacob Poss, 30, 31; John Irvine, 30, 31; Robert Summerville, 31; Rob. Oliver, 31; David Grant, 31, 32, 33; Richard Grant, 32.

Township 20, range 7. 1855—Franz Hoepfner, 32. 1857—Franz Hoepfner, 32; C. Smith, 31; A. Purvis, 31; John Cockran, 32; University, 11, 13, 14, 15; O. Olson, 12; T. Wall, 19, 20; J. Knudson, 24; J. Quinn, 30; N. Stearns, 30, 31; J. Mahoney, 30; T. B. Edwards, 30, 31; M. Purvis, 31; R. Cance, 31; S. McAvoy, 31; J. Cockran, 32; Franz Hoepfner, 32; D. Whalen, 32.

Township 21, range 7. 1859—E. M. Reynolds, 16; Ebenezer Thurston, 16; Lars Olson, 1; Sign Huson, 1; Peter Peterson, 1, 12; C. H. Hine, 6, 8, 17; Jas. Hopkins, 6; James E. Weeks, 6; Wessel Lowe, 6; Herman Snyder, 7; S. S. Rice, 7; J. R. Nourse, 8, 9; Robert Thompson, 10, 11, 15; Henry Shepard, 12; Syvert Johnson, 12; Turah Johnson, 12; Gullick Olson, 13; Birchard Olson, 13; Nels Halvorson, 14; Peter Tennerson, 14; Jacob Tennerson, 14, 25; Mrs. Ann Porter, 12, 22; Ebenezer Thurston, 17, 31; Chester Beswick, 17; L. P. Armstrong, 17; Henry Lake, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 28, 30; Ernst Rosen, 18; William H. Welch, 28, 29; Bennet & Quinn, 20, 21; John B. Dunning, 11, 12, 20, 21; E. K. Reynolds, 21, 28, 32.

Township 22, range 7. 1858—N. Halvorson, 24; William Van Sickle, 30; Nels Anderson, 25; Syvert Johnson, 26. 1859—Lars Olson, 24; Nels Anderson, 25, 36; Syvert Johnson, 26; William Van Sickle, 31; A. Swenson, 36.

Township 23, range 7. 1863—I. E. Grant, 8; I. E. Sutton, 20; Wm. Elison, 25; Ruth Hamilton, 26; Edwin Flint, 26; L. Knox, 26, 34; Wm. E. Fales, 26, 35, 36; C. W. Russell, 28; W. L. Wilson, 35; A. D. Curtis, 35; G. W. Fortellett, 35.

Township 24, range 7. 1859—F. Bowen, 1; E. W. Sexton, 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 21; Geo. Silkworth, 2; F. Coppel, 2; Wm. A. Woodward, 2, 8, 9, 10, 15; Levi Decker, 3; Wm. McCorkle, 7; W. H. Thomas, 10, 15; L. D. McCauley, 12; S. Brown, 13; A. B. Ayers, 24; — Field, 16.

Township 18, range 8. 1855—Charles Pickering, 5; Abram Terpena, 5; John Salsman, 6; Jas. D. Olds, 7; Roswell Bigelow, 7; John C. Laird, 7; Theo. Simmonds, 7; Wm. Olds, 8, 16; Moore & Carter, 8, 30; Warren Adams, 8; Pardon Wakefield, 8; Wm. Adams, 8; F. B. Clark, 18; Rufus Comstock, 18; T. B. Edwards, 18; Joseph Dale, 20, 21; A. McGilvray, 21; Gilbert Gibbs, 29; Bostwick Beardsley, 29; Dr. Lorna Brooks, 30, 31; Adams & Barnard, 30; J. T. Holmes, 31, 30; B. B. Heuber, 31; James Adams, 30; Edw. Barnard, 30; Wm. Bright, 16; Geo. Batchelder, 16; C. A. Stevens, 16.

Township 19, range 8. 1854—G. H. Smith, 8, 9; T. B. Edwards, 8, 9, 17; J. B. Tottingham, 21; — Benson, 28; G. Gale, 30, 31, 33; J. Hefs, 31; Isaac Noyes, 32; B. F. Heuston, 33; L. Hunter, 33, 35; William Dick, 34; John Irvine, 34; L. Cook, 34, 25, 26; Douglas Hunter, 35; Richard Collins, 35; Chas. Boyce, 35; W. W. Patrick, 36. 1855—Daniel Kennedy, 2; Cham-

berlain & Browning, 6, 7; G. H. Smith, 8, 9, 22; — Doty, 8; — Bidwell, 9; C. Prefer, 14; John Martin, 23; Peter Ohls, 23; Terrance O'Neal, 20; John Hunter, 25, 35; William Dick, 25, 34, 36; David Cook, 25, 34, 36; John Thomas, 32; B. F. Heuston, 33; Douglas Hunter, 33, 34; John Irvine, 34; John Hunter, Jr., 35, 36; Richard Collins, 35; C. J. Boyce, 35; John Davidson, 36; Rob. Oliver, 36; George Shonat, 36.

Township 20, range 8. 1859—T. Dufficy, 25; P. Anderson, 27; B. Richardson, 33; University, 34; A. A. Arnold, 34; G. Y. Freeman, 34; C. Kennedy, 35; Daniel Kennedy, 35; John Cance, 36; George Gale, 36; M. Casey, 36; Martin Cullity, 36.

Township 21, range 8. 1859—Minard Allen, 1; John Hopkins, 1, 12; S. S. Rice, 1; Henry Lake, 24, 25; C. H. Hine, 25; H. Snyder, 25; I. B. Dunning, 24.

Township 22, range 8. 1858—Henry Stratton, 15; Hiram Stratton, 15; J. D. Sherwood, 21; A. S. Sherwood, 21; — Banks, 21; Clark S. Allen, 15; Alvah Wood, 11, 17, 20, 25; D. W. Wade, 2, 25, 36; F. W. & M. D. Ingalls, 11, 28; Ed. Wade, 28; Nathan Wood, 11, 26. 1861—D. W. Wade, 2, 25, 36; M. O. Ingalls, 2, 11, 21; Henry O. Gill, 2, 21; A. Wood, 11, 25; Cripps & Erwin, 11; L. D. McNitt, 14; H. C. Stratton, 15; Henry Freeman, 15; D. Wood, 17, 20; A. L. Sherwood, 20, 21; J. D. Sherwood, 21; — Prevear, 23; N. D. Comstock, 23; B. F. Wing, 24, 25; Oley Knudtson, 24; James Erwin, 26; — Dowd, 26; E. F. Wade, 28; M. D. & F. W. Ingalls, 28; F. L. Dunbar, 30; C. C. Crane, 29, 16.

Township 23, range 8. 1861—George H. Hale, 32; C. S. Allen, 32.

Township 24, range 8. 1859—W. W. Wetmore, 13, 15, 17; J. H. Campbell, 1.

Township 18, range 9. 1855—William A. Cram, 1; Ryland Parker, 2; L. T. Kniffen, 2; D. B. Thompson, 2; Alex Hart, 2, 3; O. Whitcomb, 3; Wm. McDonah, 3; T. B. Edwards, 4, 11; Hollister Wright, 4; Mary A. Bright, 4; B. B. Healy, 5, 6, 9, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 35, 36; Davil Monel, 5; Washburn & Woodman, 6, 13, 14, 23; Amos Whiting, 6, 13; A. Stevens, 7; D. O. Van Slyke, 9; — Martindale, 9; George Gale, 9; Ira Jones, 9, 10, 15, 22; Barney —, 10, 11, 14, 35; Jonathan Ramsden, 12; Joshua Rhodes, 12, 24; Ware & Belden, 12, 14; R. R. Worth, 13, 24; Aaron Houghton, 13; C. F. Legate, 14; Horace Stone, 14; John Phillips, 15; Wm. Hanson, 15; Ransome Jones, 15; — Dean, 15; — Ellis, 15; E. R. Utter, 18; David Fbrun, 22; C. A. Stevens, 16, 22; Healy & others, 22, 23, 26, 27, 34; Geo. Batchelder, 16, 22, 26; C. S. Seymour, 23, 24, 25; B. H. Stewart, 24; J. P. James, 24; A. W. Shepard, 25; Francis Drugan, 25; Wm. John Nicholls, 25; Jacob T. Holmes, 25; T. W. Hill, 26; E. Winkelman, 26, 27; N. Brown, 26, 35; Isaac Noyes, 16, 26; Chas. Utter, 27; J. H. Hammond, 27; B. F. Heuston, 27; A. M. Weeks, 27; J. M. Levy, 27; Avery Wellington, 27; Moore & Carter, 35; Wm. & John Nicholls, 36.

Township 19, range 9. 1855—J. Knox, 19; A. Rhodes, 20, 21; John Rhodes, 21, 28, 29, 30; Hollister Wright, 21, 28, 33; Thompson & Hart, 23; O. Whitcomb, 23; B. B. Healy, 25, 32; M. Beboe, 26; Joseph Holmes, 26; A. Grover, 26; W. W. Nash, 31; Alva Wood, 31; Edmond Nash, 31; Washburn & Woodman, 31; Ryland Parker, 31; Moses Clark, 32; Jas. Wright,

32, 33; D. A. Segur, 33, 34; W. Higbie, 33, 34; Parker Warren, 33; Justin Lee, 34; E. R. Utter, 34; James Reed, 34, 35; Chas. Perkins, 35; Michael Bebeau, 35; Chas. Cameron, 35; Leander Bebeau, 35.

Township 20, range 9. 1859—H. G. Tracy, 2; Jesse Penny, 3, 4; Jas. Broughton, 4; Walter Dewey, 4; R. C. Shelly, 5; George D. Dewey, 5; Collins Bishop, 5; Emily Bishop, 5; James Gaveney, 5; N. D. Comstock, 5, 7; R. L. Robertson, 6; Philip Hartman, 7; Nicholas Meyers, 7; Frank Zeller, 17; A. B. Bishop, 18; Shelly & Co., 18; A. M. Holcomb, 36. 1860—H. G. Tracy, 2, 3; Jesse Penny, 3, 4; Jas. Broughton, 4; Walter Dewey, 4; R. C. Shelly, 4, 5; George D. Dewey, 5; Collins Bishop, 5; Emily Bishop, 5; James Gaveney, 5; N. D. Comstock, 5, 6, 7; R. L. Robertson, 6; John Gage, 6; Phillip Hartman, 7; Nicholas Meyers, 7, 8; Casper Meyers, 8; Carl Zeller, 17; Frank Zeller, 17; A. B. Bishop, 18; Shelly & Co., 18; A. M. Holcomb, 36; A. C. Matterson, 4.

Township 21, range 9. 1857—Lyman Carpenter, 15; L. F. Griffin, 15; William Johnson, 28; R. Weller, 29. 1859—John Gage, 32; John Busby, 22; Thomas Busby, 22.

Township 22, range 9. 1864—Walter W. Wetmore, 11, 12; Giles Cripps, 12; Lawrence Bautch, 13, 24; Geo. Markham, 24; Chas. Lyne, 25.

Township 23, range 9. 1867—Daniel Borst, 33; Martin Borst, 34. 1868—John Zuza, 23; Daniel Borst, 33; Jeremiah Borst, 33. 1870—Gunn Heaterandett, 4; John Hunter, 19, 28, 30; Elizabeth N. Brooks, 24; John Allen, 24; Lucius M. Seldon, 28; Martin W. Borst, 28, 32, 33, 34; J. W. Borst, 33; O. A. Osgood, 33; Jas. Gaveney, 16.

Township 24, range 9. 1858—Wm. Henry, 10; Wm. Maxwell, 10; Albert Taylor, 11, 14; — Smith, 13, 22; James Chase, 14; Russell Bowers, 14, 23; David R. Chase, 22; Barden Cross, 23; — Wolsterhoon, 24.

Township 18, range 10. 1856—Avery Wellington, 1; Amos Whiting, 1; Seba Atwood, 1, 12; Wm. Y. Burns, 1, 12; Silvester Wellington, 1; B. B. Healy, 1; Lawrence Rooney, 1, 2; Chas. Smith, 12; Jonathan Nash, 2.

Township 19, range 10. 1856—G. W. & John Brewin, 25; B. B. Healy, 25, 36; Jonathan Nash, 36; Edmund Nash, 36; Isaac Nash, 35; Amos Whiting, 36; Jacob Holbrook, 36.

Township 20, range 10. 1859—Sarah McMaster, 1; John Bigham, 1, 2; Caleb Case, 1; John Gleason, 10, 11, 13; Thomas Simpson, 10; Phillip Hartman, 12; J. Kelly, 14; Ludwig Hensel, 14, 23; W. Kickhofer, 14, 23, 24; Milton Tucker, 15; Jas. Bigham, 21; Wm. Harlow, 22; Chas. Olbrecht, 23; R. L. Robertson, 1; Geo. D. Dewey, 1; N. D. Comstock, 2; David Bishop, 2, 10; Wm. Hyde, 2; Aug. Hensel, 3; Wm. Johnson, 9; A. Finkelnburg, 32.

Village of Montoville. 1855—Ira H. Hammond, block 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12; B. F. Heuston, 11, 12; Geo. Gale, 9; N. B. Grover, 8; A. M. Brandenburg, 8; Geo. Batchelder, 5, 9; Jas. Reed, 3, 8; B. B. Healy, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Thos. Marshall, 3; Chas. Utter, 2; Healy & others, 4; Alex McGilvray, 1; John Salsman, 1; Isaac Noyes, 5; Hiley Cameron, 5.

Village of Trempealeau. 1855—B. B. Healy, block 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12; Moore & Carter, 7, 3; Jas. Harris, 6; Geo. Batchelder, 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13; B. I. Stewart, 12; Joshua Rhodes, 12; Chas. Utter, 1, 2, 11, 13; Geo. W. Kenworthy, 9.

CHAPTER IX

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Trempealeau County was created by the legislature January 24, 1854, and a provision included in the act constituting the board of supervisors of Montoville, the board of supervisors of Trempealeau County until other towns should be created and town officers duly elected therein.¹ Consequently, on March 11, 1854, the town board of Montoville, sitting as a board of supervisors of Trempealeau County, convened at Trempealeau, with Horace F. Owen as chairman and Isaac Noyes and William Nicholls as the other supervisors, and with Charles Cameron as clerk.² At this meeting the town of Gale was set off, with practically all of the present area of Gale and northward to the county line. The first town election was ordered held at the home of Benjamin F. Heuston, on April 4, following. All of the county not included in Gale remained in Montoville, which thus constituted the present towns of Caledonia and Trempealeau and the west part of the county, north to the county line.

On September 12, 1854, B. F. Heuston was elected county judge, receiving 26 votes in Montoville and 8 in Gale. George Batchelder received 11 in Montoville and 12 in Gale. In November the following county officers were elected: Charles Utter, district attorney; Ira E. Moore, sheriff; George H. Smith, clerk of the court; Charles Utter, clerk of the board; A. W. Armstrong, registrar; Hollister Wright, treasurer; George J. Turton, surveyor, and William Adams, coroner. There were 44 votes cast, 36 in Montoville and 8 in Gale. George H. Smith appointed William M. Young deputy clerk and Hollister Wright made John Nicholls his clerk as deputy county treasurer.³

Gale township having been created and a chairman elected, the new board of county supervisors, consisting of George Batchelder, chairman of Montoville and B. F. Heuston, chairman of Gale, met at Montoville May 1, 1854. George Batchelder was chosen chairman and William M. Young clerk. Charles Utter was appointed county treasurer. Mr. Utter was also appointed to act with the commissioner from Jackson County to lay out roads from Montoville to Black River Falls by way of Trempealeau Valley and Beaver Creek, and one to Douglass Mills, now North Bend, in Jackson County. May 29, 1854, the boundary between Montoville and Gale was slightly readjusted. November 14, 1854, a meeting was held at the home of B. F. Heuston in Gale, but at once adjourned to Montoville. November 20, 1854, John Nicholls was appointed clerk in place of William M. Young, resigned. It would appear that George Batchelder was then looking after the criminal interests of the county, as on November 27, 1854, he was voted \$16.50 for the prosecution, guarding and deposition of "Geo. the Murderer."

In the spring of 1855 B. F. Heuston was re-elected chairman of Gale

Township and was accordingly continued as a member of the county board. William A. Cram took his seat as the member from Montoville. John Nicholls continued as clerk, being appointed in place of Charles Utter, who did not qualify. During the first two years of county government the board met sometimes at Montoville and sometimes in Gale Township or in Galesville. The county officials maintained their offices in their residences or their places of business. June 26, 1856, the clerk of the board was authorized to have his office at his residence in Montoville, and the sheriff, clerk of court, registrar and treasurer were ordered to file with the clerk a statement of where their headquarters were to be found. The need of a courthouse, however, was apparent, and on June 11, 1855, the board, meeting at the home of William A. Cram, decided that a courthouse should be built at Galesville as soon as possible, and ordered the clerk to prepare plans for the inspection of the public, and to advertise for bids for a building 28 by 36 feet, two stories high. June 28, 1855, Isaac Noyes and Amasa P. Webb, of Montoville, were awarded the contract at \$1,000, and the county appropriated \$250 for the purchase of material. The work was to be finished on April 28, 1856, but when that date approached it was found that the building would not be completed within the time limit. Lumber had been hard to obtain, and some that had been carted to the site had been stolen. Accordingly, the contractors were awarded damages of \$25 and the time extended to July 28.

The first meeting of the board in the new courthouse was held July 23, 1856. B. F. Heuston of Gale was still a member of the board. William Adams succeeded William A. Cram of Trempealeau. In the meantime the town of Preston had been created, November 21, 1855, consisting of all of the county north of the line between Townships 19 and 20, except that part in what is now Ettrick, west of the range line between Ranges 9 and 10; and the first town meeting had been held at the home of Ed. Reynolds, April 1, 1856. The first representative of the town on the county board was Simon S. Rice. John Nicholls continued to serve as clerk of the board. November 11, 1856, the board voted to allow the people of Galesville to use the courtroom as a schoolroom.

In the spring of 1857 the new board consisted of B. F. Heuston of Gale, Simon S. Rice of Preston and William Adams of Trempealeau. The previous board, on November 20, 1856, had created two new townships, Arcadia and Sumner. Sumner consisted of all of Township 24, Ranges 7, 8 and 9. The first town meeting was ordered held at Beef River Station April 7, 1857. Arcadia consisted of all the present town of Arcadia, except the strip in Township 20, range 8, and everything north of the present township to the south line of Township 24. The first town meeting was to be held at home of David Bishop, April 7, 1857. The meeting at David Bishop's was conducted as ordered, but the one at Beef River Station was not held, and the board ordered a meeting for April, 1858. In the fall of 1857 the board consisted of J. R. Penney of Arcadia, A. R. Wyman of Gale, J. B. Dunning of Preston and Sam D. Hastings of Trempealeau. This board created the town of Caledonia, November 11, 1857, and ordered the first town meeting to be held at the home of Alexander McGilvray in April, 1858.

The town consisted of all of the present town of Caledonia except the tier of sections in Township 18, Range 9. This action was rescinded March 2, 1858.

November 9, 1858, the board consisted of James M. Barrett of Trempealeau, A. R. Wyman of Gale, J. H. Chase of Sumner, in place of William Harmon; A. L. Sherwood of Preston and James Broughton of Arcadia. This board was informed by District Attorney Romanzo Bunn that the action of the board in rescinding the creation of Caledonia was illegal. But the town having failed to organize, a new date, the first Tuesday in March, 1859, was set as the time for the first town meeting. As early as November 13, 1858, the need of an almshouse was felt, and a committee consisting of James M. Barrett, A. L. Sherwood and John Nicholls was appointed to correspond with officials of various counties of the state in regard to methods of caring for the needy in a proper and economical manner. At the February meeting in 1859 W. H. Thomas sat as the member from Sumner. The board authorized the board of trustees of Galesville University to use the upper story of the courthouse for classroom purposes for the summer term of 1859 in case the seminary building should not be completed.

At this meeting the people of Trempealeau Village were reprimanded by the board for petitioning the legislature to submit to the voters the question of removing the county seat to that hamlet. The supervisors expressed the opinion that if the county seat were to be removed at all, it should be to some point near the geographical center of the county, and further stated that the agitation of the question at that time would create a great deal of needless trouble, expense and ill feeling.

Six townships being in existence in the fall of 1859, the board consisted of six members: J. T. Holmes of Caledonia, Ben. B. Healy of Trempealeau, Collins Bishop of Arcadia, A. A. Arnold of Gale, Ebenezer Thurston of Preston and W. H. Thomas of Sumner. November 15, 1859, A. P. Ford was appointed county drainage commissioner under the provisions of the general laws of 1858. This board did not authorize any new townships, and the board for 1860 therefore consisted of six members: George D. Dewey of Arcadia, J. T. Holmes of Caledonia, Henry French of Gale, Chester Bostwick of Preston, William Silkworth of Sumner and James M. Barrett of Trempealeau. November 13, 1860, Chase and Lincoln Townships were created. Chase was to consist of all the present town of Albion and the west half of Unity. The first town meeting was to be held at the home of David Chase in April, 1861. Lincoln was to consist of Townships 22 and 23, Range 8, and Township 23, Range 9. This embraced nearly all of what is now Lincoln, all of what is now Chimney Rock, a small strip of Burnside and the western part of Hale. The first town meeting was to be held at the home of Alvah Wood, the first Tuesday in April.

These townships being duly organized and the election held, the board for 1861 consisted of eight members: George R. Davey, Chase; M. D. Ingalls, Lincoln; D. C. Dewey, Arcadia; Eben Batchelder, Caledonia; A. A. Arnold, Gale; E. M. Reynolds, Preston; R. C. Fields, Sumner, and Delavan Bunn, Trempealeau.

With this board the pre-bellum period came to a close. From one township, in 1854, the county had increased to eight. Settlements were springing up here and there, and farmhouses were dotting the landscape in every direction. Without exception, the members of the board had been men of ability. All had been men from the eastern states, with good district school educations, who had brought with them all the traditions of the New England town meeting, and who fully realized their responsibility as the founders of a future important county. The knowledge that they were laying a foundation for future years is everywhere apparent, and in many of the resolutions is actually expressed. John Nicholls, who was county clerk during this period, was a man of orderly mind, an excellent penman and possessed of considerable legal knowledge, so that the affairs of the county were well conducted and the records kept in an adequate manner. The successive boards had met with many problems. Taxes had to be laid on a people struggling with poverty in a new country, bills had to be paid out of a slender treasury, and every account was pared to its utmost limit, roads had to be laid out along routes which would reach the greatest number of the scattered settlements, bridges had to be constructed to accommodate the travels of the inhabitants of the county, and also to facilitate immigration. Towns had to be created, and the nature of the ridges and valleys made it necessary that frequent changes be made in townships already created, in order that the people who were geographically related might be placed also in convenient political units. Even at this early date there were poor who must be cared for, and the successive boards had been divided in their opinions as to whether this should be done with a township or a county system.

Strangers were constantly passing through the county, and many of these travelers were of an unsavory character. Unidentified bodies of murdered men were frequently found along the highways, and corpses were often washed up at Trempealeau, a mute testimony to the grim sternness of life on the Mississippi in those early days. The expense of disposing of these bodies had to be met by the appropriations of the county board.

Struggling as they were, with pioneer conditions, many of the settlers were unable to pay their taxes, claims were frequently deserted by restless pioneers who found it more convenient to seek their fortunes further than to meet their obligations here, and the problem of disposing of unredeemed tax titles was constantly before the board. The question of drainage was also an important one and was frequently considered.

But these farmers met all these situations with clear brains and good common sense, and the affairs of the county were in a satisfactory condition at the close of this period in its history.

The new system of county government in Wisconsin went into effect January 1, 1862, and it was under this system that Trempealeau County underwent the great stress of the Civil War. The new board convened January 13, 1862, George Batchelder of Trempealeau representing the First District, A. R. Wyman of Galesville the Second and Henry Lake of Preston the Third. Batchelder had served on the first county board in 1854. Wyman had served in 1857 and 1858. Lake was a pioneer who had

settled at the mouth of Lake Cooley in Preston Township and had already become prominent in township affairs. This board had to defend the existence of Trempealeau County as a county. At its first meeting William A. Cram, the sheriff, reported to the board that he had been summoned before the Superior Court of Wisconsin to show cause why he had illegally performed the duties of sheriff in certain townships, George F. Haswell, representing Buffalo County, alleging that Trempealeau County had been illegally created, and that a larger part of its townships were therefore still a part of Buffalo County. The board placed the matter in the hands of George Gale, through whose efforts the county was created, and in due time the organization of the county was confirmed by the Supreme Court.⁴

The Civil War occupied the attention of the board for the next few years. Fortunately, during these years a considerable sum was realized from the sale of tax titles, and in spite of the numerous bounties paid to war volunteers, the financial standing of the county was not impaired. November 12, 1862, the county board voted to raise \$3,000 as a part of the general tax fund, for a Soldiers' Bounty Fund, for soldiers from this county, and their families. December 16, 1862, it was decided to pay \$4 a month for seven months to the wives and families of all non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates enlisting from this county. At the December meeting the first bounties were voted. With this beginning, the board continued to grant \$4 a month to families of volunteers throughout the war.

An ambrotype of the company of volunteers raised in Trempealeau County having been taken, the board on December 20, 1862, voted to present the picture to Galesville University.

Ettrick was created on December 16, 1862, and the first town meeting called for April 7, 1863, at the home of John Cance, in Section 36, Township 20, Range 8. This made nine townships in the county.

The board for 1863 was the same as the previous year. War-time problems increased. The bounty of \$4 a month to families of volunteers was continued. November 10, 1863, it was voted to pay a bounty to each volunteer (or heirs) who had enlisted in the military service of the United States from this county during the Rebellion, and who should die in service or be honorably discharged. Later it was determined that in case the monthly bounty had been paid, that the amount of the monthly bounty should be deducted from the enlistment bounty. The first to receive this enlistment bounty was F. J. Miller, honorably discharged from the First Wisconsin Battery.

The unemotional records, with their lists of bounties paid to the relatives of those who died in battle, give to present generations a glimpse of the stress and tragedy of those days.

While the young men were fighting for the preservation of the Union at the front, those at home were gradually increasing the agricultural acreage of the county. The board, realizing the importance of raising sufficient food, and appreciating the vital part played in the war by the farms, voted on December 23, 1863, to contribute \$50 to the work of the Trempealeau County Agricultural Society.

Burnside was created as a township December 29, 1863. It consisted of Townships 22 and 23, Range 9, the west half of Township 23, Range 8, and Sections 4, 5, 6, in Township 22, Range 8. This embraced all of what is now Burnside, except the little strip in Township 22, Range 8, all of Chimney Rock, all that is now Hale west of the line that equally divides Range 8, and a small tract that is now the southwest corner of Lincoln. The first meeting was to be held in April, 1864, at the home of Giles Cripps.

The board for 1864 consisted of E. Wilcox from the First District, Alex McGilvray from the Second District, and W. H. Thomas from the Third District. February 3 this board created Hale Township, embracing practically the entire present township of that name, with the exception of some slight variations along the northwestern line of Pigeon Township. The first town meeting was to be held in April, 1865, at the home of D. S. Watson, Section 24, Township 23, Range 8. The bounty question continued to be a problem. At the time of the recruiting of Company C, Thirtieth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, it had been generally understood throughout the county that every volunteer was to receive a bounty of \$50. At the first meeting in 1864 the board therefore determined that the finances of the county were such as to justify a payment on account of \$25 to all who had not already received that amount, either in person or through their families. The families that had received money in monthly payments amounting in all to less than \$25 could receive the balance in cash, or request to have their \$4 a month continued. Later in the year it was decided that widows of certain deceased volunteers should receive a monthly bounty of \$4, just the same as though their husbands were still alive and serving at the front. November 15, 1865, 115 bounty claims were adjusted. It was during the administration of this board that the organization of the township of Chase was vacated, and the territory added to Sumner. The same board served in 1865, A. R. Wyman succeeding John Nicholls as clerk.

George Dewey from the First District, George H. Smith from the Second, and Edward F. Wade from the Third, constituted the board for 1866. This board attempted to construct a jail. Crime was increasing with the growth in population and the augmentation of travel, and the cost of removing prisoners to the jail at La Crosse was a serious drain on the county's resources. November 15, 1866, it was therefore voted to raise \$1,500 for the erection of a jail at Galesville.

The next board, J. M. Barrett of the First District, George H. Smith of the Second District, and Charles C. Crane of the Third District, took office January 8, 1867, and on that date authorized Charles C. Crane to draw plans for the jail. B. F. Heuston succeeded A. R. Wyman as clerk. In the summer time this board ordered a tract index prepared for use in the office of the register of deeds. November 14, a final readjustment was made of the bounty matter. Many who declared themselves to have claims had assigned these claims to other persons for small sums, and the holders were pressing the county for payment. The board found that in most instances these claims were of men who had not enlisted from this county, or else of men whose families had already received in monthly payments more than the volunteer was entitled to receive. As an incentive toward good roads,

the county decided to construct a pile driver to be loaned to the various towns.

James M. Barrett from the First District, Robert Cance from the Second, and C. C. Crane from the Third, made up the board for 1868. Steps were taken toward erecting an almshouse. The distribution of the care of the poor between the county and townships had not proven satisfactory. Therefore it was determined that the proceeds of all lands that had been sold for taxes and bid in for five successive years by the county and appraised and sold before the annual meeting of 1869, should be turned in to the poor fund, and an unimproved farm bought for not more than \$1,000, or an improved farm for not more than \$3,000, and that the county assume sole charge of the poor after January 1, 1870.

In 1869 the board consisted of Noah D. Comstock from the First District, Robert Cance from the Second District, and N. P. Bruce from the Third District. This board decided to abandon the plans for building a jail, and to accept the offer of the village of Trempealeau for the free use of the jail in that village.

The last board under this regime convened February 15, 1870, and consisted of Noah D. Comstock from the First District, A. R. Wyman from the Second District, and N. P. Bruce from the Third District.

Under the direct system of county government, the three supervisors each year had borne the brunt of the problems arising from the domestic aspects of the Civil War. They had continued the internal work of their predecessors in such matters as road and bridge building, and had attended to the routine business of the county in an efficient manner, and at a much less expense than that incident to the cumbersome system of township and village representation. Bounties had been voted to encourage enlistments, families of absent volunteers had been looked after, and the finances of the county kept in a satisfactory condition. An attempt had been made to erect a county jail and a county almshouse, and the necessity of depending on La Crosse for jail service had been lessened by the pressing into service of the village lock-up at Trempealeau, though prisoners after conviction continued to be sent to La Crosse. While the various nationality elements, afterward prominent in the county, such as the Scandinavian, the German and the Polish, had already begun to settle in the county and to establish communities almost exclusively composed of their own nationalities, the administration of county affairs remained in the hands of men who were of English, Irish or Scotch birth or descent.

The new board of supervisors met May 23, 1870. Chase having been vacated, and Ettrick, Burnside and Hale having been created, the board consisted of ten members: John D. Lewis of Arcadia, Warren Post of Burnside, Joshua Rhodes of Caledonia, Robert Cance of Ettrick, Robert Oliver in place of William P. Clark of Gale, D. S. Watson of Hale, W. H. Thomas of Sumner, Benjamin B. Healy of Trempealeau, and Gullick Olson of Preston. Mr. Olson was the first representative of the Scandinavian race to sit on the board. Mr. Healy was made chairman. This board devoted a greater part of its attention to the question of unredeemed tax lands. The land was coming more and more in demand, and the county found that

the tracts that it had bid in at tax sales in previous years found a ready market. During this administration, the treasurer, Edward F. Wade, alleged that \$1,498.18 had been stolen from his safe. The board ordered a rigid investigation, and finally, after considering all aspects of the case, ordered the district attorney to prosecute the treasurer's bondsmen for full payment of the amount missing, with interest. Judgment being obtained, the money was turned over to the county by the bondsmen and a release signed by the board November 19, 1872. June 20, 1870, the town of Albion was set off in response to a petition previously presented requesting the creation of a town to be named Logan. As created, Albion consisted of its present area. The first meeting was ordered held at the schoolhouse in District Three, in April, 1871.

D. S. Watson of Hale was the chairman of the county board in 1871. The other members were Noah D. Comstock of Arcadia, Michael White of Burnside, Robert Cance of Ettrick, James Overson of Preston, Benjamin B. Healy of Trempealeau (place filled March 20, 1871, by D. S. Watson), George O. Babcock of Albion, Joshua Rhodes of Caledonia, William P. Clark of Gale, David Wood of Lincoln, J. W. McKay of Sumner, and George Batchelder of Trempealeau Village. The modern system of county government in Trempealeau County dates from this board. The previous board had inaugurated the new system under the State law, and had paved the way for the perfected organization. But the board of 1871 established the procedure by which the affairs of the county have since been conducted. The rules adopted November 14, 1871, for the meetings of the board are those which, with a few minor changes, have since been in force. That these rules have proved adequate for nearly fifty years shows the foresightedness of those who invented them. The present system of the division of the labors of the board among the members was also adopted at that time. Previous to this adoption, such special committees as were needed were appointed from time to time, but most of the business now done by the committees was transacted by the full board. This board of 1871 established a regular system of committees. These committees, with some slight readjustments, were the same as at present, with the exception that the work of the what was then the committee on jury lists is now done by the clerk of court, and a committee on county property has been added.

Since the days of this board the work of the county supervisors has been largely of a routine nature, not differing materially from the work of neighboring counties of the State. Several matters, however, have been of special historic significance, and among these are the creation of four additional townships, the county seat struggle, the erection of the courthouse and jail, the creation of an insane asylum, attempts at establishing a poor farm, and in recent years the work that has arisen in connection with the State aid system in the construction of roads and bridges.

Dodge and Pigeon were created January 4, 1875; Unity on November 20, 1877, and Chimney Rock on November 22, 1881. All were created with their boundaries as at present constituted, except that the northwest line of Pigeon has since been readjusted. The first meeting in Dodge was held in the schoolhouse in District 2, Section 12, Township 19, Range 10, in April,

1875, the first meeting in Pigeon was held on the same date, the first meeting in Unity was held in April, 1878, at the schoolhouse in Section 22, Township 24, Range 8, and the first meeting in Chimney Rock was held at the schoolhouse in Section 11, Township 23, Range 9, in April, 1882. The question of the division of Lincoln and the creation of Pigeon was submitted to the voters, the only instance in the history of the county where such a provision was made.

The county having been created through the influence and clever planning of Judge Gale, the county seat was placed at his proposed village of Galesville. In the years that immediately followed, Trempealeau occasionally expressed its aspirations, and once went so far as to prepare a petition to the legislature for a vote on the question of removing the county seat there. The petition was accepted by the legislature and an Act passed March 5, 1868, authorizing the election. The voters rejected the proposition. To the majority of the people of the county the division of honors between the two villages seemed an equitable one. Galesville was the seat of learning as the home of Gale College, it was the source of government by reason of the location of the county seat, and it was the center of considerable influence as the residence of several prominent men. Trempealeau possessed the advantage of being on the Mississippi, and as all of the exports of the county were shipped from there, it naturally became the commercial metropolis.

But the growth of the county in the decade following the Civil War, the building of the railroad through the center of the county in 1873, and the increasing importance of the villages along its line in the Trempealeau Valley caused a growing discontent with the location of the courthouse in the southeast corner of the county. Judge Gale was dead, the prestige of the name no longer upheld Galesville, Trempealeau had ceased to be the shipping point of the county, the balance of power had shifted from the southern townships. Whitehall, Arcadia, Independence and Blair were all ambitious, and the people of the northern part of the county naturally joined with the people of the central part against those in the southern part.

In order to establish their grip on the county seat, the people of Galesville caused to be introduced at the board meeting of November 13, 1875, a motion to spend \$500 in repairing the courthouse, repairs which in fact were needed, as the building was becoming inadequate for the demands upon it. That motion being defeated, a proposition was made to erect a new courthouse at a cost of \$15,000. This was likewise defeated.

A year later, at the election of November 7, 1876, the voters of the county decided in favor of removing the county seat to Arcadia, which had become the metropolis of the county. The people of Gale, however, did not propose to let their advantages slip from their grasp without a fight, and on November 18, 1876, John McKeith of Gale proposed to the county board that the county offices and meeting place of the board should remain at Galesville until the next annual meeting, or until otherwise ordered by the board. The proposition was defeated, being favored only by the members from Gale, Caledonia and Ettrick, who hoped to keep the county seat in the southern part of the county, and by the member from Lincoln, who desired

Arcadia to secure no advantages. John D. Lewis led the fight for Arcadia, and on the final proposition of selling the property at Galesville he had only two opponents, the members from Gale and Trempealeau. November 21, 1876, a committee was appointed to supervise the removal to Arcadia. January 2, 1877, the board met in the schoolhouse at that place.

Whitehall now entered the fight in earnest. Galesville, strongly entrenched in historic tradition, had been defeated, and it was believed that Arcadia would prove a less formidable foe. Presenting the argument that Arcadia was on the western edge of the county and Whitehall in the geographical center, the people of the latter village had circulated a petition, and securing the necessary number of signatures, asked the board on January 3, 1877, to call for an election on the question. Mr. Lewis alleged that many names had been secured by misrepresentation, and that most of the signers thought the petition was one requesting that no county tax be laid for erecting county buildings. He demanded for Arcadia the right to be represented by an attorney and witnesses before the county board. But he was denied that privilege and the election was ordered to be held in the fall. However, in spite of this coming contest, the board appointed a committee to draw plans for the erection of a \$20,000 building at Arcadia.

At the election held November 6, 1877, the voters decided by about 600 majority to move the county seat to Whitehall. The citizens of Arcadia alleged fraud and secured an injunction, but in the end were unsuccessful in their contentions.

January 23, 1878, the board met at Scott's Hall, at the southwest corner of Main and Scranton streets, in Whitehall, and after considerable jockeying passed a resolution condemning the people of Arcadia for their attitude, accused them of stirring up strife, or engendering animosities which would take years to overcome, and wrongfully putting on the county the cost of expensive litigation. In the same resolution S. W. Button was authorized to employ Judge Thomas Wilson of Winona to defend the board in the injunction proceedings brought by Arcadia. On the final vote, the only members opposing the resolution were the ones from Arcadia and its adjoining town of Dodge, and the two southern towns of Caledonia and Trempealeau.

Blair now appeared as an aspirant for county seat honors, but on November 5, 1878, the voters again declared in favor of Whitehall.

The people of Arcadia continued to feel that not only was Arcadia the logical place for the county seat, but that they had in fact been defrauded out of it. The necessary number of names being secured to a petition, the question of removing the county seat to Arcadia came before the voters November 7, 1882, and was defeated by a count of 1,874 to 1,454.

Thus for the third time, the people had declared in favor of Whitehall. The fight had been long and bitter, the newspapers had been filled with recriminations, the quarrel had been the chief subject of conversation for years, the ill feeling engendered was long to remain, but the people of Arcadia accepted the situation cheerfully and set about to maintain the position of that village as a metropolis of the county, even though its

geographical position had defeated its county seat aspirations. The question was now practically dead, though the people of Independence prepared a petition and endeavored to secure an election in the fall of 1883 on the proposition of removing the county seat to Independence. It was found, however, that the number of votes cast at the previous election was 2,013 of which two-thirds was 1,342. Of the 1,493 names on the petition, 1,318 were on the poll lists and 162 were not. The status of 16 names was in doubt. The petition thus fell short of the necessary 1,342 and no similar petition has since been attempted.

November 15, 1882, O. J. Allen of Lincoln, moved before the county board that the courthouse be erected in Whitehall. The proposition carried by a vote of 12 to 5, the opposing votes being those of the members of Arcadia township and village, and their neighbor Dodge, of Burnside where the people had aspirations for Independence, and of Preston where the people had aspirations for Blair. A building committee was appointed consisting of A. H. Cary, J. D. Olds, M. J. Warner, H. Hoberton and John McKeith. A large lot was presented by the town of Lincoln, and that town also paid \$5,000 toward the construction of the building. Work was started in the spring of 1883, and the building was completed late that year at a cost of about \$20,000, being occupied early in January, 1884.

November 11, 1885, money was appropriated for a jail, and work was commenced the following spring in charge of a building committee consisting of H. Hoberton, E. H. Warner and Peter Ekern. It was accepted November 1, 1886, having cost about \$8,000.

The courthouse and jail proved adequate for more than thirty years. In 1910 the need of improvement was apparent, and on November 16, 1910, after preliminary investigation and due consultation with the State Board of Control, it was decided to rebuild the jail, and at the same time to build an addition to the courthouse which would nearly double its capacity. The first set of bids was rejected, and on January 10, 1911, the contracts were let. The work on the courthouse and jail was completed late in the fall of 1911 at a cost of nearly \$30,000, the committee in charge consisting of James N. Hunter, chairman; E. F. Hensel, secretary; E. F. Clark, C. Q. Gage and F. A. Hotchkiss.

The courthouse and jail are surrounded by beautiful wooded lawns which stretch across the schoolhouse property and merge in the public park, which in turn extends to the village cemetery, this giving the people a beautiful sweep of public property scarcely to be equaled in western Wisconsin.

From the earliest days the care of the poor has been an important part of the work of the county board. Some members have favored putting the entire burden on the townships; some have favored putting the entire burden on the county, and some have favored a division of responsibility between the county and the townships. The various systems have been tried with varying success. At present the townships are responsible for the care of their own poor, while the county looks after the poor whose actual residence in any particular township cannot be proven.

Plans for the establishment of a poor farm and almshouse have several

times been set on foot. Once a poor farm was bought and sold again, and once the foundation of an almshouse was constructed but later abandoned.

November 11, 1885, at the same meeting which voted to erect a jail, a motion was passed authorizing the purchase of a poor farm, the erection of an almshouse and the purchase of equipment, \$2,000 to be levied for the purpose that year and \$4,000 the following year. The farm was to consist of between 80 and 160 acres and was to be located in the Trempealeau Valley, not more than four miles from a railroad. The work was to be completed November 1, 1886, at which time the county system of caring for the poor was to go into full effect. A poor commission was appointed, consisting of W. A. Johnson of Gale, Thomas Thompson of Independence and Charles Johnson of Blair. But evidently at the time of passing the vote the board had misgivings, for a motion was at once introduced to reconsider. The misgivings continued, and at a special meeting held June 15, 1886, it was decided to adopt the township system of caring for the poor, to dispose of the farm in Burnside which the commissioners had tentatively purchased, and to abandon all the work that had been done in preparation for inaugurating the county system. On the final vote the supervisors who still favored the county system were the representatives from Burnside, Independence, Preston, Sumner and Trempealeau Village.

In the years that followed, the matter of building institutions for the care of the poor and of the insane was discussed at various meetings. On January 2, 1899, O. E. Gibbs, E. J. Matchett and D. L. Holcombe rendered an extensive report on the subject and recommended that an insane asylum and almshouse be built, as a measure of economy, efficiency and humanity. The report was accepted and the three men named as a committee to carry out their recommendations. Later G. H. Neperud, D. Wood, Stener Hanson and E. F. Clark were added to the committee. Land was purchased west of Arcadia and work was started in the spring of 1899, complicated somewhat by an injunction obtained by Martin T. Babbit, who claimed that the powers of the committee expired when the old board went out of office in March. The injunction was served May 4 and dissolved May 12.

The work on the almshouse was suspended permanently after the foundations were nearly finished. The asylum was practically completed January 25, 1900. The first trustees were D. L. Holcombe, president, of Arcadia; F. M. Smith, secretary, of Osseo, and Thomas Thompson of Whitehall. J. A. Johnson was the first superintendent. He was followed in March, 1901, by P. H. Johnson, who was succeeded in January, 1911, by John McKivergin, the present superintendent. The farm consists of 405 acres at the asylum west of Whitehall and three forty-acre tracts of woodland elsewhere. The farm is well improved and equipped and the institution is regarded as a model of its kind. The establishment has not only supported itself, but has already paid nearly one-half of the original cost of \$90,000. A part of the income consists of a certain sum received each year from the state. The first nine patients were received April 6, 1900, and the number was increased to forty-six before the end of the month. The capacity is now nearly 150 patients.

Road and bridge matters have constituted much of the heavy work

of the successive county boards. The early roads in Trempealeau County followed the river courses. The trail along the Mississippi and the trail down the Beef River Valley early became much frequented highways. Beef River Valley, Trempealeau Valley and its two great northern branches, Pigeon Creek and Elk Creek (Pleasant) Valleys; and its eastern branch, the Big Tamarack Valley; Bruce, Chimney Rock and Borst Valleys, tributary to Pleasant Valley; Beaver Creek Valley and its tributary, French Creek Valley, are all natural lines of travel, while the Trempealeau Prairie affords routes west and south from Galesville and north and east from Trempealeau.

The greatest difficulty in road building in the county is in crossing the ridges which separate the valleys. None of the roads of the county follow the crest of the ridges for any considerable distance, the longest ridge road being one of several miles between Pigeon Valley and Osseo. The southern part of the county abounds in rock, but in the northern part of the county rock for road building must be shipped in.

The territorial and early state assemblies designated certain routes as state roads; the early county boards co-operated with various other counties in laying out roads which would connect the widely separated pioneer hamlets, and also laid out such roads as extended across more than one township. The care of the roads and the laying out of short roads was left with the townships. Bridges were built in whole or in part by the county when it appeared that the construction of such bridges would impose too great a hardship on the individual towns.

Modern road building in Trempealeau County was inaugurated under the laws of 1907. In that year the county board outlined a series of "proposed county highways" covering the natural routes of communication within the county. E. J. Matchett was appointed county highway commissioner. Under this system the county was to pay one-half for the construction of county roads and the township one-half. Under the laws of 1911 the state pays one-third, the county one-third and the town one-third. The state money available, however, has not thus far been sufficient to meet the entire one-third, so in reality the county and township are paying considerably more than their respective thirds.

Trempealeau County was one of the first counties in the state to build roads under the laws of 1907. In 1912 macadamizing was started on the Arcadia-Dodge and the Galesville-Ettrick roads. The work of macadamizing, grading and surfacing has since continued until something like \$400,000 has been spent within the county. The heaviest piece of relocation work in the state was done on the so-called Decorah Peak cut, near Galesville, where something like 35,000 cubic yards of earth were moved in a stretch of a little more than a mile, at a cost of about \$25,000. The new road considerably modifies the grade and eliminates many dangerous curves. In 1916 Emil F. Rotering was appointed county highway commissioner, and under his able supervision, with the co-operation of the county board committee, the highways of the county are being gradually improved and the system extended.

County Officers. William M. Young, the first county clerk of Trempea-

leau County, was appointed as clerk of the county board at its first meeting, May 1, 1854. John Nicholls was appointed November 20, 1854. Charles Utter was elected in the fall of 1854, but did not qualify, and on February 3, 1855, John Nicholls was again appointed. He was elected in the fall of 1856. Since then the clerks have been:

1865, Allen R. Wyman; 1867, B. F. Heuston; 1871, Allen R. Wyman (died in office); 1880, Charles E. Perkins (appointed November 9); 1883, E. N. Trowbridge; 1891, L. H. Whitney; 1893, H. A. Towner; 1897, P. H. Johnson; 1901, Oluf Ihle (died in office); 1904, H. A. Towner (appointed November 15, 1904); 1905, John P. Hanson; 1909, Paudor K. Risberg.

A. A. Arnold became county superintendent of schools December 5, 1861. At the same time George Batchelder, A. R. Wyman and Henry Lake were appointed examiners. Mr. Arnold resigned September 1, 1862, and was followed by D. W. Gilfillan. Following him came: 1865, S. S. Luce; 1870, Amos Whiting; 1874, J. B. Thompson; 1876, Amos Whiting; 1878, Mary Brandenburg; 1880, Stephen Richmond; 1882, W. J. Showers; 1885, W. L. Cummings; 1893, T. C. Salt; 1899, L. S. Keith; 1907, Cornelia (Campbell) Remington; 1909, Dan P. Gibson; 1917, Helen Berg. Beginning with 1905, the school superintendents have been elected in April and have taken office the first Monday in July, to conform with the school year.

Augustus W. Armstrong was elected register of deeds of Trempealeau County in the fall of 1854. John Nicholls succeeded him January 1, 1857. Since then the registers have been: 1859, Charles E. Perkins; 1861, Edward Barnard; 1863, Charles E. Perkins; 1867, David W. Wade; 1871, H. L. Bunn; 1875, John Olson Melby; 1887, Simon Olson; 1893, T. R. Phillips; 1895, H. N. Halvorson; 1901, Christian F. Ringlee; 1907, Julius E. Wilberg; 1913, Morris Hanson.

The first treasurer of Trempealeau County was Charles Utter, who was appointed May 1, 1854. His successors have been: 1855, Hollister Wright; 1857, George H. Smith; 1859, Samuel F. Harris; 1861, Noah D. Comstock; 1867, Edward F. Wade; 1871, Douglass Arnold; 1875, David Kribs; 1883, Henry French; 1887, Henry Thorsgaard; 1891, L. L. Grinde; 1895, O. E. Larson; 1899, Henry French (died in office); 1899, M. E. Ladd (appointed May 8); 1903, Charles N. Webster; 1907, Nels L. Fredrickson; 1911, John F. Hager; 1915, Ole O. Hovre; 1917, F. D. Hopkins.

George H. Smith was the first clerk of court of Trempealeau County. The other clerks have been: 1857, John Nicholls; 1865, Allen R. Wyman; 1867, B. F. Heuston; 1871, Charles E. Perkins; 1875, H. L. Bunn; 1877, R. A. Odell; 1887, E. Bratberg (resigned); 1888, Oliver A. Hegg (appointed April 2); 1893, Harry H. Scott; 1899, F. E. Beach; 1905, Eugene F. Kidder.

Romanzo Bunn was probably the first man to serve Trempealeau County as district attorney. He took office January 1, 1857, and resigned September 28, 1857, being followed by A. A. Arnold. Mr. Arnold resigned May 13, 1858, and Mr. Bunn was appointed in his place. Following him came: 1859, John A. Daniels; 1861, C. E. Turner; 1863, G. Y. Freeman; 1867, A. W. Newman; 1871, J. E. Robinson; 1873, A. W. Newman; 1877, S. W. Button; 1879, Michael Milligan; 1881, Sam S. Miller; 1887, E. Q. Nye; 1890, Hans A. Anderson; 1891, G. Y. Freeman; 1893, J. C. Button; 1895, Herman L. Ekern;

1899, Robert S. Cowie. Judge Cowie resigned late in 1903, and Robert Christianson was appointed. Mr. Christianson died after a few months, and Earl F. Hensel was appointed. He served until the close of 1908. John A. Markham then served until the close of 1912, when Judge Hensel again took office, being succeeded January 1, 1915, by Elmer E. Barlow.

When the first term of court was held on April 28, 1856, A. M. Brandenburg was the sheriff of Trempealeau County. Following him the sheriffs have been: 1857, William Clark; 1859, Robert E. Jones; 1861, William A. Cram; 1863, J. W. Marsh; 1865, Ulysses Button; 1867, Edward Elkins; 1869, John C. McCoy; 1871, David W. Wade; 1873, Charles F. Holmes; 1875, Joseph Kellogg; 1877, E. S. Hotchkiss; 1879, Daniel K. Hagestad; 1881, Nels L. Tolvstad; 1883, Ed Elstad; 1885, John McKeith; 1887, Ed Elstad; 1889, John Boynton; 1891, John McKeith; 1893, Nels L. Fredrickson; 1895, John Durisch; 1897, Joseph L. Jensen; 1899, G. F. Steig; 1901, Elmer L. Immell; 1903, Arthur A. Holmes; 1905, Nels J. Nelson; 1907, Mathias T. Pederson; 1909, Phineas A. Van Horn; 1911, Paul E. Van Horn; 1913, Carl Jahr; 1915, Edward Torgerson; 1917, Ed Erickson.

The first surveyor of Trempealeau County was George J. Turton. His successors have been: 1857, Daniel Trowbridge; 1863, Alfred P. Ford; 1865, Isaac Zeller; 1867, Alfred P. Ford; 1875, William Coates; 1877, Paul Heyse; 1879, H. B. Merchant; 1881, Thomas G. Cox; 1883, A. P. Ford; 1885, Thomas G. Cox; 1889, H. B. Merchant; 1891, Thomas G. Cox; 1899, Hans B. Raa (appointed November 17); 1901, A. A. Arnold; 1907, G. D. Arnold; 1911, J. C. Van Tassel; 1913, G. D. Arnold; 1915, C. J. Van Tassel; 1917, G. D. Arnold.

The first coroner of Trempealeau County was William Adams. He was followed by: 1857, Isaac Clark; 1859, D. W. Gilfillan; 1863, George Batchelder; 1865, Henry Lake; 1867, Charles C. Crane. Crane served as coroner the greater part of the time until 1889, though during that period F. E. Booth, Robert Cance and Ed. Borwell served one or more terms. C. E. Scott served from 1889 until the appointment of H. A. Towner, February 6, 1901. W. E. Parker served until 1911. Then C. L. Storey and S. F. Hutchins each served a term, followed by M. C. Crane.

Ten men have served as county judges of Trempealeau County. Benjamin F. Heuston was elected in 1854. He has been followed by: 1860, A. W. Newman (appointed April 10); 1867, S. W. Button; 1873, Charles E. Perkins; 1880, Seth Mills (appointed December 2); 1882, M. Mulligan; 1888, R. A. Odell (appointed January 10); 1906, Robert S. Cowie; 1909, Earl F. Hensel (appointed July 3); 1910, Hans A. Anderson.

County Boards. 1872: Albion, Ed Borwell; Arcadia, N. D. Comstock; Burnside, Michael White; Caledonia, Joshua Rhodes; Ettrick, Robert Cance; Gale, John McKeith; Hale, D. S. Watson (chairman); Lincoln, L. D. McNitt; Preston, Synest Johnson; Sumner, R. C. Field; Trempealeau, B. B. Healey (S. E. Heuston sat at the May meeting in 1873); Trempealeau Village, F. H. Krebs.

1873: Albion, George O. Babcock; Arcadia, O. A. Hegg; Burnside, Michael White; Caledonia, Joshua Rhodes; Ettrick, Robert Cance; Gale, John McKeith; Hale, James Thompson; Lincoln, David Wood; Preston,

James Hopkins; Sumner, Elias Gay; Trempealeau, B. B. Healy; Trempealeau Village, F. H. Krebs, chairman.

1874: Albion, George O. Babcock; Arcadia, A. Rathburn; Burnside, George H. Markham; Caledonia, Edward Barnard; Ettrick, Robert Cance (C. J. Beach sat at January meeting, 1875); Gale, George H. Smith; Hale, D. S. Watson (S. P. Solberg sat at January meeting, 1875); Lincoln, D. W. Wade (Lyman McNitt sat at January meeting, 1875); Preston, James Hopkins; Sumner, T. G. Cox; Trempealeau, Paul Krebs; Trempealeau Village, F. H. Krebs, chairman.

1875: Albion, George Babcock; Arcadia, N. N. Comstock; Burnside, D. C. Cilley; Caledonia, T. M. Holmes; Dodge, Charles Keith; Ettrick, C. G. Beach; Gale, John McKeith; Hale, M. J. Warner; Lincoln, David W. Wade; Pigeon, Peter Ekern; Preston, James Hopkins; Sumner, T. A. Cox; Trempealeau, B. B. Healy; Trempealeau Village, F. H. Krebs, chairman.

1876: Albion, George Babcock; Arcadia, J. D. Lewis; Burnside, D. C. Cilley; Caledonia, T. M. Holmes (R. C. Towner sat at fall meeting); Dodge, Anton Pehler; Ettrick, C. G. Beach; Gale, John Keith; Hale, M. J. Warner; Lincoln, David Wood; Pigeon, Peter Ekern; Preston, B. Olson; Sumner, J. V. Tracy; Trempealeau, B. B. Healy; Trempealeau Village, F. H. Krebs, chairman.

1877: Albion, James W. Grant; Arcadia, J. D. Lewis; Burnside, James Reid; Caledonia, Gilbert Gibbs (T. M. Holmes sat at January meeting, 1878); Dodge, Mathias Brom; Ettrick, K. K. Hagestad; Gale, John McKeith; Hale, M. J. Warner; Lincoln, L. H. Earle; Pigeon, Peter Ekern; Preston, Stener Hanson (Richard Olson sat at January meeting, 1878); Sumner, P. B. Williams; Trempealeau, B. B. Healy (D. C. Wasson sat at January meeting, 1878); Trempealeau Village, T. H. Krebs, chairman.

1878: Albion, J. W. Grant; Arcadia, Seth Putnam; Burnside, Giles Cripps; Caledonia, Gilbert Gibbs; Dodge, Mathias Brom; Ettrick, K. K. Hagestad; Gale, John McKeith; Hale, M. J. Warner; Lincoln, S. H. Earle; Pigeon, Peter Ekern; Preston, J. G. Hanson; Sumner, J. T. Linderman (E. Holbrook sat at January meeting, 1879); Trempealeau, B. B. Healy; Unity, P. B. Williams; Trempealeau Village, F. H. Krebs, chairman.

1879: Albion, H. Helgerson; Arcadia, W. Barnes; Burnside, E. Elstad; Caledonia, T. M. Holmes; Dodge, Aug. Bambenick; Ettrick, N. T. Tolvstad; Gale, John McKeith; Hale, A. H. Lewis; Lincoln, T. H. Earle; Pigeon, Peter Ekern; Preston, B. Olson; Sumner, D. L. Remington; Trempealeau, A. H. Carey; Unity, P. B. Williams; Arcadia Village, Seth Putnam; Trempealeau Village, F. H. Krebs, chairman.

1880: Albion, Ed. Borwell; Arcadia, W. W. Barnes; Burnside, E. Elstad; Caledonia, Joshua Rhodes; Dodge, Mathias Brom; Ettrick, N. T. Tolvstad (K. K. Hagestad sat at January meeting, 1881); Gale, John McKeith; Hale, A. H. Lewis; Lincoln, T. A. Earle; Pigeon, Peter Ekern; Preston, Charles Johnson; Sumner, D. L. Remington; Trempealeau, A. H. Carey; Unity, E. Everson; Arcadia Village, Seth Putnam; Trempealeau Village, F. H. Krebs, chairman.

1881: Albion, Ed. Borwell (George O. Babcock sat at special meeting in March, 1881); Arcadia, W. W. Barnes; Burnside, E. Elstad; Caledonia,

Charles Pickering; Dodge, Mathias Brom; Ettrick, K. K. Hagestad; Gale, John McKeith; Hale, A. H. Lewis; Lincoln, O. J. Allen; Pigeon, J. D. Olds; Preston, Charles Johnson; Sumner, W. J. Shores; Trempealeau, William McDonah; Unity, Ole Thomasgaard; Arcadia, Seth Putnam, chairman; Trempealeau Village, H. Hoberton.

1882: Albion, George O. Babcock; Arcadia, W. W. Barnes; Burnside, E. Elstad (W. R. Turnbull sat in January, 1883); Caledonia, Charles Pickering; Chimney Rock, John Haakenson; Dodge, Frank Brom; Ettrick, L. L. Grinde; Gale, John McKeith; Hale, M. J. Warner; Lincoln, O. J. Allen; Pigeon, J. D. Olds; Preston, B. K. Strand; Sumner, D. L. Remington; Trempealeau, A. H. Carey; Unity, P. B. Williams; Arcadia Village, Seth Putnam, chairman; Trempealeau Village, H. Hoberton.

1883: Albion, J. W. Grant; Arcadia, W. W. Barnes; Burnside, Giles Cripps; Caledonia, Charles Pickering; Chimney Rock, Peter Nelton; Dodge, Aug. Mondry; Ettrick, Even O. Gilbertson; Gale, Isaac Galloway; Hale, M. J. Warner; Lincoln, T. H. Earle, chairman; Pigeon, J. D. Olds; Preston, Stener Hanson; Sumner, Stoddard Field; Trempealeau, A. H. Carey; Unity, P. B. Williams; Arcadia Village, S. Richmond; Trempealeau Village, H. Hoberton.

1884: Albion, W. J. Boyd; Arcadia, A. Rathbone; Burnside, L. N. Lee (for Giles Cripps); Caledonia, Charles Pickering; Chimney Rock, John Haakenson; Dodge, A. Mondry; Ettrick, E. O. Gilbertson; Gale, A. Arnold; Hale, M. J. Warner; Lincoln, E. H. Warner; Pigeon, Peter Ekern; Preston, Henry Thorsgaard; Sumner, Curtis Buzzle (for Stoddard Field); Trempealeau, N. H. Carhart; Unity, Ole Thomasgaard; Arcadia Village, W. W. Barnes (for N. Lehrbach); Trempealeau Village, H. Hoberton, chairman.

1885: Albion, W. J. Boyd; Arcadia, Thomas Simpson; Burnside, W. R. Allison; Caledonia, Charles Pickering; Chimney Rock, John Haakenson; Dodge, A. Mondry; Ettrick, E. O. Gilbertson; Gale, A. A. Arnold; Hale, J. O. Van Tassel; Lincoln, E. H. Warner; Pigeon, Peter Ekern; Preston, Stener Hanson; Sumner, L. L. Cox; Trempealeau, N. H. Carhart; Unity, Ole Thomasgaard; Arcadia Village, O. O. Peterson; Trempealeau Village, H. Hoberton, chairman.

1886: Albion, G. H. Snoyenbos; Arcadia, L. A. Simpson; Burnside, John Sprecher; Caledonia, Charles Pickering, chairman; Chimney Rock, John Haakenson; Dodge, Frank Brom; Ettrick, L. L. Grinde; Gale, Thomas Hunter; Hale, M. J. Warner; Lincoln, P. A. Williams; Pigeon, Peter Ekern; Preston, F. Thompson; Sumner, L. L. Cox; Trempealeau, William McDonah; Unity, Ole Thomasgaard; Arcadia Village, J. Farlin; Independence, L. E. Danuser; Trempealeau Village, H. Hoberton.

1887: Albion, Knud Jensen; Arcadia, L. A. Simpson; Burnside, L. E. Danuser; Caledonia, Charles Pickering, chairman; Chimney Rock, John Haakenson; Dodge, Frank Brom; Ettrick, L. L. Grinde; Gale, Thomas Hunter; Hale, F. A. George; Lincoln, D. Wood; Pigeon, P. Ekern; Preston, G. H. Short; Sumner, L. L. Cox; Trempealeau, William McDonah; Unity, Ole Thomasgaard; Arcadia Village, J. Farlin; Galesville, W. Davis; Independence, L. Thomas; Trempealeau Village, J. M. Barrett; Whitehall, C. E. Scott.

1888: Albion, Knud Jenson; Arcadia, D. Bigham; Burnside, L. E. Danuser; Caledonia, Charles Pickering, chairman; Chimney Rock, John Haakenson; Dodge, Frank Brom; Ettrick, L. L. Grinde; Gale, A. A. Arnold; Hale, A. H. Lewis; Lincoln, D. Wood; Pigeon, Peter Ekern; Preston, Stener Hanson; Sumner, E. J. Matchett; Trempealeau, William McDonah; Unity, Otto Langerfield; Arcadia Village, J. Farlin; Galesville, F. H. Krebs; Independence, E. S. Hotchkiss; Trempealeau Village, J. M. Barrett; Whitehall, C. E. Scott.

1889: Albion, G. H. Snoyenbos; Arcadia, D. Bigham; Burnside, L. E. Danuser; Caledonia, W. P. Bigelow; Chimney Rock, John Haakenson; Dodge, Frank Brom; Ettrick, K. K. Hagestad; Gale, A. A. Arnold, chairman; Hale, M. J. Warner; Lincoln, J. E. Lamberson; Pigeon, O. E. Larson; Preston, James Hopkins; Sumner, J. H. McKenny; Trempealeau, M. H. Carhart; Unity, Ole Thomasgaard; Arcadia Village, S. Richmond; Galesville, L. L. Odell; Independence, E. S. Hotchkiss; Trempealeau Village, J. M. Barrett; Whitehall, Joseph Sherwood.

1890: Albion, M. B. Gibson; Arcadia, D. Bigham; Burnside, A. J. Bautch; Caledonia, W. P. Bigelow; Chimney Rock, C. E. Kittleson; Dodge, Louis Leterski; Ettrick, C. N. Ashley; Gale, E. F. Clark; Hale, M. J. Warner; Lincoln, J. C. Lamberson; Pigeon, O. E. Larson; Preston, James Hopkins; Sumner, E. J. Matchett; Trempealeau, O. E. Gibbs; Unity, Otto Langerfield; Arcadia, John Maurer; Galesville, G. Y. Freeman; Independence, E. S. Hotchkiss, chairman; Trempealeau Village, R. Hoberton; Whitehall, A. G. Bucholz.

1891: Albion, M. B. Gibson; Arcadia, D. Bigham; Burnside, A. J. Bautch; Caledonia, W. P. Bigelow; Chimney Rock, C. E. Kittleson; Dodge, Louis Leterski; Ettrick, C. N. Ashley; Gale, E. F. Clark; Hale, M. J. Warner; Lincoln, J. E. Lamerson; Pigeon, O. E. Larson; Preston, James Hopkins; Sumner, E. J. Matchett; Trempealeau, O. E. Gibbs; Unity, Otto Langerfield; Arcadia Village, John Maurer; Galesville, G. Y. Freeman; Independence, E. S. Hotchkiss, chairman; Trempealeau Village, H. Hoberton; Whitehall, A. G. Bucholz.

1892: Albion, C. Meyer (for M. B. Gibson); Arcadia, D. L. Holcomb; Burnside, A. J. Bautch; Caledonia, Charles Pickering; Chimney Rock, C. E. Kittleson; Dodge, Frank Brom; Ettrick, K. K. Hagestad; Gale, E. F. Clark; Hale, Robert Warner; Lincoln, J. C. Lamberson; Pigeon, O. E. Larson; Preston, F. M. Immell; Sumner, J. A. McKenny (G. Halvorson sat in January, 1894); Trempealeau, O. E. Gibbs; Unity, Otto Langerfield; Arcadia Village, Casper Wohlgenaut; Galesville, F. H. Krebs, chairman; Independence, J. C. Taylor; Trempealeau Village, H. Hoberton; Whitehall, C. E. Scott.

1893: Albion, M. B. Gibson; Arcadia, D. Bingham; Burnside, A. J. Bautch; Caledonia, Charles Pickering, chairman; Chimney Rock, P. J. Skogstad; Dodge, Frank Brom; Ettrick, K. K. Hagestad; Gale, E. F. Clark; Hale, Robert Warner; Lincoln, J. C. Lamberson; Pigeon, G. H. Neperud; Preston, Stener Hanson; Sumner, A. N. Freng; Trempealeau, O. E. Gibbs; Unity, Otto Langerfield; Arcadia Village, C. Wohlgenaut; Galesville, John McKeith; Independence, L. E. Danuser; Osseo, E. J. Matchett; Trempealeau Village, H. Hoberton; Whitehall, H. A. Anderson.

1894: Albion, M. B. Gibson; Arcadia, H. E. Simpson; Burnside, A. J. Bautch; Caledonia, Charles Pickering; Chimney Rock, P. J. Skogstad; Dodge, Frank Brom; Ettrick, K. K. Hagestad, chairman; Gale, E. F. Clark; Hale, Robert Warner; Lincoln, J. M. Ingalls; Pigeon, G. H. Neperud; Preston, Stener Hanson; Sumner, A. N. Freng; Trempealeau, O. E. Gibbs; Unity, Otto Langerfield; Arcadia Village, S. Richmond; Blair, Morris Hanson; Galesville, L. L. Odell; Independence, L. E. Danuser; Osseo, E. J. Matchett; Trempealeau Village, H. Hoberton; Whitehall, Simon Olson.

1895: Albion, J. H. Grant; Arcadia, H. E. Simpson; Burnside, John P. Johnson; Caledonia, M. E. Ladd; Chimney Rock, P. J. Skogstad; Dodge, Frank Brom; Ettrick, E. O. Gilbertson; Gale, E. F. Clark; Hale, A. H. Lewis; Lincoln, J. M. Ingalls; Pigeon, G. H. Neperud; Preston, Stener Hanson; Sumner, A. N. Freng; Trempealeau, O. E. Gibbs; Unity, Ole Thomasgaard; Arcadia Village, George N. Hidershide; Blair, F. M. Immell; Galesville, L. L. Odell; Independence, J. C. Taylor; Osseo, E. J. Matchett; Trempealeau Village, H. Hoberton, chairman; Whitehall, C. E. Scott.

1896: Albion, J. W. Grant; Arcadia, H. E. Simpson; Burnside, A. J. Bautch; Caledonia, M. E. Ladd; Chimney Rock, Peter Nelson; Dodge, Jacob Kaldunski; Ettrick, E. O. Gilbertson; Gale, E. F. Clark; Hale, A. H. Lewis; Lincoln, J. M. Ingalls; Pigeon, G. H. Neperud; Preston, Stener Hanson; Sumner, John Ring; Trempealeau, O. E. Gibbs; Unity, Ole Thomasgaard; Arcadia Village, A. F. Hensel; Blair, Thomas Herreid; Galesville, L. L. Odell; Independence, J. C. Taylor, chairman; Osseo, O. H. Shores (for James McIntyre); Trempealeau Village, H. Hoberton; Whitehall, P. A. Van Horn.

1897: Albion, Chris Meyers; Arcadia, D. L. Holcomb; Burnside, A. J. Bautch; Caledonia, M. E. Ladd; Chimney Rock, Peter Nelton; Dodge, Frank Brom; Ettrick, L. L. Grinde; Gale, Henry French; Hale, G. F. Steig; Lincoln, D. Wood; Pigeon, G. H. Neperud; Preston, Stener Hanson; Sumner, John Ring; Trempealeau, O. E. Gibbs; Unity, L. J. Dahl; Arcadia Village, A. F. Hensel; Blair, Thomas Herreid; Galesville, L. L. Odell; Independence, Thomas Thompson; Osseo, J. H. McKenny; Trempealeau, John Boynton; Whitehall, H. A. Anderson, chairman.

1898: Albion, M. B. Gibson; Arcadia, D. L. Holcomb; Burnside, James M. Hunter; Caledonia, M. E. Ladd; Chimney Rock, Peter Nelton; Dodge, Frank Brom; Ettrick, L. L. Grinde; Gale, Henry French (at fall meeting), E. F. Clark (at January meeting); Hale, H. H. Lewis (in place of J. Van Tassel); Lincoln, D. Wood; Pigeon, G. H. Neperud; Preston, Stener Hanson; Sumner, John Ring; Trempealeau, O. E. Gibbs, chairman; Unity, L. J. Dahl; Arcadia Village, F. C. Richmond; Blair, Thomas Herreid; Galesville, John McKeith; Independence, G. E. Danuser; Osseo, E. J. Matchett; Trempealeau Village, H. Hoberton; Whitehall, P. A. Van Horn.

1899: Albion, M. B. Gibson; Arcadia, J. O. Dewey; Burnside, James N. Hunter; Caledonia, J. C. Polyblank; Chimney Rock, Peter Nelton; Dodge, Frank Brom; Ettrick, L. L. Grinde; Gale, A. A. Arnold; Hale, H. H. Lewis; Lincoln, D. Wood; Pigeon, G. H. Neperud; Preston, Stener Hanson; Sumner, John Ring; Trempealeau, O. E. Gibbs, chairman; Unity, L. J. Dahl; Arcadia Village, F. C. Richmond; Blair, Thomas Herreid; Galesville, John McKeith;

Independence, A. W. Liver; Osseo, E. J. Matchett; Trempealeau Village, H. G. Gibbs; Whitehall, H. A. Anderson.

1890: Albion, W. J. Boyd; Arcadia, J. L. Dewey; Burnside, James N. Hunter; Caledonia, Frank Bender; Chimney Rock, Peter Nelton; Dodge, Frank Brom; Ettrick, K. S. Knudtson; Gale, A. A. Arnold; Hale, M. J. Warner; Lincoln, D. Wood; Pigeon, N. J. Agneberg; Preston, John McKivergin; Sumner, John Ring; Trempealeau, H. S. Gibbs; Unity, M. P. Innislund; Arcadia Village, F. C. Richmond, chairman; Blair, L. L. Grinde; Galesville, John McKeith; Independence, A. W. Liver; Osseo, G. O. Linderman; Trempealeau Village, J. C. Utter; Whitehall, H. A. Anderson.

1901: Albion, N. I. Gilbert; Arcadia, J. I. Dewey (at fall meeting, 1901), Frank Thomas (at January meeting, 1902); Burnside, James N. Hunter; Caledonia, Frank Bender; Chimney Rock, Peter Nelton; Dodge, Frank Brom; Ettrick, K. S. Knudtson; Gale, A. A. Arnold; Hale, M. J. Warner; Lincoln, William McKivergin; Pigeon, N. J. Agneberg; Preston, F. D. Hopkins; Sumner, A. N. Freng; Trempealeau, H. G. Gibbs; Unity, M. P. Innislund; Arcadia, F. C. Richmond, chairman; Blair, L. L. Grinde; Galesville, John McKeith; Independence, A. W. Liver; Osseo, G. O. Linderman (sat at fall meeting); E. J. Matchett (sat at January meeting); Trempealeau Village, Thomas Bohlen; Whitehall, P. A. Van Horn.

1902: Albion, Anton Ronglien; Arcadia, George Schmidt; Burnside, James N. Hunter; Caledonia, D. E. Campbell; Chimney Rock, Peter Nelton; Dodge, John Brom; Ettrick, K. K. Hagestad; Gale, A. A. Arnold; Hale, F. A. George; Lincoln, William McKivergin; Pigeon, N. J. Agneberg; Preston, F. D. Hopkins; Sumner, A. N. Freng; Trempealeau, J. L. Saunderson; Unity, M. P. Innislund; Arcadia Village, F. C. Richmond, chairman; Blair, L. L. Grinde; Eleva, N. I. Gilbert; Galesville, John McKeith; Independence, A. W. Liver; Osseo, E. W. Carter; Trempealeau, Thomas Bohlen; Whitehall, P. A. Van Horn.

1903: Albion, Anton Ronglien; Arcadia, George Schmidt; Burnside, James N. Hunter; Caledonia, D. E. Chappell; Chimney Rock, Peter Nelton; Dodge, John Brom; Ettrick, K. K. Hagestad; Gale, A. A. Arnold; Hale, F. A. George; Lincoln, D. Wood; Pigeon, N. J. Gilbert; Galesville, E. F. Clark; Independence, A. W. Liver; Osseo, G. O. Linderman; Trempealeau Village, H. Hoberton; Whitehall, P. A. Van Horn.

1904: Albion, Anton Ronglien; Arcadia, George Schmidt (at fall meeting, 1904), J. I. Dewey (at spring meeting, 1905); Burnside, James N. Hunter; Caledonia, D. E. Chappell; Chimney Rock, Peter Nelton; Dodge, Paul Jereskie; Ettrick, K. K. Hagestad; Gale, A. A. Arnold; Hale, F. A. George; Lincoln, D. Wood; Pigeon, N. J. Agneberg; Preston, F. D. Hopkins; Sumner, A. N. Freng; Trempealeau, N. H. Carhart; Unity, Ole Thomasgaard; Arcadia Village, F. C. Richmond, chairman; Blair, L. L. Grinde; Eleva, N. I. Gilbert; Galesville, E. F. Clark; Independence, A. W. Liver; Osseo, G. O. Linderman; Trempealeau Village, H. Hoberton; Whitehall, P. A. Van Horn.

1905: Albion, Anton Ronglien; Arcadia, J. I. Dewey; Burnside, James N. Hunter; Caledonia, D. E. Chappell; Chimney Rock, P. K. Risberg; Dodge,

Paul Jereskie; Ettrick, A. P. Ofsdahl; Gale, A. A. Arnold; Hale, F. A. George; Lincoln, D. Wood; Pigeon, G. H. Neperud; Preston, Ole Sylfest; Sumner, A. N. Freng; Trempealeau, H. G. Gibbs; Unity, Ole Thomasgaard; Arcadia Village, F. C. Richmond; Blair, K. S. Knutson; Eleva, N. I. Gilbert; Galesville, E. F. Clark; Independence, A. W. Liver; Osseo, G. O. Linderman, chairman; Trempealeau Village, H. Hoberton; Whitehall, G. F. Steig.

1906: Albion, Anton Ronglien; Arcadia, J. I. Dewey; Burnside, James N. Hunter; Caledonia, Frank Bender; Chimney Rock, P. K. Risberg; Dodge, Paul Jereskie; Ettrick, A. P. Ofsdahl; Gale, A. A. Arnold; Hale, F. A. George; Lincoln, C. Q. Gage; Pigeon, G. H. Neperud; Preston, F. D. Hopkins; Sumner, A. N. Freng; Trempealeau, H. G. Gibbs; Unity, Ole Thomasgaard; Arcadia Village, F. C. Richmond; Blair, K. S. Knutson; Eleva, N. I. Gilbert; Galesville, E. F. Clark; Independence, A. W. Liver; Osseo, G. O. Linderman, chairman; Trempealeau Village, A. A. Holmes; Whitehall, A. E. Wing.

1907: Albion, Anton Ronglien; Arcadia, J. I. Dewey; Burnside, James N. Hunter; Caledonia, Frank Bender; Chimney Rock, P. K. Risberg; Dodge, Joe Leterski; Ettrick, A. P. Ofsdahl; Gale, A. A. Arnold; Hale, F. A. George; Lincoln, C. Q. Gage; Pigeon, G. H. Neperud; Preston, F. D. Hopkins, M. M. Skyrud; Sumner, A. N. Freng; Trempealeau, H. G. Gibbs; Unity, Ole Thomasgaard; Arcadia Village, F. C. Richmond; Blair, K. S. Knutson; Eleva, N. I. Gilbert; Galesville, E. F. Clark; Independence, F. A. Hotchkiss; Osseo, G. O. Linderman, chairman; Trempealeau, H. Hoberton; Whitehall, A. E. Wing.

1908: Albion, Anton Ronglien; Arcadia, L. K. Strand; Burnside, James N. Hunter, chairman; Caledonia, Frank Bender; Chimney Rock, P. K. Risberg; Dodge, Ignatz Rudnik; Ettrick, A. P. Ofsdahl; Gale, H. F. Claussen; Hale, N. J. Nelson; Lincoln, C. Q. Gage; Pigeon, G. H. Neperud (at spring meeting), M. Everson (at fall meeting); Preston, Ole Sylfest; Sumner, John Ring; Trempealeau, Henry Kopp (sat at fall meeting), H. G. Gibbs (sat at spring meeting); Unity, Ole Thomasgaard; Arcadia Village, F. C. Richmond; Blair, W. J. Hyslop; Eleva, N. I. Gilbert; Galesville, E. F. Clark; Independence, F. A. Hotchkiss; Osseo, G. O. Linderman (sat at fall meeting), C. W. Lewis (sat at spring meeting); Trempealeau Village, A. A. Holmes; Whitehall, H. A. Anderson.

1909: Albion, W. J. Boyd; Arcadia, L. K. Strand; Burnside, James N. Hunter, chairman; Caledonia, Frank Bender; Chimney Rock, S. P. Solfest; Dodge, Ignatz Rudnik; Ettrick, A. P. Ofsdahl; Gale, H. F. Claussen; Hale, N. J. Nelson; Lincoln, C. Q. Gage; Pigeon, G. H. Neperud; Preston, Ole Sylfest; Sumner, John Ring; Trempealeau, Henry Kopp; Unity, C. O. Dahl; Arcadia Village, F. C. Richmond; Blair, K. S. Knutson; Eleva, P. J. Skogstad; Galesville, E. F. Clark; Independence, F. A. Hotchkiss; Osseo, G. O. Linderman; Trempealeau Village, A. A. Holmes; Whitehall, John Hager (sat at fall meeting), E. F. Hensel.

1910: Albion, W. J. Boyd; Arcadia, L. K. Strand; Burnside, James N. Hunter, chairman; Caledonia, Frank Bender; Chimney Rock, Peter Nelton; Dodge, J. F. Brom; Ettrick, A. J. Ekern; Gale, H. F. Claussen; Hale, F. A. George; Lincoln, C. Q. Gage; Pigeon, G. H. Neperud; Preston, A. N. Nelson; Sumner, John Ring; Trempealeau, Henry Kopp; Unity, C. O. Dahl; Arcadia

Village, F. C. Richmond, Morris Hanson (did not qualify), H. T. Thompson (sat at fall meeting), L. L. Grinde (sat at spring meeting); Eleva, P. J. Skogstad; Galesville, E. F. Clark; Independence, F. A. Hotchkiss; Osseo, C. M. Lewis (sat at fall meeting), G. O. Linderman (sat at spring meeting); Trempealeau Village, H. Hoberton; Whitehall, E. F. Hensel (sat at fall meeting), John Hager (sat at spring meeting).

1911: Albion, W. J. Boyd; Arcadia, L. K. Strand; Burnside, James N. Hunter, chairman; Caledonia, Frank Bender; Chimney Rock, S. P. Solfest; Dodge, Ignatz Rudnik; Ettrick, A. J. Ekern; Gale, H. F. Claussen; Hale, F. A. George; Lincoln, C. Q. Gage; Pigeon, E. E. Hegge; Preston, A. N. Nelson; Sumner, John Ring; Trempealeau, I. R. Barr; Unity, C. O. Dahl; Arcadia Village, J. A. Palmer; Blair, A. B. Peterson; Eleva, N. I. Gilbert; Galesville, E. F. Clark; Independence, F. A. Hotchkiss; Osseo, G. O. Linderman; Trempealeau Village, H. Hoberton; Whitehall, E. F. Hensel.

1912. Albion, W. J. Boyd; Arcadia, M. T. Stelmach; Burnside, James N. Hunter, chairman; Caledonia, D. E. Chappell; Chimney Rock, S. P. Solfest; Dodge, M. D. Brown; Ettrick, E. J. Brovold (at fall meeting), J. A. Knudtson (at spring meeting); Gale, L. L. Grinde; Hale, F. A. George; Lincoln, C. Q. Gage; Pigeon, E. A. Hegge; Preston, Ole Sylfest; Sumner, John Ring; Trempealeau, I. R. Barr; Unity, C. O. Dahl; Arcadia Village, J. A. Palmer; Blair, A. B. Peterson; Eleva, N. I. Gilbert; Galesville, E. F. Clark; Independence, F. A. Hotchkiss; Osseo, G. O. Linderman; Trempealeau Village, H. Hoberton; Whitehall, E. F. Hensel.

1913: Albion, W. J. Boyd; Arcadia, M. T. Stelmach; Burnside, James N. Hunter; Caledonia, D. E. Chappell; Chimney Rock, Peter Nelton; Dodge, M. D. Brom; Ettrick, G. W. Smith; Gale, Phillip Uhle; Hale, G. H. Conrow; Lincoln, C. Q. Gage; Pigeon, E. A. Hegge; Preston, Ole Sylfest; Sumner, A. Ihle (sat at fall meeting), Lars N. Seesan (sat at spring meeting); Trempealeau, Henry Kopp; Unity, C. O. Dahl (sat at fall meeting), D. G. Williams (sat at spring meeting); Arcadia Village, J. A. Palmer; Blair, A. B. Peterson; Eleva, P. J. Skogstad; Galesville, E. F. Clark, chairman; Independence, F. A. Hotchkiss; Osseo, C. M. Lewis; Trempealeau, H. Hoberton (died April 4, 1914); Whitehall, C. L. Storey.

1914: Albion, W. J. Boyd; Arcadia, Ed. B. McWeeny; Burnside, James N. Hunter; Caledonia, Frank Bender; Chimney Rock, Peter Nelton; Dodge, M. D. Brown; Ettrick, A. W. Smith; Gale, L. L. Grinde; Hale, G. H. Conrow; Lincoln, C. H. Anderson; Pigeon, E. A. Hegge; Preston, Ole Sylfest; Sumner, A. Ihle; Trempealeau, I. R. Barr; Unity, C. O. Dahl; Arcadia Village, J. A. Palmer; Blair, A. B. Peterson; Eleva, P. J. Skogstad; Galesville, E. F. Clark, chairman; Independence, F. A. Hotchkiss; Osseo, E. Hagen; Trempealeau, G. G. Gibbs; Whitehall, N. L. Fredrickson.

1915: Albion, Fred Bowers; Arcadia, Ed. B. McWeeny; Burnside, James N. Hunter; Caledonia, Frank Bender; Chimney Rock, Peter Nelton; Dodge, M. D. Brown; Ettrick, G. W. Smith; Gale, L. L. Grinde; Hale, G. H. Conrow; Lincoln, C. H. Anderson; Pigeon, G. H. Neperud; Preston, Ole Sylfest; Sumner, A. Ihle; Trempealeau, I. H. Barr; Unity, C. O. Dahl; Arcadia Village, J. A. Palmer; Blair, C. J. Gibson (sat at spring meeting), Stener Hanson (sat at fall meeting); Eleva, C. P. Larson; Galesville, E. F.

Clark; Independence, F. A. Hotchkiss, chairman; Osseo, E. Hagen; Trempealeau Village, G. G. Gibbs; Whitehall, N. L. Fredrickson.

1916: Albion, Ole T. Miland (at fall meeting), Fred Bowers (at spring meeting); Arcadia, Ed. B. McWeeny; Burnside, James N. Hunter; Caledonia, William Nicholls; Chimney Rock, Peter Nelton; Dodge, M. D. Brown; Ettrick, J. A. Knutson; Gale, L. L. Grinde; Hale, G. H. Conrow; Lincoln, C. H. Anderson; Pigeon, E. A. Hegge; Preston, Ole Sylfest; Sumner, E. J. Henry (sat at fall meeting), E. H. Remington (sat at spring meeting); Trempealeau, Henry Kopp; Unity, C. O. Dahl; Arcadia Village, J. A. Palmer; Blair, K. S. Knutson (in place of Stener Hanson); Eleva, C. P. Larson; Galesville, E. F. Clark; Independence, F. A. Hotchkiss, chairman; Osseo, E. Hagen; Trempealeau Village, E. D. Smith (sat at fall meeting), G. G. Gibbs (sat at spring meeting); Whitehall, N. L. Fredrickson.

1—*General Laws of 1854*, Chapter 2.

2—All the proceedings of the successive boards mentioned in this chapter are found in the Minutes, which are in the custody of the County Clerk. The list of officers which appears in this chapter is secured from the election returns, from the oaths of office filed, and from the Minutes.

3—This list appears on p. 1035 in the *History of Western Wisconsin* (Chicago, 1881), and is supposedly from the pen of B. F. Heuston. The election of the clerk of court, clerk of the board, register and treasurer are confirmed by the records. The name of Ira E. Moore appears nowhere in the records, and A. M. Brandenburg apparently served as sheriff in 1855-56. The records show that George J. Turton was appointed surveyor June 26, 1855. No other mention of Charles Utter as district attorney can be found. He was not a lawyer. Hollister Wright filed his bond as treasurer Jan. 19, 1855, but on March 9, 1856, George Batchelder was paid for services as treasurer. No confirmation appears of the election of William Adams as coroner.

4—The State ex rel. Geo. F. Haswell vs. William A. Cram, 16 Wis. 343-344.

CHAPTER X

HISTORICAL PAPERS

The Trempealeau County Historical Society is in possession of a number of historical papers relating to the settlement of various minor valleys and cooleys in the county, and incidents of the early days, as well as to the personality of many of the pioneers. These papers are for the most part still in manuscript, and they are here printed to add interest to the general story of the pioneer period that has already been told. The collection is increasing, and in time the society will doubtless possess the history of every locality in the county. The papers already preserved are largely from the pens of Hon. H. A. Anderson, Hon. Stephen Richmond and Dr. E. D. Pierce. In addition to these, many papers have been gathered especially for this work.

Recollections of Antoine Grignon.¹ (Eben D. Pierce, Wis. Hist. Soc. Proceedings, 1913, 110-136.) I was born at old Fort Crawford, Prairie du Chien, January 9, 1828.² My father, Amable Grignon, who was of French and Winnebago descent, was born at Portage, Wisconsin;³ my mother, Archange La Bathe, was born at Prairie du Chien, of a French father and Sioux mother, being a cousin of Wabashaw, the Sioux chief whose village was located on the site of Winona, Minnesota.⁴ She was a sister of Francois La Bathe, the noted trader, long a trusted employee of the American Fur Company.⁵ Amable Grignon acted as interpreter for the Federal Government on various occasions, and was stationed for a number of years at Fort Crawford as interpreter for its commandant, Colonel Zachary Taylor.⁶

There were three children in the family, Paul, Archange, and myself, and although our parents had but a limited education, they determined to give their children the best opportunities within their reach. So I was taken to Col. Zachary Taylor, who permitted me to attend the school conducted in the garrison, thus laying the foundation for an education.

I next went for two terms to a private school conducted by a Mr. Cady [Cadle],⁷ then John Haney became my teacher. There were no public schools in that day at Prairie du Chien, and the parents of the pupils in the private schools paid the teacher a certain amount each month for their instruction. I remember, too, my French teacher, a Mr. Gibault, who also taught English, and a lady by the name of Mrs. Crosby, who held school in her home.

When I was a little past twelve years of age I went to school to Rev. Joseph Cretin, a Catholic clergyman, who afterwards became bishop of St. Paul.⁸ By the time I was fifteen years of age I had a fair education in the common branches of English⁹ and was ready to go out into the world better equipped than most French Canadian boys of my time.

When I was fifteen years old I went to work for the American Fur Com-

pany under a sub-agent named Alexis P. Bailly, of Wabasha, Minnesota.¹⁰ I was sent out to Turkey River, Iowa. We went by wagon, fifty miles southwest of Prairie du Chien, where a store building was erected and trade opened among the Winnebago. A few months later I came back to Prairie du Chien, and went by the steamboat "Otter" up the Mississippi to Trempealeau, which was then known as Reed's Landing or Reed's Town. James Reed had married my widowed mother and I visited her at his home, a large log house near the river.¹¹

There were but a few families in Reed's Town. John B. Doville¹² and family were living there. He had been conducting a wood yard over on the island opposite Trempealeau for a few years, having been sent in 1838 by Francois La Bathe to occupy the island and furnish cord-wood for the steamboats passing up and down the river. Joseph Reed, a French Canadian, accompanied him.

The real object in holding the island was to secure the fur trade, and to keep Wabashaw's band of Sioux from giving their trade to rival companies.

Doville was quite an agriculturist; he cultivated the land formerly broken by Louis Stram at the Swiss mission,¹³ and also broke up more on the flat near where the city park is now located. He sowed oats, wheat, flaxseed, potatoes, and beans. He has the honor, I think, of being the first farmer in Trempealeau County. Stram broke the first land, but did not sow any seed except for garden purposes.

Alexander Chenevert¹⁴ was living upon the site that afterwards became the old Grant place. Farther up the river near Fred Ford's present residence, lived the Bunnells—Willard and Lafayette. Willard lived here until 1848, when he moved across into Minnesota. Lafayette Bunnell had moved to Minnesota a couple of years before his brother Willard.¹⁵ There was another Frenchman here at that time by the name of Michael Goulet, who chopped wood for Reed, and worked at odd jobs whenever opportunity offered. He did not remain long, a few years perhaps, and then went farther north.¹⁶

I worked for Mr. Reed, who was farmer for Wabashaw's band of Sioux at Winona, and as he could get home only occasionally I helped look after his stock, and built some pole fences for him in the fall of 1843, on what afterwards became the Van Engen farm. This was the first fence built in the county. Reed had considerable stock, several head of cattle, a bunch of ponies, and some blooded horses. They grazed on the hills, and out on Trempealeau Prairie, and required little attention summer or winter, although we always put up some wild hay for them in case deep snow should make the grazing difficult. Cattle suffered more during the deep snow than the horses, who could more easily paw the snow away.

In 1844 a Frenchman, Assalin, came to Reed's Town. He was a carpenter by trade, and manufactured for Mr. Reed the first wagon in the county, that is, he made the woodwork, but the iron had to be shipped up from Prairie du Chien. Besides carpenter work and wagon-making Assalin manufactured sleds and French trains.

In speaking of these early French settlers I must not forget to mention

Peter Rousseau, who helped Reed build his house. Rousseau was an expert with a broad-ax, and hewed the logs for Reed's house. This had two stories, was large and roomy, and served well its purpose as an old-fashioned backwoods inn.

Reed kept a bar, and I have often seen travelers sleeping on the floor rolled up in their blankets. Beds were a luxury seldom indulged in at that period. Around the old-fashioned fireplace in Reed's inn was often gathered a strange and varied company—traders, surveyors, trappers, and hunters, and a few blanketed Indians. As they sat smoking by the blazing fire in the evening, you might have heard stories of adventure that would thrill the heart of the dullest listener.

About the same year, 1844, there came to Trempealeau (Reed's Town) a Frenchman by the name of Antoine La Terreur, who was a cabinet-maker. He manufactured chairs, bureaus, chests, and other furniture, and was the first in our county to do work of that kind. Some of the chairs he manufactured are still, or were a few years ago, in the possession of La Vigne in Cedar Valley, Minnesota.

In 1845, Michel Bebault came here and hired out as a wood-chopper over on the island at the steamboat wood yard. He was about the best wood-chopper I ever saw at work. Three years later Leander Bebault and John La Vigne¹⁷ came with their families to settle in Trempealeau. La Vigne bought a little piece of land up in the tamarack, but had not lived there long when he decided to move across the river into Minnesota, where he settled in Cedar Valley.

Joseph Reed became a mail-carrier, and I think it worth while to relate some of the hardships he underwent in performing his duty. His route lay along the Mississippi from Prairie du Chien to Wabashaw's village at Winona. At the latter place he met the mail-carrier from Fort Snelling, near St. Paul, and after exchanging mails the two returned to their respective starting points. The trip was made by canoe in summer, and by French train on the river ice in winter, and by pony with saddle-bags at times when neither canoe nor French train could be used.

One year, in the latter part of winter, early in March, I think, Joseph Reed started from Prairie du Chien with the government mail bound for Winona. When he arrived the carrier from St. Paul was not there. It was mild weather, so Reed concluded to proceed on his journey until he met his partner from up river. By the time he reached Holmes' Landing,¹⁸ the weather had grown considerably warmer, and the ice showed signs of breaking up. Still he pushed on, and urging his pony over the ice, sped away towards the north. On nearing Minneiska¹⁹ he heard the ice begin to give way—groan, crack, and move; looking about he saw that an island in the river offered his only place of escape from drowning, as the ice was fast breaking up. He made his way thither, and arriving in safety started to explore his new quarters. He had gone but a short distance when he ran across the St. Paul mail-carrier, who had likewise made the island in safety. By this time the ice in the river was moving fast, and before another day had nearly cleared. So there they were with little provision, shut off from mainland by a wide channel.

After their provisions gave out, they subsisted on rose-apples; they halloed in vain for help, but it was a sparsely-settled region at that time and no one heard them. After living on the island nearly two weeks, they were rescued by a party of Sioux who were coming down the river in canoes. The Sioux took the two mail-carriers into their canoes and left them at Holmes' Landing, where after two weeks of recuperation they resumed their routes. They were weak, emaciated, and nearly starved to death.

I remained in Trempealeau until the year before the Mexican War broke out, when I returned to Prairie du Chien and went to work in a blacksmith shop. When war with Mexico was declared, I enlisted in Governor Dodge's regiment of home guards, serving therein for a year. We did not go out of the State, but were held in readiness in case we should be needed.²⁰ While in service at Prairie du Chien during the winter of 1846-47, a report came to our commander that the Indians were massacring the whites in the locality where Vernon County now is. We were ordered out and with great difficulty marched up through the deep snow to the supposed scene of murder. When we arrived we found the report was false; the whites had not been disturbed in the least, and no Indians had been seen in that region for a number of weeks. So we returned ingloriously to our quarters at Prairie du Chien.

After getting my discharge I went to work as clerk for the American Fur Company in their store at Prairie du Chien under B. N. Brisbois.²¹ I remained in their employ until June, 1849, when I decided to go north and took the steamboat, "Lady Franklin," for St. Paul.

I soon secured employment at Fort Snelling, helping to get up hay for the cavalry stationed there at the time. I drove team and helped stack for a few weeks, when a man from St. Paul came and asked if I would run a boarding-house and bar for him at that place. I complied with his request, and worked for him for two months; at the end of this time I went down the river in one of A. P. Bailly's boats as far as Wabasha, where I went to work for Bailly. He was postmaster, and I carried the mail to and from the boats and also worked in the store as clerk. While there I was appointed deputy sheriff, and served papers on a man who was accused of stealing goods from my employer. I had a search warrant and went and looked over the man's house, but found none of the stolen goods in his possession.

In the winter of 1849 Bailly fixed me up a big load of goods on a French train, with a pony to haul it down the river; I took my departure for the site of Fountain City, where there was a large camp of Sioux. I traded among them until the spring of 1850, when I loaded my goods in a canoe and made my way down the river and through the sloughs to the present site of Marshland, where there was also a Sioux camp. I sold my pony and train to the Indians and bought a canoe of them, and traded with them for a number of weeks. They had been trapping up Trempealeau River, and had a fine lot of beaver, otter, marten, mink, and muskrat pelts. I had for my store a Sioux hut made out of buffalo hides—as comfortable as one could wish. After the spring hunting and trapping was over I returned to Wabasha, but not until I had an opportunity of attending a medicine dance at Minneowah, not far above the present town of Homer, Minnesota.

In the early fifties I assisted H. M. Rice, S. B. Lowry and David Olmsted in removing two bands of Winnebagoes from a point near Sugar Loaf, Winona, and a point on French Island, a few miles above La Crosse, to the Long Prairie reservation in central Minnesota. A few months later I secured employment with the Hudson Bay Co. at Long Prairie.

In 1854, I returned to Trempealeau and remained at home with my family until 1856. In the latter year Nathan Myrick, the pioneer settler of La Crosse,²⁵ wrote me a letter asking me to take charge as interpreter of his store at Blue Earth, Minnesota. Accordingly I went to Blue Earth and began work for Myrick. The Winnebago had meanwhile been removed from Long Prairie to the Blue Earth agency,²⁶ and Myrick opened a store at the latter place secure their trade. Myrick told me to trust all Indians that were honest, but to look out for the rascals, and said, "You have traded with them a long time and know them well and so you know the good ones from the bad ones." I trusted them to the amount of over \$3,000, and when they received their government annuity I got all the money they owed me, or very nearly all; I think I lost less than ten dollars in dealing with them.

I remained at Blue Earth until winter and then returned home to Trempealeau. I did not like the Prairie country and I wanted to be with my family, although Myrick offered to fix up a place where my family could stay at Blue Earth.

In 1850, I married Mary Christine de La Ronde, a girl from Portage, Wisconsin.²⁷ Fourteen children were born to us, six of whom are still living, three boys and three girls.²⁸ The girls when they were young ladies were noted in this part of the country for their singing; one of them became a school teacher and was very successful in her work.

In 1881, Major Halleck came from Washington, D. C., to enumerate the Winnebago, and wrote for me to assist him in the work.²⁹ We went to Eland Junction and enumerated Big Black Hawk's band,³⁰ and then proceeded to Black River Falls; after completing the work there, we went to Portage and Kilbourn, and wherever we could locate a camp of this tribe. Next spring I went with Major Halleck to Stevens Point to make a payment to the Indians and was with him a year, and whenever a payment was made I helped to locate and get the names of the Indians on the pay-roll. I also helped survey the land above Black River Falls, and assisted in locating the Indians on their homesteads. I have acted as interpreter on various occasions for the Federal Government, and on matters of business have helped the Indians whenever I could. I have lived here most of the time since I quit work for Myrick, and have always made my home in Trempealeau, being away only on business for short intervals. I live in the same house that I bought in 1857.

I would like to say a word about James Reed. He was a remarkable man for his time, when just such a man was needed. I first saw Reed in Prairie du Chien when I was a boy and he was keeping tavern there. He was not a tall man, medium in height but thick-set, with a deep chest. He had bluish-gray eyes and a sandy or florid complexion. He was a good shot, one of the best I ever saw, and the Indians far and wide were aware of his skill with the rifle. I have seen him kill eleven prairie chicken in

twelve shots, in the trees on the island across from Trempealeau. He was several rods away from the game when he shot. I have also seen him shoot the head from a partridge at a good distance.

One day a merchant from Rock Island, Illinois, who had advanced supplies to some lumbermen at Black River Falls, called at Reed's inn and asked the ways to the Falls. Reed inquired if the man intended to go alone, and he answered he did. "You will find it difficult to make your way," replied the old hunter, "there are no roads and the trails are unmarked and hard to find unless you are acquainted with the country." The man said he had a compass and thought he could find his way all right. He remained all night, and in the morning Reed and I accompanied him on ponies to Beaver Creek, and saw him safely across the stream before we took our departure for home. One afternoon a week later the man came crawling into Reed's inn almost exhausted. He had lost his way and wandered about in the neighborhood of Decorah's Peak for a number of days, subsisting on roots and berries. He was scratched about the face and hands, his clothing was in shreds, and when he reached Trempealeau Prairie, he was so exhausted that he had to crawl for three or four miles on his hands and knees. He remained at Reed's cabin about two weeks and then went home without attempting to visit the lumbermen at Black River Falls.

Reed could speak several Indian dialects and was as well acquainted with Indian character as any man I ever knew. He was of a kind disposition and generally used mild measures in his dealings with the Indians; but when diplomacy failed, he was a different man and his temper once aroused, he feared nothing, and could bring his rifle into play as handily as any backwoodsman I ever saw. He was noted for his fearlessness as well as for his expert marksmanship.

1—This aged pioneer died at Trempealeau, July 24, 1913. He was one of the few survivors of the fur-trading régime in Wisconsin, and his recollections were secured by his fellow townsman, Dr. Eben D. Pierce. The transcriber writes, "I have written most of this narrative just as Grignon told it to me. In some places I have not used his exact words, but have tried to convey his meaning in language of my own construction." The interview was written in the shape it is here presented in December, 1912, and January, 1913.—Ed.

2—The record of Antoine's baptism is preserved in the *Prairie du Chien Register*. He was, in fact, born Jan. 9, 1829, and baptized Jan. 17 by Father F. V. Badin. His godfather was François La Bathe, represented in his absence by Denys Cherrier, and his godmother was Virginie Fisher. A copy of the *Register*, the original of which is in Montreal, is in the Wisconsin Historical Library.—Ed.

3—For a brief sketch of this person, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xx, p. 157, note 21. Antoine, in an interview in 1909 with Charles E. Brown, of the Society's staff, stated that in 1825 or 1826 his father had a trading post on the site of the present Dakota, Minn.—Ed.

4—For this chief, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvii, p. 323, note 1; also *Id.*, xx, *passim*.—Ed.

5—See note on this trader in *Wis. Hist. Soc. Proceedings*, 1906, p. 252.—Ed.

6—Col. Zachary Taylor came to Prairie du Chien in 1829 as commandant of Fort Crawford; the same year he determined to remove the fort to higher ground, and began the new fort, finished in 1831. He continued in command until 1836.—Ed.

7—Rev. Richard Cadle had been in charge from 1827 to 1836 of an Episcopal mission school at Green Bay (see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xiv, *passim*). The latter year he resigned, and was soon after appointed chaplain at Fort Crawford, where he remained until 1841. He was probably the teacher to whom the writer refers.—Ed.

8—Joseph Crétin was born in 1800 in France, came to America as a missionary priest, being stationed in 1839 at Dubuque. There in 1844 he began a school for Winnebago children,

which was next year discontinued by the governor of Iowa. Grignon does not say the school he attended was at Prairie du Chien, and it is possible he went to the mission school at Dubuque. Crétin continued at that place until the see of St. Paul (Minn.) was erected (1850), whose first bishop he became, dying there Feb. 22, 1857.—Ed.

9—Grignon told C. E. Brown in the interview referred to, *ante*, note 3, that he attended for a time the mission school at Yellow River, Iowa, of which Rev. David Lowry had charge. For an account of this school, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xii, p. 405.—Ed.

10—For a sketch of this trader, whose name was frequently anglicized into Bailey, see *Id.*, xx, p. 197, note 55.—Ed.

11—See an account of the founding of Trempealeau in *Wis. Hist. Soc. Proceedings*, 1906, pp. 246-255.—Ed.

12—John Doville (spoken of as James Douville in *Id.*, p. 252) was a son-in-law of James Reed, and the first permanent settler of Trempealeau. His companion, Joseph (also called Antoine) Reed, was a French Canadian, not related to James Reed.—Ed.

13—For an account of this mission, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, x, pp. 367, 506, 507; *Proceedings*, 1906, pp. 251, 252.

14—According to the *Prairie du Chien Register*, Alexander Chenever, son of François Chenever and Marie Louise Giard, was born at that place Jan. 10, 1827, and baptized Aug. 16 of the same year. He married a daughter of James Reed.—Ed.

15—Willard B. Bunnell was born in 1814 at Homer, N. Y. He ran away and sailed upon the Great Lakes as pilot until 1832, when he settled at Detroit and there married, in 1837, Matilda Desnoyer. Having entered the fur trade, he spent the winter of 1841-42 at the site of Escanaba, Mich.; then removed West, arriving in Trempealeau, July, 1842. In 1848 he made arrangements to remove to the Minnesota side of the river, where he occupied in 1849, by permission of the chief, Wabashaw, the site of the village of Homer. There he died in 1861. His brother, Lafayette Houghton, was born in 1824, removed to Detroit in 1832, and accompanied his brother to Wisconsin in 1841-42. He enlisted in the Mexican War, sought for gold in California, and after studying medicine, enlisted as surgeon of the 36th Wisconsin Infantry, and in 1865 served in the same capacity in the 1st Minnesota Battalion. He was the historian of Winona, Minn., where he died in 1903.—Ed.

16—For an account of Goulet and his tragic death, see L. H. Bunnell, *Winona and Its Environs* (Winona, Minn., 1897), p. 210.—Ed.

17—Jean Baptiste Lavigne was an early settler of Green Bay, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xx, p. 159, note 22. Probably the Trempealeau settler was his son. Louis Bibeau (Behant) was an early Illinois trader, possibly the progenitor of these pioneers of Trempealeau.—Ed.

18—Holmes's Landing was near the site of the present Fountain City, Buffalo County, and was settled in 1839 by Thomas A. Holmes, previously of Milwaukee and Rock County. It was a well-known port of call on the upper Mississippi.—Ed.

19—Minneiska is on the Minnesota side, in the southeastern angle of Wabasha County.—Ed.

20—Grignon later drew a pension as a Mexican War veteran.—Ed.

21—See the "Recollections" of this pioneer in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, ix, pp. 282-302.—Ed.

22—H. M. Rice (1816-94) came from Vermont to Minnesota in 1839, where he engaged in the fur trade. In 1853-57 he was territorial delegate, and later first senator from the new state (1858-63).—Ed.

23—Syvanus B. Lowry and David Olmstead were both American Indian traders. The former had a post near the present Brockway, Minn.; was adjutant-general of the territory in 1853; laid out the town of St. Cloud, and died there in 1861. Olmstead (1822-61) came from Vermont to establish a trading post at Long Prairie; was president of the first territorial legislature, and first mayor of St. Paul.—Ed.

24—The Long Prairie agency seems to have been near the present town of that name in Todd County, Minnesota.—Ed.

25—Nathan Myrick (1822-1903), founder of La Crosse, came there in 1841 from Westport, N. Y. In 1848 he sold out his landed interests and removed to St. Paul, but continued to trade at several places on the Mississippi. He celebrated his golden wedding, 1893, in St. Paul, and died there ten years later.—Ed.

26—In 1855, the Winnebagoes sold their Long Prairie reservation to the government,

and were assigned to one in Blue Earth County, Minnesota, which they retained until removed (1863) to a reservation in Nebraska.—Ed.

27—For her father, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, vii, pp. 345-365; his obituary is in *Id.*, ix, p. 431. According to an article in the *Trempealeau Herald*, Dec. 17, 1909, Mary Christin de La Ronde Grignon was born at Portage, Christmas day, 1835, married at Long Prairie, Feb. 4, 1851, and died at Trempealeau, Dec. 8, 1909. She was at the time of her death one of the oldest settlers of the town.—Ed.

28—The newspaper article mentioned in the preceding note gives the names of these children as follows: Ralph J. Grignon, of St. Paul; Alexander Grignon, of Oshkosh; Guy A. Grignon, of Glen Flora, Wis.; Mrs. Mary Jebb, of Paynesville, Minn.; Mrs. Camilla Dederich, of Sandusky, Wis.; Mrs. Nettie Coyle, of Trempealeau.—Ed.

29—Jan. 18, 1881, Congress passed an "Act for the relief of the Wisconsin Winnebago," one of the provisions of which was that a complete census of the members of that tribe, scattered throughout the northern woods, should be taken, and their share of the Winnebago trust funds allotted to them; also that they should have titles to their lands assigned them in perpetuity. Maj. Walter F. Halleck, a retired army officer, was appointed special agent to take this census. Grignon appears to have been in his employ until 1884, when Halleck retired from the agency. Transcripts of several letters from Halleck to Grignon, showing appreciation of the latter's services, are in the Society's Library.—Ed.

30—For an account of this chief, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xii, p. 430.—Ed.

James Allen Reed. (Eben D. Pierce, Wis. Hist. Soc. Proceedings, 1914, 107-117.) Among the restless Scotch-Irish pioneers that Kentucky, in the early day, sent into Wisconsin and the Northwest, there are few with a life so picturesque and full of interesting incidents as James Reed. Born in Kentucky in 1798, he early became part of the rough, hardy life of the frontier. As a child he heard with eager delight the stirring tales related by Indian fighters, trappers, and traders who enjoyed the hospitality of his father's fireside; tales of thrilling encounters and hair-breadth escapes from the wild beasts and still wilder red men of the forest. Like most boys of the frontier he was unlearned in the lore of books, though he could read and write, but in the school of nature he early became an adept. To him the great, deep forest stretching away to the unexplored westland, was an open book; and he could follow a trail, wield the hunting knife, or throw the tomahawk with more cunning than the native Indians, while as a rifle shot he acquired, even on the western frontier where every man is an expert, wide renown.

When a mere stripling Reed resolved on a military career, and the War of 1812 furnished his fighting blood and martial spirit an outlet, some claiming that youthful as he was he saw service in the latter part of that war. Some time after the close of the War of 1812 Reed enlisted in the regular army, and was sent to Fort Crawford at Prairie du Chien. Here his skill with the rifle, his knowledge of woodcraft and Indian customs, and his utility as a scout, interpreter, and courier quickly attracted the attention of his superior, and before his term of enlistment had expired he had risen to the rank of sergeant. Although Reed was an excellent soldier, his greatest service to the government was in the capacity of scout, and long after his term of enlistment was over he was employed by the commander at Fort Crawford to conduct bodies of soldiers through the wilderness on expeditions against the Indians.

During his army life Reed married a Potawatomi woman, by whom

he had five children, Elizabeth, Joseph, Mary, Madeline, and James. Upon her death in 1830 he was married a second time to a Menominee mixed blood, widow of the trader, Russell Farnham. Two children, Margaret and John, resulted from this union. He later married the widow of Amable Grignon, whose son Antoine was the chief source of this biography.

While in the United States army service at Fort Crawford Reed learned the carpenter trade and helped in the construction of some of the frame buildings of Prairie du Chien. He found plenty of work both in the army and outside, but he had planned to become a fur trader. Accordingly, after getting his discharge, he entered the employ of the American Fur Company, devoting his time to hunting, trapping, and trading with the Indians. He was stationed for over a year at Red Cedar, Iowa, where he opened a trading post among the Indians, sending his accumulated furs overland by cart to Prairie du Chien. During the absence of his cart-train he had but a single companion, a Sioux boy about sixteen years old. One morning while this boy was alone a band of fifteen Sauk warriors passing by murdered him, and were in the act of scalping him when Reed appeared on the scene. Angered at the brutal murder of his helpless Indian boy he turned his rifle on the fleeing band of Sauks, and fired, killing one of the warriors. He then called out to the Indians, daring them to return and fight like braves, in loud and angry tones naming them cowards and murderers. They continued their flight, however, over a distant ridge, being fully convinced that the trapper not only was in earnest but was an excellent shot as well. Reed, expecting the Sauks to return that night and give him trouble, prepared everything for a surprise, sleeping with his loaded rifle on his arm ready for instant use. For weeks afterwards he was entirely alone at the trading post. Years later he told Grignon it was the most lonely and hazardous position of all his life, living in constant expectation of hostile Indians, and traveling on perilous expeditions through the surrounding territory in quest of furs. He had no further trouble with the Indians while at Red Cedar, but after remaining a year he decided to return to Prairie du Chien, where he again entered the government service. During the Black Hawk War he was engaged to help take a keel boat up the Mississippi to Bad Axe. Returning to Prairie du Chien he was sent as a courier with important messages to the army, which was nearing Bad Axe. He traveled the distance on a pony and arrived in time to witness the battle that ensued.²

Although in the government service, Reed always denounced the cruel, unrelenting slaughter of the half-starved, dispirited Indians, who had tried in vain to surrender to the army opposing them, and were peaceably withdrawing with their wives and children to the west side of the Mississippi. During the battle Reed saw two Indian maidens embrace each other and jump into the river, and as they rose to the surface of the water the soldiers fired on them and the crimson streaks of blood mingling with the tawny waters showed where their lifeless bodies sank from sight. It was a pitiful sight to watch the slaughter of the helpless women and children of the unfortunate Sauks, and what added to the horror was the appearance of the Sioux, who had been notified of the coming conflict, on the opposite

side of the river, finishing the slaughter by shooting, tomahawking, and scalping the poor, bedraggled Indians as they landed on the Minnesota shore.

When the struggle was over Reed started on his pony for Prairie du Chien, and while riding through the woods he came upon a lone Sauk woman, who had made her escape from the soldiers and ill-fated Indians and was hiding in the woods in a half-starved condition. Reed spoke kindly to her, assuring her of his protection, and dismounting gave her a portion of food from his saddlebags. After she had eaten he helped her into the saddle, and with his rifle in hand led the way along the homeward trail. They took turn about riding and walking until they reached Prairie du Chien, stopping only at night to camp, and at intervals for refreshments. When their destination was reached Reed turned his captive over to the military authorities, who in turn sent her to join her people in Iowa.

After the Black Hawk War Reed was sent among the Iowa Indians on business for the government. He started on his French train, which consisted of a sled made of oak hewn from the tree, and fastened together with wooden pegs. The sled, about three feet wide and seven feet long, was just wide enough to seat a man comfortably. It had hewn slabs fastened from runner to runner, on which was placed a pair of blankets rolled up in a tanned buckskin. Two poles were attached to the front top of the runners and to these the Indian pony was hitched by means of a harness made of buckskin straps, sewed with deer sinews; the whippletree was fastened with the same material. "I started on my train," said Reed, "taking my old flintlock rifle and ammunition to last the trip, for I was expected to kill game enough for my living. On my way I chanced to kill a big, fat bear, and when I reached the Indian camp and exhibited my game a howl of joy went up among the redskins. We dressed and cooked the bear Indian fashion, making soup of him, which I ate with the natives in their manner, and in order to show my appreciation I ate the last drop of soup and then licked the dish as the Indians did. That lick gained for me and the government our point without a thought of bloodshed, and after shaking hands with my Indian friends I took my departure on my French train for Prairie du Chien."

The next three years after his return from Iowa Reed occupied himself as tavern keeper in Prairie du Chien. His reputation as a fearless hunter and Indian trader, and the many hardy adventures he had experienced, equipped him with a fund of frontier stories as thrilling as the varied life of that day afforded. He could speak several Indian dialects, and his long association with the French at the Prairie settlement enabled him to acquire a fair command of their language. To the French he was known as Reed l'Americain; while by many, on account of his military record, he was called Captain Reed.

Around the fireplace in his tavern was often gathered an interesting throng of hunters, trappers, traders, and Indians, and the usual town loafers. Many strange tales of frontier life and backwoods lore were told, and wanderers from far up the Mississippi brought glowing accounts of the northern country, where game and fur-bearing animals abounded, and where Indians roamed wild and undisturbed by white settlers. The long-

ing for the wild, free life of the trapper caused Reed to abandon tavern keeping and resume his employ with the American Fur Company. While on his journeys up and down the Mississippi in the interests of the fur company, as well as when in the government service, he had remarked the beauty of the situation of Trempealeau and had decided to locate there whenever a favorable opportunity should offer. Circumstances delayed him until 1840, and gave his son-in-law, John Doville, the credit of being the first settler. However, Reed had chosen the site for a town and had in view plans for its future settlement some time before Doville came. In the summer of 1840 he built a log house on his well-selected site a few rods from the banks of the Mississippi and hither he brought his family, resolved to make this his permanent home. One day while hewing logs with his broadax for the construction of his building a drunken Sioux by the name of Face-on-Fire came along and began to abuse him. Reed said very little but at last, the taunting continuing, his temper gave way, and raising his broadax he threw it at the Indian. It came so dangerously near the Sioux that he was frightened and left, not daring to show himself again for days.

Reed, after finishing his log house, followed his favorite vocation of hunting and trapping in the Trempealeau valley. A few months after his arrival his wife died, and within two years he married the widow Grignon, who was a relative of the Sioux chief Wabashaw. Her relationship with the noted chief gave Reed great prestige among this band of Sioux, which together with his experience with the Indians while in the government service secured for him the position of government farmer for Wabashaw's band of Indians, who were then living on the site of Winona, Minnesota. He entered on his new occupation as government farmer and storekeeper some time in October, 1842, and two years later with the help of L. H. Bunnell, erected the first house built in Winona. This was a government storehouse, constructed of white ash logs. Reed retained his appointment until the signing of the Treaty of 1851.

In May, 1844, an incident occurred at Winona which illustrates the fearlessness of Reed in a crisis. He had learned from the trader La Bathe,³ an eye witness, of the murder of an old friend, Sheriff Lester, by a Sioux of Little Crow's band named O-mah-haugh-tay. Chancing to be in the tent of his relative, Wabashaw, when the murderer dropped in for a visit, he was angered at the consideration with which the fellow was received, and declined the courtesy of smoking the pipe which was offered him. The murderer, emboldened by the success of his crime, seized the pipe and himself presented it to Reed, with unfeigned malignity in his eye. Reed, whose resentment was kindled into flame by this fresh act of audacity, dashed the pipe to the ground, and denouncing the Sioux as a dog, informed him there was one white man who did not fear him. It was the gravest insult that could be offered to an Indian, but O-mah-haugh-tay was cowed, and soon after took his departure from the village.

At the first town election held April, 1851, at La Crosse, James Reed was elected justice. Trempealeau was then included in La Crosse County. Whether there were any cases for the justice court during Reed's term of

office is doubtful. Differences were likely to be settled in the more primitive way of hand to hand encounters, and if this failed an appeal to the higher court of firearms was taken.

While in Trempealeau Captain Reed had occasional differences with the Indians. He burned the old mission house^t at Trempealeau Bay to keep the Winnebago from catching and riding his horses which gathered in its shelter, thus galling their backs with heavy loads.

One autumn day in the early fifties a number of Indians came to Trempealeau to do some trading, and brought along the usual number of dogs. Reed had some hogs running loose near his house; the dogs began to chase them and succeeded in killing one of their number and injuring several others. When Reed saw the Indians coming he took down his rifle and, walking into the yard, shot seven of the dogs; this done he returned to the house, reloaded his gun, and waited results. Nothing more was heard of the Indians that day, but the next morning about fifteen of their number returned and began grumbling about their dogs being killed and demanded pay for them. Reed listened a while to their complaints, then becoming angry he took down his rifle and pointed into the muzzle, saying: "I have something in here which I will give you as pay if you don't all clear out of here at once." Without waiting for the contents of the well-known rifle the redskins fled, knowing the old trapper was in earnest. As a result of this trouble one of the Winnebago, named Hakah, plotted to kill Reed, and went so far as to hide in ambush behind a pine tree along the trail where Reed came after his horses every evening towards sundown. When Reed appeared the Indian noticed the well-known rifle slung across his shoulder, which so unnerved Hakah, that he kept in his hiding place until his enemy had passed, not wishing to take a chance of missing Reed and being killed for his pains.

In 1853 Reed sold his Trempealeau property to Benjamin B. Healy and moved with his family onto a piece of government land in the Little Tamarack. This was in some respects a better situation for one of his temperament, as it was in closer proximity to the most desirable hunting ground. From here he took the trail over the bluff on many a long hunting expedition.

When George Luce, formerly of Galesville, was a boy he went on a hunting trip up the Trempealeau valley with Captain Reed. They camped in one of the valleys near the present town of Acadia, and as several hunting parties of Indians were in the immediate vicinity Reed deemed it advisable to take precautions against surprise, inasmuch as the Indians looked upon the white hunter with jealous eyes. Therefore the men set to work digging a hole in the ground for their night's camp fire. After completing this they cooked their supper, and enjoyed it smoking hot from the fire.

After nightfall the sound of howling wolves disturbed the hunters, and as the night wore on the howling became louder and more hideous; apparently the campers were surrounded by wolves, but Reed began to mistrust the origin of the sounds and called out loudly in the Winnebago language: "If you want our scalps come and get them." At this the howling stopped. Reed and Luce sat up all night with their rifles across

their knees, expecting the Winnebago wolves to return, but no more disturbance occurred, and after finishing their hunt the men returned home in safety. Luce told of Reed's skill as a hunter and said the old trapper always rode with his rifle across the pommel of his saddle Indian fashion.

At the time of the New Ulm massacre in Minnesota during the early part of the Civil War, the people of Trempealeau and vicinity were one day thrown into a panic of fear by the announcement that a large party of hostile Sioux was advancing from Black River upon Trempealeau. With one impulse the settlers turned to Reed for protection, and the wary old trapper responded with energy. He knew the cunning savage and did not propose to be taken by a night surprise. All night long he patrolled Trempealeau Prairie, mounted on his favorite pony and carrying his trusty rifle ready for instant use, but it turned out that the report was false and no Indians came to disturb the frightened settlers.

Reed's numerous journeys throughout the Trempealeau country in quest of furs made him familiar with all of its streams, its ranges of hills, its numerous valleys as well as its woodland haunts and expanses of rolling wild grassland and marshes. Indeed he learned the country as thoroughly as a Mississippi River pilot learns the river, and was able to make serviceable use of his knowledge of the trails, the short cuts, the passes, and the divides.

"We were following along a range of hills one day mounted on our ponies," said Antoine Grignon, "Reed, his son John, and myself. It was past noon and we were getting mighty hungry. As we came over a hog's back and neared a rocky peak, Reed pointed down a valley and said, 'Boys, this is the nearest way to Beaver Creek, where we can go and catch some trout for dinner.' We gladly turned our ponies towards the valley, and in a short time came to the creek. Reed cut a small pole and took from his pocket a fishline and hook and after catching some grasshoppers for bait started to fish. Inside of half an hour we had all the trout we needed for dinner, and cutting some forked sticks to hold them, we built a fire and broiled them. It was a splendid meal, and I believe that is the best way to cook fish—all you want is a little salt."

As a trapper Reed could not be excelled. He caught all varieties of the fur-bearing animals which at that time abounded in this region, such as the muskrat, mink, marten, otter, raccoon, and beaver, but made a special effort to get beaver.

Late one afternoon in 1863 Reed came to my father's house on foot and said his pony was mired in a marsh just over the hill from our place. My father secured the help of two neighbors, and in company with Reed went over the hill to help extricate it. The men worked hard for nearly an hour, and succeeded in getting the pony out without injuring it. On the pony's back was a large pack of beaver pelts and traps. When the men reached our home it was dark and Reed remained all night. My father offered him a bed, but he preferred to sleep on the floor, with his pack of furs for a pillow and a blanket spread over him. Early in the morning he departed for his home in the Little Tamarack.

Throughout the upper Trempealeau valley at this time Reed was

known as Trapper Reed, and often the remote settler would see his solitary figure, mounted on his pony, winding along the hills or threading his way through some woody solitude over the unblazed trail to the haunts of the beaver.

While living in the Little Tamarack Reed had two hunting dogs of which he was very fond. One day while hunting with them near the present town of Dodge they came upon a panther and chased it into the bluffs, where it turned and offered fight. The dogs flew at it, and although they fought furiously, the panther seemed to be getting the best of them, and had one of the dogs nearly disabled when Reed came up. He did not dare use his rifle for fear of wounding his dogs and yet he was bound to help them; so, drawing his tomahawk he entered the fray, working his way into the fighting mass as best he could, and at length by a well directed blow succeeded in killing the panther. The wounded dog recovered and lived to join in many a subsequent hunt.

James Reed was a man of medium height, with broad shoulders and a large chest; his complexion was florid, and his hair light brown, almost a sandy hue, while his eyes were a grayish blue. He was a quick, active man, alert and ready for any emergency. He often dressed like the Indians with a blanket thrown over his shoulders and fastened around his waist with a belt. In disposition he was kind and genial and he was an accommodating and friendly neighbor.

After the death of his wife Reed lived alone in his log cabin in the Little Tamarack. He still made journeys on his pony up the Trempealeau valley on hunting and trapping expeditions, and continued his backwoods life until a year before his death, when the increasing infirmities of age caused him to abandon his favorite vocation. He then lived with his son John for a time, and during his last illness stayed at the home of his old friend and neighbor, Charles H. Perkins, where he died in June, 1873.

He had been such a man as the frontier demanded; he understood the Indians, and dealt with them kindly or severely as occasion demanded; while his firmness and fairness won for him the respect of all his associates.

Perhaps a future generation will build a monument to this romantic character. If so I hope it will be erected on old Liberty Peak, and will represent Reed mounted on his pony, with his rifle across the pommel of his saddle, looking out upon the peaceful bosom of the Mississippi, where the scenes of his eventful life were enacted. Such a monument, expressive of the pioneer hunter and instinct with the spirit of a departed age, would fittingly grace the noble crest of Trempealeau's venerable bluff.

1—The material for the following sketch was furnished largely by Antoine Grignon, who was a stepson of Reed, and had a longer acquaintance with him than any person now living. For Grignon's "Recollections," see Wisconsin Historical Society *Proceedings*, 1913, 110. Others who have furnished recollections of Reed are: John Perkins and Mrs. Mary House, children of Reed's friend, Charles H. Perkins, Sr., and Mrs. Charles H. Perkins, Jr., a daughter-in-law; Mrs. John Reed, daughter-in-law of the pioneer; and Mary Brandenburg, who wrote down at his own dictation the account of Reed's trip into Iowa on a French train. C. R. McGilvray, whom Reed taught to trap beaver, furnished many interesting incidents; also S. D. Noyes, William Huttenow, William Bennett, Mrs. Charles Cleveland. Mrs. Louise Wilson kindly lent me a daguerreotype of Reed, the only picture of the old pioneer known to be extant.

Among references in print that have been consulted are the volumes of the *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, and L. H. Bunnell, *Winona and Its Environs on the Mississippi in Ancient and Modern Days* (Winona, Minn., 1897). Data concerning Reed's career as a soldier and a farmer for the Sioux at Winona have been furnished by the War Department, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs at Washington.

2—See account in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XII, 257-261.

3—For a brief account of this trader, see *Wis. Hist. Soc. Proceedings*, 1906, 253.

4—*Ibid.*, 251, 252.

Irish Settlers. The Irish settlers of Trempealeau County have not been very numerous, although there are some among them who have taken a prominent part in the development and history of the county. There are only five sections of the county where they have settled, and, with the exception of Beaver Creek, the number who have settled in these sections are very few.

Thomas Drugan was perhaps the first Irish settler in Trempealeau County. He came to Trempealeau in 1853 and settled on a farm in the town of Trempealeau. At that time Trempealeau was a part of La Crosse County.

Patrick Lowery and Patrick Drugan, the latter a brother of Thomas Drugan, came to Trempealeau in 1855. Lowery settled on the place which had been previously occupied by one Winkleman in 1848, and which is now known as "The Old Grant Place," while Patrick Drugan settled in the town of Trempealeau on the place now owned by Patrick Lowery. The Drugans came from the county of Tyrone in the North of Ireland and lived some five years in Illinois before coming to Trempealeau.

Frank Feeney settled in Trempealeau in 1855 and bought a place near the old Ed Elkins home. Daniel Gallagn came to Trempealeau in 1856 and settled on the place where John Reid now lives. In 1858 James Brady settled under the Bluff which bears his name, and in 1859 Sullivan settled on the place now owned by Fred Ford.

About this time McCarthy, who was quite a character in his way, settled on a farm lying west of the village of Trempealeau along the Mississippi. McCarthy was a man who took great pride in his physical prowess, and on many occasions attempted to settle his differences with others without the intervention of the law. When under the influence of liquor there was always something doing when Jack McCarthy was around, and yet withal he was generous to a fault and had many qualities that commend him to the admiration of people.

These men were all typical Irishmen, and were the earliest Irish settlers in Trempealeau County. They cultivated the soil in a small way, accumulated but a small amount of this world's goods, and were not very active factors in the organized movement of their local communities.

J. H. Pierson came to Trempealeau in 1860, but did not take up his residence there until 1861. He came from Dublin, Ireland, and was in the constabulary service in that city before coming to America. He had been trained as a druggist in Canada and worked in the drug store at Trempealeau until 1871, and later bought a stock of drugs and opened a drug store of his own. The store is still run and known as "The Pierson Pharmacy." He was the father of James and Charles Pierson, who are residents of Trempealeau, and of Fred Pierson and Lottie Pierson, who have

moved out of the county. He was a fine type of an Irish gentleman, refined, law-abiding in all respects, and left a deep impression upon all with whom he came in contact. He died at a ripe old age in Trempealeau in 1911.

James Dolan came to Trempealeau and settled in the town of Caledonia in 1857. A typical Irishman who came to Trempealeau in 1867 is Barney McGraw, who still resides there. McGraw can tell you more of Irish lore than any other Irishman in the county, unless it be Dennis Lawler, of whom something will be said hereafter. The greatest regret of Barney is that although every inch an Irishman, he was born in New York City instead of Ireland.

A few, but prominent, Irish settlers lived in the town of Hale. The first Irish settler there was Robert Warner, who came to Trempealeau County in 1863. He raised a family of ten children, five boys and five girls, all of whom are now living except his oldest son John. Two of his girls are now living in the towns of Unity and Albion, one Mrs. Margaret Wingad, and the other Mrs. Catharine Wingad. One son, Robert, is a Methodist preacher, and two of his sons, Raymond and Rufus, are living with their mother on the homestead in the town of Hale. Robert Warner died February 10th, 1908, and is buried in the Hale cemetery. He was a prominent, successful and respected resident of the county, and had much to do within his sphere in the development of his community.

Another Irish settler in the town of Hale is Honorable M. J. Warner, who moved to Hale in 1864 and took up a homestead of one hundred sixty acres in Section 33, Township 23, Range 8 West, where he still resides. He was born in Ireland, February 15th, 1842, emigrated with his mother to Massachusetts in 1854, moved with his brother Robert and mother to Adams County, Wisconsin, in 1856, enlisted as a member of Co. K, 25th Wisconsin Infantry at Friendship, Adams County, August 15th, 1862, and was discharged in September, 1863, on account of disabilities contracted in the line of duty. He was married to Sarah Risk, November 17th, 1868, and became the father of five children, four boys and one girl, all of whom are still living. M. J. Warner has been one of the most active and prominent citizens in Trempealeau County. He has been an oracle of Democratic wisdom, has served his state in the Legislature, and has a great many times served the town of Hale on the county board. He is one of the very strong characters who has had much to do, not only with the pioneer development of the county, but in its more recent history.

Another early Irish settler who had much to do with the development of the town of Hale was David Maloney, who moved there in 1866 and took up a homestead on Section 28, Township 33, Range 8 West. He raised a family of seven children, all of whom were a credit to his name, five girls and two boys. Of the girls, two, Mrs. Catharine Bucholz and Nellie, who died at the age of four years, are laid to rest in the Hale cemetery. Mary Rorabeck is living at Ryegate, Montana; Maggie Harrington in Liberty, Canada; Mrs. Esther Elsom at Britton, South Dakota; James, the oldest son, is living on the old homestead and cultivating as many acres as any farmer in Trempealeau County, while the youngest son, David, lives at Ladysmith and is the County Judge of Rusk County. David Maloney and his wife are

both dead and buried in the Hale cemetery. Mr. Maloney, although deprived of the opportunities of an early education, was a great reader and became a man of wide information and very set in his convictions.

This trio of Irishmen had as much, if not more, to do with the early development and history of the town of Hale than any other set of more numerous individuals who could be selected, and were all types of the better and more prosperous class of Irish.

The next Irish settler of the town of Hale was Charles Donnelly, who settled on a homestead in Section 30, Township 23, Range 7 West, in the year 1867. His early experience coincided with that of most of the pioneers of Trempealeau County. He came to Hale without a dollar, but in a few years, by industry and thrift, he became the owner of a comfortable home. He died about thirty years ago and was buried in the Hale cemetery, where a few years later his wife was laid to rest.

The difficulties to be overcome were hard enough in the pioneer days for men to face, but how much more discouraging was the work for a woman, yet there came to the town of Hale in 1866 an Irish woman by the name of Mary Bryan, with seven small children, four girls and three boys, who took up an undeveloped homestead in Section 30, Township 23, Range 8 West, proved up, broke and cultivated it, and continued to live there until the children married. Mrs. Bryan died and was buried in the Hale cemetery about three years ago. Her son Thomas now lives on a farm near Eleva.

This constitutes, I believe, all the Irish settlers who have lived in the town of Hale.

In the town of Preston there have lived only two Irish settlers of whom I have knowledge. One was a strong character and left behind a family of strong individuals who have had much to do with the development of this county. I refer to James McKivergin, who was born near Belfast, Ireland, February 13th, 1818, and who was married to Annie Conway, who was born at Limerick, Ireland, June 20th, 1830. Mr. McKivergin came to Grant County, Wisconsin, in 1845, and worked in the lead mines there two years, when he moved to Troy, Walworth County, Wisconsin, where he engaged in milling. He moved to the town of Preston in 1862, where he continued to live until he died, August 15th, 1886. At the time he came to Trempealeau County there was no railroad nearer than La Crosse. Henry Lake then drove a stage from La Crosse to Osseo and carried passengers and baggage. Mr. and Mrs. McKivergin and their six children, and what baggage they possessed, went by stage with Mr. Lake from La Crosse to the log hut of Mr. Carpenter's near the present McKivergin homestead. As soon as the Homestead Law was passed in 1863, Mr. McKivergin homesteaded the farm now occupied, in the town of Preston, by his wife and son Edward. In the early days their markets were Sparta, Trempealeau and La Crosse, with no conveyance except by oxen. There is now surviving him and residing in Trempealeau County his widow and seven children, Edward McKivergin, William McKivergin, Mary Young, Rose A. Immell, Alice McKivergin, John McKivergin and Maggie Immell. Mrs. McKivergin's father, John Conway, came to Trempealeau County in 1864 and lived with Mr. McKivergin until he died in 1886.

Another Irish settler in the town of Preston was Patrick Bennett, who settled on what is now known as the Densmore farm about 1856 or 1857, who continued to reside there until 1864.

A number of Irish have resided at or near Arcadia. The first Irish settler at Arcadia was James Gaveney, who came there in the Fall of 1856. He was born at Balla Bay, Monaghan County, Ireland, April 25th, 1825. At the age of 20 he entered the constabulary of the city of Dublin and served for three years. In 1848 he came to America and worked in the lead mines at Mineral Point for two years, and in 1850 crossed the plains to the gold mines of California, where he became acquainted with a man, though not Irish, who had very much to do with the pioneer history of Trempealeau County—Noah D. Comstock. He settled at Arcadia in 1856 upon a farm, which is now part of the village limits of the village, where he continued to reside until the time of his death, June 18th, 1889. He was engaged quite extensively in farming at Arcadia and in the town of Burnside, and also in milling and in the lumber business at Independence.

Among the Irish settlers in the town of Arcadia are J. H. Gleason, Michael Arrigan, Patrick, John and James Manning, Edward Creeley, Michael Gleason, James Gibbons, Jerry O'Brien, Thomas Moriarity, Daniel English and Phillip English.

A strong character among them was Daniel English, who was born in Tipperary, Ireland, and came to America in the latter '50s. He was engaged for some time in the construction of the Vermont Central Railroad and of the Chicago & North Western Railroad, and settled in the town of Arcadia about eight miles south of the present village in 1861. He was a fine type of an Irishman, who made the most out of life without having any of the advantages of an early education. He cleared a farm of heavily timbered lands into one of the fertile and most valuable farms of the town, and raised a family of four boys and one girl, two of whom, Michael English and John H. English, now reside at Arcadia. He was the father of Dr. William E. English, who died some years ago at Winona, and also of Edward G. English, who is one of the wealthy lumbermen of the State of Washington. No finer example of the possibilities of this county can be found than in the history of this family. Although the father and mother came to the county with little book education and with practically none of this world's goods, they raised and educated, some with college educations, a family of five children, and left besides an accumulation of several thousands of dollars.

The three Mannings, John, Patrick and Michael, were all good citizens, but men of no marked characteristics. John was born in Limerick, Ireland, June 12, 1835, and died March 19, 1895. He emigrated from Ireland in 1855 and settled at Arcadia in 1862 on a farm two miles south of the village. Patrick Manning also was born at Limerick, Ireland, in 1838, came to America in 1858, and located at Arcadia in 1863, and Michael Manning, who was born at Limerick, Ireland, in 1840, came to America in 1863 and located at Arcadia in 1864. They all raised respected families, some of whom are railroading and others farming.

Edward Creeley was another early Irish settler of the town of Arcadia.

He located on a farm about two miles south of Arcadia in the latter '60s, where he continued to live until about ten years ago, when he moved to the village of Arcadia. Besides being a farmer, he was an engineer, and put in part of his time working for different railroads. He was, in some respects, an eccentric character, with a genius for machinery. He patented several devices for locomotives, none of which ever proved of practical utility. He is survived by his widow and three children, two of whom now reside at Arcadia.

Michael Gleason was also an unusual personage—a marked character for a novel. He was politeness personified. He homesteaded a farm in Bills Valley, three miles south of Arcadia, in 1866, which is now owned by the family. His wife was Mary A. Cashel, a sister of Michael Cashel, a very strong and active character who had much to do with the development of Buffalo County. He leaves his widow and several children, who are now farmers in Trempealeau and Buffalo counties.

Another marked character was John H. Gleason, who was born in Tipperary, Ireland, May 18, 1818, and came to America in 1848. He purchased land from the government in 1856 four miles south of Arcadia, and settled on this land in 1857. The log house which he built first is now used as an ice house on the farm. He died May 19, 1894. His wife was an unusual woman, whose predominating characteristics were friendliness and generosity. She was born in Tipperary in 1826 and came to America in 1849. She died July 11, 1910. They left a family of one boy and four girls, none of whom are now residents of the county, although the homestead is still owned by the family.

Another Irishman who located in the town of Arcadia was Phillip English, a native of Tipperary, Ireland, and whose wife was a native of Galway, Ireland. He came to America in 1850 and settled in Trout Run in 1872.

Jerry O'Brien, a native of the County of Cork, Ireland, located at Arcadia, July 4, 1864, and homesteaded a farm two miles east of Arcadia. His wife was Catharine Higgins, who was born in the County of Cary, Ireland. He left a family of three children, one girl, Catharine O'Brien, who married Edson Morgan, a well-known character in Trempealeau County during the '70s, and Michael O'Brien and Francis O'Brien, none of whom reside in the county. Mr. O'Brien was an impulsive, decisive character who took an active part in the affairs of his town in the earlier days and was in all respects a good citizen. The farm he developed is now one of the leading dairy farms in the town.

Another Irishman who prided himself on his Irish ancestry, and who was a very marked character, is Thomas Barry, long a resident of Arcadia. He came to Arcadia in 1867 and peddled books through Trempealeau and Buffalo counties. He afterwards was in the implement business and was known over a wide area as a successful auctioneer.

One of the early settlers was James Bigham, who located in Buffalo County in 1855 and moved to Trempealeau County on a farm eight miles south of Arcadia in 1858. He died in 1874. He left behind several children, three of whom are well known in Trempealeau County, Daniel and John Bigham of Arcadia, and Mrs. C. W. Thomas of Trempealeau.

Another Irish character particularly worthy of mention is Dennis Lawler, who is now living in the northern end of the county, at a ripe old age. Anyone who has ever met Mr. Lawler will recall him as one of marked characteristics. He is a man of many ideas and of strong memory for details. He was born in the County of Dublin, September 25, 1823. He was married to Catharine Brown in 1846, and started for America in 1850, when he was shipwrecked and returned again to Ireland. Seven years later crossed the ocean and landed at La Crosse, which was then a very small place. From La Crosse he went to Black River Falls by stage, and from there to the Beef River Valley, where he settled on Section 24, Township 23, Range 8. At that time there were no neighbors within twelve miles. He squatted upon the land. When war broke out he enlisted, and after his return homesteaded his farm. It is a matter of pride to Mr. Lawler that his grandfather was a chum of the noted Robert Emmet, and is buried in the same churchyard. Mr. Lawler is now living with his son, at a ripe old age, in the town of Sumner.

Another Irishman of marked character who has had much to do with the development of Trempealeau County and Northern Wisconsin is E. J. Matchett. He came to Trempealeau County in 1866 and settled at Osseo. He came to America in 1862 and for several years followed the business of railroad construction. He has held many local offices and has always been an active man of affairs. Few men have impressed themselves as strongly upon Trempealeau County as has Mr. Matchett. In his day he made much money and lost much, but whichever way the tide of fortune turns, he has always been the same persevering, plodding worker. It is needless to say that such a character will never rust out. Time only can wear him out.

An early Irish settler of the northern part of the county was William Henry, who settled in the town of Sumner in 1854. He is now alive and living with his son, E. J. Henry. Michael Merty settled in the town of Sumner in 1859, and died about 1884. Another Irishman of Osseo was Charles Shores, who was well known by the people of the county during the '70s and '80s. He ran a store for some time in the village of Osseo.

This article has now grown to such length that I can barely mention the Irish settlers of the town of Ettrick. They are the most numerous lot that settled in any section of Trempealeau County. Among them was John Mahoney and Dennis Mahoney, John and Daniel Kennedy, Thomas and Andrew Bierne, Peter and Timothy Dufficy, Daniel Neficy and Patrick McCormick, all of whom are now dead; Michael Connolly, who is yet living on a farm; Pat Cain and Henry Whelan, who now lives at Mankato, Minnesota; James Connors, who left the county years ago; Cornelius Lynch, who came to Wisconsin in 1859, but did not settle in Trempealeau County until 1869. The older people will remember him as the one-armed school teacher who for a number of years was a marked character among the school teachers of Trempealeau County. James Quinn, who died last year and is now succeeded by his son, William; James McLaughlin, who is dead a long time and who left no children behind him; John O'Neil, who was a Civil War veteran and who is succeeded by a son; Peter Crogan, who has now moved to Galesville; Hugh Crogan, now succeeded by his son Henry, and

Thomas Crogan, who is now dead and is succeeded by his son William; Timothy Lane, who is now dead and whose farm is now owned by strangers; Ed Rielly, now of La Crosse; Owen Thomas and Patrick Mulligan, who left no inheritors; Daniel McGillindy, who was a Civil War veteran, and Michael McGillindy, whose son Wallace now lives on the farm he occupied; Jeremiah McGillindy, who is now dead, but whose sons reside on the farm; James McCarthy, a marked character and excellent type of an Irish citizen; Sylvester McAvoy; Dennis Cavanaugh, who served in the army under General Miles and gave his life for his country; Daniel Cullity, also a Civil War veteran; Thomas and Michael Cullity, both of whom are now dead; Darby Whelan and his father, Thomas Whelan, who lived upon the homestead now occupied by Darby's son; John Harmon; James and John Corcoran; Thomas Wall and Walter Wall, who also served in the Civil War; Patrick Wall, John Wall; John, James and Richard Cantlon, all of whom are now dead, excepting Richard; Thomas Sheehy, whose boys now occupy his farm; Daniel Cahill and Bernhard Brady, now succeeded by his son, Thomas Brady. I should also mention Maurice Casey, a successful farmer whose land is now owned and occupied by his son and who was a nephew of John and Daniel Kennedy of Ettrick; James Larkin of Crystal Valley, who is now succeeded by his two sons, Michael and Fred; James Dolan, who years ago moved to St. Paul; John Bierne, John Hunt of Crystal Valley, also Thomas Roach, John Dolan of Galesville and Thomas Shaw of Crystal Valley.

All these were early Irish settlers in the towns of Ettrick and Gale. The data of their lives and work should be gathered and preserved before it is too late, but the limits of this article are such that I cannot now attempt it. It is worthy of mention that these men established the only Irish Catholic church in Trempealeau County, which was built in 1872 and is known as St. Bridget's Church.

A number of the Irish settlers in the county who should have been mentioned have perhaps been omitted. It is safe to say, however, that all told there has not resided in Trempealeau County to exceed one hundred Irish families. Perhaps no other nationality has had among its numbers more men of marked personality, when we consider the number from which to choose.

As a rule they have been good citizens. Some may have been impulsive, some may have been improvident, and it may be possible that some may have been deceitful, yet I venture to say there has been a chord in the make-up of nearly every one which, when touched, vibrated into harmony with the higher and better elements of human character. No two have been alike. Every one has had an individuality that separated him from all others. Very few have seen the clouds—they look more for the sunshine—upon the more optimistic side of life. Every situation to the average Irish settler in this county has had its sunny side, its humorous side. They have mainly lived in an atmosphere of good nature, and they should not be censured too severely if sometimes some of them have taken artificial means to bring it about.

They have been typical in their race. Their friends have been all the people, their faith their own. No climate has been so cold as will not

produce a shamrock, no soil so barren as will not grow a shillalah. They have been foremost at a fight, at a frolic and at a funeral, where their generous nature has always found a blow for the bad, a smile for the glad and a tear for the sad. (Written at Arcadia, November 12, 1912, by John C. Gaveney.)

Polish and Bohemian Settlers. It is impossible to obtain the exact date of the day, or even month of the year, when the first Polish or Bohemian people came to this county, for the reason that there cannot be found anyone that kept any kind of data, and there are only three left in this county of the very first ones that came here—two men and one woman. Those that are alive are all past the age of eighty and their memory is beginning to fail noticeably, and what information I was able to gather is such as these people were able to give me from recollection only, except in one instance, that of the woman I just mentioned. She fixes the dates of their arrival by the age of one of her daughters. She has the names of all her children and the date on which they were born written down on the inside cover of a prayer book, and she seems to be sure that the age of the girl I mentioned was three weeks.

It seems that the Polish and one Bohemian family settled in two localities in this county at about the same time, and as near as I have been able to learn, they did not know of the existence of each other at the time, nor for a good many years after—the length of time no one seems to be able to tell.

During the winter of 1862 and 1863, there came to what is now known as Pine Creek, in the town of Dodge, several Polish families, as follows: Paul Lessman, Paul Libera, Mike Lessman, Frank Weyer, Joseph Lubinski, Joseph Wnuk, and some others whose names I did not get. Of these, all but Paul Libera are now dead. With them came one Bohemian family, that of Math Brom. He is still living, although past eighty years of age and quite feeble. All of these people came from the city of Winona, Minnesota.

You notice that there were several families that came at the same time, and they settled in close proximity and formed a colony of their own. They claim the distinction of having the second oldest colony in Wisconsin, one in Polonia, Wisconsin, being older, and they claim their colony as the third oldest in the United States, one in St. Mary's, Texas, being first.

The other settlement that took place, which I mentioned before, was in the Town of Arcadia, what is now known as North Creek, and in what is now known as the Town of Burnside.

Here is the history of the settlement in the Town of Arcadia and Burnside as was told to me by the lone survivor, Mrs. Albert Bautch, Sr. The lady is also past the age of eighty, and although her memory is failing, and failing noticeably, yet after a little conversation with her she recalled quite vividly some of the hardships of pioneer life, and recalled a good deal of its history.

She told me that her daughter Johanna was three weeks old when they came to this county, and, from the entry on the inside of the cover of the

prayer book I mentioned before showed by her to me, it appears that the girl was born on March 19, 1863.

With Mr. Bautch and his family came his brother Lawrence and his family, and Peter Sura and his family. Those three families came together from New Lisbon, Wisconsin, where they had lived seven years prior to their coming to this county. Albert Bautch, Sr., settled with his family in the town of Arcadia, what is now known as North Creek, and Lawrence Bautch and Peter Sura settled with their families in what is now known as the Town of Burnside. As near as she could remember, no other Polish or Bohemian families came over to this county, to her knowledge, until about two years later, when several families came over from the State of Ohio.

All those speaking the Polish language settled in the different localities I have mentioned, and came originally from the German Empire, what was formerly Poland. They all came from agricultural districts and quickly adapted themselves to this country. They proved themselves to be sturdy, hard-working and thrifty fellows, and they have greatly assisted in improving the localities in the colonies that they settled in, and the great majority of them have accumulated considerable property.

You may have wondered why I speak of the Polish people and do not have much to say about the Bohemian race. This is the reason. There are now, as near as I have been able to learn, only about a dozen Bohemian families in this county, and those, particularly the younger generation, after living among the Polish people and associating with them, have all, without any exception, learned to talk, read and write the Polish language. They belong to and attend the same church, send their children to the same school, and to all intents and purposes have practically become Polish themselves.

They have in this county four Polish churches, four Polish parochial schools. The combined wealth of their churches, church furnishings, school buildings, real estate, and other buildings belonging to said churches is estimated at about \$200,000.00. The largest church is located at Independence, the largest colony of Polish is in the vicinity of Independence, and the total number of all Polish people in this county is about 3,700.

The principal business of the Polish and Bohemian people is farming. There are a few engaged in mercantile affairs, but only a few. The great majority of them, especially the early settlers, were accustomed to farming, and, being poor, came here looking for an opportunity to better their conditions, jumped at the opportunity this country offered them in the shape of homesteads, and went to farming as best they knew how.

Some strong men were found among the early settlers. For example, take Math Brom, the sole survivor of the Bohemian early settlers, a giant in stature, a pleasant, lovable fellow to meet, well balanced intellectually, of sturdy character, honest and upright in all his dealings, a true and loving husband and father, a true man, and respected by all who know him.

Another striking character was Albert Bautch, Sr., a big man in stature, a kind, loving husband, father and neighbor, a man who was absolutely true to the principles of American citizenship, a hard worker. He rapidly accu-

mulated considerable property—a big-hearted fellow who was always ready to advise and assist his fellowmen in so far as was in his power to do so.

There were other of the early settlers who possessed strong characteristics and who became prominent in developing this county, but time limit does not permit me to dwell on the individual cases. It stands as the undisputed fact that the Polish and Bohemian people of this county have proved themselves to be worthy men and women, have done their share in the development of this county, have taken pride in and have learned to love this country, and although a great many, especially the younger generation, some years ago went West seeking to better their condition and find cheaper lands, yet as they become older you will find, by going back with me to some of their localities, that after a number of years of absence and after accumulating some property, they come back and settle in Trempealeau County in their declining days. Only the other day I met one who is not very old yet who has returned from the Dakotas and bought a farm in this county, and intends to live here permanently. I asked him: "What is the matter? Why did you come back?" "Ah," he said, "this is where I was born. I love those trees and those hills, and I wish to spend the rest of my life here and be buried here."

Although they, the early settlers, mostly all came from the German Empire, they came from different provinces. Those living near Pine Creek came mostly from the Province of Posen and Pomerania, and those near Arcadia and Burnside came from the Province of Silesia. They all speak the Polish language, but the dialect is decidedly different. The great majority of them are of the Catholic faith. One of the strong characteristics of the race is they are cheerful givers to churches. Another is that they are hard losers and do not readily forget when some harm has been done them, and they frequently carry their animosities to their death bed. One other prominent characteristic they possess, and that is dancing. Not only the young, but in a great many instances men and women past middle age, derive a great deal of pleasure and enjoyment out of dancing. (Written at Independence, November 12, 1912, by John F. Kulig.)

Scandinavian Settlers. The Scandinavian landseekers usually had three things in view, wood, water and hay, as necessary to the establishment of a home. Where any of these essentials were lacking or the soil too sandy, it was ordinarily considered undesirable. Therefore we find them among the hills, if they had a choice.

Gulick Olson was one of a company that came up from the Bad Axe country in Vernon County and settled three miles east of what is now Blair, in 1855. He was the first Scandinavian settler in Trempealeau County. Ebert Olson, his son, now marshal in Blair, is the first child born in Trempealeau County of Norwegian parents.

About the same time came Bjorgo Olson, Jacob, Peter and Salve Tonnerson and Nils Halvorson. A little later Ole Teppen, Syver and Iver Iverson came from Oleana, Ole Bull's renowned colony. Teppen Coulee is named in honor of this Ole Teppen. In 1858 Terjan Thompson, 1859 Tosten Torrison Forkerud and Helge Opland settled in Tromps Coulee. Settlers continued coming in from older settlements and direct from Scandinavia, mostly from

Solor, in Norway, and spread in all directions till this settlement has the distinction of being the largest Solung settlement in America.

The Trempealeau Valley congregation was organized by Rev. H. A. Stub in 1857. But a church was not built until 1868.

North Branch Beaver Creek received its first Scandinavian settlers in 1857, when Iver Knutson Syse and his son Orias Torblaa settled there, coming from Kosh Konong. Torblaa, however, located just across the line in Jackson County. In 1858 many others followed, among them Knut and Paul Hallenger, Amund Olson Haaheim, Knut Rocholson, Thomas and Nels Herreid, Ole Nilson Skaar, Tosten T. Ringven, Nels Henderson, Lars Hanson, Ole Ellingson, Ole Iverson Dale, Erick Grer and Nils Okland. Rev. Nils Brandt organized a congregation here in 1858, and a church was built in 1861. The congregation paid Ole Olson, a Swede in South Branch, who had some fine timber, \$4.00 for the privilege of cutting the necessary material for their meeting house. The whole congregation came together, cut and hauled the logs and put up a structure 30 by 24 by 12. This church was built just across the line in Jackson County, and was the first Scandinavian church in Western Wisconsin. This old historical structure is now occupied by Baard O. Herried as residence. Among later arrivals are D. O. Hagestad, the first chairman of the town of Ettrick, Henrick Swendson, Arne Arneson, Torkel Gunderson, Berge Torkelson and his sons, Iver and Haldor, who came in 1859. K. K. Hagestad came in 1860. Many of the above came from the vicinity of Lodi, Wisconsin. This settlement is mostly by people originally from Hardanger, Norway.

Another distinct Norwegian settlement is French Creek Valley, where Peter Anderson Hogden located in 1859. He came from Halfway Creek to Trempealeau Valley, where he lived a short time before coming to French Creek. He was the first Scandinavian in this valley. The same year his two brothers, John and Andrew Hogden, also settled in this valley. Ole E. Gilbertson, with a large family, arrived in 1860. Among other early settlers can be mentioned Ole O. Onsrud, James Emerson, Anders Skundberg, Peter Olson, Lars Tolvstad, Iver Engehagen, Peder Ofsdahl, Christian Iverson, Andred Onsrud, Ole Smehaugen, Lars and Martin Larson, Ole Hovre, Fredrick Svern, Andrew Linrud, Peter and Ole Nilsestuen, Gilbert Jacobson, Hans Madson, Lars and Olaus Thompson, Nils Olson, Marcus P. Benrud, Tobias Olson, Ole Engelian, Ole Schie, Hans and Andrew Mustad. This is a very rich valley and one of the most prosperous settlements in the county. A good church was built in the early '70s, which was enlarged and remodeled about 20 years later.

The next Norwegian settlement in point of time is a little prosperous valley in the town of Gale that bears the name of that sturdy Scotchman, James Hardie, or Hardie's Creek Valley. Christian Larson Hoff and Gilbert Emerson Ekern came across the Black River from Lewis Valley and settled here in 1860. They were the first Norwegians there. Shortly afterward we hear such names as Andrew Ekern, M. J. Scarseth, Ole J. Hemma, Amund Quisselstuen, Anders Trondson, Amund Bjornstad, Peter Amundson, Andrew Larson (Hovensholm), Michael Michaelson, Lars Syverson, Mathew Larson, Otto O. Rindahl, Ole O. Semb, Nils O. Sagen, Bernt Everson, Anders

C. Haugstad, Mikkell Hanson, Hans Anderkvern and Even Fredrickson. La Crosse County contributed the most of these settlers, and a large majority of them came from Biri, Norway, originally.

Pushing across the ridge northward from Hardie's Creek into South Branch Beaver Creek, another Norwegian settlement was formed. Peter Larson came up from Coon Valley and located there in June, 1861, the first Norwegian in that valley. In the fall of the same year came Even Swenson and Gilbert Nelson, shortly thereafter Christian Olson Syljuberget, Lars Anderson Osley, Ole O. Brendhaugen, Peder Johnson Bratstiengen, Svend Larson Bergum, and others.

In 1862 we find Ole Gutormson locating in Tamarack Valley, the first Norwegian in what shortly became a very extensive Norwegian settlement. The following year arrived Tollef Egilson, Sigurd and Berger Bergerson, John Gunderson, Knut Leofsen Strand, Egil Mikkelson, Trond Osovsen, John Hanson, John Hendrickson, Hendrick Olson and Hans C. Olson. Others among early arrivals are Andrew Amundson, John Nilsestuen, Ole Olson, Lars Amundson, Ole Dove, Hans Hagen, Ole Heram, Ole Lindem, Lars Christianson, Christian Brennom, and the list could be continued to a great length.

Hans Herbjornson settled near that natural monument called Chimney Rock in 1865. Soon after him came H. Kjentvet, Mr. Brynjulson and others, until this whole town, which derives its name from this peculiar rock, is largely Scandinavian.

The large and beautiful valley of the Pigeon Creek, which now no doubt is the finest in the county, was for a long time shunned by the early land-seekers on account of its scarcity of wood and hay, and distance from market. It was not until 1867 that any Scandinavian located there, when Erick Larson from La Crosse County, who, as near as I have been able to learn, was the first Scandinavian to locate in this valley. Then came P. Pederson, Mikkell Hagen, Mathias Tuv, and the list of prominent Scandinavians who have settled here would be so long that I shall not attempt to mention later arrivals. These settlers located mostly on land claimed by the Wisconsin Western Railroad Company, but this land had not come into market, and on account of its distance from the tracks it was thought the railway company could not hold it, and that the land would revert to the government and become homestead land. The settlers selected their claims and sat on them awaiting the outcome.

One Anders Christianson, locally called "Ringerikingen," a man of rather extravagant ideas, claimed a whole section. His neighbor, Mr. Elsom, who had bought an eighty of State school land just across the road from "Ringerikingen," wanted a forty out of the section claimed by "R" adjoining his own, and conceived the idea to build on that forty, and commenced operations with a view of crowding "Ringerikingen" off. This happened to be one of the forties that would eventually be "Ringerikingen's" homestead. He, of course, felt aggrieved, his neighbors viewed such proceedings with alarm, as under such rule no one would be safe from invaders. Several neighbors got together for the purpose of visiting Mr. Elsom to see if a little moral suasion would not induce him to withdraw from his

neighbor's claim. When they came to the place Mr. Elsom was absent, but Mrs. Elsom, a beautiful young woman of considerable fortitude very much in evidence, was informed of the purpose of their visit—namely, to move what had been done toward a building back to her own side of the road. Mrs. Elsom objected in very unmistakable terms, and to emphasize her objections brought out a double-barreled shotgun and promised to put a hole through the first one that laid hands on her property. This did not put any more ambition in the house movers, as no one knew what she might do.

G. F. Steig, always resourceful, was among the company, saw that something had to be done, approached her jokingly and said: "What do you want of that gun? You daren't fire it off, and if you did you could not hit the side of that big bluff." She contended she could hit any mark they would give her. They wanted the gun discharged and she was anxious to show her marksmanship. So E. Larson, another member of this company, hung his hat on a bush a fair distance away. She brought the gun to her face. Bang! Lo and behold, the hat was so full of holes it hardly made a shadow. But there was still one charge in the gun and the gun in the hands of a marksman of proved ability. It would suit the visitors better if this also was out. Steig insisted this was an accidental hit. She vowed she shot like that every time. Just then a woodpecker lit on a little tree a few rods distant. Steig said: "Bring him down and we will admit you have made your claim good. Thinking that another hit would be still more awe-inspiring, and she had plenty of ammunition, she placed the gun again to cheek, pulled the trigger, and down came the bird fluttering to the ground. "Now, boys," said Mr. Steig, "to the task, and hurry before the gun is reloaded." Several men on each corner of the just-commenced building picked it up and carried it across the road and set it on Elsom's own land. This was done so quickly that she, in her astonishment, did not attempt, nor found time, to reload. Seeing how she had been outgeneraled, she did not further molest the men, who fixed up the building in the new location with cornerstones and excavations precisely as it was found. When Mr. Elsom came on the scene, after the first impulse of wrath had subsided, he took it philosophically and admitted the rule was just and the action of these men was as binding as a decision by a jury. Thus was established the rule no one should molest another on these loose titles. As is usual, the railway company secured extensions and additional grants, got title to these lands, and the settlers each bought his claim.

I have been told the first Scandinavian in the town of Sumner was Mrs. Silkworth. She came up from Richland County to work for Green & Silkworth at Beef River Station in 1855. She afterward married Mr. Silkworth. I have been unable to learn her maiden name. John Christianson located in the vicinity of Eleva, Anders Skei, A. Staa, Gunder Johnson, Anders Tvet, Nils Larson, John Larson, Halyren Torbjorn and Ole Knutson.

In 1874 the first Scandinavians came to Plum Creek. They were Lars Davidson, Ole, Tom and John Jackson. In 1875 Knut Everson, Oliver A. Hegg, Syver Amundson and Bennet Anderson, and shortly thereafter Ole Thompson, Ole Narveson and Andy Anderson came.

The early Scandinavians, like most other emigrants, were poor, came here to get cheap land and build themselves homes, some at first living in dug-outs with sod for walls, marsh hay for thatch, and kind Mother Earth for floor. Others, yes, a large majority, had small and hastily-constructed log huts chinked and plastered between the logs with clay. Their farming implements were wood-beam plow, a drag, Morgan cradle, snath and scythe, hand-rake and two-tined fork, wagon with wooden skein and lynch pin, spring seat of two sapplings, rear ends of which were fastened to a cross piece under the wagon box, resting on a cross piece on top of the wagon box, the front ends extending to which was nailed a board for the seat. Oxen, their faithful beast of burden, and their beef when too old for work. They tilled the early settler's soil, marketed his produce and took the family to church. This condition, however, was not peculiar to the Scandinavians alone, but to all early settlers.

Perhaps these glimpses into pioneer life portray a condition full of poverty, misery, sorrow and hopelessness. But such was not the case. True, the early Scandinavians, like most all other new settlers in this county, had little of property and much of poverty, often misery and privations. But they did have a fund of good cheer and hope, and a hospitality that is unknown at this day prevailed. If one had little it was freely divided with one less fortunate. Lodging and board were given the traveler out of such scantiness as the house afforded, style and fashion never mentioned or thought of, the spare bedroom was always in order in the mansion which consisted of one room and perhaps an attic, a sociability and neighborly feeling there prevailed that does not exist today. Religious meetings, social gatherings and dancing parties were had in these small and simple but happy homes. There were discussed the political affairs, county and town matters, church and domestic problems, agriculture and markets.

The early Scandinavians of this county were religiously inclined. Therefore, as soon as so many had located in a locality as to deserve the name of "settlement," the first work of a social nature was usually to perfect a church organization. Literary societies, debating clubs and singing schools were also common. The Scandinavians of Trempealeau County have now 27 churches, though nearly all are modest structures, they are all neat, comfortable and sufficient for the needs in their respective localities, and represent considerable money outlay. They have, to my knowledge, three parochial school houses, possibly more, one college, one Scandinavian insurance company which was organized in 1877 mainly by the efforts of Jens K. Hagestad, who became its first president, N. L. Tolvstad its first secretary, and Iver P. Enghagen its first treasurer, which office he has held continually and still holds. At its last annual meeting this company carried \$5,058,376.00 in risks and had the neat little sum of \$20,445.37 in its treasury.

As before mentioned, the Scandinavians who left their mother country to seek new homes were of the laboring class. So were the Scandinavian pioneers of this county. Labor was their only asset. Strong and willing hands, industrious and frugal habits, honest and cheerful hearts, perseverance and undaunted courage, was all they brought with them. These

are worthy characteristics and made the Scandinavians a powerful factor in the development of this county. Labor was an absolute necessity in the building of homes and transforming the wild country into productive farms. Being honest and steady workers, they were sought by the older settlers as farm hands, artisans, salesmen, and so on, and they eagerly availed themselves of the opportunities when not needed on their claims.

Compared with their English, Scotch and Irish fellow pioneers, they were at a decided disadvantage, not being conversant with the language of their adopted country. Consequently, very few of them held public office or clerical positions—at any rate out of all proportion to their numbers or natural abilities. They were, however, well equipped in their own language, they could all read, most of them write and cipher, and many enjoyed higher education. Weekly newspapers were soon found in every home, and they were as well posted on current events as their English-speaking brethren. Therefore, though not foremost on the public rostrum, they were an intelligent and safe factor in the settlement of all public questions. Their patriotism and loyalty to the land of their adoption is evidenced by the number of volunteers that went forth from among them to save the Union during the dark days of the Rebellion, and their record for valor is second to none.

Of the manual labor that has gone into the development of this county, no nationality has contributed so much as the Scandinavians. Go where you will throughout this county and see the fertile, well-fenced farms, with their comfortable homes, spacious and well-painted barns and other farm buildings, good roads and substantial bridges, fine public buildings and parks, business houses and manufacturing establishments, it would be hard to point to that which has not some of the Scandinavian brain or brawn in its make-up, for which the pioneer directly or indirectly deserves credit.

Taken collectively, they had their faults as well as their virtues, but their good traits outweighed their bad ones, leaving the balance in their favor. This is the heritage they left to the cosmopolitan population of Trempealeau County of today. (By Peter H. Johnson.)

Scandinavian Settlers. In the spring of the year 1854, there was a large number of immigrants that left their native home, Hardanger, Norway, for the United States. Most of them settled temporarily in Dane and Columbia counties, this State.

At that time government lands that seemed to be of any value in these counties were taken up by settlers and speculators. These sturdy young men and women, without any means to buy the higher-priced lands held by speculators, and desiring to procure a home of their own without running too much in debt, began to look around for cheaper lands.

In 1855 the first immigration of Norwegians began in Trempealeau Valley, and the rumors of the fertile villages of Trempealeau and Jackson counties began to spread.

In 1857, Iver K. Syse, Iver and his son Orjans Torblaa arrived into North Beaver Creek. Mr. Syse settled in Trempealeau and the two Torblaas across the line in Jackson County.

In 1858 the following arrived: K. K. Hallanger, Knut Richelson, the

two brothers, Thomas and Nels Herreid, the latter the father of C. N. Herreid, once Governor of South Dakota, Ole N. Skaar, Tosten R. Thompson, Nels B. Henderson, Lars Hanson, Ole Ellingson and Ole I. Dale.

In 1859, Simon Nelson, Torkel Gunderson, Arne Arneson, Torkel Hal-dorson, Haldor and Iver Torkelson and Anve O. Saed and several others arrived. These settled in the valley east and west of the county line in the vicinity of what was formerly known as Hegg Postoffice. The largest part of these settlers arrived on the same ship in 1854, including Knut K. Hagestad, Sr., and family.

The first settlers in Bear Creek Valley in 1858 were aforesaid Ole Ellingson, Lars Knutson, from Nummedahl, and Helge Knutson from Hal-lingdal. He served in the army and died in a Southern hospital in 1864. His brother, Anders Knutson, arrived three years later.

In 1860, Knut K. Hagestad, Sr., Lars Grinde, the two brothers Lars B. and Gullick Johnson, D. O. Hagestad, Lasse Olson and several others arrived.

The Brovold and Instenes families, Jens K. Hagestad, Hendrick Svenson, Halvor Skjeie, and five brothers of Thomas and Nels Herreid, with numerous others, arrived and settled in the valley in the '60s.

The first Norwegian Lutheran church organization was perfected in 1858. In 1859 the congregation decided to build a church, as the primitive farm dwellings were very inconvenient for religious gatherings. A large part of the dwellings were dug-outs in the side-hills, with Mother Earth for floors and walls, and poles, marsh hay and sod for roofing. Those that were more able built log houses 12 by 12 or 12 by 14, and the more pretentious structures were 16 by 16 by 10 feet high. The roofing consisted mostly of shakes cut out of oak logs with straight grain in 2-foot lengths and split similar to shingles with a broad ax for cleaver, and evened off to proper thickness with a hand ax.

After they had decided to build the church, every male member of the congregation that was able to swing an ax joined together and went south over the hills into South Beaver Creek to cut logs for the building. They were allowed for the sum of \$4.00 to cut the logs that were needed for the structure 24 by 30 by 12 feet high on the lands of Ole Olson, a Swede. The logs were hewed in the woods and hauled in the winter of 1859-60, and the church was built likewise by the members in 1860-61. There was no money to spare to hire carpenters to do the work, but most of them were handy with tools, and all were willing to do their share of the work. This was the first Norwegian Lutheran church built in Western Wisconsin.

The old log church was superseded by a more modern frame structure in the early '70s. After the new church was completed, the old church was sold to Baard O. Herreid, who moved it onto his farm one and one-half miles north of Hegg, and it is now used for a dwelling house.

The first School District of the North Branch of Beaver Creek was organized in 1861, now known as the Hegg district, and the Bear Creek District was organized in 1862.

The main promoter and organizer of the Ettrick Scandinavian Mutual Insurance Company was Jens K. Hagestad, who came into the valley in 1867 and bought the Iver K. Syse farm in 1868. The company was incorporated

under the laws of the State February 16, 1877, and commenced business April 4, 1877, with the following officers: Jens K. Hagestad, President; N. L. Tolvstad, Secretary, and Iver P. Engehagen, Treasurer, who has served the company as Treasurer up to the present time. (By E. J. Brovold.)

The County in 1871. At the close of school in March, 1871, I knew little of Trempealeau County personally, outside of Trempealeau Village, Galesville and the Prairie. The county was generally spoken of as the Tamarack, the Openings, Caledonia, Black River, Decorah Prairie, Hardy Creek, Beaver Creek, French Creek, Lake Cooley, Over the Pass, Holcomb Cooley, Over the Ridge, Square Bluff, American Valley, Travis Valley, Chimney Rock, Elk Creek, Bruce Valley, and the Beef River Valley. The county was localized in these terms, but the territory was not definite, as each overlapped the others nearby. The postoffices, as I recall them, were Trempealeau, Galesville, Ettrick, Arcadia, Pigeon Falls, Chimney Rock, Osseo, and Hamlin. The natural objects in the county were Trempealeau Mountain, Trempealeau Lake, Trempealeau Bluffs, Decorah Peak, Whistler Pass, Barn Bluff, Square Bluff and Chimney Rock. They no doubt will remain a monument to the Almighty power to whom all nature responds.

I had then been no farther north than the one trip to Arcadia Christmas Eve, but I knew of Caledonia as the home of Donald and Alex McGilvray, Joshua Rhodes, Charles Holmes, D. D. Chappell, Pussy Williams, John Bohrnstedt, Christian Schmidt, Thomas Hayter, John Arntz, William Suttie, Frank Bender, Ira Ramsden, John Hess, R. C. Towner, John Towner, Gilbert Gibbs, Al Gibbs, William Post, Moses Ladd, Charles Pickering, J. C. Polyblank, C. C. Bigelow and Mr. Beardsley.

Over the Pass—Dodge, not then organized, as the home of Mat Brom, R. Baumgartner, Charles Keith, Jake Schaffner, Joe Pellowski, Paul Rudneck, J. L. Sanderson, Joseph Utter, Frank Rushka, John Wier, Andrew Losinski, John Wicke, Peter Pellowski and Charles Cleveland.

Ettrick as the home of Iver Pederson, C. G. Beach, Robert Cance, Con Lynch, Maurice Casey and James McCarthy.

Burnside as the home of George H. Markham, A. A. Markham, Giles Cripps, Martin W. Borst, Lee Hutchins, William Russell, D. C. Cilley, John Haakenson and James Reid.

Arcadia as the home of Dr. I. A. Briggs, N. D. Comstock, Collins Bishop, Gay T. Storm, D. C. Dewey, John D. Lewis, H. B. Merchant, Douglas Arnold, Jerry O'Brien, James Gaveney, David Massuere, Daniel Bigham, John Bigham, Thomas Simpson, Carl Ernst, George Webb, Isaac Newcomb, D. L. Holcomb, Frank Zeller, Carl Zeller, Phillip and Henry Hartman, William Bohman, Christian and John Haines, J. W. Ducker, Henry Pierce, J. B. Gorton, Joseph Kellogg, Louis and Simon Wojczik, Andrew Pietrick, Ole O. Peterson, Joseph Stahoski, William Robertson, George Dewey, Henry Dewey, Sidney Conant, Alexander Bautch, Ole A. Hegg, John Wool, Nic, Casper and Peter Meyers, Emory M. Stanford, Thomas Busby, Jonathan Busby, Ira Penny, John Truman, Herman Tracy, Dr. G. N. Hider-shide, Dan English, A. F. Hensel, Frank Pellowski, John Tuschner, P. H. Varney, Charles Mercer, J. H. Gleason, P. Tucker, Peter Case and William Arnold.

Lincoln as the home of Thomas Lake, David Wade, Henry Stratton, Henry Freeman, F. W. Ingalls, Moses B. Ingalls, David Wood, Alvah Wood, G. M. Follette and Mr. Irving.

Preston as the home of Henry Lake, James McKivergin, Gullick Olsen and Henry Carpenter.

Hale as the home of M. J. Warner, David Maloney, Robert Warner, Silas Parker, D. S. Watson and Charles Wagoner.

Pigeon as the home of Peter Ekern, J. D. Olds, George Olds and H. A. Fremstad.

Albion as the home of D. J. Odell, M. B. Gibson, R. P. Goddard, Ed. Borwell, Henry Teeple, A. and D. Wingad and Mr. Englesby.

Sumner and Beef River Valley as the home of R. C. Field, J. L. Linderman, Ed. Matchette, Charles Shores, V. A. Gates, William Henry, Otto Langerfield, W. F. Carter, Alex. and John Tracy, W. H. Thomas, P. B. Williams, D. J. Lyon, Ben Webster, James Rice, Dennis Lawler, D. L. Remington, Thomas Cox, V. W. Campbell, James King, Hezekiah Hyslop, Scott Hotchkiss, Elias Gay, F. Fuller, John Lovesey, William Lindsay, James McIntyre, Henry Gilbert, John Carter, William Boyd, Zeb, John and Cosle Jones, James W. Grant and William Tomlinson and Robert Bowers.

There are other names which deserve mention and a place on this list that do not come to my memory after forty-one years of active busy life of responsibility and cares. I trust no person or family will feel disappointed or slighted in the omission of names from these lists. There has been no wish or purpose to leave any name off these lists; and if names are not correctly spelled such errors were unintentional and unavoidable. To prepare such lists after a long span of years is not an easy task.

At the time of which I write, Whistler Pass, a fall or dent in the bluff above the farm of James Field, over which the highway was built from the Prairie and the Tamarack Valley into the Trempealeau Valley, now in the town of Dodge, was a term of frequent mention, and much of the travel from the western part of the territory over the ridge was on that highway. The Pass attracted my attention through curiosity, no doubt, and led me to make an early visit to it. From Martin's Corners the Pass was plainly seen to the north. Whistler Pass remains, but has lost much of its frequent mention, and of its early notoriety.

Many Winnebago Indians were then camped and lived much of the year along the river above Trempealeau Village, and one village near Trempealeau Lake was said to number 800 or more people, a portion of whom were of mixed blood. Several "half-breed" families lived in Trempealeau Village, the men generally being strong, fine-looking fellows, the most distinguished among them being Antoine Grignon, and some of his descendants, with those of the Bibault family, have been and are residents of the county, and on the whole have been good citizens. Thede Booher was styled "The Big Indian," a name generally applied to him about the county to the time of his decease.

Trempealeau Village, in the fall of 1870, was a thriving, busy place, its streets and market-places full of teams, and its business places full to

overflowing with country people, farmers who came to market produce and purchase farm and home supplies. They came from Decorah Prairie and beyond Black River; from the head of Beaver Creek Valley nearly to Black River Falls; from the head of the Trempealeau Valley nearly to Merrilan; from Pigeon Creek northeast into Jackson County; from the Elk Creek valleys and over the ridge in Beef River Valley; they came from Chimney Rock Valley, and the Traverse Valley away out in the Mondovi country. Many came to the Trempealeau market 30, 40, 50 and 60 miles. Before this I had not seen so busy a mart, emporium, entrepot, or place of traffic as was the beautiful village of Trempealeau nestling at the foot of Trempealeau Bluffs, and fronting on the Mississippi River, with its teeming activity of soil products and human freight carried by the then wonderful Mississippi River steamers, with skow bottom, and of ponderous width.

The most frequently mentioned as wealthy people in the county, as I recall, were Ben Healy, John Rhodes, W. A. Johnston, Isaac Clark, Wilson Davis, George H. Markham, and R. C. Field. The most popular politicians in the county, that is, the most likely to be elected when candidates for office, were N. D. Comstock, A. A. Arnold and A. W. Newman. The most noted horsemen were Moses King and Lee Hutchins. The wittiest lawyer was Frank Utter. Among the jolliest men were Ralph Martin, Pussy Williams, Marvin Babbit, Sr., Thomas Sutcliff, Jimmy Field and Henry Teeple. The most popular man with the women was Gay T. Storm. The most frequently mentioned clergymen were James Squier and D. O. Van Slyke. The most powerful men were Jack McCarthy, Aaron Kribs and John Bugbee. The only brewer was Jacob Melchoir; the leading miller was Wilson Davis, and the best known butcher was Bill Blume. The noted Indians were old Chief Black Hawk and "Big Indian," Thede Booher. The most skillful blacksmith was J. B. Ingalls, while the greatest threshers were Jim Merwin and Ike Wright. The leading saloonkeeper was Pete Eichman, and the most dead-sure rifle shot was Bob Nibs. The great mule-driver was Philo Beard, and the best known stage-driver was Jerry Webber. It is my impression the most noted singers were the Grignon sisters. Others, no doubt, deserve mention, but memory fails me.

Some of the pioneer women of Trempealeau County had been delicately reared, most of them had known the comforts of life, all had left associations which were dear to them. The sundering of these ties was not easy, nor was it a condition to be sought. It is but natural that they were strongly attached to their old homes, friends and comforts. Ties of kindred and friendship were to be broken; comfortable homes left behind; friends of a lifetime to be parted with, when with their husbands they set their faces westward for a new life and new homes, they knew not where. All beyond the city of Buffalo was then the West, Detroit was in the West, and Chicago and Milwaukee were in the far West. In many instances they knew it must be among strangers, and that privations, and even extreme dangers, were to be met and mastered—at least endured. These pioneer women shared in all the toils of weary journeys, in sunshine and in storm, ever westward. They did not grumble of the coarse fare and humble, oftentimes rude, accommodations of wagon and roadside; the canal-boat

and the open stage, the log tavern, and at times the open-air bivouac. These women were always the brave members of the family or the party. Often late in autumn, or in the early spring, not infrequently in the cold storms, the discouraging sleet and mist and the complaining chilly winds, they went bravely on to the very outposts of civilization, over long, lonely and far-reaching prairies, the gloomy forests, dismal roads, often mere trails beset with stumps, quagmire, and where no sign of civilization or human habitation was to be seen, except the wigwam and hut of the then dangerous savage. They traveled largely through a country without settlers or any evidence of civilization, at times even making roads upon which to travel.

Can we picture the trials that came to their brave hearts, in hours of bitterness and loneliness, thus removed from the homes and kindred they had left behind—remembrances which must have risen up before them often and often, and how extremely bitter must have been those recollections, and yet, through their tears which must have silently flowed, they stood brave sentinels to their little ones who clung to them for comforting words and care. A word picture fails to give the full facts. Such feelings were natural and nurtured in their hearts; yet they bore these and other burdens as bravely as did the renowned "mothers of ancient Sparta." Who will, I ask, who can pay these pioneer women of the West, and of Trempealeau County, the full measure of praise they so richly deserve?

The many sports and pleasures for the pioneer man, such as hunting the deer, the wolf, the wild fowls and other game; the sport of fishing, and the pleasure of roaming at will, all suitable to the rougher nature and coarser tastes of man were denied to these women, who with their children were shut up in log cabins or rude huts, often without floors, doors, or windows,—often filled with smoke and into which the chill of winter whistled, and the stars at night looked down upon those faithful women and mothers and their sleeping children; often with no furniture except the rudest kind, and without kitchen utensils save kettle and frying-pan, and almost totally destitute of crockery,—seldom even with tinware, they made that dearest condition of life, the home, possible and a positive fact. For weeks, for months and even for years in a continued struggle without modern-day conveniences and helps, they struggled and they won; and these pioneer women helped make Trempealeau County what it is today. —(By Stephen Richmond.)

Cruise of the Spray. One day during the latter part of April in 1866 the little steamboat Spray swung up to the river front landing at Trempealeau and stopped for refreshments and supplies for the crew. "She was a trim little boat," said the old riverman, "about 30 feet long and 10 feet wide, and was a flat-bottomed craft with a stern paddle wheel."

The crew remained in town about an hour when the boat pulled out for its journey up the Trempealeau River. Arrived at the Trempealeau navigation became impeded by snags and leaning trees, and a gang of men was kept busy removing these obstacles. Saws and axes were brought into play, and now and then a headline was run out and fastened to a tree and the capstan used to drag the boat over a shoal. Two men stood on the forward deck with pike-poles to shove the boat away from the bank in

sharp bends of the river, or where shallow water was encountered to take soundings.

Thus the steamboat struggled slowly along up the river, clearing its way as it went, but of all the difficulties met with the wooden wagon bridge was the most formidable, for settlers living along the river hearing of the approaching steamboat were on hand to protest against the damaging of their bridges. However, in every case except one, the officers of the boat persuaded the people who resisted them that the establishment of navigation on the river meant more to them than the loss of a portion of their bridge. Some of the settlers hailed the coming of the boat with joy, taking it as a messenger of progress come to open an easy way to the world's markets, while others cursed the audacious little "Spray" as "another freak endeavoring to establish an impossibility," the navigability of the river. Still others took the steamboat venture as a joke and laughed at the idea of navigating a stream that a boy could wade when the water was at its normal stage. But still they must have looked at the coming of a steamboat more as a novelty than anything else, and made the most of it by being on hand to feast their eyes upon the wayward little craft.

Here and there along the route a few of the settlers would get aboard the Spray, to enjoy a ride on the Trempealeau River. Among these was Daniel Bigham of Arcadia, who boarded the boat down near the old Dan English place and rode nearly to the present site of Arcadia. Dan was interested in watching the boat navigate the river, but says if he had been in a hurry he would have made better time walking. "It took a good deal of time to cut out the snags and trees that obstructed the channel," said Dan, "and when we grounded the engine would stop and wait for the water to wash the sand from under the boat. They destroyed all of the bridges in the town of Arcadia," continued Mr. Bigham, "and it caused considerable commotion among the settlers, for in that day with but few sawmills and a scarcity of lumber it was difficult to build a bridge."

The news that a real live steamboat was actually navigating the modest little Trempealeau traveled so much faster than the boat itself that the up-river people were on hand to welcome the strange visitor when it arrived.

When the Williamsburg settlers heard the shrill whistle of the boat they flocked down to the landing on the Baker place, and as the gangplank touched shore many felt that the marvelous day of prosperity was at hand. In fact a market landed in the burg that day, for the captain of the boat bought bread and eggs from the inhabitants and paid the expectant farmers for it in clean cash.

On the 2nd day of May, 1866, George H. Markham made record in his diary of the passage up the Trempealeau River of the steamboat Spray. The Markhams settled in the Trempealeau valley not far from the site of the present village of Independence in 1856, and Mrs. Geo. H. Markham distinctly remembers seeing the boat on its journey up the river.

The Spray continued on its course up the river until the wagon bridge located three miles below Whitehall was reached, when it was met by David Wade and David Wood, representing the town of Lincoln, who refused it further passage on account of necessitating the destruction of the bridge.

The people of Lincoln had heard of the approaching steamboat and of its wanton destruction of bridges on the lower river, and had decided not to allow such destruction in their territory. They were practical men and had no rosy dreams of the future steamboat activity on the river, and considered their bridge worth more than the vague possibilities of a future waterway market.

And so the adventurous rivermen turned back, and on the journey down stream they stopped at Arcadia to take on a shipment of flour from the Massuere Company mill.

On account of the current and the river being free of snags and trees the return run was much faster and easier than the up-river trip. At Marshland the boat was laid up for some time, but it finally resumed its course into the Mississippi and completed its round trip at LaCrosse.

Why such a trip was undertaken is somewhat of a mystery. Some say that the Northwestern Railroad Company gave the owners of the boat a bonus for not compelling the road to maintain a draw bridge across the river at Marshland. Others say the journey was made to determine the navigability of the Trempealeau River. Whatever the motive it certainly established the fact that the river was not a suitable stream for navigation.—(By Eben D. Pierce.)

Early Trempealeau. I left the State of New York in the spring of 1851 for the West, traveling by rail, by stage, and on foot, and by steamboat, arriving at Montoville, now Trempealeau, Wisconsin, on May 6, 1851. As this place I found James Reed. He lived in a log cabin. His business was buying furs from the Indians for the Prairie du Chien Fur Company. While here for a short time I went out each day in different directions exploring the country, going on one trip north to the Trempealeau River near where the village of Blair now stands, finding the country everywhere swarming with wild deer and game of all kinds, and many large or small camps of Indians. The soil appeared to be of good quality,—some prairie, some burr oak openings, some rolling, and high bluffs and deep valleys, with plenty of good pure water, springs, creeks and rivers. After being out several days I returned to Mr. Reed's and then procured an axe of Mr. Reed and went northeast into the burr oak openings, and I selected a claim of 160 acres of land and cut logs and rolled up the body of a cabin, and marked out my claim, cutting name and date on the logs of the cabin, then returned to Mr. Reed's, after having made the first claim known to me in Trempealeau County. I then took the boat up the Mississippi River to look for work, arriving at the mouth of Chippewa River and going up that river to the falls I obtained work for one year at good wages. During the year I wrote many letters to my father and friends in the East, describing the country about Montoville and urging them to come and settle there, and at the end of the year, the last of May, 1852, I returned to Montoville to look after my claim, and finding there a most wonderful change, new buildings along the river, and here and there out on the prairie. Mr. Reed was still there in business. I went out to see my claim and found one, William Cram, had bought the land on the south and adjoining my claim, and was building a log house. I then did a little work on my claim, and

then to keep my promise to work for the company another year I went back to Chippewa Falls, where I worked one year and seven months. Then in January, 1854, I returned to Montoville, then finding that a more wonderful change had taken place. Hotels, stores, shops and other business places, churches, school houses and farms scattered here and there in all directions, and going out to my claim I found that my father, with all of his family, had bought out William Cram, the place adjoining my claim, and that a man had jumped my claim and had made some improvements, for which he would not give up except upon the payment of fifty dollars, which I paid and took possession. Later I sold it to Charles Pickering.

In the spring of 1854 Alexander McGilvray settled on Black River and ran a ferry boat across the river, instead of fording as before. The place then became known as McGilvray's Ferry. In the summer I bought property there and built a store, blacksmith shop, and also opened a farm, and early in 1855 our settlers found the need for a school and rented the front room of my house for one year and employed Cecelia Segar to teach the first school at McGilvray's Ferry. A new school house was built for the second term, and Fanny A. Olds was employed as teacher, and here in this school house at the first term was organized the first debating school in the county. Our people all became so deeply interested that they came from far and near and took part in the debates, and established a weekly newspaper called the "Singinezia," to be edited by the members and read at each meeting. These schools were kept up for a number of years, discussing many great and important questions to the lasting benefit of all that took part in them. Mr. McGilvray, the grand old Scotchman, being the first settler here, named the place Caledonia, after his native place in Scotland. Soon after Trempealeau County was organized and the county seat was established at Galesville, a beautiful young town on the banks of Beaver creek. Our early settlers were a very intelligent, industrious and progressive people. Thus school houses, churches, villages, hotels, stores, grist mills, saw mills, and all kinds of public improvements was the order of the day from the beginning of our early settlement. Always manifesting the highest degree of intelligent progression, thus changing a land that was once the home of the Indian and wild beasts of the forest to a land that now stands upon the highest pinnacle of American civilization. Thus we mention but a small part of the events of our pioneer days from 1851 to 1861.

From 1861 to the spring of 1864 I kept my place at McGilvray's Ferry, and in the month of May, 1864, Benjamin Oliver and I went north to look for land to homestead. We found a few settlers in Trempealeau valley near the mouth of Pigeon Creek. The settlement was called Whitehall. From there we went up Pigeon Creek about six miles. There we found Hely Fitch, his mother and sister, who told us that they had settled there the year before, and that Mr. Fitch froze to death in the winter of the deep snow; that the old man had to go up into the cooley about three miles to cut and stack hay to winter his oxen on, and that the snow got so deep that he could not driver the oxen there after hay, and to keep them alive he would go on his snowshoes every day and bring a bundle of hay on his

back. The weather turned very cold and he went for a bundle and came back about half way and fell with his hay, where they found him next day froze solid. Through the snow being so deep they could not walk through it and had to shovel and break a path to get to him, but they got him home late that night. Thus that cooley was named Fitch's Cooley. After hearing their heartrending story, we went on up the creek about four miles into a cooley southeast of Pigeon Falls, where Mr. Oliver selected his homestead. We then went north over the bluffs about one mile. There I selected my homestead. This Fitch family were the only settlers up in Pigeon valley in Trempealeau County. Mr. Oliver and myself moved onto our land in August, 1864, and George H. Olds and James Phillips moved in one month later. Then in the spring Wm. Olds and L. B. Man and H. Smith, P. Peterson, L. Larson, Phineas Wright, C. H. Hines, Andrew Peterson and Mr. Richardson, and some others, moved in during the summer of 1865.

In the fall of 1864 and early winter 1865, Mr. Oliver, Mr. Phillip, G. H. Olds and myself bought and hauled lumber from Merrilan and built a school house, and employed Mary Nott to teach the first term of school in Pigeon Valley, beginning with twelve scholars, but having some more at the close of the term. The second term was taught by Jane A. Olds, and the third term by Marilda Lyons. In these early days our people organized debating schools, where some of the most profound questions affecting the weal or woe of our people were discussed, and to this day we can see and realize the benefits from the food for thought that was brought out in those old debating schools, and I am happy to know that some of those lights that shone so brightly in those early days have not all gone out yet in 1912, and I hope that other and brighter lights will continue to shine until the end of time.

Among the many early settlers of Pigeon Valley was one, Mr. Fuller, who settled in a cooley northwest of Pigeon Falls about one mile, where he had built a small farm house, and during a heavy thunder storm had laid down with his wife upon a bed that stood with its head near a south window. Mr. Fuller lay on the bed, his head in line with the window, his wife lying back of him, when a bolt of lightning passed through the window, striking him on top of the head and passing the length of his body and from his feet to the floor and out through the side of the house and to the ground, thus killing him instantly, while his wife was unharmed except a slight shock. Thus this cooley was called Fuller's Cooley. A year or two after his body was taken up from his farm and was found to be petrified, and required five or six persons to take it out of the grave.—(J. D. Olds in letters to Hon. H. A. Anderson, Feb. 14 to Feb. 17, 1912.)

Trempealeau Prairie. William Trim has seen all the changes come to the county from its really wild state to its present condition of wealth and comfort, having resided in it since the fifteenth day of October, 1858, to this time, except during the three years that he was in the army. He saw the red schoolhouse built at Wright's Corners in 1862 by Al Holcomb; saw the mill and dam put in by the Holcombs and Mr. Grant in 1860; knew the first teacher in the red schoolhouse, a Miss Sumara Grant, afterward Mrs. Carsely, her term being in 1862 and 1863. Mr. Carsely ran the saw-

mill above Bortles, built by Mr. Grant when he and Holcomb dissolved partnership in the prairie mill. Abe Holcomb and Mr. Grant came to the prairie in the winter of 1860, Al Holcomb coming in the spring of that year. Hollister Wright was on his old farm when Mr. Trim settled in the vicinity in 1855. Elder Cook came in 1860, Ralph Martin in 1862. Trempealeau was a small village in October, 1858. Harvey Bowls kept a hotel, as also did Frank Utter. Thede Booher and Mr. Paine kept stores, and N. B. Grover a warehouse, to which he helped Mr. Ware haul corn in the winter of 1858-59 at 25 cents a bushel shelled. He attended the town meeting in the spring of 1859 at Trempealeau, the first meeting of that kind he ever attended, and there became acquainted with Mr. Sutcliffe and John Rhodes, Samuel Barr and others, who all lived in the Big Tamarack. He says a man by the name Whistler was an early settler over the Pass—being the first one—and that the Pass was named after him. The two sons of the man became homesick and traveled back to Dodge County, and Mr. Whistler and his wife soon abandoned the place and in an ox team returned to Dodge County. Thomas Knox was an early pioneer over the Pass and sold their claim to a Mr. Rudnick, who was the first Pole to settle in Pine Creek, in 1859 or 1860. This man and his wife paid Knox in half-dollar pieces the sum of \$800 she had earned in Winona washing. Knox put the half dollars in a sack to carry on foot to Galesville, but at the Lee bridge over the Tamarack Creek he hid half of the money, finding the whole amount too heavy to carry at one time to Galesville, afterward returning for the half that he had hidden. In 1860 four Germans located north of Vernons, in the valley that has since been called German Valley. There were Koop, Pfefer, Were and Dopp. In 1858 the settlers in the Tamarack were Bortle, Cook and Vernon. On the west side of the prairie were Seby and Darwin Atwood, two Nashes and A. A. Whiting. In the south part were Stevens, Gillies, Brewins and Steadman. On the east toward Galesville were Anson Bell, Mr. King and a Mr. Hartz on the Isaac Wright farm, Thompson on old farm. A barn was built on the Thompson farm in 1859; the shingles were rived by Stark Butman from logs. Many of these shingles are now sound and good. William McDonough then lived on the old Martin farm, William Lee on the Chase Wasson farm. Later came Shaw and Howe above the Vernon farm. Castleman, a half-negro, lived on the Walsky farm.—(Interview with Stephen Richmond.)

Beaver Creek Valley. John Hess settled in Beaver Creek Valley in the fall of 1852. "There were very few families in this part of the country at that time," said Mr. Hess. "James Reed was living at Trempealeau or Reed's Landing, as it was called then, and he was the first white man I saw after coming here. The second season we were here I had a good crop of winter wheat, which had to be threshed with a flail. It was difficult to get it clean without a fanning-mill, and so I went down to Prairie du Chien to buy one and had it shipped to Trempealeau by boat. It was the only fanning-mill for miles around and I used to loan it to farmers up at Fountain City and across Black River in La Crosse County.

"Flour was hard to get, and one day when I was debating in my mind where I could get the next sack of flour, for we were out, James Reed came

along and told me there was a mill over in Lewis Valley in La Crosse County, and described the trail leading to the valley so that I would have no trouble in following it. The next morning I got up at three o'clock and started over the trail for the mill, my wife accompanying me as far as Heuston's near Galesville. I found my way to Luther Lewis's mill, bought a fifty-pound sack of flour, and walked home with it on my shoulder, having traveled between 25 and 30 miles.

"Pork was a luxury in those days and I remember walking up to North Bend to buy some of it of Thomas Douglass, who operated a sawmill on Black River. When I got there I found Mr. Douglass at work repairing a breakdown in the mill, and when I told him my errand he said he could let me have the pork, and as he was very much in need of help in repairing the mill he suggested that I pay for it in work.

"I worked for him five days for a hundred pounds of pork, and when I was ready to start home I built a raft of kant timbers, and loading my cargo onto it, started down river. I landed at the mouth of Beaver Creek and hid my pork in the woods and set out afoot for home to get an ox to 'pack' the meat with, but, as luck would have it, I came across my oxen feeding in the edge of a wood less than half a mile from where I landed. I drove one of the oxen down to the river and tied the pack of meat on his back with my suspenders and then drove him home.

"I'll tell you how we got our blacksmithing done the first few years after we came to Beaver Creek. We drove with an ox team to Trempealeau and then borrowed a skiff and rowed across the river to Richmond, Minnesota, where there was a blacksmith shop. Sometimes it would take two days to make the trip, for if the smith had work ahead we would have to wait.

"Along in 1856-57 I bought a threshing machine. I went to Racine and bought a horse-power machine of the J. I. Case Company and paid \$725 for it, and they shipped it to Chicago and thence to Dubuque, and from there it was shipped by boat to Trempealeau. It was the first threshing machine in this county, and I used to go many miles over mighty rough roads to do threshing. I went over to Arcadia and threshed for Noah Comstock, James Gaveney and Collins Bishop."

Mrs. Hess also has told in her quaint and pleasing way stories of pioneer experiences. She says: "The first few years we lived here our nearest neighbor was Charles H. Perkins, who lived over in the Tamarack, and as there was no road to their place from our home we used to go back and forth visiting, over a trail that lead across the bluffs. Mother was a great hand to knit and always took her knitting along when she went visiting, and that is how we happened to get our first chickens. You see we hadn't any chickens and had almost forgotten what an egg looked like, but Perkins' folks had a flock of chickens, though they didn't care to sell any. Well, mother was at their place one day and was just finishing a pair of stockings she was knitting when Mrs. Perkins asked her if she would sell a pair or two of them. Mother said no, she would not sell them, but would trade for some hens and offered to knit two pairs for four hens. The trade was agreed to and when mother completed her knitting contract she took the

stockings over to Mrs. Perkins and brought the four hens home across the hills in her apron. To complete the flock father went to Treampealeau and succeeded in buying a rooster from Mr. Reed.

"Hogs were difficult to get, and the first one we were able to procure after we settled in our new home Mr. Hess got of James Reed in exchange for work. He cut nine cords of wood over on the island opposite Trempealeau for a sow, and was well pleased with the bargain.

"There were no churches anywhere near our place at that time, and it was a great treat when a preacher happened to come along and stay over Sunday with us. The neighbors would gather at our log house to hold religious services and after the meeting was over they would stay and visit.

"La Crosse was only a little country village then, with one hotel, a half dozen small stores, a blacksmith shop and a burned-down mill with the brick chimney left standing."

This was pioneering with all of its varied phases. There were hardships but joys as well, and it is hardship that gives zest to pleasure. There was a backwoods adventurous spirit in the rough life of that age and the pioneer will tell you that he took real comfort in his cabin home. And so we look back and see the log cabin dreaming in the solitude where the wild roses bloom in profusion, and the ox team and the breaking-plow creep slowly across the clearing, while the sunlight streaming through the valley turns the old grub-piles into heaps of gold.—(By E. D. Pierce.)

Lewis Valley. In 1857 Lewis Niffin took up a quarter section of land about four miles above Arcadia, on a small creek that has since borne his name, being the first settler to locate directly above Arcadia. He erected a log hut near the creek, a few rods towards the Trempealeau River, from what is now the main road, between Arcadia and Independence. Mr. Niffin remained on his claim less than a year, when he abandoned it and left the country. In 1861 Richard Rook, an Englishman, came and picked out a location near Niffin's abandoned claim and put up a small building, but he was not favorably impressed with his new home and forsook it in a few months for a more suitable locality. Then came Alonzo Baker (about 1862) and took up a homestead in one of the branch coolies of Lewis Valley. But it remained for Capt. John D. Lewis to become the first settler in the main valley. In May, 1866, shortly after getting his discharge from the army, he took up the land now known as the Lewis farm and during the summer built a house and broke some land. The following summer, 1867, J. B. Gorton and Jonathan Busby moved into the valley.—(By Stephen Richmond.)

Newcomb Valley lies wholly in the town of Arcadia, opening into American Valley near the Penny schoolhouse, where the branches of the creek meet above the Miller and Bear pond. The valley runs east about four miles to the foot of the Preston hills. There are a number of small valleys known as coolies on either side in which good farms are located; among them are the Erickson, Hanson and Arneson farms, while the combes or coolies on the north side are known as the Knudtson and Rud farms and neighborhood. The main valley was settled in 1866 by Isaac Newcomb and

his brother Harold, who came from Lewis Valley, La Crosse County, where they settled with their parents in 1855, emigrating from Tioga County, Pennsylvania. (In 1868 the parents also removed to Newcomb Valley, making their home with Isaac, with whom they lived out their lives, the father dying in 1873 and the mother in 1879.) So far as can be learned a family by the name of Van Scroch had for a short time occupied a log hut on an 85-acre tract, which Isaac Newcomb purchased through N. D. Comstock as agent, of Lot D. Rice, he getting his title from Dr. Bishop, who bought the lands from a Mrs. Hessey Vallandingham, the widow of a Kentucky soldier. She never occupied these lands. Mr. Newcomb homesteaded 160 acres adjoining this tract, which he improved and made into a valuable farm.

The early settlers who may be said to have been the pioneers in the valley were Isaac and Harold Newcomb, Andrew Knudtson, Arney Olson Rud, Stiner Knudtson, Lewis and Lars Hanson and a man named Rockwell. At the close of 1866 there were no settlers in the valley except the Newcombs, nor east to where Hans Solberg lived near Lake Slough. Solberg was known as Stocker in those early days. James McKivergin had settled in Preston on the old McKivergin farm, and the only tract over the hills was a single plow furrow to guide the traveler to these settlers' claims. The Knudtsons, Ruds, Ericksons and Hansons came in in 1867 and 1868, as did Mr. Scow. After that time settlers continued to locate in the valley, so that in 1876 all the lands had been taken up and were occupied. The Newcombs began improving their lands and in 1867 built houses and other buildings upon them. In the fall of 1868 the Penny schoolhouse was built, a mere board shell, and the winter term in 1868-69 was taught by W. L. Cummings, who boarded around with such settlers as were able to keep him. At some places Mr. Cummings was obliged to crawl to his bed because of the meagerness of the living and sleeping accommodations. He boarded principally with Jerry O'Brien, Ira Penny, Isaac Newcomb and John Truman. Other early teachers there were Kate Rudolf, Ida Smith and Eva Allen. The schoolhouse in Newcomb Valley was built in 1875 and was first taught by Ida Smith.

When Isaac Newcomb arrived he brought with him four cows, four head of young stock and a yoke of oxen, and with these possessions and 245 acres of land was considered as a well-to-do man.

The country was mighty new and people possessed of little money, but all were stout-hearted patriots determined to "make good," which many of them did after the coming of the railroad in 1874. About the only farm implement in the neighborhood was a dung-fork owned by Ira Penny, which he loaned with misgivings to his neighbors. The story of these early days might be written elaborately into pages of local incidents and gossip, among the most interesting being the bear story published in the *Arcadia Leader* in 1874, a newspaper owned by N. D. Comstock, and published after the new village was started on the Trempealeau River bottoms, where the flourishing village of Arcadia now stands.

Newcomb Valley for many years had and now has a number of excellent farms, and its people are among the most intelligent and progressive

families in the county, with comfortable homes and farm buildings, blooded stock, and being well provided with all farm conveniences, showing thrift and contentment.—(By Stephen Richmond.)

Holcomb Cooley lies partly in the town of Trempealeau, the greater part being in the town of Arcadia, and is in townships 19 and 20 north of range 8 west, opening into the Tamarack Valley, or running back east and northeast about two to three miles in width and footing up against French Creek and the Galesville hills more than three miles from the Tamarack Valley. Near the center it is widest. On the south side are several small valleys or coolies in the hills, with much the same conditions as on the north side, where in the early pioneer days stood dense forests of tamarack timber. Al and Abe Holcomb, brothers, who had settled on West Prairie and who had put in a dam in the Tamarack Creek, in section 5, township 18 north of range 9 west, and erected a saw mill, filed claims on much of the land in this cooley and, taking possession, began to cut and carry to their mills saw logs which were cut into lumber for use by the settlers. Hence the name Holcomb Valley, or Cooley, was given to the region by early settlers and has not been changed, though the men after whom the valley was named have been long dead. In 1870 the saw mill did little work, and about 1875 the mill and power were converted into a grist mill by Square A. Picket, who had come into possession of it, and who later sold it to other parties, who continued to operate it till 1885.

Much of the land in and about the region of the Tamarack Valley was marshy, and to reach the cooley when the ground was frozen was an almost impossible task, except by way of the French Creek Valley, until a series of corduroy roads was built over the marsh places. The Holcombs also built and for a number of years operated a windlass on the hills to facilitate transportation. The teams were unhitched from the vehicles and driven singly up the bluff and the loads dragged up by the windlass. In fact, teams descending could not be driven down the bluff side hitched to a wagon. This was in operation as late as 1868 or 1869. It is a fact almost forgotten by the oldest living pioneer today, though familiar to all of them at the time.

The first settlers to permanently locate and improve lands in the cooley were Wenzel Brom, known as Big Wenzel, and his cousin, Wenzel Brom, known as Little Wenzel, and John Holemy, Bohemians, who had immigrated in 1859 with Mathias Brom, who later settled in Pine Creek in what is now a part of the town of Dodge; also Ole O. Chestleson, still living in the cooley on the land he homesteaded or pre-empted; John Johnson, who later removed to the State of Nebraska; Oluff Olson, Hendrick Olson, Mat Olson, and perhaps one or two other families. These settlers came in at various dates from 1861 to 1865. John Brom later than 1868 homesteaded lands in the cooley. Among those who came before 1869, not mentioned above, were Hans Hanson, John Hanson and Easton Hoverson.

In 1868 a log schoolhouse was built in the cooley on the site of the present one, and the first school taught in the winter of 1868-69. The nearest business place was Old Arcadia, where Gay T. Storm conducted a store and David Masseur owned and operated a grist mill in 1868. The road over the ridge to this store and mill was a rough unimproved tract.

Frank Brom first visited these business places in the late fall of 1868 with Matthias Olson, they going to mill with two yoke of oxen and a cart, having to lead the oxen up and down the steep hillsides, and then it was a dangerous journey to make. The country was indeed wild and desolate in that late fall day, being a series of hills and bluffs on all sides, with scarcely a settler anywhere in sight till they trundled down into Arcadia.—(By Stephen Richmond.)

American Valley. The first settler in American Valley was a man named Kenton, who came in the early sixties.

Albert Tracy came in the spring of 1865. Sydney Conant and the Messrs. Taft and Drake came in the fall of that year. The experiences of Conant are typical of early life in that valley. Starting out on foot from his old home in Amsterdam he encountered Mr. Tracy, who advised him to settle near Arcadia. But upon reaching the Tamarack and finding no one who had heard of Arcadia, he decided to enquire at Bishop's settlement. Arriving at the settlement he found that he was at Arcadia itself. From there he went to the head of what has since been called American Valley and staked out a claim. He had some breaking done and cut some marsh grass, and then started a house. Some of the lumber was hauled from Amsterdam. Most of it, however, was obtained from near what is now Merrilan, Tracy and Conant going to the woods there with two yoke of oxen each, and each bringing home a large load of lumber and shingles. Conant finished the woodwork of his house, but as the plasterer was taken ill was forced to move in before the interior was completed. Then came the terrible cold. Dry oak logs were burned for fuel. The stove was heated red-hot, a small space around the stove was enclosed with blankets, within which the family huddled. As soon as the weather moderated Conant made some plaster from lime, sand and horsehair, which he had secured, and started plastering. The plaster froze solid as soon as applied. On the following Sunday, Taft and Tracy helped complete the work.

Drake was not so fortunate. On his place adjoining Conant's he had gathered hay, erected a stable and provided for his stock. Lumber had been hauled for a house, but the weather was too cold for building operations. His family was then living near Trempealeau.

The Conants opened their home to them and the two families spent the winter in the one-roomed house, every inch of the floor space being occupied entirely by beds.

The next spring more land was broken and a fair acreage of crops put in. Breaking the land was an interesting operation. It was usually done with a big Whitewater plow and four or five yoke of oxen. The sight and sound of the large "grubs" being torn from the ground was an interesting one. Often the plow would be stuck in an unusually large "grub," and this meant a delay of an hour or more. As the year passed other settlers located in the valley, but to this day it has retained its original name, given in honor of the eastern ancestry of the pioneers.

Rainey Valley. In 1865 John Rainey, with his wife, settled on lands in sections 19, 21 and 9; James Hunter, a son-in-law, settled on lands in

sections 20, 21 and 9; John Berner on lands in sections 29, 19 and 9; and Truman Bric on lands in 19 and 30, 19-9 west. They were the pioneers in the valley.

The valley is about two miles long, and branching in section 20 runs westerly one and a half miles into section 19. Later these lands all changed hands; John D. Rainey soon became the owner of lands settled by John Berner, and Samuel Rainey, James Pringle and others settled in the valley, and numerous parties took up the hill and bluff lands. The valley and the hill farms became valuable and have long been some of the most desirable about the village of Arcadia.

In 1865 David Bennett and his brother William Bennett settled across the river, northeast of Arcadia, and were also pioneers. John Weaver may be said to have been an early settler, as may also Casper Smith. John Rainey, James Hunter, John D. Rainey and Samuel Rainey were the most prominent of the pioneers and early settlers in the valley. Mrs. Catherine Hunter, later known as Catherine J. Beveridge, took an active part in the interests of the valley in early days.—(By Stephen Richmond.)

Meyers Valley is wholly in the town of Arcadia, and lies about one and a half miles south of the village of Arcadia. It is really a series of short pocket valleys with a rich black loam soil, and long has been one of the choice farm localities in the town, and perhaps in the county. Grain growing was long the chief industry, but stock raising, grass and corn has all along had much attention, and in recent years dairying has flourished among the people of the valley. It is a natural locality for diversified or intensive farming, and its people were really always well-to-do when the exclusively grain growing neighborhoods were poor and almost destitute of money. The first settlers in Meyers Valley were Frank J. and Carl Zeller and Nic and Caspar Meyers. The Zellers met the Meyers at Roxbury in Dane County, Wisconsin, and they soon formed plans to come to Trempealeau County, the Meyers furnishing ox team and wagon, by which they traveled. Arriving in Trempealeau Village, they were directed to go by way of the prairie and Whistler Pass to Arcadia, the route being little else than a trail. However, they completed the journey to the Bishop settlement, and partook of their first meal at the home of David Bishop, it being cooked and served by Mrs. Bishop, who, after the death of Mr. Bishop, married Charles Mercer, and who is the person who gave to Arcadia territory, town and village the name now and for long so well known. At that time there were but few settlers, among them being Collins and David Bishop and families, George Dewey and family, James Broughton and family, George Shelley and family, Ira Penny and family, Carl Ernst and family, John McMaster with his family, Phillip Hartman and family, J. H. Gleason and family and N. D. Comstock, unmarried. The two Zellers and Nic and Caspar Meyers selected lands upon which they made some improvements with the intention of pre-empting them later, which they did. Frank J. Zeller located 120 acres and with his brother built a log house. Later he returned by ox team to Roxbury, Dane County, where, Nov. 26, 1856, he was married. All remained at Roxbury the winter of 1856 and 1857, returning to Arcadia in the spring of 1857, settling upon

the lands they had located the previous summer, and which they later purchased of the Government and opened and improved into valuable farms.

In the summer of 1857 many settlers came and they continued to arrive until in 1876 the territory was practically occupied. Among the early arrivals were Christian and John Haines, Peter Meyers, George Cain, Theodore Tsherhardt, John Woll, John Bill, Sr., John and Dan Bigham, James Gaveney, Dr. I. A. Briggs, David Massuere, Dan C. Dewey and Henry Dewey, Gay T. Storm and Casper Whiffler.

During the early years of life in the valley, and up to the time of the Indian massacre in Minnesota in 1862, many Indians lived about Arcadia and were frequent or almost daily visitors at the homes of the settlers, being very industrious beggars, but committing no crimes upon the white people. The Indian troubles in Minnesota in 1862 were the occasion of much anxiety and great prudence on the part of the settlers of Arcadia. Every man was armed and equipped to do battle, if necessary, for the protection of family and home. However, no occasion arose necessitating bloodshed. In pioneer days at Arcadia Indians often remained at the homes of settlers until late into the night, visiting and being social in their ways. The market points for many years were Trempealeau and Fountain City in all seasons, and Winona during such time as the Mississippi river was frozen in winters.

Bill's Valley is a branch of Meyers Valley, as is Woll Valley and Hartman Valley.

In the early days a society known as the St. Joseph Catholic Congregation, built a frame church near where the highway divides to go to the Hartman Valley, and to turn into the main valley and over the Pine Creek Ridge and down over the country by way of Whistler Pass to Trempealeau, where services were held until the congregation was merged into the new society at Arcadia in 1883. The cemetery remains and is the silent resting-place of many of the early pioneers of not only Meyers Valley, but that whole vicinity.

The St. Joseph Church stands in the southeast corner of the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter, section 6-20-9; and the cemetery is in the southwest corner of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter, section 6-20-9.

Meyers Valley proper, in which the Zeller farm is, has a creek that flows out of the northwest side of section 17-20-9, crossing sections 17, 8 and 7 in the same town; while the Bill Valley may be said to be confined to sections 11, 12, 13 and 14 in 20-10 west.

The original trail out of Arcadia came up out of Pine Creek onto the Pine Creek ridge above these valleys and Trout Run, following these valleys to the Trempealeau River, and centered in early times at Old Arcadia, or Dewey's Corners, as it was by many known. Later Massuere's Mill became a landmark and point of public interest.

The first white man to die in the Meyers Valley was Phillip Hartman, Sr., and the first to die in Arcadia was David Bishop, who was killed by a bolt of lightning during a storm in 1868. The public school at the mouth

of Meyer's Valley was organized in 1870, and the first teacher was Ferdinand Robertson.—(By Stephen Richmond.)

Thompson Valley is wholly in the town of Arcadia and runs south from American Valley, into which it opens near the upper end of the Miller and Bear mill pond. The valley is about three and a half miles long, footing up against the ridge which separates it from Norway Cooley. The first settler in the valley, so far as is known, was a man who took a claim but went to the war and was never more heard of. His claim was later filed upon by Thove Thompson, who occupied it, proved up his claim and developed it into a valuable farm, on which his widow and his two sons, Alex and Martin, now reside. At the time Thove Thompson settled in the valley, his brothers, Knut and Tolf, settled on lands they homesteaded and erected buildings on, and where they resided until their death. This was in May, 1865. These brothers came from Telemarken, Norway, in April, 1861, and settled in Iowa, where they remained until coming to the valley.—(By Stephen Richmond.)

Trout Run Valley is wholly in the town of Arcadia and is one of the early settled parts of Arcadia and of the county north of the ridge. It is a locality of fertile lands in which all the early pioneers were Germans, and is still their home and that of their children. The creek commences on the north side of the Pine Creek ridge, running in a northwesterly direction to the Trempealeau River a distance of four and a half miles. The valley includes the following sections, or the great part of them, namely: 9, 10, 14, 15, 23 and 24 in township 20, range 10, and 19 and 30 in township 20, range 9. The soil is a rich clay sand loam, highly productive of tame grasses, grains and vegetables.

The very early pioneers were Ludwig Hensel and family, Frederick Kiekhoefer and family, Charles Ulbrech and family and William Kiekhoefer and family. They settled in June, 1857, emigrating from Milwaukee and were four weeks on the journey, which was made with ox teams. William and Gust Garby located in the valley in 1859, making their home there during the remainder of their lives. Patrick and James Gibbons settled in the valley in 1862, Patrick later selling his lands and moving to Missouri. James Gibbons died on the old farm a few years ago. A. F. Hensel, who had lived in Buffalo County on the John Memietz farm a number of years, and who kept a small store there, and who located all the early settlers in the valley, settled in the valley in 1862. Jacob Pellowski settled on the Brownlie farm in 1862, as did Charles Fisher, whose widow sold the Fisher farm to Fred Kiekhoefer in 1866.

The Trempealeau Valley, north and south, is really a part of Trout Run Valley, in history at least. Among those who settled in the Trempealeau Valley in that vicinity were Thomas A. Simpson, in 1856, being then unmarried; Milton Tucker and Sumner S. Tucker in 1858, Martin Manning in 1860, Joe Hausfair and Charles Sexhour in 1862, John Miller, Simon Jegi, Frank Knittle and Dan and Phil English in 1862.

The school district was organized and the schoolhouse built in 1865, and John McMaster was the first teacher. Jack Scond, Fannie Simpson and D. L. Holcomb were the succeeding teachers. T. A. Simpson was the

first school clerk. The first school meeting was held in the home of Ludwig Hensel. The first schoolhouse was a log house built of logs cut in the valley and was built on the line between Fred Kiekhoefer's and T. A. Simpson's farms. The present schoolhouse is on a different site or location.

The German settlers were Evangelical Methodists, and in 1869 they erected a church near where the present schoolhouse stands, in which religious services have since been held. The society has a cemetery grounds near the church, in which many of the old settlers are buried. The first clergyman to hold services in the valley was from Winona, who came there occasionally on Sundays. The people were industrious, thrifty and thoroughly American, and have always been among the good citizens of the county. Nearly all of the early settlers were prosperous and for many years only ox teams were used. There were no roads, no bridges and no dugways.

A. W. Hensel, to whom we are indebted for many of the above facts, was born in Prussia, at Nougart, on November 7, 1840. He is a son of Ludwig Hensel and was past 16 years of age when he came to the valley. He served in Company F, 25th Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers, and was married in 1866 to Mary Wagoner. His father settled on and pre-empted 160 acres in section 23, township 20, range 10 west. Frederick Kiekhoefer pre-empted 160 acres in section 14, township 20, range 10 west, and Charles Ulbrech pre-empted 80 acres in section 23, township 20, range 10 west. These were the first farms opened in the valley. The valley was named Trout Run, because of the large numbers of trout in the creek at the time this settlement was made. Mr. Hensel soon visited the Bishop settlement, and for many years took grists to the Masseur mill, trading at the stores kept by Briggs & Dewey and by Gay T. Storm. There was much timber in the valley when settled, a considerable quantity of it being large enough to be squared into 6 by 6, 30 feet long. There was plenty of oak timber for building fences and fuel. The locality was long known as Tucker's Corners. Later a postoffice was established at the home of T. A. Simpson and the name Home was given the locality. The first postoffice was established Nov. 28, 1865, and Seth Tucker was postmaster to June 12, 1868; Adam Bartch to June 30, 1868; Thomas A. Simpson to April 11, 1870; Peter Scholidon to April 21, 1871; Caroline Tucker to June 28, 1875, and Denton Tucker, April 4, 1891, to June 18, 1895, when the office was discontinued.—(By Stephen Richmond.)

North Creek Valley lies wholly in the town of Arcadia and has its head in section 16, township 21, range 8, running southwesterly to the Trempealeau River in section 28, township 21, range 9, a distance of five and a half miles. The valley may be said to be embraced in sections 16, 17, 19 and 20 in 21-9, and sections 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 in 21-9. The name came to be applied in this way: In the early pioneer days the valley was north from the Bishop settlement and hence was called North Creek. Its very first settlers were Polish families—those of Albert Bautsch, Joseph Stanoskey, and a man named Weaver, who settled there in 1867, and who were soon followed by Louis Wojczik and others in 1868, 1869 and 1870. Thereafter, up to 1875, Polish families continued to come in and the valley

became the very first Polish settlement north of the ridge in the county. It has remained a settlement of these families and those of their nationality, industrious people, patriotic and intensely American.

The public school was built on the north half of the northeast quarter of 26-21-9, and a church was built nearby on the south half of said quarter. It has remained a place of public worship since and a cemetery was at the same time located near the church.

The valley has good soil and its people have made substantial progress in all matters of farm improvements, homes and outbuildings, horses, stock and diversified farming, and rank among the best farmers in the county. The young people who were born there and have grown up in the valley are among the best people in the county, and are so Americanized that they may be said to be real "Yankees" in language, dress and the usual characteristics of our people.—(By Stephen Richmond.)

Bill's Valley is wholly in the town of Arcadia and may be said to cover or include sections 11, 12, 13 and 14 in 20-10. The valley is more of a depression than a valley, as it has no real creek or watercourse. It was settled in 1860 by John Bill, Sr., and soon others came, making it an early or pioneer community, principally of German families, though later many of the settlers were Irish. The soil in the valley is good and the farms valuable. In all ways the progress of the people has kept pace with that of the best settlements in the county. While it has been more or less a mixed community, its people have been good citizens and have taken an active interest in public matters affecting the welfare of the town, county and State.—(By Stephen Richmond.)

Korpall Valley lies wholly in the town of Arcadia and may be said to be wholly within sections 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 in 21-9, and the Korpall Valley Creek runs west from a spring in the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of 12-21-9, through sections 12, 13, 14 and 15, a distance of two and a half miles to the Trempealeau River. The first settler was James Fassett, the second a man by the name of Zabrota. Soon after this there arrived John Korpall, who with Louis Norwitzki settled in the valley, they becoming the first permanent settlers. Others soon followed and the valley and ridges in the vicinity were all settled prior to 1876. The people were industrious and the community has made good progress. The soil is rich and the value of the lands there has risen equally with other parts of Arcadia and the county. The valley and vicinity cannot be said to have been a Polish neighborhood, as many families, American born and Norwegian born, have all along owned and occupied farms there. In early days grain raising was the chief farm industry, but since 1882 the people have gone successfully into diversified farming and have made it as much of a success as any nearby community.—(By Stephen Richmond.)

The Banner Robbery. In the spring of 1860 there arrived in the Big Tamarack Valley an Englishman who called himself John Banner. He seemed to have means and bought for cash eighty acres of land described as the south half of the southeast quarter of section five, township numbered nineteen, range nine (S. $\frac{1}{2}$ of S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 5-19-9). For this he received a deed which he confided to the care of a neighbor. On this land he built

a shanty and ox-shed, hired some breaking done, planted sod, corn and potatoes, bought a yoke of oxen and a cart, plow and a few other implements and tools. In the fall of 1860 he sowed six acres of winter wheat.

Mr. Banner passed the winter of 1860-61 in the neighborhood, getting acquainted with the settlers, having a good time and being a good fellow generally. In the spring of 1861 he prepared to plant corn and make further improvements on his farm. About the middle of May, 1861, another Englishman, calling himself Nathan Mitchell, came on from England to visit his friend Banner, and, incidentally, to invest a few "sovereigns" in American unimproved real estate.

Mr. Mitchell arrived at Mr. Banner's on Friday. Saturday and Sunday Mr. Banner entertained his friend by walking with him from farm to farm and introducing him to the neighbors as "My especial friend, Mr. Mitchell, direct from Liverpool, looking for land," etc. On Monday morning Mr. Banner proposed to initiate his visitor into the American art of planting "maize," and, after getting started and working a while, asked to be excused "while he went to a neighbor's for some seed potatoes."

Mr. Mitchell worked away at his new job until hunger and thirst warned him that the mid-day lunch ought to be due. On going to the shanty the first thing he saw was his carpet-bag with the side cut open, and, lying near, was his "friend's" razor with lint on the edge. A hasty examination showed that a package containing one hundred and thirteen gold "sovereigns" had been taken, and that it was very evident that his friend Banner was the robber. After "a nine days' wonder" and unavailing efforts to trace the missing appropriator of his coin, Mr. Mitchell took legal process against Banner's personal belongings that were left behind, such as the oxen, cart, plow, cooking stove, shotgun, grindstone, bedding, etc., including the growing crop of winter wheat, sold the whole at sheriff's sale, pocketed his loss, shook the Big Tamarack dust from his square-toed gaiters and returned to Old England.

Thus closed the John Banner-Nathan Mitchell "tragedy."

The first Polish settler in Dodge, Michael Chisin of Winona, was, in the spring of 1862, piloted to the John Banner farm by Charles J. Cleveland. To that farm he brought his bride, there his children were born, there he passed the rest of his life, and there he died. Several other Poles came into the Tamarack in the fall of 1862 and later. One of the later arrivals was also named "Michael" (Kolodsey or "Collins") and, as everybody was called by the person's given name, to distinguish the two "Mikes," Mrs. Chas. Cleveland gave Chisin the nickname of "Tamarack Mike" and Kolodsey was called "Winona Mike." The two men were very proud of their American names, announcing themselves to English speaking strangers always thus.—(By E. H. Cleveland.)

Williamsburg. The next settler after Lewis Niffin to locate directly up the Trempealeau Valley above Arcadia was Carl Ernst, a native of Germany. Ernst settled on a homestead about three miles above Arcadia, a short distance from the state road, in 1859. The next year Moses Skillins, a native of Connecticut, came up from Winnebago County, Wisconsin, and settled on a piece of state land about four and one-half miles above Arcadia,

on the state road. This was the beginning of the Williamsburg settlement. In 1862 Hiram Skillins, a Baptist preacher, and a brother of Moses Skillins, came from Winnecone, Wisconsin, and bought some state land about half a mile up the Trempealeau River from his brother's place.

We have noticed how customary it was for a new settlement to take its name from the original settler as instances, Reed's Landing, Bishop's Settlement, Lewis Valley. And so the Williamsburg settlement was first known as Skillins' Corners, and the small creek which flowed through Hiram's place was called Skillins' Creek.

Moses Skillins had broken seven acres of land and erected a log shanty where he was "baching" when his brother arrived. But pioneering and "baching" were not to his taste, and he sold his right to his brother and returned to Connecticut.

Henry E. Pierce was the next Williamsburg settler to arrive. He was a native of New York State, and came from Sparta, Wisconsin, in May, 1863, and bought the Moses Skillins place from Hiram Skillins and took the 140 acres of homestead land adjoining it. In June, the same year, William Eastman, another New York Stater, came and selected a homestead about a quarter of a mile above Skillins' Corners, in Wickham Valley, and in August, James Wickham, arrived from New York State and picked out a homestead a few miles up the Wickham Valley for his son Andrew.

The next spring (1864) Douglas Arnold arrived and bought some State land and took up some government land, and in the fall his brother came and settled at Skillins' Corners. These two brothers were also from New York State. The same year William Boorman bought out the Skillins place, and Andrew T. Wickham moved onto his homestead in Wickham Valley.

The Williamsburg farmers were soon raising large crops of wheat, and getting war prices for it; there was an abundance of wild grass for their herds, and the only drawback was the long distance to market. They hauled their wheat to Fountain City, Trempealeau, and in the winter when the Mississippi was frozen over they hauled the grain to the Pickwick mills, in Minnesota.

A postoffice was established in 1866, and thereafter the place was called Williamsburg. It had been known before this as Skillins' Corners, or simply the Corners.

W. B. Arnold has the honor of giving this name to the community, which was a very appropriate name on account of the three Williams, Arnold, Eastman and Boorman, all of whom lived near the Corners.

William Arnold was appointed postmaster at Williamsburg and held the office until it was discontinued in January, 1876. The first mail to Williamsburg was carried on horseback over the route from Minneska, Minnesota, to Black River Falls. Later it was carried by stage, and horseback when roads were bad from Trempealeau on the Trempealeau Elk Creek route. Perry Rumsy was mail carrier for years.

The same year the postoffice was established a schoolhouse was built about twenty rods above the Pierce home on the main road, and near the south corner of Douglas Arnold's place. The first school was taught by Miss Francis Lewis, a sister of Captain John D. Lewis, of Lewis Valley.

Things moved along rapidly now. The valleys tributary to Williamsburg were being taken up, and cultivated fields soon took the place of the rolling waste of wild grass, and the woodland hillsides resounded with the ax of the wood chopper.

A woodyard was opened, and soon the peddler's wagon found its way into the new settlement with shining new wares to attract the thrifty housewife. Occasionally the schoolhouse was utilized as a church, and on such Sundays the neighbors would gather from the country round about and hold religious services, and it would sometimes happen that on a pleasant summer Sabbath, some farmer who had been repairing pasture fences would loiter along the deserted road towards the old schoolhouse, and have his vision of rich golden harvest fields suddenly interrupted by the sound of the itinerant preacher's voice coming in sanctimonious quavers from the open windows of the schoolhouse; or perchance the lagging farmer would be stirred by the sound of the music, as out on the fragrant summer air there floated the strains of "The Sweet Bye and Bye."

Then one day from the Trempealeau River came the thrilling whistle of a steamboat. The peaceful quiet of the country was broken, and the inhabitants were stirred with excitement at this undreamed-of occurrence and people flocked down to the river to feast their eyes on a real live steamboat actually navigating the modest little Trempealeau River. A landing was made, the gangplank touched shore, and every inhabitant of Williamsburg felt his property rise in value so fast that it was necessary to hold onto the trees to keep from sliding downhill.

The steamboat men wanted to buy some eggs from the Williamsburg farmers, and William Eastman, eager to secure the trade of the boatmen, hurried home and in a short time returned with a basket of eggs. But, alas! Mr. Eastman was more accustomed to walking the wide country roads than a narrow gangplank, and when he had taken a few steps on the plank he slipped and fell, but like the boy who tumbled out of the barn loft and clung to his pail of nails to keep them from spilling, Bill froze to his basket of eggs, and regained his foothold with but a few of them broken, and the captain of the boat paid him for the original number of eggs, and Mr. Eastman walked home the crowned monarch of the rural market, and the first and last Williamsburg settler to trade with a Trempealeau River steamboat.

The new community grew rapidly and prospered, for they were thrifty society should not be forgotten in Williamsburg history. In the winter time every other Friday night was given to the literary society or spelling school, and people would come from neighboring districts to attend. There was a great deal of rivalry between contending districts in these spelling school matches, and the pupils were kept in good trim for the contest. Then on a winter's night when the chores were done, there would be a merry jingle of sleigh bells vibrating along the road to the schoolhouse and by 8 o'clock in the evening the strains of some well-known school song would announce the opening of the exercises. And if you would listen in the course of an hour you would hear the droning of words as the teacher pronounced them to the pupils lined along the walls of the schoolroom eager for the spelling-down contest. It is surprising what large words some of those bright little

country maidens would wade through—words that would give one a kink in the neck to pronounce were consumed as easily and greedily as a robin devours an angleworm.

The new community grew rapidly and prospered, for they were thrifty farmers, and brought from the Empire State a wealth of dairy experience and agricultural knowledge that proved useful in opening up the new country.

In the summer there was the school picnic, which was worth while to a hungry bunch of children. There under the green shade trees, near the limpid brook, where the blue violets bloomed in profusion we would enjoy a picnic dinner with tablecloths spread out on the ground and covered with, Oh, my, what good things to eat! not to forget the blueberry pie.

The railroad went through the valley, and by 1876, Williamsburg had two markets, Arcadia and Independence.

There is not an original settler or a descendant of one left in Williamsburg. You hardly ever hear the name any more, except among a few of the old settlers who still tell of the days when there was good deer hunting in Wickham Valley, and elk horns were picked up on the hillside back of the old Skillins place. (By Eben D. Pierce.)

McGilvray's Ferry, located on the Black River, in Caledonia Township, occupied an important place in Trempealeau County history for nearly four decades, from 1854 to 1892. Many of the early settlers passed into the county over this ferry, and the route of which it was a part is still an important thoroughfare, the ferry being now replaced by a neat bridge.

Alexander McGilvray, from whom the ferry took its name, located in Trempealeau (Reed's Landing) in 1852, and the following year moved his family to a homestead.

At that time people desiring to go to La Crosse, overland, went by way of the ford at what was afterward Gordon's ferry. The need of a ferry to shorten the route was imperative. Therefore in March, 1854, with the assistance of Charles Utter, Mr. McGilvray built a scow in the streets of Trempealeau, and later in the spring hauled it with teams to McGilvray's place, where it was launched and poled across Black River with Mr. Utter's team as its first cargo. The ferry was a reality now, and the first wagon road was opened into the south end of the county.

Poles to push the boat across the river were used only for a short time, when they were supplanted by an ordinary rope cable which was used one season, and was then replaced by a three-quarter-inch iron rod put together in sections. This was used until the wire cable took its place when the new cable was utilized until the ferry was discontinued.

The first ferryboat lasted two years, when a new one was constructed. In all five boats were built, the last one by G. O. McGilvray (now of Canyonville, Oregon), in 1890 and was run until the McGilvray bridge was completed February 22, 1892, when it was sold up the river to Decorah Prairie for Gordon's Ferry.

The rates charged for ferrying across the river were 25 cents for a team; 35 cents for a four-horse wagon and 10 cents for a foot passenger.

The tide of settlers increased with the drifting years, and the traffic

along the river assumed larger proportions. Stage lines, and freight lines were established, and in the winter when the steamboats were frozen in, the travel was entirely by team and horseback, and by French train. Four-horse freight wagons were commonly used, and the stages often used two teams on their coaches when the roads were heavy.

McGilvray's place assumed a busy aspect at times with the long line of freight wagons and stage coaches on the river bank waiting for their turn to be ferried over the river. Many of the travelers remained all night at McGilvray's, and the country inn, or tavern, was hurry and bustle on days of heavy travel. Here were congregated at times a rough and hardy lot of characters, and around the evening fire were told wild and fascinating stories of pioneer life, filled with thrilling adventure, and the comedy and tragedy of the backwoodsman's career, whose nearest neighbor lived miles away, and whose skill with the rifle furnished his rough-hewn table with plenty of savory venison, and made the wary Indian reluctant to disturb his cabin home.

The stage driver told of his wonderful feats of driving, and of his narrow escapes from robbers in attempted hold-ups; and of the perilous risk he took of being thrown down some rocky embankment on mirky night drives. The trapper told of his long journeys alone into the pathless wilderness in quest of furs; and the freighter was ready with his tales of hardy endurance, and of the miraculous journeys made with ponderous loads, up almost impassable roads, through snowdrifts or mud, until his destination was reached and he was a hero in his own mind, as well as the minds of some of his fellow listeners. The hunter and trader swapped yarns and mixed lies almost as strong as the rum in the freighter's wagon.

Alexander McGilvray entertained his guests occasionally with music on his bagpipe, an instrument he had brought from Inverness, Scotland, and the weary traveler would be stirred by the strains of "A Hundred pipers and a'," and would beat time to the Highland Fling as the piper weaved to and fro by the glowing fireside.

Rankin McGilvray was at this time a youth. In speaking of the early days in after years he said: "When the Civil War broke out, we began to carry soldiers across the ferry. Hardly a day went by until the close of the war that we did not carry some of the boys, and along at first they were all going one way, bound for La Crosse, and from there to Madison or Milwaukee, and then to the front. But after the first battle of Bull Run the wounded soldiers began to return, and then we were carrying soldiers both ways until the war ended. You could always tell one of the wounded ones, for they were bandaged, and crippled; a great many had their arms in slings, and others were walking with crutches; while some had bandaged heads. I recollect one fellow who came back nearly shot to pieces. He was the most dilapidated looking soldier I ever saw. He was lame and his right arm was in a sling and he had been hit in the face, and lost one eye, and couldn't see very well out of the other one, and was sour and cranky, and rather discouraged and I didn't blame him. Father kept him all night, and had one of the boys drive him to Trempealeau the next day. Father never charged the soldiers anything for carrying them across the ferry

or for board and lodging and although he could not go to the war, he did this patriotic service for his country. My chances for going to the war were spoiled on account of the ferry. I was on fire to go all right, but instead of going to the front and dying for my country, I had to stay at home and bail the water out of the ferry boat and help run it."

Along in the early sixties logging began to interfere with the ferry. Sometimes teams would be compelled to wait for hours until a log jam was cleared. Usually the logs bothered only a few weeks in the spring or for a few hours only but occasionally the ferry was laid up a week or two on account of the jams, and in 1885 the logs extended in a solid mass from Lytles to the head of Decoras Prairie, about 200,000,000 feet in the jam, and in the summer of 1890 the ferry was blockaded for five months. This was done for the convenience of the logging companies by putting a jack boom across the river half a mile above Lytles and letting just enough logs go through to handle during the day, thus saving the company from employing the men to do the work the current did, when the river was kept open from Lytles to Onalaska.

After Alexander McGilvray's death in 1878, his son, G. O. McGilvray operated the ferry until the bridge was erected, with the exception of one or two seasons when it was rented to William Kribbs.

Referring to the ice stopping the ferry, G. O. McGilvray once wrote, "On November 6, 1868, five or six West Prairie farmers drove to Onalaska for lumber. The river was open and the ferry running. The next day the men returned and found the river had been closed twelve hours. The horses were unhitched and the wagons loaded with a thousand feet of lumber were run across the ice by hand and the horses led over in safety. That was closing in rather suddenly."

When one turns and looks backward at the changeless past, what strange visions come floating through the brain. One can see the long procession winding down the road and passing in grand review along the old ferry at Black River. The foot-sore land seeker walking along the blazed trail and dreaming of the land where he can find a free home in the unsettled wilderness; and following in his footsteps comes the prairie schooner drawn by a yoke of oxen, and headed toward the new settlement where lies the richest land that the sun ever shown on, almost unmarked by the plow share. And then the stream of pioneers increases, and the stage coach comes into view, and the long train of freight wagons, and the trader, and lumberman mingle with the varied throng. And now we see a line of blue creep into the procession as on it moves and we feel a patriotic pride as our soldier boys slowly cross the river, facing the grim reality of war where death stalks abroad. And we see the wounded return with empty sleeves and wan lips and take their way homeward. Onward the procession moves until on every vacant piece of land there rises a home, and the subdued soil blossoms with cultivated fields, where once the wild deer ranged. And anon the procession changes, the French-train and stage coach fade away, and in their place comes the lumber wagon filled with golden grain for the market while the hum of our commercial age makes the very hills tremble; and the slow old ferry of long ago retreats up

the river to sleep where old Chief Decorah once looked out upon his peaceful village of smoking wigwams.—(By Eben D. Pierce.)

A Wisconsin Pioneer. Albert Rouse Rathbone was one of the remarkable figures of early days in Trempealeau County. In many ways, the experiences of himself and his family were typical of hundreds of pioneers who found their way to this region and assisted in its development. His story, written with loving sympathy and understanding by his daughter, Mrs. Jennie Rathbone Webb.

My father, Albert Rouse Rathbone (properly bun but changed by mistake in the war records) was born June 28, 1838, at the old Rathbun homestead on Amity Hill near Wattsburg, Penn. His father was an itinerant doctor carrying among his pills and liniments, kerosene oil, a great new cure for colds and throat trouble. When Lincoln called for men my father enlisted in the 145th Pennsylvania Volunteers, and being soon ordered to the front, he married Adeline White, and left her with his widowed mother upon the homestead where mother tended her flock of sheep and did tailoring. Father saw most of the Wilderness Campaign, was taken prisoner at Chancellorsville, held in Libby prison eleven days, after which he was exchanged. Wounded in the arm by a minnie ball at Spottsylvania Courthouse as he raised his sword in sign for his men to charge the breastworks, he returned home after hospital treatment at Annapolis with a wound that prevented further army service.

Grandfather had procured his kerosene medicine from the surface of pools, but now they were deriving it from wells. Father bought a partnership in the Titusville Wells, but having little faith in the business, sold mother's sheep, a goodly flock, packed up their few belongings, took mother and the four-months-old baby, waved goodby to a tall form at the homestead bars, and was off to try his fortunes among the pioneers of Western Wisconsin.

Their baggage was light. Clothing cost much in "Wartimes," muslin, coarse, unbleached stuff, sold at seventy-five cents per yard. People had no machines by means of which they could turn off two or three garments a day. I imagine most of the space in that leathern trunk which bore the misuse of travel right up to and including father last move, was taken up with keepsakes.

Time, prodded by boat, stage, and a hired ox team on the last lap, landed them, in the spring of 1866, the new cook stove, the precious baggage intact, upon their possessions at the mouth of Black River some fifteen miles from La Crosse near the old McGilvray ferry. The little log cabin but recently vacated containing its rough hand-made furniture was clean. The new stove in position, mother stored the provisions, conspicuously at the front a jar of Pennsylvania blackberry jam blatantly labeled, hung the dimity curtains, wound and set the clock, while father at a near neighbor's filled the tick with bright oat straw, brought home the cow which had been included in the purchase, a rangy, long-haired creature jangling a bell but a trifle smaller and every bit as badly cracked as that one of 1776 fame, and another home venture was launched.

In this settlement were some thrifty farmers. Though father still

carried his arm in a sling, he earned enough that summer driving teams for the farmers to pay for three good milch cows. Mother, by holding boards up to be nailed, and down to be sawed, helped put a small milk house over the spring. Mother made prime butter bringing war prices. On a Sunday might have been seen an odd couple—a tall, soldiery young man, his baby bundled at his back in a scarlet shawl, true Indian fashion, and a puffy short woman trudging along the lovely river paths, off to spend the day with a congenial neighbor. This during the cool days of May, then it turned warm, and oh, the mosquitoes! And oh dear, for the resultant smudges! There was a smudge under the table while they ate, one under the baby's cradle all the time, another for the cow when milked, and yet the mosquitoes nearly ate them alive. Mother ran slapping to right and left with a switch from house to milk room. Father, his one arm useless, defenseless against their onslaughts, tied down his coat sleeves, wore a veil and a heavy coat for protection. The creatures followed one in a black cloud. Up out of the bottoms the cattle rushed, tearing like mad through the brush.

Father was surprised one morning to find a stray ox at the barn. Inquiry among the neighbors established father's title thereto. It was Jim, the ox that had been included in the trade. He had a bad lump on his jaw, but it didn't hinder his working. He was shy but gentle and took quite philosophically to the most outlandish harness beast ever wore in man's remembrance. How father chuckled as he attempted to fit the contraption, trying it fore and aft, right side and wrong side before getting it properly adjusted to those particular parts of Jim's anatomy for which it had been intended. It had the merit of strength, and it resembled hustling to see father hauling great cart loads of wood behind Jim instead of lugging it up on his own back.

The summer passed, and, best of all, the mosquitoes went with it. Fall on Black River. Did you ever gather plums there? Burbank may keep his hybrids, the flavor of those wild goose plums can never be improved. Did you ever struggle in a thicket for black haws, high bush cranberries or fox grapes after Jack Frost had performed his magic? Yet over all the glory hung the memory of those mosquitoes.

So, when, during the winter father had an opportunity to sell, they concluded one summer there was enough, bought a mate for Jim, packed a few belongings into the sled and drove over the ridge into Trempealeau Valley. It took two days, but mother and the baby were cozy in the sled box, and father kept his blood up gee-hawing the oxen through the drifts. They located a few miles from Arcadia in the lower part of American Valley on the Harmon Tracey place. Here the third child was born, a fragile babe, and, only sixteen months later ere this one had vacated the maternal arms, hardly able to sit alone, I was born. You mothers with every convenience, steam-heated rooms, hot and cold water on tap, and perhaps one child, consider this pioneer woman's part. A child of three years, a weakling of sixteen months (whom I over a year later helped learn to walk), and here a lively lusty youngster demanding her share of attention, a fireplace for warmth, melted snow to wash in.

As I read the few notes my mother, now a woman of nearly four score, pioneering in the wilds of Washington, has furnished me, for this sketch, it seems their married life was a series of broken advances and retreats, halting in their migrations for one of two or both reasons, to-wit: to trade horses, or receive the stork. That we left Trempealeau County only to hop the more gingerly back in again. And so if at the time my tale is a trifle overcharged with baby, horse, or vagabondage,—oh well, if you love the three as I do, nothing I may write will prejudice you against the book containing other articles most charmingly handled by experienced pens.

We advanced a step in civilization here—had horses to drive. Mother did most of the marketing. She tied me into the seat beside her, put the two older girls on the floor of the hack (I believe they called it the democrat wagon) with a foot upon each one's skirts, father stepped from the heads of the wild young team and away we flew. Mother declares if it hadn't been up-grade after each down hill plunge she never could have brought them to a halt in front of Storm's store in East Arcadia. Long years after I saw her drive our vicious coach stallion in South Dakota and I am fully persuaded she gloried in those wild pioneer dashes. Father didn't enjoy renting. The next year he bought a place and in March, 1868, moved over into Travis Valley where our regular feathered guest got in two paying visits before we could pack and resume the broken march over Wisconsin, which, in spite of a very rapidly increasing family calling for an extra board seat across the wagon box every halt, ceased only when the thirteen child was born the thirteenth day of June, the birthday of the first babe, had broken the charm.

That father was a financier goes unchallenged. He shod and provided books for a family where it was not unusual to meet nine at a time plodding a mile and a half to school, sister Kate, that most to be pitied being, the oldest, bringing up the rear with the peck basket of lunch. That he was a true blue farmer is proved by the fact that the twelve grew up strong healthy men and women (though Kate in making her first dress declared in a flood of tears that she was one-sided from carrying that basket, to find later that she had left out an under arm piece) ere one of the number dropped out, and he grew the food that fed them, and most of the clothing to keep them warm. Recent dietitians would probably exclaim at the rich diet so generously larded with pink and white ham, and great prints of butter. How many fleeces from his flocks were exchanged with the Bangar Woolen Mill wagon (maybe you remember that curly horse) for bolts of flannel that so stimulated the circulation of blood and gave us a bran new epidermis daily if scratching counted. What tear blurred scenes each fall to get brother Virgil properly clothed for a cold Wisconsin winter. How, after he had been coaxed and shoved into those home-made domestic flannels he'd watch his chance to hide them in the haymow only to be betrayed by shivering and obliged to go all through the coercing again and again until the tender, outraged hide had thickened itself against its aggravator. Consider, too, the excruciating sensation from wearing one of father's heaviest red flannel shirts in a hot summer all afternoon, next your thin

summer skin, in punishment for risking a pleasant suicide wading the freshet up to your chin.

But to our sidetracked story. The last of October, 1871, as soon as these last little ones could sit, one between father and mother on the spring seat, the other in mother's arms, we packed the leather trunk in the back of the wagon, emptied the ticks, rolled up the bedding and clothing, and with us three girls down in the wagon bed on a pile of hay, for three days bumped and lurched across the hills, to a farm father bought, as so many did in those days of slow transit, with no real estate man to whirl you out in a super six, without first seeing the place. Lunch on the first day was eaten at Ettick, a small Scandinavian settlement, and early that afternoon we reached Melrose, spending two nights with Aunt Nan, to rest mother's arms a bit. With a dawn start and steady driving, we made the Wisconsin River at dark, where we camped out, the baby crying, it seemed, all night. I was divided between the fear of wolves devouring us, and hunters shooting us for panthers on account of it, but the baby, unmindful of these dangers, gave vent to its troubles in its own noisy way. We crossed on a small ferry near where Germantown now stands just as the sun rose, and hurried on again as nearly due east as the roads permitted. Those moves must have been keenest torture to mother, but I never heard her complain. The nearest to it being when late that day as the sun plunged into his cloudy bed, we looked down upon our eighty acres of sand, unfenced, unalmost everything, she turned her tired face to father, asking pleadingly, "Isn't there some mistake, Albert?" "Yes," father returned in his characteristic, quiet way, taking the blame upon his own shoulders, "I have made the mistake of trusting one man too many."

Indeed, it would have taken a Chinese wall to keep realty in bounds there. The wailing fall wind seemed never to weary of carrying sand from one spot to another, piling it against the scant clumps of grass, leveling it, and shaping a mound farther on. Over and over again it piled and leveled monotonously. We drove through the creek bounding one side, where, as the horses drank, we sat in wearied silence, up to the tiny house standing on a knoll in a small grove of oaks. It was banked to the window sills. From a broken pane of the attic window a bit of white rag waved and beckoned. "The peace signal, Adeline," father said, smiling whimsically. We had traded even up everything except the team, wagon and what it held. Here we found rude furniture not unlike we had left behind. Mother, it is true, complained that the milk crocks were seamed and cracked, and what a boiling and scrubbing in home-made soft soap suds they did get. She found bedbugs, too, but they were soon routed through her persistent deluge of boiling brine. A peculiar hardness of atmosphere foretold snow. Mother made up a good hot supper, we girls ransacked our future room, the attic, and father, after stabling the jaded team, brought in the rest of the load, filled, as usual, the bed ticks, and we were again ready to receive. However, we missed the periodic visit of our most constant guest. Either it didn't look for orphanages in this outlandish country or had mercy because of its barrenness. In a few days the snow had covered the bleak prairie.

It puzzles me how it was managed, but we never lacked comfort. Our homes, though plain, were always clean, our table provided with wholesome food, and our beds neat and inviting. I love to remember that snow-bound winter. Up in the attic you could hear the wind moan in the flue, and rattle the dead oak leaves. Then there were the lovely cracks of gold in the floor telling of father up hours before chore time, reading and studying by lamplight those precious books that never were left behind. Hugh Miller's "Old Red Sandstone" seems a part of him. It was the first book I noticed—from it I learned my letters. It gave one a fine intellectual feeling to read the A B C's from father's book, standing straight beside his chair, enunciating each letter with bravado. As far back as my memory reaches, he was taking the Atlantic Monthly. The first "piece" I spoke was a prelude to some lengthy article in it, taught me by father, and so like his own sayings—"It is not all in bringing up, Let folks say what they will, To silver scour a pewter cup, It will be pewter still." Housekeeping wasn't so complicated those days, and, in spite of its lack of conveniences, mother found many hours in which to help father teach us. She was an early Montessori.

The only real rushing business of this locality was horse stealing among the outlaws. And although a moral consciousness precluded father's adoption of the profession, he did quite innocently become possessed of one of their thefts, a black Morgan mare, balky to such a degree I doubt not her owner considered himself well rid of her—of which more later. Occasionally scraps of talk about these raids reached us, furnishing a little healthy excitement.

As the last snow was vanishing, father took the sack of cloverseed down from the rafters and sowed it upon the most favorable ground along the creek bank. Then the waiting and the watching through unseasonable heat, freezes and snow flurries. I am reminded of Old Goody Blake down on her knees blowing up the faint embers of the poor little fire she obtained by filching handfuls of Harry Gill's brushwood. During a dry spell, assisted by mother and every toddler that could carry a bucket, however small, I distinctly remember my part in it, and of sounding the depths of the creek coming up with the tip top of my new shaker plastered with mud—father kept the patch moist. He said the Sahara might be reclaimed if clover could be started upon it. It was his creed and he spread its gospel wherever he farmed. Nature couldn't turn a deaf ear to such prayers, it grew and flourished. That fall it was a great temptation to cut it for Bossie, but father had mowed some fine-bladed marsh grass while it was young and tender, dried it beneath the bleaching sheets, salted it down in the mow, and she performed as well or better than most cows of those days; that is, she didn't give milk during the five winter months, but kept in good condition and brought us twin heifer calves early the next spring.

Father was gone off and on most of the summer at work for the more prosperous farmers in the adjoining valleys. Once when mother was there with only us children, a band of Indians trailed by, the men sitting erect and dignified on their shaggy ponies, the squaws so humble and browbeaten, trudging afoot, loaded nearly double with great bundles at their backs,

carried by means of broad leathern straps across the chest and forehead, little girls and boys innocent of clothes scampered along in the cloud of dust. Papooses dangled from every budget. Cur dogs with red lolling tongues darted out and in among them. As we stood at the gate one big fellow stopped, and thrusting his dirty fingers in our cat's fat sides, asked tersely, "How much?" And for a minute we children held our breath, certain our lives were to be spared at the sacrifice of pussy's. Then, seeing the fowls, they wanted chickens, "You so much, me, one," they pleaded. But mother, knowing their tricks, was firm; one meant that many for every Indian able to beg. The long line of perhaps two or three hundred ended at last. They forded the creek and camped less than a half-mile distant in a grove of oaks. Toward evening one of the neighbors riding by cautioned mother to be on the lookout, the Indian had liquor. While she was not abashed at the nearness of Indians pure and simple, she knew there were good reasons to be afraid of the best of them, no matter how civilized, when mixed with firewater. So with all of us children hanging to her, her face to the foe, she set out to find the chief, who assured her most solemnly that she had nothing to fear, and pointed out a number of yelling braves tied to trees while they sobered off. We visited the camp several times and were unmolested except that they begged for everything in sight.

As before mentioned, it was here that father bought, unwittingly, the stolen mare, Doll. She was jet black with a blazing white star in her forehead, an exact match for the colt obtained during our stay at Travis Valley. As father led Doll behind him in the barn, the very day of her purchase, she kicked out in play, hitting father a terrific blow in the side that laid him up for a long time. During the two and a half years of our sojourn here father had used all the barn fertilizer he could get from the horse dealers (?) and our own stable to enrich his ground. The patch of clover was now several acres, the corn and grain in splendid trim, when Mr. Mattison, of spirit rapping fame in Arcadia, passed by and fell in love with the place. Before he left he owned it and father received in exchange an eighty in (of course) Trempealeau County. In his anxiety to get back, the start was made before father was at all fit for even a short journey, mother driving the stallion and his mate on the wagon holding a few household articles and four little ones, father following in the buggy drawn by Doll, with the oldest, a child of eight, to watch over and care for him. All went well until we reached the foot of Waushara Hill, a hard, sandy climb enough to discourage any horse. Doll was completely overcome. She stopped short, letting one hip drop in a resting posture, her delicate ear radiating toward the rear to catch the verbal abuse her former owners had subjected her to. Except to chirrup a time or two, father said nothing. He was so sick nothing really mattered. He sat and waited, placing all the responsibility of action on Doll. Somehow, somewhere, while yet young he learned the value of patience, that attribute needed first and usually gained last. He was not a hustler; violence of any kind was foreign to his nature, but his tender, watchful endurance was godlike. It was his winning card in every game. Through his own remarkable self control, he governed others without visible effort. It seemed so cheerfully right to do

anything father suggested. He never antagonized one. His influence was always soothing. It soothed and conquered Doll. With an indescribable gesture of exasperated patience that melted into puzzled incomprehension and crystallized into life lasting confidence, she gave father a long, studied look, then with a soft, blubbery sigh, pushed out gently on the bit, starting up the first of many, many long hills that in her life of over twenty years in our service she climbed with never an untrue move.

For years father was associated in business with that most canny Scotch horse dealer, James Low, of Baraboo, buying and selling largely and constantly, but never to find Doll's equal in intelligence or trustworthiness. To my knowledge no one outside the immediate family was ever allowed to drive her but once. It was threshing time with its accompanying hustle. In those days people did not grow enough grain to pay them to invest in high-priced threshers. They engaged a tramp horsepower machine that passed from one setting of stacks to another. At our place one horse took sick and father, driven to it, put in Doll. The noise excited her, yet she did fairly well until the driver became loud and profane in his exhortations. Doll stopped and appeared to be recalling similar scenes. The driver let out a half-rod of whip lash that shot in sinuous, snakelike coils and cracked immediately over her sensitive ears. She not only hesitated now, she balked stiff with ears pinched flat, her distended nostrils blood red, a perfect fury. Had mother been struck it could not have incensed us children more. We popped up and down like mad Dervishes, and the yell of bloody murder passed down the line like water in a bucket brigade. Father was there before anything worse happened, and Doll was quickly and quietly led out of the traces and inside the barn. How the crew managed, I do not remember, we were too busy loving our outraged old bonnie to notice small matters. Once father drove her and a mate into Humbird, traded the mate for a great white Durham cow, Lily White, an imported animal that, refusing to breed, had been worked in the lumber camps with oxen, and came driving back with horse and cow hitched together. It must have been humiliating to Doll, but father required it of her, that was enough.

The Mattison home, to which we moved in 1872, adjoined the south side of the Arcadia burying ground, the house so near the line you could toss a pebble from the back door to the nearest graves. You could look through the window on the other side and occasionally see deer among the oak thickets of the barn yard. Once we shot a bear in the crotch of a tree over the path leading to the pasture, when we had discovered why the cows kept turning back at that point. At another time we saw Mrs. Bruin and two cubs taking their constitutional across a field, headed for Barn Bluff, upon whose sandy summit grew the earliest sweetest wind flowers. It was at this place we had a fearful siege of typhoid, every one being stricken except father and sister Kate, who maintains she underwent worse suffering than the fever victims. No professional nurses on tap then. Dr. Lewis spent all his spare time assisting, but upon father fell the hardship of nursing night and day, napping occasionally in his chair between the rows of sufferers. Worn out at last he was persuaded to lie down while

Mr. and Mrs. Conant watched. To his horror upon awakening he discovered that through a mistake in the bottles I, who lay at death's door, had been given a spoonful of turpentine. I established my reputation then and there of being contrary by mending at once. Father brought us all through, bald-headed skeletons, but alive, thanks to his untiring care.

Several families from the old Pennsylvania district came out and settled near. One woman brought a peck of peach pits. Father carefully cracked and planted his handful in boxes. Several sprouted and grew amazingly. He kept them in wooden tubs, moving them into the cellar the first two winters, when they became pot bound and were placed in the open ground. In the fall father dug up one side of the roots, weighted the trees to the ground, covering them with dirt, coarse litter and rails. After danger of frost in the spring they were straightened. In their fourth year they bore fruit. True, it had a decidedly vegetable flavor, but none the less home grown peaches. In much the same manner he grew our first grapes. He planted a small orchard of hardy apples, which thrived and bore when others thought it useless to try. His pear tree seemed always beckoning for succor. Like homesick women in a foreign land, it refused to bear. Its influence was so saddening that it was replaced by a more cheerful pioneer. We popped corn over its burning twigs, the only real, spirited, happy time of its existence.

Two new names for the census taker were added here.

We were moving less often now. We remained on the three hundred and sixty-acre Humbird farm, which now became our home, from 1877 to 1881, nearly five years, perhaps because it took that much longer to overcome the desecrations of man. Nature had been lavish in her bestowal of beauty, but man apparently had worked with extraordinary ingenuity to upset her plans. What a place! Dead cattle lying unburied in the barnyard upon which great, gaunt, hairy hogs were eating, dead fowls under the perches, a new barn erected above the carcasses of several sheep, half the pickets fallen from the front fence, buildings unpainted, the windows of the big house stuffed with rags, worn out fields. Father put the full force of men and teams to clearing the premises. The dead were buried in a pit after covering them with lime. Tons and tons of fertilizer were hauled from the yards and stables to a worked-out forty, as level as the floor, but too poor to raise a row. He bought at a dollar a load all the manure at the Humbird livery stable, and how the neighbors laughed to see a man pay, actually pay, for manure. He grew a crop of clover knee deep on it and turned that back to the land. The neighbors shook their heads and called him crazy. You should have seen the crop of corn following! Its like was never seen there before. On other depleted fields similarly treated the heavy-headed oats stood shoulder high. A lover of good stock he paid one hundred and fifty dollars for a Short-horn bull, an unheard of price in those days when cows and chickens were a much slighted side issue.

Fences were straightened, buildings painted, a great barn built with old-fashioned driveway between two immense mows. He flailed some grain with the jointed rod of long ago on that barn floor. And winter

evenings, the horses and cattle watching from their stanchions, the sheep from their pens, we husked long ears of yellow corn there. Had I been gifted with the pen of a Whittier my snow bound might read as pregnant with life as his, I sensed it all in a dumb ecstasy.

Our land extending into two districts entitled us to entrance at both the town school at Humbird and the rural school at Houghtenberg. We took the full year of the former and the summer term of the latter, for father placed great faith in schooling. He helped us evenings. I cannot remember a home without its blackboard and night sessions. Father wished us to be teachers and ten of us fulfilled his desires.

The instant you crossed the long puncheon bridge to the east you were in a forest of pines, and upon a carpet of pigeon vines and winter green. If it were spring the vines were full of puffy red berries, and you could hear the drumming partridge from every direction. Once at the bridge's approach a neighbor came face to face with a great shambling bear, as large as a two-year-old heifer. We often saw them in the slashings, where we gathered blueberries with wooden box rakes, and buckets of juicy blackberries. At dusk from the open country to the west came the prairie chickens' boom, "Man's a fool!" with its peculiar up and down inflection. Such winters of snow! How the sleighbells jingled to and from school! Fences completely hidden! Doll and Dido, their breasts frost white, would come racing into the back yard from the clearing, the sled piled high with alder pole wood, icicles hanging to father's mustache, his nose white. Then mother would rush out with a pan of steaming doughnuts to regale father while he rubbed the blood back into his nose and ears, and she stroked Doll's soft muzzle.

Often he engaged strolling bands of Indians to cut wood and clear land. When they came to the house to engage hay for their ponies, an armful at a time, if invited in, as they usually were, at the risk of our catching undesirable things, they squatted about the stove in stolid silence except to answer a direct question in short guttural notes; so unlike the musical tones used in their own language, when their high-pitched voices rose and fell like the wailing wind in the pine tops. And of course they begged. One old half-frozen squaw, so wrinkled she looked less than human, asked for milk. She held her mouth full for a moment, then fumbling in the front of her dirty blouse drew out a very young puppy that placed to her lips avidly sucked out the warmed milk. A young squaw, evidently the belle, had ear lobes stretched nearly to her shoulder from the weight of ear ornaments made up of dimes, half dimes, and quarters, amounting to at least five dollars, connected by silver rings. A very tall straight young buck, when asked his name, replied promptly, "Paul, P-A-U-L," proud of his schooling, and stalking across the room to the organ drummed out with one hand, "Home, sweet home," a strange tune for a wandering Red man. At another time an old chief and his squaw arrived just as we had finished dinner. When asked they readily went to the table. Before seating himself the chief reached the table's length to get a large dish of boiled Irish potatoes. He divided them with great exactness between his and the squaw's plates, adding first to one then to the other, then satisfied they

were evenly filled, gave a grunt of contentment and finished the pile in no time. They seemed always like happy, irresponsible children. We destroyed an ideal existence when we took their lands.

A rather perplexing thing happened once. It was during an exceedingly cold spell, boards snapping, snow squeaking under foot, the pump almost freezing between trips to the kitchen with water, windows furred thick with frost, when just at dark an Indian and a young squaw nearly overcome with cold stopped for the night. They were exceptionally clean. We had a bed in the wood house attic kept purposely to accommodate the many looking for work who passed up and down the railroad track that cut our farm and lay a few rods from the house. Instead of sending them to the barn we let them sleep in this attic, which was warmer. In the morning something the Indian said about his squaw that didn't seem to apply to the one with him caused father to ask, motioning to the two, "You married?" "By 'n bye," was the laconic answer, which left us to wonder about their ideas of white man morality.

Our next move in 1881 to the George Dewey place, across the road from his shrewd Yankee brother, Uncle Dan Dewey, at Arcadia, was father's last investment in Wisconsin land. The house of three stories was not too large, for, during those years at Humbird, we had prospered in more than wealth. The stork had blessed our home with four visits, two of them a half hour apart. One room on the third floor held long rows of rich yellow home made cheese, the rest were play rooms, where paper men and women and every description of animal, with some even beyond describing, were manufactured as fast as the limited supply of scissors allowed. While we lived here farm institutes were held yearly in the old Mineral Springs Hotel. Father always attended, eager to get new ideas, admiring Governor Hoard, whether he talked dairying or broke the monotony of farm discussions by singing "Finnegan's Wake," or reciting the pathetic "Johnnie Kunkerpod." Most of the farmers took to dairying. Father did, and sold cream at so much an inch—a little more than enough to pay for the cows' salt now. You all remember how George Kelley used to fly around in the mud with his wild team gathering up cream for the creamery, and spilling it occasionally, too. Our place was rich and grew wonderful crops of corn and clover. We were near good schools. It was a pity to sell.

The thirteenth baby was born here, the thirteenth day of June, 1884. Counting cribbage style the figures in the year make two more thirteens—an awful assemblage of that most unlucky number. Whether that was responsible for father's ankle being broken twice that year, each time by stumbling mules, I can't say, but it did look as if bad luck had us by the collar to see father hobbling about on crutches the next March in a cold, drizzly rain, and Tom Barry pegging around on his wooden leg, using all his Irish wit to auction off the personal property. Mother, as usual doing her share, kept pots of boiling coffee and trays of ham sandwiches on hand to cheer the crowd. Yet every one felt it was a sad move. What wasn't sold was given away or packed in the freight car with the bees, Virgil's pup, the Shorthorn stock, the stallion Frank, old Doll's last grandchild and Doll, too, would have been there had not mother, misunderstanding father,

caused her to be shot. Faithful old creature, it hurts yet to remember coming from school and rushing out to learn why she lay so still beside the fence, discover the bullet wound in the blood-stained star in her forehead. I ought to think now, after all these years, that perhaps it was best, that it may have saved her a lingering, suffering death. I can't do it. I can't forgive the lack of gratitude for a dumb animal living for our comfort and profit, nor an unkindness to a child for whose being it is not responsible any more than my father could.

Leaving the two married girls in April of 1885, we made that most unfortunate move into the Ozarks, mother and the ten children by passenger train.

Space is too limited to tell you of the wild life there in the woods filled with flowers, nuts and fruits; the raids of the Bald Knobbers and our constant fear, father being a northern man, he should suffer the resentment of these ignorant people, still bitter over the Civil War; of a winter not as open as the natives vouched for, we with stock and no hay, how father kept some of the cattle alive by feeding them great lengths of pickled side pork; of little Frank traded for land, starved to death by his owner, and father unable to save him. No space left to picture the lives of these mountain children, often four generations living in a single miserable hovel, of the little log school house with its broken windows, dropped chinking, backless puncheon benches, ruled over by an asthmatic old teacher, who spent the noon hour smoking his pipe and his asthma over a fire in a hole in the ground; of the precipitate move, amounting almost to flight, away from these degrading social conditions to the open prairies of South Dakota, with its droughts, hail storms, cyclones—every force of nature turned against success, just at the outbreak of the Rosebud Indian Agency in 1891.

Nor shall I offend my father's memory by dwelling with unnecessary words upon his last sad illness, the result of that Waushara injury, so patiently borne throughout the intense heat of the summer of 1901; the misunderstandings, apparently wrong medical treatments; his life needlessly lost at the age of sixty-six. The big bays, the team he loved, carried him on the first relay back to the little cemetery at Arcadia in the beautiful Trempealeau Valley that had ever beckoned his return. In the lonely days that followed, how, by loving those creatures he had made his tender care, we tried to feel him near; not forgetting the King birds, that having built in the tool box of a cultivator, rather than cause them grief through the destruction of their home, he worked longer hours with one machine that the other might stand idle until the little birds could fly. Some comfort came at last, and I could feel, as he would wish, that he was but a little way ahead, beyond a turn in the road, at the summit of a hard climb, with dear faithful old Doll trekking on.

Galesville University. It was a pleasant May morning that a child stepped across the threshold of the assembly room in the old court house at Galesville.

Rude wooden benches filled the main floor; the judge's desk was at the opposite end; connected with this was a long narrow desk, inclosing a

square space, with an entrance, middle front; within the inclosure a pine table.

The few young people present sat at the long desk. Beside the table sat Samuel Fallows, a young man of brilliant promise, secured to take charge of instruction in the new institution.

School had commenced the day before. There was a recitation in Latin. The professor turned to the child repeating the questions he had just asked of the class. His kindly manner brought reply, for every word had been indelibly impressed.

He took the new books—National Fifth Reader, Davies' Arithmetic, Clark's English, and Andrew's and Stoddard's Latin Grammar—writing within her name and the date, May 18, 1859.

That Latin Grammar, solid and hard, was quite unlike the modern "Easy Lessons," but the children sang the declensions and conjugations about their play and received no permanent injury, wondering at the greater difficulty experienced by those older.

An accurate list of those attending the first term has not been obtained. We have always recalled the number as sixteen. Of this number were Addie Marsh Kneeland and Geo. Gale, yet residing at Galesville.

Those were the days of "flowing" sleeves, "low neck" and ample crinoline. The hair drooped low over the ears in "basket" braids, and twenty strands were announced as a triumph one morning. No bandeaux or jewels, but graceful sprays of wild flowers. They were pretty girls.

Elvina Swift, later Mrs. Farrington of Mondovi, and Emma Clark (Mrs. R. A. Odell) were sweet singers, alto and soprano. Their voices, hushed long years ago, I can hear yet trilling the "Rain Upon the Roof."

One beautiful autumn day in the second term, rooms having been made ready, we marched in a body the length of the village to the permanent building.

One can remember many things with amusement. So has the world always looked back, as it will to the end of time. The jokes that pleased our grandfathers grace as new the pages of the latest college journals. Professor Fallows, questioned at the close of the first day, is said to have remarked: "We have done better than old Harvard at its beginning."

Of Bishop Fallows we all know. In this year of 1912, strong and magnetic in humor or in pathos, he moves his audience as of old. The inspiration of such a personality was of more worth than many text books.

The new country contained individuals rarely endowed in intellect and thoroughly trained. Shabby as to clothes, and roughened by the hardships of pioneering, they were, nevertheless, an able resource when there was need.

Professor Kottinger, author of books in use in the schools of his native Switzerland, was most proficient in Hebrew, as well as several other languages, while his hands could draw rare harmony from piano or violin.

Professor Cheney, of Middlebury, Vt., after driving a breaking team of oxen all day, could help many a student over the hard places, perfectly conversant with classic, science or mathematics.

Meager as were the advantages, no one can estimate what they meant

to the new country. Older men came to make good as best they might that the advance of civilization should not find them wanting. That the child of ten should be classmates of the man of forty years was only example of the wide range that sought instruction.

Numbers and influence were steadily increasing when the Civil War bade all stand still, and the boys hastened bravely to their country's defense.

In later years, when the older colleges began to consider co-education, we realized upon what progressive ideas our training had been founded.

We girls were always welcomed to the boys' ball games. Those who wished were privileged to take part in oration or debate. Fine courtesy toward each other prevailed.

The Indian trails were well worn, their corn fields deserted at the coming of the white man yet well marked. The surroundings were not like those left in Eastern homes, but I can recall no expression of ill-natured comparison.

The life record of many is already complete, and across its page has been written success. Light-hearted and happy, as youth ought to be, I think an unusual earnestness pervaded that little band; upon them, the impress of responsibility, that they were in the making of a future for others, as well as directing their own lives. Over all, the spirit of the pioneer.—(Written at Durand, Wisconsin, Nov. 8, 1912, by Flora Luce Dorwin.)

Early Osseo. The site of the now busy and thriving village of Osseo was surveyed and platted Sept. 22, 1857, by a company, W. A. Woodward of the state of New York, C. R. Field and W. H. Thomas of Richland County, Wisconsin, and they commenced the improvements—W. H. Thomas and a company of men, including our first blacksmith, Dye Ellis. Mr. Thomas and family boarded at Green & Silkworth's Station until the barn was built, when they moved into it and used it for a dwelling until the hotel was erected. They then moved into the hotel, where they lived until Mr. Field and company arrived and took possession in 1859, at which time Mr. Thomas moved into his house, which had been completed at the same time as the hotel.

The arrival of these new immigrants from Richland County took place October 14, the party consisting of the Hon. C. R. Field and family, J. D. Tracy and family, E. Hyslop and family, with a few young men and others, E. S. Hotchkiss, W. S. Hine, Freem Coats, and some others who did not come to stay. Mr. Thomas and crew had arrived in the fall of 1857.

At the time the Field party arrived Osseo consisted of a few scattered buildings. The principal building was the hotel. Next in importance was the residence of W. H. Thomas. That house is now a part of the residence of Erick Nelson and stands west of Hume's blacksmith shop. A shanty occupied the present site of the Congregational church. Dye Ellis had erected the frame of what is now the dwelling of Mrs. Newman, and a little east of the frame stood his blacksmith shop. The shop consisted of a few pieces of jack pine trees arranged to form a forge with some kind of a cover over them, his anvil being outside. When Mr. Ellis got a job of work to do he went out into the pines and gathered pine knots and such-

like material to make a fire of. Such was Osseo's first blacksmith shop and blacksmith.

On our arrival there were probably only about half a dozen families at the old Beef River Station of Green & Silkworth. About the same number were over in the South Valley, Jim King, from whom the creek takes its name; H. G. Daniels and family, Jefferson Gorden and family and a young man, John Spaulding; James McIntyre and family, with whom were William and Mary Lindsay, brother and sister to Mrs. McIntyre. William Henry had taken his first crop that summer of 1859, but did not build a home until 1860. East of Osseo, on the farm now owned by James Crawford, Austin Ayers and family lived. On section 8, a little below the Linderman mill, Dennis Lawler lived for a time before taking up his later home.

The postoffice (Sumner postoffice) was at the Beef River Station, owned by Green & Silkworth, with Mr. Silkworth as postmaster. The postoffice was in a barroom of the old log house, the letters being kept in a little box, or desk rather, where their account books were—a desk probably about eighteen inches or maybe two feet square, which anyone had access to. Beef River Station was on the stage road from Sparta and Black River Falls to Eau Claire and Menominee. Although we were few in number in those days there was lots of fun and amusement for all who wished to enjoy it.

After the arrival of those immigrants there was a school meeting called to organize a school district, and it was voted to build a schoolhouse, so there were bids called for, R. C. Field and Mr. Silkworth being the only bidders. Their bids were \$500 each and to get the contract Mr. Field promised to put on a belfry without extra charge.

At that time there was a small store kept in the house of W. H. Thomas and owned by him. In the other end of the house a Mrs. Bucklen, afterwards better known as Mrs. Barber, taught the first school in Osseo, a school of four scholars—two Lawler girls and Della and Julia Thomas. After our arrival the next school was kept in the barroom of the station and taught by Ruth Griswold, who had arrived in our company from Richland County. Then there were a few new scholars. The next school was kept in that shanty spoken of and taught by Hattie Field, afterwards Mrs. E. S. Hotchkiss of Independence.

At the time of building the school house in Osseo the school house in South Valley was built, Mr. Silkworth having the contract. The work was done by Mr. Smith, then of South Valley.

In the summer of 1859 Mr. Field contracted to have a lot of marsh hay put up on what was then called the "big marsh," just beyond what is now called the Stillman farm. In the fall there was a prairie fire coming over from the west and to save that hay Mr. Field hired a lot of us to go down and fight the fire, which was done successfully.

One day during the same fall, or it may have been winter, hay was needed at the hotel, so Stoddard Field hitched up "Buck" and "Booch," and another team of the same kind, and he and I went down to the big marsh for a load. He drew up alongside of a real nice stack or rick and I went

onto the rick to fork the hay onto the load. I had not got much off before I went right down through. That nice rick of hay was quite hollow-hearted, for under a covering of hay there were two tamarack stumps, supporting poles against which brush had been piled. Mr. Field had contracted with a man to put up twenty tons of hay on that marsh, and W. J. Thomas was to estimate the amount of hay in each stack, each to abide by his estimate. This particular stack had been highly estimated. "Billy" Hines says that man was a preacher and Mrs. Field says so, too. In those days there were more preachers than there was good preaching.

I will relate another little true story of two or three years after. An Irishman came in to Osseo—Mike Murty by name. He had an ox team and the settlers needed hay. One day Mike came to me and asked me to go with him down onto what was called Lawler's Creek, where there was real nice marsh grass to cut for hay. So on Sunday we went down and cut hay. On a Sunday after we went and stacked it. In the fall, to save the hay from prairie fires, I went one Sunday and ploughed two furrows a little apart around the stack and then set fire between the furrows so as not to let it run over the prairie. When we had got almost around the fire leaped over our firebreak on the other side and into the stack of hay, which all went up in smoke. On Sunday, too! Well, some people will say, "So much for working on Sunday;" but in pioneer days we had to do and work every way to make a living. As for Mike, that was about all the hay he had for winter fodder, and seemingly it almost broke his heart. I had a good deal of hay on other marshes, so I gave Mike a stack on one of them to help tide him over. He left Osseo and I never knew what became of him.

In 1860 the Second National Republican Convention was held and men around Osseo were anxious to get the news of the convention. Mr. Field was an enthusiastic Seward man. Maybe partly because he was a New York man himself, and it seemed to be sure that Seward would be the man. In due time after the convention I went up to the postoffice to get the weekly newspaper. On coming back to Osseo I met Mr. Field. "Well, who's it?" said he. "Who do you think?" "Seward?" "No." "Chase?" "No." The others he named I do not remember. "Well, who is it?" "Lincoln." "Lincoln, Lincoln, Lincoln, who is Lincoln, anyway?" "Don't you remember Lincoln stumping the state of Illinois against Douglass two years ago?" "Oh, yes." And he went to get his paper to read the news of the convention. Although he did not get Seward, he did not go back on Lincoln.

On the first call for troops there left three young men to walk all the way to Sparta to enlist. These three young men were F. N. Thomas, W. S. Hine and Hank Robbins. In my mind I can see them yet take the road. Road? No, the wagon track. We had no roads in those days; did not need them. Those men served Uncle Sam faithfully during the war, Mr. Thomas being sorely afflicted, Billy Hine coming back safe and Hank Robbins settling in some part of the state east.

In December, 1859, there occurred the birth of the first white child born in the village of Osseo. That child is now Mrs. Barbara McIntyre, and she is here yet. True, they went to Seattle once to make a home, but on

account of poor health there, or perhaps because they were too far from Osseo, they came back to stay.

The old blacksmith, Mr. Ellis, was a character in his way—he and his old horse Jimmie. That old horse was the slowest horse that ever stood. Trot? No, he didn't know how. (Oh, now, Hyslop, be easy on old Jim. You must remember how you used to like to get him and the old cart when you wanted to take your family in a buggy riding over to the South Valley.) A whip was of little use, but he did not like a stick with a brick tied on the end of it. Ellis was a widower, I suppose, at least he lived by himself here at first. In about a year or two he had an addition to his household, a stepson, two daughters and a son coming to keep him company.

I had bought a claim on land of C. R. Nelson, on the east half of 15. There were 15 acres broken on it, but I had no way of putting it into crop. Mr. Ellis had his horse, this old Jim, and another he had got some way, and his boy, Ruff. So I let the 15 acres to Mr. Ellis. He rigged up an old plow and sent Ruff to plow the land for the crop. But the plow would not work, or Ruff thought so. In fact he would rather that it would not. So he brought it down to the shop. Mr. Field had had before this a shop erected about where the furniture store now is. Mr. Ellis was busy working and poor Ruff had to take it. When he got the job done at which he had been at work: "Now we will just see whether that plow will work or not," took the team and plow onto the prairie on the south side; he took hold of the plow and Ruff had to drive the team. It was probably the old man's emphatic and picturesque language that frightened the horses, but they went at it and that old plow did turn over a furrow or two. "That's as good a plow as ever God made," said he, so Ruff had to go back to his plowing.

In those early days Mrs. Della Field, then Della Thomas, used to ride horseback up to the station and get the mail from the Sumner postoffice. One day the mare, who had a colt, got in too much of a hurry to see the colt, jumped over the fence or bars rather, with Della on her back, but Della kept her seat just the same. She was gritty in those days, though a young girl.

Now why did we all come up here from Richland County? Well, just to see if we could find better openings. Variety is the one thing needful, and the way of the world generally always has been so and always will be. Probably another matter which had an influence was that there was a prospect of what is now the C., St. P., M. & O. Railroad being built down Beef River Valley. But the projectors thought there was a better prospect for them to go further north and did so, leaving Osseo in the lurch. Then the Augustaites could lord it over Osseo and often laughed at us Osseoiters. Oh, Osseo was nowhere, and the prospects were quite poor for a good many years. But they don't laugh quite so much nowadays, and we are all real good friends and neighbors.

In Richland County there was no land to be got by the moneyless. But Uncle Sam had lots of land up this way that he was anxious to give—no, not quite give yet, for the homestead bill did not pass until 1862—but he was anxious to dispose of it; so land was some inducement, too. Oh yes,

there was land to be had, nothing but land, save that already taken up by the few scattered settlers, and, oh, there was water. Yes it was a well-watered country. One Sunday I went over the ridge and down onto Elk Creek to look for land. Yes, the land was there and nothing else. For the time being I was monarch of all I surveyed, but I believe there was some one away down near Elk Creek who would dispute with me the monarchy. That was too far from Osseo, so I came back and let Mr. Hale have it all. In course of time the Norwegians and other Scandinavians began to arrive and take up the land.

In 1861 two men came to Osseo from Eau Claire with the purpose of building a mill. They located the site of the proposed mill below the forks of the river, near where the railroad crosses it, but had some trouble getting the right of water-power from the owners of the land—the state land, I think—and before that could be accomplished the war started and they packed up their tools and took themselves back to Eau Claire. That put an end to the building of a mill in Osseo until 1867, when it was started again by W. L. Fuller, a miller from Black River Falls, W. H. Thomas and E. S. Hotchkiss going in as partners, the mill being that now owned by Lee & Sons. In 1873 and 1874, I think, the Linderman mill was built by J. L. Linderman of Eau Claire and E. S. Hotchkiss.

In 1861 I had built a house for myself and family on the lots now owned, I believe, by H. P. Williams, formerly the Gates property. In 1863 I got up a bee of ox teams and moved it onto my then claim on section 15. I presume it is still there and used as a dwelling. We had quite a time taking it up onto the prairie, on the way from the bridge and up the side, breaking two or three neck yokes. The first house erected in Osseo after our arrival was the front part of the house now owned by Ellis Johnson and then owned by Mr. Field; that was built in 1860. All timber for buildings had to be sawed out of jack pines. I have my old saw now. I wish some of those carpenters would buy it and go to work again.

The first garden on Osseo was on the block now owned by Messrs. Harris and Smith, where Mr. Field had his garden in 1860, and where it was supposed he would build his residence. But "the best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft a-gley," so instead of building in Osseo he built on the farm. In 1866 Thomas Love and family arrived from California, where he and his newly wedded wife went to from New York in 1853, during the golden days of California. He built that part of the house now owned by E. Remington, where Mr. Carpenter now lives.

In 1865 and 1866 the postoffice was moved from the Beef River Station to Osseo and the name changed from Sumner postoffice to Osseo, with, I think, W. H. Thomas as postmaster. The stage then came down on the south side through Osseo to Eau Claire, the road, or track rather, being over the high land of Olson farm on over the ridge to Otter Creek and on to McLellan's.

In one of those early years A. B. Ayers moved from the farm now owned by J. Crawford and started a store in the building now owned by Frank Smith, on the corner by the big tree, afterwards building the house

now owned by Mr. Nessa. He afterwards built a shoe shop near where the livery barn is, and Mr. Shurtleff moved into it as shoemaker.

In 1861, I think, R. C. Field donated one acre of land on what is now cemetery hill for a cemetery, and that, with other land acquired by purchase, now comprises the Osseo cemetery. It was Dr. Dickie, who died while living with his stepson, John Spaulding, in South Valley, on what used to be the William Anderson farm, who was the first to be interred in the cemetery. I made the coffin and W. H. Thomas and I took it over there on the day of the funeral. The room was so constructed that the coffin had to be put in at the window and the remains taken out the same way. You will see that we had no undertakers and fine caskets in which to lay the dead away.

As for the roads in those days, they were anywhere, and as for bridges, if we had good corduroy bridges, that was enough. Oh no, no steel bridges, and only corduroy roads now and then. And pasture for the flock, that was everywhere—north, south, east and west! the great thing was to find the cows at night, when they failed to come up. Many had to search all over for miles around.

Now we will do a little breaking up of land. On Mr. Field's arrival in Osseo he had a number of yokes of cattle. Those, or at least part of them, he disposed of to men to do breaking; that helped men to own cattle and him to get his breaking done on section 16. If I remember right, I think the bouts of breaking were about a mile long, so there was not so much turning. The land being all what was called grub land, there was a good deal of grubbing to do, the grubs being used for firewood. The first breaking of land in what is now called Tracy Valley was done by the writer on what is now the Yarnall farm on section 20, near that fine spring of water near the south section line. Being a carpenter, I gave two days' work for an acre of breaking, Mr. McIntyre getting ten acres broken for me in that way; John R. Brown, then of Thompson Valley, another ten—twenty in all, I stopping there and doing the grubbing when necessary and serving the victuals which my wife brought over from Osseo every day. That breaking was done in 1861.

About that time A. D. Tracy got what is now the Paul Christopherson farm, bought in on a tax deed from, I think, William Silkworth, if I am not mistaken, the price for the quarter section being \$50.

Here is a little incident that has just come to my memory. John Wells' father had come on a visit, while, I think, John was still working for Mr. Field. One day he was sitting in the store then owned by Thomas & Hotchkiss, writing a letter, and while writing was talking politics. I remember that I stood looking at him talking politics and writing a letter, too. This talk was to the effect that every American citizen should vote one way or another, for or against a candidate.

In speaking of building operations, just think of a carpenter going out into the jack plains and cutting down trees to be hewed by hand for barns or houses, and then of lumber and siding all to be dressed by hand, and the doors and sashes made by hand, as we had to do in those days.

In 1859 David Chase at the Twelve-mile-settlement was having a barn

built. There not being enough men in the settlement to raise the barn—an old-fashioned timber frame barn—Mr. Field took a few of us from Osseo to help raise it, which was done successfully. Mr. Chase afterwards enlisted in the Civil War and was killed, I believe, by a cannon ball taking off his head. A real fine man was David Chase, who among thousands gave his life to save the Union of the United States.

After the organization of the town of Sumner the voters at the settlement had come to Osseo to vote. At a town meeting the men of the settlement asserted their right to share in the town meeting, which was fair. So in, I forget what year, a vote was taken, the west town meeting in the school house at the settlement, and carried. Accordingly, in either 1862 or 1863, the town meeting was held at the settlement. All went off well, though the proceedings were rather monotonous, there being so few voters, until the annual business meeting was called, when a quarrel arose between two men about, I think, some road work. From words they came to blows in the school house, but were ordered outside. So they went at it there. These two men were Sam Brown and a Mr. Davis, both quarrelsome men. Davis afterwards was sent to the penitentiary for killing a man. Brown got Davis down and was trying to put his eyes out when Mr. Thomas stopped that. So both got up and Davis acknowledged that Brown was the better man. That was the first and last fight I ever saw at a town meeting.

How many of those "old timers," previously mentioned, are still left? Mr. Henry and Mr. Lawler, who were here ahead of us, have both recently passed over. Mrs. Della Field and Mrs. Julia Shores, who were then little girls playing around, are still with us, and long, long may they remain. (They came to these parts in the fall of 1857.) Of our company from Richland County there are Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Hotchkiss, of Independence; Stoddard Field, of Osseo, and Mrs. P. J. Linderman and Mrs. Nettie Jones, of the Tracy family; E. Hyslop, one son Robert, Mrs. McIntyre increasing the family that winter; Billy Hine, of Bellevue, and James McIntyre, who was then a little boy. So far as I can remember, all the rest have gone to the great beyond. Such is life. For a few years Mr. Lawler, Mr. Henry and E. Hyslop were the three oldest settlers, being all over 80 years. The two former are gone and I am left, for how long, who knows? Being now in my eighty-fifth year my time will necessarily be short.

"Oh Death! the poor man's dearest friend,
The kindest and the best,
Welcome the time my aged limbs
Are laid with thee at rest."

—(By E. Hyslop in the Osseo News, Jan. 29 and Feb. 5, 1914.

The Olson Lynching. Hans Jacob Olson was lynched at his home about three miles from Blair on the night of Nov. 24, 1889. Olson, on June 8, 1885, was convicted of setting fire to the building of B. K. Strand, a Blair merchant, on Dec. 29, 1883, by loading a stump with blasting powder, the stump being afterward conveyed to Mr. Strand, who put it in his stove, where it

exploded. Rumor had it that Olson did not take the stump to the merchant's woodpile personally, but furnished it at the request of another person and left it at a place agreed. Olson was sentenced to five years in State's Prison. He was released in the spring of 1889 and almost immediately, upon the testimony of his wife and son, was put under bonds to keep the peace. Unable to furnish bonds he was sent to jail, where he served some six months. The term expired in November. Of the events which followed, it has been said:

"The hanging took place at his home on the 24th day of November, 1889. He lived in a small log house and a few feet from one of the windows was a burr oak tree with a branch sticking out from the tree almost horizontal, and on this tree he was hung. The day was Sunday and word had been quietly given out in the neighborhood for the people to come to a certain place near Charles Johnson's farm where there was a vacant house at that time. The place of meeting was about one mile from Olson's house. Charles Johnson was the instigator and leader, and had encouraged the men who went with him by telling them that if they could get together a mob of forty or sixty men, that no jury would ever be found to convict them. Most of the men who followed Johnson had the idea that the purpose was to drive Olson out of the country, but Johnson probably knew what would be the result from the beginning, for at this vacant house they provided themselves with two ropes, one a heavy well rope and the other a smaller rope, probably taken for the purpose of tying him, as they knew Olson to be a man of extraordinary strength and a very determined man. At the place that the mob met, a son of Olson's met with them, and after going within sixty rods of the house the mob sent Olson's son to reconnoiter. He went to the house and found his father asleep and came back and reported the fact to the mob. The mob went to the house and I think four men went in and took him from the bed and called him out under this tree. He refused to go and they put the rope around his neck and pulled him up, held him a short time suspended, then let him down and renewed their demand. Then they strung him up again, this time keeping him suspended so long that when they let him down they found he was not able to stand, so they carried him into the house, laid him on the floor until he revived. Someone in the crowd asked his wife what they should do with him and she told them to take him away. They then took him out in front of the house barefooted on the frozen ground, and asked him to leave the country. His reply was this: 'This is my home, and I will not leave it till God takes me away.' He was then strung up the third time and left hanging until morning. During the whole time he never resisted. His strength was such that probably no two or three men, or even more, would have been able to handle him had he made resistance. Whether his courage was moral courage or simply animal courage, it is difficult to say, but certainly the courage shown was of the highest kind in its class. After the hanging the mob dispersed, with the exception of two members who remained all night with the wife and children and to screen the window so that the corpse would not be visible, the woman hung up a blanket, and twice during the night made coffee for the men who

stayed. Early the next day an inquest jury was summoned, and Charles Johnson was foreman of that jury, and the decision of the jury was that Olson had come to his death by hanging by persons unknown to the jury.

"The same day the district attorney issued a warrant for the arrest of Johnson and some thirty others on the charge of riot. Johnson went to the district attorney's home at midnight and made dire threats, but in spite of this, warrants were issued charging Johnson, the widow, the son, and a neighbor with murder. Charles Johnson, Bertha M. Olson (widow), Ole J. Hanson (son), and Ole J. Sletto were convicted of murder in the first degree and sentenced to life. More than fifty others who took part were convicted of riot. Most of them paid their fines. All four were pardoned by Governor Peck after having been in prison for something over five years. The people who took part in this killing were most, if not all, good, peaceable, law-abiding citizens, and some were men of excellent character. Mr. Johnson, who was the leader, claimed to be afraid of Olson—afraid that he would burn his property or injure his family. Johnson was a man of acute intelligence, had been chairman of his town several times, was president of a Farmers' Trading Association, and in fact a leader in all municipal affairs in his neighborhood. Johnson, after his return from prison, stayed in and about Blair for several years."

Winnebago Festivities. The festivities among the Dakotas and Winnebagoes consist of dancing, singing, feasting and speech-making, and are held several times a year.

The peace jubilee, or autumn festival, is celebrated by the Winnebagoes after the cranberry season is over, usually some time in October. This jubilee includes the "medicine" or "magic" dance. Invitations are sent out four days before the dance, and an immense tepee is erected on the ground where the celebration is to be held. This structure is about 110 feet long and 12 feet wide, and is covered with boughs and canvas. The invited guests are each supposed to make a present of four blankets to the person getting up the entertainment. On the evening of the pow-wow the Indians assemble, and after building large fires, start the celebration with a chant. Then the young squaws and bucks begin the dance, and the tum-tum is kept going continuously, all night long. As the enthusiasm kindles, the older Indians join in, and finally the children. The surging mass of dusty humanity grows hilarious, and shouts and songs ring through the air while the tum-tum beats its savage music until the very lodge poles seem to dance. In the glare of the great fire, the scene grows weird, and the forms look more hideous, the faces grow inhuman and shrieks stab the night air. The demons of the night, as it were, are turned loose, and in their frenzy slaughter the peaceful harmonies that brood in the darkness over the streams and forests. A feast is prepared and when the guests are hungry and weary of the dance they assemble in circles and enjoy the soup and meat that is placed in big bowls before them. Day dawns, but the dance goes on, and the feasting continues, and not until another night does the ceremony end.

One of the Indians is made a medicine man during the jubilee. The secret work of conferring the degree on the candidate has been handed

down through the ages. After being initiated, the candidate makes a speech, and thereafter is a full-fledged member of the secret society.

When the entertainment breaks up, the person makes each guest a present of a blanket, and keeps the rest for himself.

The buffalo dance is the source of a great deal of amusement among the Winnebago Indians. The place is chosen and the tepee is erected and covered the same as in the medicine dance. Each one who participates is dressed to imitate a buffalo and then they gather on the grounds, build fires and wait for the herd to make its appearance.

A bowl is put in a hole in the ground and filled with maple sugar and syrup. The old buffalo leader comes out and is followed by the herd, consisting of calves and young and full grown bisons. The tum-tum begins and the dance is on. Around the maple sugar bowl they swarm and shout and sing and bellow. The old buffalo leader stoops down and sticks his head in the bowl and eats—then he gives way and the rest follow—they keep on dancing and eating until the sugar is all gone. Then the great fun begins. The old buffalo must hook the bowl out of the ground without using his hands. If he is unable to do this he is the laughing stock of the whole crowd the rest of the night, but he generally manages to hook the bowl out after a great deal of hard work on his part and a continuous roar of laughing and shouting from the participants and assembled guests. When his task is accomplished all join in a feast and then smoke, and lie around until morning.

Scotch Settlers of Glasgow and Decorah Prairie. The early Scotch settlers who founded the settlement known as Glasgow—the postoffice so named because the people were mostly Scotch—came as a rule from the mining districts of Scotland to follow the occupation of mining in this country. Wages in Scotland were low and the coal pretty well mined in many of the old localities, so they set out for America to improve their condition, settling in Maryland, Kentucky and other States where coal is mined. After saving money and hearing of homestead lands awaiting settlement in Wisconsin and other Western States, they came farther West and, locating in Trempealeau County, proceeded to open up to civilization a new country, much as others under similar circumstances had done, until success came their way. Their farming methods at first were crude, and for years they suffered the hardships incident to pioneer life, but with Scotch tenacity they stuck to the work until they had established comfortable homes and were deriving a good living from the soil. The early settlers of Glasgow were James Hardie, Richard Bibby, John Bibby, Joshua Bibby, Peter Faulds, Andrew Gatherer, John McMillan, and also the parents of the McMillans—these with their wives formed the little Scotch settlement of Glasgow at its origin. They were nearly all related, Mrs. James Hardie's maiden name being Margaret Bibby—a sister of the three men named above. Mrs. Richard Bibby was Mary Faulds, a daughter of Peter and Mary Faulds. Mrs. John Bibby was Mary McMillan, a sister of John and Niel McMillan. Mrs. Joshua Bibby had no blood relations in America at that time; all were left in Scotland. It is no wonder she often used to sigh for the old home across the sea, and to sing, "O, why left I

my hame," when memories proved too strong; but that was just for a time. She loved America the best at last. The Gatherers were related to the Faulds. The McMillans were natives of the Highlands of Scotland, while the others came from Lanarkshire or thereabouts. All were devoted Presbyterians and all worshiped God on the Sabbath. No matter how hard they worked through the week nor how much remained to be done, all work was dropped on Saturday night; the Bible was read and prayers said, as described by Burns in "The Cotter's Saturday Night." Sabbath school was held in the schoolhouse every Sabbath, Richard Bibby or Joshua Bibby taking charge. Before the Presbyterian church at North Bend was built, of which later they were all members, services were held in the schoolhouse, a pastor from Galesville filling the pulpit. Visiting among themselves was practically all the amusement there was in those days. Quiltings were favorite pastimes for the women, and were profitable as well as pleasant, as the quilts were, as a rule, always needed. The late Joshua Bibby, the youngest man in the colony, and a half-brother of Richard and John Bibby—the elder Bibby being married twice—was a lover of music and poetry, and a great reader. He used to read and recite Burns, was a member of the Burns Club, and loved a game of "curling" on the ice—an old Scotch game. He was a genial, winning man, who radiated good cheer wherever he went. The others took little interest in Burns and rarely attended Burns festivals.

Alexander Vallens was another old Scotch settler whose name must not be omitted. He, with his good wife, occupied the farm adjoining Joshua Bibby's. "Sandy" was a hot-tempered, although kindly man, whose "dour" disposition and queer ways led him to leave his farm and go back to Scotland, never to return. He refused for some reason to pay his taxes, and the result was too much for his sense of right—hence his decision. All these farms join and form one continuous whole.

The Decorah Prairie settlers were mostly from the mining districts of Scotland, also, having left their native land for the same reasons that influenced those of the Glasgow settlement—to improve their condition as miners, but eventually drifting father West and settling on homesteads. Among the first to settle there were James Sampson, John Davidson, Thomas Hunter, Robert Oliver, William Dick, David Cook, Duncan Grant, Robert Grant, Collins Irving, Robert Sommerville and Robert Oliver, a relative of the one above mentioned. Decorah Prairie is fine farming land, and these hardy Scots waxed prosperous thereon. They built even in the early days handsome homes, and all were, as a rule, well-to-do. They were, as a class, genial and fond of company. Dances amused them often, many being musicians of no mean ability, so an orchestra could be extemporized on the spot. The Scotch songs were sung at all their merry-makings with a vim and heartiness that showed they came from the heart. The good old Scotch brogue was there in abundance, and no one was ashamed of it either, God bless them. The Galesville Burns Club originated with them, and to these good old Scotch folk belongs the honor of it for all time. Of course the years have improved it, as most good things improve with time, but in the midst of it in all its glory let us not forget those old Scots who

founded it in the early days and did their best to keep alive the memory of Robert Burns, the much loved poet of dear old Scotland.—(By Jemima Bibby.)

Wessel Lowe and his wife, accompanied by their three sons, William, Ira and Rufus, left the State of New York in April, 1853, and migrated to Belvidere, Ill. The following summer was spent in that locality, the two younger sons dying before winter. Before the next spring they moved north to Brooklyn, Green Lake County, Wis., where they lived until the spring of 1856. In company with a friend, Herman Snyder, Wessel Lowe set out afoot for Trempealeau County and reached the town of Preston in April, 1856, his wife and son William following in October with an ox-team, a cow and calf, some meat and flour. The first year the family lived in Preston. They broke ten acres and sowed to wheat, buckwheat, corn and potatoes. This was cut with a cradle, hauled together with an ox-team, and threshed with a flail. A fanning mill from near the east county line was hired to separate the grain from the chaff. William Van Sickle and Cyrus Hine settled in the town of Preston about the same time. The first town meeting was held in Reynold's log house, less than 20 votes being cast. The following is a list of voters: Henry Lake, Chester Beswick, Simon Rice, John Hopkins, Robert Thompson, Henry Sheppard, Jacob and Peter Tenneson, Nels Halvorsen, Burch Olson, Gullick Olson, Knudt Storley, Ed Weeks, ———— Stearns, Wessel Lowe, Cyrus Hine, Ebenezer Thurston and Herman Snyder. Money hired in those days cost 50 per cent in interest. A later reduction to 20 per cent was hailed with great rejoicing, though the debtor was obliged to work it out at the rate of 75 cents per day. After the War of the Rebellion broke out the son William enlisted and from the meager salary of \$13 a month paid the debt of \$150 and saved the homestead. Galesville, Black River Falls, Squaw Creek and Sechlerville were the nearest milling places. Mail was gotten at Black River Falls. Later a postoffice known as South Bend was located on what is now Paul Thompson's farm. All mail during the Civil War to these parts was directed to South Bend, Trempealeau County, Wis. This postoffice remained here until the building of the Green Bay Railroad in 1873. After the war, in the winter of 1865-66, William Lowe hauled lumber from the sawmill at Merrilan and the East Fork of Black River, called Mead's Mill, with an ox-team, and began preparations for the building of the new home in 1866. This house is still standing on the old farm now owned by Hans C. Johnson of Preston. Game was plentiful in those days and deer were often shot from the windows of the home without the exertion or pleasure of "going hunting." Grandfather died in October, 1905. Father Lowe is still living and makes his home with his son Ward near Blair. Grandmother Lowe died in October, 1891.—(By Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Lowe.)

James N. Hunter, many years connected with the county board, has many an interesting story to relate of life in the vicinity of Independence in the early days.

An especially interesting story is that of the Indian scare. Little Beaver, one summer in the early seventies, was camped with a large num-

ber of his Winnebagos near the mouth of Elk Creek, and aside from the carousals which they held among themselves and their habit of begging they gave little trouble.

But one day a well known character of those times came to his home with a companion, both somewhat under the influence of intoxicants, and exhibited a badly cut head, with the story that the Indians had attacked and tried to scalp him.

With the Massacre of 1862 still fresh in their minds, some of the citizens wished to attack the camp and exterminate the Indians at once without warning. But wiser advice prevailed and it was decided to first investigate the matter.

Little Beaver met the accusation with a request to see the men so savagely attacked, and further inquiry brought to light that the two men had not even seen the Indians, but that the wounded man's cuts were received from falling into a grain cradle.

Another favorite story of Mr. Hunter's has to do with early days at New City. Fugina's tavern was then the gathering place of many a roisterer, and also of many a Polish farmer who came here to take his joys more quietly, and to talk over affairs in their native land.

One day the fun was waxing furious, when the men on mischief bent, took some dry goods that were hanging on a line in Fugina's store. The Polish people informed Mr. Fugina, and a race riot ensued. One of the men even fired shots into the crowd from outside the window, injuring one of the participants in the affair.

Order was finally restored and wholesale arrests were made. The hearing was held one winter night at the Cripps school house, before George W. Parsons, a justice of the peace. The prisoners were defended by G. Y. Freeman of Galesville, while Edward Lees of Buffalo County looked after Mr. Fugina's interests. A number of the prisoners were bound over, but were later acquitted by the Circuit Court.

So interested had the spectators become in the trial that they had not observed the heavily falling snow, and when they started home after midnight they had to find their way to their distant homes through snow which was above their knees.

George H. Markham is one of the oldest settlers in Trempealeau County. He came to Independence with the Markham party in 1856, and has since continued to take an active part in local affairs. His diary is replete with interesting incidents of the early days, and his memory of those far-distant times is most vivid.

The family, then consisting of John Markham and wife and two sons, George H. and Arthur A., accompanied by Walter Maule, a retainer, and Charles F. D. Lyne, the tutor of the two sons, came to America in 1856, embarking from Southampton. In originally planning their trip they had purposed going to Canada, but had changed their destination upon the advice of Rev. William Davis, whom members of the family had met in France.

They landed in New York, went to Chicago by rail, thence to Milwaukee by boat, thence to Watertown by train, and from there to Columbus

by stage. At Columbus they were joined by Mr. Davis. There also they were met by David Wood, who offered to guide them to Trempealeau Valley, where homesteads were awaiting.

Consequently, leaving John Markham and his wife and Arthur A. Markham at Columbus, the remainder of the party, consisting of George H. Markham, Walter Maule, Charles F. D. E. Line, William Davis, Mrs. Davis and two children, started out to seek a new home, guided by David Wood, still a resident of the county. The trip, which was made with an ox team, was filled with interesting adventures. Through Portage, Mauston and Sparta they found their way to Billings Ferry, over the Black River, passing near the present site of the city of Melrose, and thence entering the Trempealeau Valley near the present site of Blair. The first settler encountered in the valley was William Thompson. The first night in the valley was spent at the home of Edmond Reynolds. A short stop was made at the home of Alvah Wood, where David Wood remained. They found a poor bridge across Pigeon Creek, and continued on to Hiram Stratton's, where a short stop was made. Stratton accompanied them down the valley to the mouth of Elk Creek, and assisted them in selecting a location. He also assisted them in procuring some poplar logs near his place, and with these logs they erected a cabin, 24 by 24, a few hundred feet south of what has since been known as the Markham or English castle. A shed for the cattle was built of poles thatched over with marsh grass. Some marsh grass was also cut for the use of the cattle.

The remainder of the month of October soon passed, and before long came the famous winter of the deep snow. Miles from the nearest habitation, unaccustomed to the rigors of pioneer life, and with only the crudest of equipment, the little party spent the long hard winter. Both oxen died as a result of the poor food and inclement weather. The people themselves would have perished had it not been for two trips which George Markham took to Black River Falls with a hand sled. On one of these trips, when the snow was four feet deep, he stopped at the home of Gullick Olson, near the present town of Blair, obtained there a pair of snow shoes, and within a short time learned their use.

Mr. Markham remembers distinctly those settlers living along the Trempealeau River between Independence and the Jackson County line with whom he was acquainted. First came the home of Elder Moses Ingalls and his two sons, Francis W. and Moses D. They were south of the river. North of the river not far away was Hiram Stratton. Above the present village of Whitehall was Alvah Wood south of the river, then came William Van Sickle, Ed. Weeks, Cyrus Hines, John Debow and Wessel Lowe north of the river, and then John Hopkins, Simon S. Rice, Henry Lake, Herman Snyder, Chester Beswick, John B. Dunning, Edmond M. Reynolds, William Welch and Gullick Olson, all south of the river. Ebenezer Thurston was north of the river. Then came Robert Thompson and Severt Johnson south of the river. Messrs. Stirling and Culver were north of the river over the line in Jackson County.

To this list David Wood, who accompanied Mr. Markham on his first trip to the county, has made a number of interesting additions. The Ingalls

family, Hiram Stratton and brother Albert, and Alvah Wood, father of David, settled in what is now Lincoln in 1856.

Of those in what is now Preston Mr. Wood believes Sivert Johnson to have been the first in 1854, followed in 1855 by Gullick Olson, Lars Olson Bjorgo Olson, Sigbjurne Ellickson, Peder Pederson, Gullick A. Storlee, Bengt Danielson, Nels Halverson and Jacob Tenneson.

Ebenezer Thurston, Robert Thompson, Edmond M. Reynolds, John B. Dunning, Henry Lake, Simon S. Rice and John Hopkins, with his sixteen-year-old son James, arrived in 1855, and Wessel Lowe, Herman Snyder, Chester Beswick and probably William Welch came in 1856.

Others who took land in 1855 and became residents here were William A. Conger, Hiram Walker, Isander P. Armstrong, George W. Malory and Richard Porter, the last named of whom died a short time after his arrival.

While the little Markham colony was spending the winter of 1856-57 at Independence, John Markham and his wife and son Arthur A. had moved to Black River Falls. In the spring they hired a team there and started for their new location. They were met at Stirling's, near the county line, by George H. Markham. Near the Culver home, with the assistance of Culver, they built a raft and thus made their way down the Trempealeau River to the mouth of Elk Creek. The next summer was spent in breaking the land, but no crops were raised except vegetables.

Settlers came in but slowly. In the summer of 1857 Giles Cripps and family arrived and settled three miles up Elk Creek, the first settlers in that valley. No more settlers arrived that year.

In 1858, George Hale, accompanied by a friend, arrived at the Markham home on April 30. On their trip up the river they had lost their guns. The Markhams took them ten miles down the river in boats and they recovered the missing firearms. In the fall George Hale brought his mother and located nine miles up the valley, being the first settler in the township which now bears his name. It was this year that George H. Markham and Charles F. D. Lyne blazed the first trail between Independence and Arcadia along practically the route of the present wagon road, the trip being made for the purpose of allowing Mr. Markham to cast his first vote. The river and creeks were swollen and had to be crossed in several places. In order to accomplish the passage it was necessary to construct temporary bridges across which the oxen were led and across which the wagon was carried after being taken apart.

In 1859 came David Watson, who settled still further up the valley near the present site of Pleasantville. In 1860 came a great influx of population.

Of these first settlers John Markham and his wife died here and are here laid to rest. George H. and Arthur Markham have since continued to live here. Charles F. D. Lyne first took a claim nearby, then left for Missouri and for many years was assistant rector of St. Joseph's Parish, St. Joseph, in that State. Walter Maule never married. He took a claim near the mouth of the cooley which has since borne his name, and spent

the rest of his life here. He died in 1898 and is here laid to rest. His brother George is still here.

Giles Cripps died here and is here buried. George Hale moved to Carlington, N. D. David Watson stayed a dozen years or so and then went to Michigan.

Before the war there was a large settlement in Burnside Township. Peter Sura and Lawrence Bautch, the first of the Polish people, arrived, and soon influenced many of their countrymen to settle in the same locality. About the same time came George Parsons, Talcott Moore, James Reid, John Reid, Reuben Meggs, George Meggs, William Cramer, Hamlet Warring, Dr. James Kelly and his two sons, John and James, Lowell Fay and his two sons, Henry and Aaron, Thomas Bennett, George Bach, D. C. Cilley, H. W. Rumsey, H. P. Rumsey, E. A. Bently, Michael White, George Bartlett, Robert Brookings, William Nichols and others and obtained farms.

Alfred and Harrison Rogers, and Abraham and Samuel Coy, settled near New City, and up Travis Valley settled Dr. Joshua Travis, an Indian herb doctor; Jessie Kidder, Lovell Kidder, Albert Spaulding, Elias Spaulding, Frank and L. D. Tubbs, Theodore Hutchins, John Raymond and ——— Vance with his two sons, Irving and Washington. There also lived Elder Isaac Hickey, of the Mormon faith, around whom was gathered a scattered settlement of his own belief.

Martin Borst, an early settler in the Borst Valley, soon acquired a large tract of some 1,600 acres of the best land in that valley.

A. D. Tracy is one of the pioneers whose name is preserved among the place-names of the county, Tracy Valley being a locality which has been known by its present designation since he first settled there, and which will bear his name as long as the early history of the county is honored and remembered. Mrs. Nettie F. Jones has written an article regarding her father and his times, which is a valuable contribution to early history. She writes: "My father, A. D. Tracy, for whom Tracy Valley is named, moved here in the summer of 1858, with my mother, two brothers, Frank and Anfred, now dead, and sister, Stella (Mrs. P. J. Linderman), from Lone Rock, Richland County. They lived the first winter in a log house on what is now known as the Bert Field farm. In the spring of 1859 he built a shanty on the land in Tracy Valley, now owned by Paul Christopherson. Henry or Hank Robbins and Will Hine did the first breaking for him with their ox-team. Robbins owned the land lying west of it and built a log house, which was afterwards occupied by Mike Murty and P. B. Williams.

"This log house was converted into a school house, with long benches and rude mammoth desks, one row all around the outer edge of the room. One of the first teachers was Sallie French of Eau Claire. Another was Hannah Gordon. I think my first teacher was Mary Cox, sister to A. G. Cox. She is Mrs. F. N. Thomas and lives now in Berkeley, Cal., and has a very bright mind and pleasing manner yet. Other teachers there were Mrs. Lucinda Stone (sister of Mrs. John McKenney), Jerry Marvin, Maggie Anderson, Anna Streeton, Alice Muzzy, Emma and Ada Martin.

"A. D. Tracy's brother John came soon after and settled on the farm south, which is now owned by Hans Vold. The only living member of this family is Glenn Tracy, who lives in Seattle, Wash. For some time the only house between A. D. Tracy and Osseo was a log one built by James McIntyre's father, located a little north of what was afterwards the Wm. Maxwell place, now owned by Alex. Gjestvang. The people who lived there were named Sumner. Possibly it was from them the township of Sumner derived its name.

"One day when Stella Tracy was a little over three years old she started out (unknown to her mother) to call on Mrs. Sumner. When she reached there she was afraid to go in on account of the dog and after she had passed she was afraid to go back past the house, so she decided to go to Osseo. She went the whole distance alone through the woods three and one-half miles and reached the "tavern" kept by R. C. Field, Sr., and when they asked her where her folks were she said they were home of course, and she had come to play with Lizzie. They sent Hiram Field back on a pony to tell the folks where she was.

"At that time teachers' examinations were conducted by township examiners. I don't know what they were called, but my father served in the town of Sumner at that time and I have heard him tell how one of the teachers rode over on a pony, and he had her spell a few words, read aloud, do a few "sums" in mental arithmetic and locate a few places on the map, and he gave her a license to teach.

"Wm. Lindsay was one of the pioneers of Tracy Valley, settling on the farm now owned by Esley Thompson. He and John Tracy served in the Civil War. Wm. Buzzell, John Lovesee, Sam Bunn, Valorus Campbell, Dennis Lawler and John Ross were residents of the Valley at one time and each in turn planted for others to reap."

Antoine Grignon has made history his debtor for much of its knowledge concerning the Indians of this vicinity. Of the Dakota and Winnebago Indians Mr. Grignon has said:

"Beginning with the soil, the first work was agriculture. The women were very industrious and would begin in the spring to spade up their ground for corn planting. They raised what was known as squaw corn, which is a flint corn, and also raised pumpkins, and any other vegetables, seed of which had found its way into their camp from the fur traders. But pumpkins and corn were the principal crops raised. The corn was cultivated with hoes—big clumsy implements that weighed as much as three or four of our common garden hoes. It was principally eaten hulled, also in meal after being ground up in a wooden bowl with a large wooden pounder. This was their crude mill. This meal they baked into corn bread, or made it into porridge. They also used green corn as roasting ears, and dried it in the following fashion: They dug a hole in the ground and heated large stones; on these heated stones they threw husks, and on the husks laid the green corn on cobs; over this corn they threw more husks, and then covered it up and let it cook. When it was thoroughly cooked the corn was cut from the cob and put out on mats in the sun to dry. This dried corn was used to make soup, and could be kept for years.

“Wigwams, before canvas was introduced, were made of woven grass; long grass called foxtail was utilized for this purpose. Mats made from grasses were about four to six feet in width and twelve or sixteen feet in length. A wooden rod was put at the end of the wigwam mat, and twine made of basswood bark was used to tie the mat to the rod. Several of these mats were used to construct a wigwam, and they would shed rain as readily as canvas does. Both twine and mats were made by hand; it was a long piece of work for the squaw to make matting for a wigwam, but once completed it lasted for years and was always kept in repair. The matting was light and very easily carried either on ponies or in canoes. In making this wigwam matting the Indians worked together, several squaws congregating and working until the wigwam was completed, just as pioneer women gathered at quilting bees. Mats were also used as carpets in the wigwam, and were made for trading purposes as well, for the whites often bought them for use in their houses. The women in the Indian camp also prepared the meat, made the pemmican and jerked the fresh venison. This kept well though no salt whatever was used. The women also made moccasins and tanned skins of animals for use as clothing. Bags were made out of tanned skin and woven out of wild grasses. These bags were used to carry cooking utensils, clothing and implements used about the wigwam.

“The Winnebago were noted for mat weaving, basket making, ornamenting skins and making wooden brooms. They dug out canoes, bowls and other dishes from wood. These wooden vessels were made by the men and were ornamented with the heads of deer and bears, or of some other animal. They also made wooden ladles with handles ornamented with the head of a fish or a bird. The men also made the reed, a musical instrument like a flute. This reed was used in wooing; a brave would play on his reed in front of the wigwam where resided his lady love. He would play his love tune, and if he was a welcome caller he would be invited in to see the maid for whom he was playing. If he was not welcome, no notice was taken of him, and he would take his departure. Sometimes he would return and play night after night until the reluctant father of the Indian maid would invite him in, but sometimes the father would drive the young wooer away.

“Another instrument of a musical character was the drum, made of a hollow chunk of wood with a piece of rawhide stretched over it. This was called the “tum-tum” and was used at all their dancing.

“Another article of manufacture was the bucket. This was made of birch bark and sewed together with twine from basswood bark, while to keep the bucket from leaking a glue, made from cherry sap or gum and from the backbone of a sturgeon, was used. These birch bark pails were used to catch sap. This was collected in a storage trough made of a log dug out and burned so it would hold several barrels. In former years the women did their sewing with sinew from the deer and elk and used bone needles.

“The Dakotas were noted for their leather articles. First was the wigwam made of tanned buffalo hides, sewed together in the shape of a tepee, which made a very warm dwelling. The hair was removed from the buffalo skin in making these wigwams, but for blankets and carpets the hides were tanned with the hair left on. These wigwams were deco-

rated with bright paint. As a rule buffalo, deer, elk, horses and birds were painted on the buffalo hide, but now and then you would see the human figure on a tent, and I have seen a few where a scene with hills, river and woods ornamented the wigwam.

“The Dakotas were the most ingenious of the western Indians in making ornaments. They decorated their clothing with beads and shells. Porcupine quills stained with different colors were used to adorn their arrow quivers, while the arrows were colored, that is, the feather was stained some gaudy color. The bow was made of buffalo sinew and the arrows of wood. The Dakotas were likewise expert pipe makers. They used pipe-stone, with a reed that grows in marshy places, for a stem. The pipe was decorated with bird claws, and tufts of fur from the weasel or mink. I have seen some of the most beautiful pipes among the Dakotas that could be imagined.

“The Chippewas were noted for their birch bark canoes. These were made of sheets of birch bark sewed together with sinew and watap root, and sealed with tamarack and pine pitch to keep them from leaking. These canoes would carry more weight than one would suppose.

“Indian children usually have a happy time. The child is put into a straight-back little cradle with sides and a bow handle. It is flat and has no rocker, for none is needed. The young Indian babe seldom cries, because it is seldom sick. It is a breast-fed baby, and gets along a great deal better than the average white child. Two saplings are used to make a swing for the baby. They are sharpened on one end and stuck in the ground about seven feet apart. A cord made of basswood bark is tied to the cradle and the babe is given a swing by tying the cord to the saplings. There the little one is swung back and forth or jounced up and down. Little trinkets are placed on the bow of the cradle for the baby’s amusement, and it will lie by the hour and play with these trinkets.

“The principal game of the Indian in this part of the country was lacrosse. This game was often played as a sacred game, to redeem the bereaved from their long mourning period. They were obliged by custom to mourn a stated length of time, but could make a sacrifice instead, that is, give away a certain amount of furs, blankets, or ponies; and these were played for in the lacrosse game. Two parties were formed, from a dozen to fifteen on a side, and these parties played the game for the goods as a stake, the winners taking the mourners’ sacrifice. After the game the mourning was at an end. The game was played with a ball and lacrosse sticks. The ball must not be touched except with the lacrosse stick.

“Among the Indian children games are indulged in; one something like shinny is played on the ice, and in another the players throw a twisted hickory stick on the ice; this is driven towards a goal, the one coming nearest the goal winning. Among the children sliding down hill is enjoyed. They use basswood and elm bark in making sleds for coasting. They always ride standing, and hold on to a string fastened to the front of their toboggan. They also play on the glaring ice. One game or sport was to take a small round niggerhead stone and spin it on the ice, then take a willow whip and

whip it over the ice as fast as they could go. They had tops to spin also, made of wood and set in motion with a string.

"The marriage ceremony among the Indians was very simple. The young buck would call at the wigwam where resided the Indian maid he wished for a wife. If the mother of the girl was pleased with the young brave she would not stir the fire in the least, but would sit quietly before the glimmering light of the ground hearth. If, however, she was not pleased with the young suitor, she would stir the fire again and again until the wooer took his departure and would emphasize her disgust by spitting into the fire at times. Another custom was for the young buck to bring presents to the parents of the girl he desired, and if these presents, such as ponies, furs and silver trinkets, were accepted, he would take the girl for his wife.

"The Indians believed in 'maunhoonah,' meaning the Great Spirit or Creator of Earth. They believed in the hereafter, and that in order to get to the happy hunting ground they had to be good Indians. They had a Grand Medicine Society, in its form allied to the Free Mason orders. Not all could join this society, but a certain number were taken in each year. Application was made for membership, and the names taken up in council, and if elected to become a member the candidate was initiated into the order, providing, of course, he could furnish the necessary fee of furs, blankets, ponies, or goods of any kind. After being initiated the new member was given a medicine bag made of the skin of some animal, such as the coon, squirrel, otter or beaver.

"The medicine man who looks after the bodily ailments of the tribe is not to be confounded with the medicine man who is a member of the Great Medicine Lodge. The former is usually above the average intelligence, and gifted with the power of impressing his superiority upon the Indians, that is, in dealing with disease. This power of dispelling disease is supposed to be given him by the Great Spirit. In treating a patient, the medicine man goes through certain incantations and rattles a gourd, which has seed or shot in it. He also uses roots and herbs for the treatment of the sick. A great deal of ginseng is used, and the bark of poplar trees, mandrake or May apple root and sweet flag. The list of herbs would be a long one, and some of the medicine men obtained very good results from these herbs, which they used as a tea, after steeping them over a fire in a kettle containing a sufficient amount of water. Some of these Indian doctors became noted even among the whites, and were able in a limited number of diseases to give relief and obtain cures. They also practiced surgery, setting bones, opening abscesses and treating wounds of various kinds. Their instruments were crude and were made mostly of bone and iron.

"At the burial or funeral ceremony, some member of the tribe was appointed to speak at the grave of the departed Indian. The mourners passed around the head of the grave in single file and scattered tobacco over the open grave. The funeral orator gave an oration on the life of the departed and pictured his journey into the land of the hereafter. Food was left on the grave sufficient to carry him on his journey, and a supply of tobacco, so that he could take comfort on the way to the happy hunting

ground. On the death of a member of the tribe, the survivors had a wake; friends and mourners met at the home where a death occurred, a speech was made, after which all except the mourners joined in a feast. This wake was the beginning of mourning, and the mourners observed the custom of fasting for at least three days. If a woman lost her husband, she remained with her husband's relatives for a number of months and was compelled to do their work without a murmur. She was not allowed to comb her hair for a number of months, or to ornament herself in any way, but went ragged and dirty with her hair unkempt and was forced to do the bidding of her husband's relatives. At the end of the mourning period she was liberated to go where she pleased and do as she pleased; she frequently remarried.

"When I was at Long Prairie, I was much interested in a custom among the Winnebago of making morning speeches. Early each morning when the weather would permit, one of the orators would appear in front of his wigwam and give an address of a religious nature to the Indians, who would assemble to hear the exhorter. He usually spoke in a kindly way, offering advice and telling the tribesmen to carry themselves in a manner befitting good, true men and women. I suppose such a person among the whites would be called an evangelist.

"Among the noted orators and chiefs that I have known were Winnosheik, Black Hawk, Decorah, Wah-pa-sha, Little Creek, Little Priest, Snake Hide, Little Hill, Short Wing, and many others whose names I cannot recall. Big Fire was a noted astronomer. He studied the heavens and was familiar with the principal groups of stars.

"The Indians had the heavens mapped out into constellations and were familiar with all the changes of the moon. They often studied the stars on cold nights when the light from the constellations was most brilliant. A month was called a moon and a year of time designated a winter.

"Legends and traditions of the tribes were passed down from one generation to another by means of 'word passers.' A number of young Indians, say eight or ten, were chosen on account of their good memories to study, and learn lessons from the older 'word passers.' These young Indians were drilled in the legends, history, and traditions of the tribe. They were required to repeat them over and over again, omitting no detail, until they knew them by heart; and when the old 'word passers' died, another generation of young men was selected and instructed by their predecessors. Thus dates and incidents were passed on from generation to generation, and a living history was kept. An old Winnebago chief, Decorah, had a very interesting cane that he showed me one day, when I visited him in his wigwam. On this cane were carved many figures, a sort of hieroglyphics. It had been handed down from father to son and was in reality a record which old Decorah could read. It was a crude history of the tribe covering a good many years, and if I could remember some of the accounts Decorah gave me as recorded on the cane, they would be worth hearing.

"The Dakotas were fond of decorating themselves with quills, furs, and feathers; but I think they had one custom which is worth noting. A brave, or more particularly a warrior, used a war-eagle feather to adorn

his hair. This long feather in the hair of a warrior was a mark of distinction, and it was acquired on merit, for no brave could wear one who did not merit it. On the feather notches were cut if the warrior had been successful in war. Each notch on one side of the feather represented a scalp taken from an enemy. The notches on the other side signified the number of times the brave had been on the war-path. This made it easy for one to tell what kind of a war record a brave had. If a warrior had a well-notched feather he was looked up to and envied and praised by his tribesmen; he felt his superiority, too, and carried himself with a distinguished air. War-eagles were scarce and it was sometimes hard to get feathers. I remember one time seeing an Indian trade a pony for a war-eagle feather. Hunting parties from Wabashaw's village used to go out in search for the war-eagle, and a favorite resting-place for these eagles was among the hills of Waumandee. Waumandee means in the Dakota tongue 'the land of the war-eagle.'

"Another peculiar custom which I recollect is the method of inviting a party of Indians to attend a dance, feast, or other gathering. One day while I was camped with a band of Sioux near the site of what is now Marshland, an Indian came into camp who was from another camp near Homer (Minnesota). He had crossed the Mississippi in a canoe, and came to invite several of the Indians over to his camp to attend a medicine dance. He would enter a tent and pass around some small sticks, and explain his object and depart. He must have had at least fifty sticks answering the purpose of invitation cards, which he distributed.

"One August day in the '50s we went up the tamarack pluming, for the place was noted for its wild plums. We had started to gather plums, and were intent on our work, when all of a sudden the stillness of the summer solitude was broken by a yell, a war-cry uttered in its wild, blood-curdling manner. On looking up I saw our party completely surrounded by a band of Sioux warriors. It was a war party out after Chippewa; they mistook us for their enemies, but soon saw their mistake and went peaceably away. We gathered our plums in safety and returned home, but we never forgot the surprise we received by the Sioux warriors.

"In cases of murder in the tribe the guilty party was given a trial. Witnesses were called to testify and speakers were chosen for and against the defendant. If the accused person was found guilty, a council was held to determine the punishment. They usually ordered the murderer killed in the same manner he used in slaying his victim—death by shooting, stabbing, or tomahawking as the case might be. In some cases the accused would redeem himself by furnishing enough goods such as ponies, furs, or weapons, to secure his liberty; these goods which were distributed among the dead person's immediate relatives, prevented retaliation on their part.

"The Indians as I knew them were as a general thing peaceable. They loved their native haunts and their families and may be called a happy people. They had plenty. Game abounded; there was an abundance of fur-bearing animals; and the streams were full of fish. There was no need of poverty, for with plenty of corn and wild meat and with fur enough to buy ammunition, traps, and knives, there was little else needed to make

their lot an easy and comfortable one. They were not a stolid people, but were fond of fun. There was a humorous side to the Indian and a genial friendship when once you came to know him, and I have no respect for that unnatural picture so often made of him—the word picture of the novelist that shows him devoid of sentiment and emotion, a cold, cruel, unfeeling stoic, whose face is never rippled with a smile or stained with a tear. I think there is a truer picture of the Indian, as a natural human being with a heart that feels pain and pleasure, with a mind that appreciates the good and bad, the true and false, with a spirit that enjoys home and companions and friendship, with a life that throbs with love and sentiment. The Indian I know loved and laughed with his children, visited his neighbor, had warm personal friendships, and loved the life of peaceful contentment he was living, a life near to nature.

“I have often visited the Dakota and Winnebago and passed long, pleasant hours in their wigwams, talking with them on various subjects as we sat circled about the glowing fire. I have heard the laugh of their children and seen them frolic about as happy as any young ones I ever saw. I have seen them play games and join in sports, and they were as interesting to watch as other children. Of course, there were some whose barbarous nature was revealed. There are some white people also whose barbarous nature gets the upper hand of them. But take the Indian, all in all, he was a happy creature during the fur-trading days.” (See Eben D. Pierce, *Recollections of Antoine Gregnon*, Wis. Hist. Soc. Proceedings, 1913, pp. 110-136.)

Remains of a French Post Near Trempealeau. I—Archaeological Sketch by Eben D. Pierce. In the early '80s Dr. Lyman C. Draper, then secretary of the State Historical Society, received a request from the French Academy of History for information regarding the location of Perrot's post, as indicated on Franquelin's map of 1688, a few miles above the mouth of Black River on the east bank of the Mississippi. Doctor Draper sought the assistance of A. W. Newman, of Trempealeau, later justice of Wisconsin Supreme Court, who was much interested in local history. He enlisted the services of Judge B. F. Heuston, then at work on a history of Trempealeau, who took up the work with enthusiasm and carefully searched the riverside of the bluffs for some mark of the ancient fort. He made several journeys to Trempealeau Bay in the vain effort to find some trace of the early post, as the bay would seem to have afforded an excellent site for wintering quarters.

Meanwhile, some of the workmen engaged in grading the Chicago, Burlington & Northern Railway along the river discovered, about two miles above the village, the remains of fireplaces or hearths. Judge Heuston, hearing of these finds, decided to visit the place and investigate. He selected George H. Squier to assist him and accompanied by Antoine Grignon and W. A. Finkelnburg, of Winona, they went to the place where the fireplaces had been uncovered and began excavations. The next spring, Judge Newman having communicated these facts to the State Historical Society, Reuben G. Thwaites, then the newly-elected secretary of the Society, came to Trempealeau and on April 18, accompanied by W. A. Finkelnburg and the

local historians, made a historical pilgrimage to the site of the post that had been found, and continued the excavations.

The first fireplace had already been laid bare, and Mr. Squier had succeeded in tracing by a line of charcoal the former wall of the building. The dimensions of the building were about 20 by 30 feet; the fireplace was 2½ feet in depth and 4 feet long with enclosing walls at back and sides. The chimney had undoubtedly been a wooden structure made of small logs with clay daubing, as there was not enough stone found to indicate a stone chimney.

A blacksmith's forge was also unearthed, together with some scrap iron, and a pile of charcoal which had evidently been used in a smelter. A pile of slag, some 16 feet in diameter, was found, showing that the occupants of the post had attempted smelting. The slag consisted of a mixture of iron ore and limestone. The remains of the smelting furnace were also found. Other relics discovered included some hand-wrought nails, buffalo bones, an old-fashioned flintlock pistol, a gun barrel, and an auger. The pistol was of excellent make, which led Mr. Squier to believe that the explorers had excavated the officers' quarters. Seven of the original buildings were unearthed in all; one was left undisturbed.

James Reed, the first settler in this county, said that when he first came to Trempealeau in 1840, he had noticed the elevated foundations at this place, where part of the fireplace protruded above the sod, but as the region abounded in Indian mounds of various types, he had attached no especial significance to this particular elevation. There was, however, a lingering tradition among the Indians of the locality concerning a French fort near the sacred Trempealeau Mountain.

In the summer of 1912 George H. Squier, Antoine Grignon, and the writer did some excavating at this site. By a cross-sectional excavation we were able to pick up the charcoal line of the main building and follow it several feet, and from this it was possible to verify Mr. Squier's early estimate of its dimensions. We also found, besides charcoal, numerous bones, among which were the jawbone of a beaver, the toe bones and claw of a bear, and some large bones either of elk or buffalo.

The place was well selected for wintering quarters. It lay near the head of a slough which, setting back from the Mississippi, afforded a quiet harbor free from the menace of floating ice. Springs exist in the side of Brady's and Sullivan's peaks a quarter of a mile away, but the river water was drinkable, and there was an abundance of firewood. The bluffs protected the post from the cold north and east winds.

II. Additional Archaeological Details: by George H. Squier. It is now nearly 30 years since the French post at Trempealeau was first discovered, and those who had part in that discovery have nearly all passed away. As it chanced the writer was the first to uncover any portion of the remains, and it was also his fortune that this first site explored was that of the most important and best constructed of the group and afforded a key to the construction plan and the identity of the remains. To the brief account given in the tenth volume of the Wisconsin Historical Collections, the writer

is the only one alive who is able to add from first-hand knowledge, details that were noted but not recorded at the time the post was first laid bare.

In describing the remains one basic fact must be borne in mind, namely, that they show two distinct periods of occupancy, the earlier of which was probably that of Perrot, the latter with little doubt represented by Linctot. Most of the descriptions, therefore, must apply to the latter rather than to the earlier post. The only portion of the remains which can confidently be ascribed to the earlier period is the lower of two hearths occupying the same site. If there were any other remains of this earlier period, they were indistinguishably mingled with those of the latter. This earlier hearth was less carefully constructed than the latter, hence we may conjecture that Perrot's accommodations were cruder than those of Linctot. So far as the character of the construction could be judged from the remains, it by no means equaled the average squatter's cabin in solidity and permanence, and there was nothing whatever to indicate any attempt at defensive construction.

Of the hearths other than the largest one, which was the first to be uncovered, it is believed there were five, two of which were removed in grading the railway. In comparison with the first, these five were much inferior in construction, the hearthstones being very irregular in form with no indications of backs or chimneys. As this would indicate that the smoke escaped through the roof, it would point to structures very little removed from Indian tepees slightly modified for white occupancy. Their true positions with reference to Number 1 and to each other were not determined, but their distribution was rather irregular.

In front of the supposed officers' quarters were two constructions representing the industrial equipment of the post. One of these was the blacksmith's forge. The excavations about this were conducted by the owner of a private museum at St. Paul, Minn., assisted by Antoine Grignon. As was to be expected, this furnished the greater portion of the metal relics. Among them I remember a pistol, an auger, a staple, some nails, and several bits of scrap iron. The other construction, which was explored by myself, undoubtedly represented an attempt to reduce our local iron ores by the open-hearth process. There were the remains of a large pile of charcoal several feet in diameter, and a considerable pile of the resultant slag, representing material in all stages of fusion from the glassy to that showing unfused fragments of the ore and limestone intimately commingled. That this ore, a residual from the decay of limestone and usually associated with flint, is not now very abundant about the Trempealeau bluffs is believed to be in part due to the fact that it was largely gathered up by the occupants of this post, since it occurs in considerable abundance in many other Mississippi River bluffs.

It seems probable that Linctot's occupancy was something more than temporary, and represented a tentative attempt to establish a permanent post, which, however, was soon abandoned. There are evidences that the French scoured the region for a considerable distance around the post—an ax of the period having been recovered from a shallow pond three miles eastward.

The relation these remains bear to Indian antiquities is worthy of notice. A considerable group of mounds occurs only a few rods west of the site, and a single mound appears on the rather prominent stony point in front of the post. There are some peculiar features, not found elsewhere in this region, in the manner of disposal and burning of the skeletons covered by this mound; while conspicuously different from the usual Indian methods they are much like primitive methods practiced in Europe. It seems reasonable to suppose that the French were in some way concerned in these burials. It may be noted that the lower of the two hearths on the supposed site of the officers' quarters was itself built over an Indian bake hole in which ashes and bones were found.

Before the uncovering of the site there was nothing in any way resembling a tumulus. Indeed, the surface was more even than it is now, for in the process of excavation the dirt was heaped up in places. At the largest hearth the clay with which the chimney had been plastered formed a covering a few inches thick over the natural surface, but the rise was so small and the slope so gentle that it was scarcely recognizable. The one feature noted by James Reed and Antoine Grignon, which led to the final discovery of the place was that the sides and back of the hearth, formed of small flat stones, projected an inch or two above the surface. The construction was so rude, however, that Judge Heuston, W. A. Finkelnburg, and Antoine Grignon, who preceded me to the place, after examining some of the top stones concluded that it was not artificial and went on to the bay. Coming up after they had left, there seemed to me something in the arrangement not quite natural, and working around carefully with a garden trowel I quickly exposed the outlines, and by the time they returned from the bay the hearth was fully exposed. The hearth proper was about 2 by 4 feet in dimensions, while the outside dimensions of the chimney were probably about twice as large. The sides and back were built of small flat stones laid in clay to a height somewhere between one and two feet, above which the chimney construction must have been of small logs plastered with clay, in which a considerable amount of grass was mixed for better binding. The hearths themselves were of such flat stones as could be found in the vicinity, the best of them being used in this hearth at the officers' quarters. With the possible exception of some slight trimming of the edges no tool work had been given them. But this and the underlying hearth were covered by several inches of ashes with which were mingled numerous fragments of bones of birds and small animals. The larger bones were thrown out back of the hearth which was evidently at the western end of the principal building.

It is probable that the stone construction did not extend much more than a foot above the hearth and that these stones were mostly in place when the remains were discovered. Very few stones were found mingled with the debris around the hearth, which could hardly have been the case had any considerable height of such construction fallen down. It is probable that the log enclosure was built up from the ground of sufficient size to permit a protective interlining, which at the bottom was of stones laid in clay. After the supply of stones gave out the construction was continued

of clay alone as high as needed. Used in this way the stones were added as fillers, much as we do in concrete constructions, with little effort to arrange them in orderly sequence.

According to cross-sectional excavations made in the summer of 1912 the dimensions of this building were 20 by 30 feet; but these figures are to be looked upon as merely a conjectural estimate. There was nothing whatever to determine the position of the south wall, and the evidence concerning the location of the east wall was very slight. The distance from the northwest corner to the south side of the hearth was about 10 feet. Five or six feet should be allowed for a door, which there is reason to believe existed on the west side south of the hearth, so that an estimate of 20 feet for the width of the building can not be regarded as excessive. As far as traced, the north wall was a straight, even, sharply-defined line of charcoal, perhaps ten inches wide. Nothing which could be regarded as its counterpart was found on the east side. (See Wisconsin Historical Society, Proceedings, 1915, pp. 111-123.)

Organization of County. AN Act to organize the County of Trempe a l'eau. Published, Jan. 30, 1854.

The people of the State of Wisconsin, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1. All that portion of country embraced in the following boundaries, is hereby set off into a separate county to be called and known as the County of Trempe a l'eau, to-wit: Beginning at the point on the Mississippi River where the line between townships 17 and 18 north, strikes said river; thence running east on said line to the main channel of Black River; thence up the main channel of Black River to the line between townships 18 and 19 north; thence east on said line to the range line between ranges 6 and 7 west; thence north on said range line to the line between townships 24 and 25 north; thence west on said line and to the range line between ranges 9 and 10 west; thence south on said range line to Trempe a l'eau River; thence down the main channel of the Trempe a l'eau River to the Mississippi River; thence down the main channel of the Mississippi River to the place of beginning.

2. There shall be an election held in said county on the first Monday of September, 1854, for the election of a suitable person for county judge of said county, which election shall be conducted and the returns thereof made as now required by law for the election of county judges; and the judge so elected shall hold his office for the term of three years from and after the 1st day of January, 1855, and until his successor is elected and qualified.

3. At the general election to be held in the month of November, 1854, there shall be elected in said county, all proper county officers; which officers shall qualify as now provided by law, and enter upon the duties of their several offices the 1st day of January, 1855.

4. The board of supervisors of the Town of Monteville, in said county, shall have power to act as the board of supervisors of said county until other towns in said county shall be organized and elections therein held for town officers as now provided by law.

5. The seat of justice in said county shall be, and the same is hereby located, on the northwest quarter of section 33, in township 19 north, of range 8 west.

6. The said County of Trempe a l'eau is hereby attached to the County of La Crosse for judicial purposes, until the 1st day of January, 1855, after which time the said county shall be fully organized for judicial purposes and shall be attached to the sixth judicial circuit.

7. The county court for said County of Trempe a l'eau shall be held at the county seat thereof, on the first Monday of March, the first Monday of June, the first Monday of September, and the first Monday of December in each year, after said county is organized for judicial purposes as provided in this Act.

8. This Act shall take effect from and after its passage.

Approved, Jan. 27, 1854. (Chap. 2, General Laws—State of Wisconsin.)

CHAPTER XI

MODERN VILLAGES

Trempealeau County has eight incorporated villages. Trempealeau, Galesville, Osseo and Eleva were started on their present sites with their present names before they were supplied with railroads. Before Arcadia was started, Old Arcadia, a mile away, was a thriving village, at that time the third in importance in the county. Before Whitehall was started, Old Whitehall, a mile away, was a thriving hamlet. Before Blair was started, there was a store and a postoffice not far away.

Trempealeau was platted April 21, 22 and 23, 1852 (as Montoville, April 7, 1852), was incorporated nearly two decades later and reincorporated March 10, 1900. Galesville was platted April 22, 1854, and incorporated June 13, 1887. Arcadia was platted Jan. 27, 1874, and incorporated Dec. 17, 1878. Whitehall was platted Jan. 20, 1874, and incorporated June 14, 1887. Eleva was platted Sept. 10, 1877, and incorporated Jan. 14, 1902. Osseo was platted Sept. 22, 1857, and incorporated Sept. 4, 1893. Independence was platted May 13, 1876, and was incorporated Dec. 16, 1885. Blair was platted April 16, 1877 (as Porterville, Sept. 2 and 3, 1873), and was incorporated Sept. 6, 1894.

The census of 1910 shows the population of the villages as follows: Arcadia, 1,212; Galesville, 873; Whitehall, 703; Independence, 664; Trempealeau, 535; Osseo, 548; Blair, 486; Eleva, 319.

The census of 1900 shows this population: Arcadia, 1,273; Galesville, 862; Trempealeau, 609; Independence, 630; Whitehall, 600; Blair, 438.

The census of 1890 shows this population: Arcadia, 659; Galesville, 537; Independence, 382; Whitehall, 304.

The census of 1880 shows this population: Arcadia, 720; Galesville, 410; Independence, 365; Whitehall, 267.

Dodge, Pigeon Falls, Ettrick and Strum are thriving places of between 150 and 300 population each. Dodge was platted Feb. 20, 1874; Ettrick, June 30, 1877; Pigeon Falls, May 30, 1894; and Strum, Sept. 26, 1893. Pleasant Valley is a trading center platted Feb. 16, 17, 19, 1877. Caledonia, platted Sept. 14, 1855, is now merely a neighborhood center. At Coral City, platted on May 23, 1864, there is a mill, a mill dam and a number of houses. At Old Whitehall, platted May 23, 1862, there are two or three houses and a cemetery. East Arcadia, platted April 23 and 24, 1874, and West Arcadia, platted Aug. 15, 1874, adjoin the village of Arcadia. West Prairie is a community center, with a cemetery, a church, a band stand, a mill and a schoolhouse. Other places, such as Elk Creek, Tamarack, Centerville, Frenchville, Hegg, Iduna, Norden, Pine Creek, and Russell, are community or trading centers.

Arcadia

Arcadia is the metropolis of Trempealeau County. It is situated in the western part of the county on the banks of Trempealeau River. Railroad facilities are furnished by the Green Bay & Western. The flats east and west of the river furnish a well-shaded and well-laid-out residence section in which are many beautiful buildings. The business section is situated on the flats east of the river. Circling this section is a plateau with handsome residences. The street from the business section to Old Arcadia is also lined with sightly homes. The commanding churches, the new high school, the Carnegie Library, the macadamized streets, the spreading lawns and magnificent shrubbery all go to make up as pretty a village as is to be found in Western Wisconsin.

The village has two banks, a newspaper, two creameries, a brewery, two mills, three elevators and a stock yard. The principal shipments are cattle, hogs, sheep and grain.

There are six churches in Arcadia—the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Stanislaus church, St. John's German Evangelical Lutheran, St. John's Christ German Evangelical Lutheran, the Methodist Episcopal, and the Evangelical Association. The little church on the hill, first the Baptist church, then a People's church, and then a Unitarian church, is now unoccupied.

Arcadia was platted Jan. 27, 1874, on land owned by H. Ketchum, D. M. Kelly, George Hiles and I. A. Briggs.

Late in the fall of 1878 a movement was started looking to the incorporation and organization of the village. A census was taken therein by D. B. Stitt on Oct. 30 and 31, and the proposed limits were found to contain 710 people. A survey of the territory was made Oct. 31, 1878, by Hiram B. Merchant, who was a practical surveyor and who made a map thereof. On Dec. 9, 1878, E. A. Morgan, A. F. Hensel, J. P. Mallinger, Otto Gazal and J. C. Muir petitioned the court that an order be made incorporating the village of Arcadia. The order was duly issued Dec. 17, 1878, by Hon. A. W. Newman, judge. On Feb. 18, 1879, an election resulted in the choice of E. C. Higbee as president, W. W. Barnes, Seth Putnam, Otto Gazal, J. C. Muir, John Maurer and J. Martin Fertig as trustees; John N. Stariha as clerk; A. F. Hensel as treasurer; Dr. F. L. Lewis as supervisor; Math Danuser as marshal; George Schneller as constable; Douglas Arnold as justice of the peace, and C. M. Mercer as police justice, all for three months. The first annual village election was held May 6, 1879. Mr. Higbee was elected president; Messrs. Barnes, Fertig, Mueller, Mergerner, Putnam and Jacob Schneller were elected trustees; John N. Stariha, clerk; A. F. Hensel, treasurer; C. M. Mercer, police justice; Douglas Arnold, justice; Math Danuser, marshal; George Schneller, constable; Dr. F. L. Lewis, supervisor.

The present officers of Arcadia are: President, John Roesch; trustees, E. G. Bigham, A. C. Foster, William Knoop, J. F. Muir, F. Steinhauser and George Weisenberger; clerk, Robert Barlow; assessor, J. K. Cysweski; justice, John F. Beon; supervisor, Dr. J. A. Palmer; marshal, William Hogan; health officer, Dr. G. N. Hidershide.

The municipal improvements of Arcadia consist of an electric light plant, a waterworks system, a fire department, a village hall, a village clock, a Carnegie Library, a high school, a public park, macadamized roads, and several bridges.

Street lighting had its beginning Oct. 9, 1891, when the village council voted to purchase twelve oil street lamps, and made arrangements for their lighting and care. Electric lighting had its inception June 19, 1893, when W. R. Wolfe was given a franchise to erect an electric light plant and place poles in the streets. After considerable discussion of the question, the Arcadia Electric Light Plant, with John Grover (president), W. R. Wolfe (treasurer) and Louis Hohnmann as owners, was given a contract to supply the streets with arc lights for four years. But, owing to restrictions placed upon the company, the streets were never lighted under this contract. Mr. Wolfe, however, put in a plant and furnished the leading business houses with electricity for some six months before he sold to Benton & Son, who removed the plant. The next move made toward street lighting was on Jan. 10, 1896, when a franchise was granted the Arcadia Milling Company. A contract for street lighting was made Jan. 17, 1896, and several months later the first street lights were installed. The village purchased the plant Oct. 16, 1903, practically renewed the system, and connected it with the power plant at the waterworks.

Fire protection in the early days was furnished by a volunteer bucket company and a hand pump. May 20, 1891, it was voted to buy a fire engine and bell. In the fall the engine arrived, wells were dug, and additional equipment was purchased. On Oct. 30, 1891, the fire ordinance was passed and a few days later, on Nov. 3, 1891, the fire company was organized with the following officers: Secretary, Charles J. Larson; treasurer, Archie Hunter; chief, John Durisch; trustees, C. Wohlgenant, C. W. Lubs, J. P. Runkel and Joseph Hild. The company now consists of forty-two volunteers, and is well equipped with modern apparatus. The village bell is in the village hall, and the fire whistle is at the village power plant. The village clock is in the belfry of the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and was installed in the spring of 1903, under a contract signed May 15 of that year.

The village hall was erected in 1893-94 at a cost of about \$4,000. The lot was purchased from the Board of Trade Feb. 10, 1893, a special election to vote bonds was held June 9, 1893, and work was started in the fall. It was occupied in the spring, being officially accepted April 20, 1894. The lower floor is devoted to the fire department, jail, council chambers and clerk's office, while the upper floor is used for lodge purposes.

The first macadamizing in Arcadia was done in 1895, bonds of \$5,000 for that purpose being voted on March 22 of that year. A stone crusher was purchased and operations commenced on an extensive scale. The village now has a macadamized street extending from the Buffalo County line through the village to the "Two Mile Corner," so called, beyond the mill. The road to the Arcadia Mineral Spring is also macadamized, as are several of the cross streets.

The waterworks plant consists of an artesian well, a pumping station

at which is also located the electric light plant, and the reservoir on Barnes Bluff. The mains cover the principal streets of the village. Bonds of \$15,000 were voted Dec. 17, 1901, the ordinance was passed Dec. 19, 1902, and the residences of the village were supplied with water the following spring.

The village park was purchased from J. R. P. Hiles Feb. 20, 1909, and consists of sixteen acres of land. It has been improved by voluntary work, and is used largely as a ball ground, the young men of the village having erected a grand stand thereon. One of the beauty spots of the village is a private park owned by J. M. Fertig. This park, located along the river front, is kept in its natural condition, and is stocked with a number of native deer, the admiration of travelers from near and far.

The iron bridge across the Trempealeau at Arcadia was built in 1899, the vote being passed March 10. This replaced a wooden bridge, on the same site, the wooden bridge, in turn, taking the place of the ford a little further down the river. In the early days there were two other fords further up the river, and the "Three Mile Bridge" was built as a wooden structure some years before the railroad came through.

A school district comprising the whole town of Arcadia was organized May 24, 1857, and a meeting held at the home of David Bishop in May. School was opened soon thereafter in a log building, with Sarah Bishop McMasters as first teacher. In June, 1860, a frame structure was erected on the same site. After the railroad came through an annex was established in a private residence. When the railroad came through the building was moved to the near village, where in time it became the county courthouse. The graded brick school on the hill was built with four departments in 1875, and later two more departments were added. The present slightly high school structure was erected in 1915. The new building, which was erected at a cost of nearly \$45,000, is regarded as a model of its kind. It has a large and beautiful auditorium, with stage. There are English, mathematics, history, foreign language, commercial, teachers' training, domestic science, manual training, agriculture and library rooms, besides a large gymnasium in the basement. The lighting and ventilation are perfect, the heating is the most modern system of direct and indirect radiation, and the temperature is regulated automatically. The equipment is good and is being constantly improved.

The beautiful Carnegie Library was erected in 1906. March 29, 1905, the village council voted an annual appropriation of \$500 for this library. That sum has also been given annually to support the public library for some years previous.

The Arcadia Board of Trade was organized Aug. 11, 1885, among those interested being R. L. Dickens, O. O. Peterson, Nic. Lehrbach, Stephen Richmond, J. M. Fertig, George N. Hidershide, F. F. Morgan, John Maurer, W. P. Massuere, Emil Maurer, J. D. Rainey and R. W. Wheeler. After a time the association went into the grain buying business in order to establish equitable rates for the farmers. Business was suspended in the summer of 1898. The land owned by the board was sold to the village and is now used as a village hall.

The Arcadia Brewery has long occupied a leading position in Arcadia business life. It was established in 1874 or 1875 by Nick Mergner. In 1876 Bion & Co. erected an imposing structure which is a part of the present establishment.

The woolen industry was at one time numbered among the industries of the village. In the early '70s Philander Allen started a woolen mill. He sold to Dr. Isaac A. Briggs. The Arcadia Woolen Mills were built in 1876 by Dyke, Allen & Co. and were in operation for several years. The production of wool has increased in volume and importance, but the raw wool is now shipped to other places.

The Arcadia Mineral Springs are among the pleasant features of Arcadia life. In 1878 a hotel was built at the springs by George Hiles, a race track was laid out, and preparations made for an extensive summer resort. But the hotel was burned before it was completed in 1879, and the place abandoned. The spring is now permanently arched with cement, and presents an inviting appearance to the traveler, but is not now used for commercial purposes. The water has highly medicinal qualities, and constitutes one of the natural resources of the village yet to be developed and exploited.

Arcadia had its beginning with the settlement of Old Arcadia in 1855.

The first store in Old Arcadia was opened in 1857 by George Shelly, in his residence on the present site of the home of George Schmidt. The house was a crude pioneer structure, boarded roughly up and down. The next was opened in a lean-to addition to the home of Daniel C. Dewey by Mr. Dewey and Dr. Isaac A. Briggs. The next store was that of Gay D. Storm. Before long quite a settlement sprang up at the "Corners."

When the railroad came through in the fall of 1873, Old Arcadia was the scene of busy activity. At the northeast corner of the crossroads was the hotel and store of George Dewey. North of this was the home of P. H. Varney, justice of the peace, and north of him lived Gus Quinn and his aged father.

At the northwest corner of the crossroads was the store of Campbell & Geislin, afterward owned by Ole Peterson and Thom Thompson. West of Campbell & Geislin's store was the brick store and residence of John D. Rainey. West of the Rainey store was the harness shop of Ed. DeLay. Between the Rainey and DeLay locations there had early stood the Quinn cabin in which the postoffice had been opened. Then came the residence of Daniel C. Dewey, in the lean-to of which one of the earliest stores had been kept. Next came the brick residence of Ervin J. Gorton, and next the residence of Ed Gorton. West of this Isaac Ball had at one time kept a blacksmith shop. Then came the postoffice in the residence of Charles Mercer, in the upper story of which was a public hall, in which justice court was sometimes held. Mrs. Mercer was the widow of David Bishop, the pioneer, who had been killed by lightning. Then came the old schoolhouse. West of the schoolhouse had once lived Albro Matterson. His straw barn was a conspicuous landmark. Further along were the residences of John Penny, J. R. Penny and Benjamin F. Holcomb.

At the southwest corner of the crossroads was an empty lot. Previously on the site there had stood a log house originally used as a school-house, and moved from the school lot to this location to be used as a drug store by Dr. George. Next west of this vacant corner was the drug store and residence of Dr. Frank L. Lewis. West of this store was a hotel and saloon on the place originally occupied by George Dewey. When Mr. Dewey moved, John P. Mallinger, better known as "Hans Pete," conducted a hotel and saloon there, followed by George Motchenbacher, who was there when the railroad came. Next to the west was the blacksmith shop of Edward Nichols, in the upper story of which was a hall, the scene of many a famous gathering. Next was the blacksmith shop of Albro Matterson. West of this was a vacant building put up and used as a store by Charles Mercer, who had previously clerked for Gay T. Storm. It passed into other hands and was opened as a saloon. Under the operation of a man named Williams, the place became so obnoxious that the good ladies of the community wrecked the place and destroyed the intoxicants. West of this was the furniture store of E. J. Tracy. Next came the brick store of E. J. Gorton. This was the famous Storm store. Early settlers tell of the gatherings of Winnebago Indians held near this place, and the famous pow-wows in which they participated. The brick for the Storm store, the Rainey store and the E. J. Gorton residence were made nearby, probably at the brick kiln of Dr. I. A. Briggs, which flourished for some years thereafter. The arrival of the itinerant tintype photographer was also an important event for several seasons, and in their tents they did a flourishing business. Next to the Gorton store was a building which had been occupied by Michael Mochenbacher as a shoe shop. This had been built as a shoe shop by John D. Rainey. Mochenbacher made and repaired boots and shoes, sometimes using his own leather, but sometimes taking a piece of cowhide furnished by a settler, and making it into fitted boots for the whole family. Next to the shop was the Mochenbacher residence.

East of the southeast corner of the crossroads was the residence of Henry Dewey, in which George Shelly had opened the first store. The corner lot was vacant.

East of Old-Arcadia was the residence of Joseph Kellogg and his sister Jane. With them also lived another sister and Joseph Farber, an itinerant evangelist and school teacher. Next east was the residence of James Broughton south of the road, and Broughton's Mill north of the road. At the pond of this mill, in 1857, Eugene Broughton, a son of James Broughton, was drowned while swimming. Further east the road branched to North Creek, and still further east to American, Thompson and Newcomb valleys.

To the north of Old Arcadia, the first house was that of David L. Holcombe, on the west side of the road leading across the river bridge to Independence.

To the south of Old Arcadia, the first house was Charles Fisher and his father, the Elder.

The road leading along the highlands east and south of the present village was well occupied. West was the Benjamin F. Holcombe place, already mentioned in connection with Old Arcadia. Then came the Alonzo

Kenyon residence. From across the street from the Kenyon residence, a foot-path led southwest toward the Gaveney residence, skirting a natural pond which then stood in a depression in the fields, but which has since been drained. West of the Kenyon residence was the Henry Proctor residence. West of this was the road which led north to the mill pond and mill owned by David Massuere, and thence across the ford to the Independence road. Near the mill was the residence of Louis Massuere. From the mill a track led westward to the home of Elliott Van Valkenberg. At the Briggs' Corners lived Dr. I. A. Briggs in a brick house still standing. Dr. Briggs was a self-educated homeopath. Being the only physician in the locality, his practice extended from Fountain City to Coral City. From Briggs' Corners, on the line between sections 32 and 33, a trail led north to the home of David Massuere, beyond which was a river ford. From the Corners, a trail also led through a gate down through the present village, following the high land formed by the sand thrown up by the creek, and crossing the river at a ford a few rods down the river from the present bridge. Across the ford on the south side of the road was the house of Simon Wojczik, while Peter Case lived on the north side. Further up the river toward Independence were ——— Bragg, William Bennett, David Bennett and Charles Richardson. In the other direction, over the line in Buffalo County, Glencoe was well settled. At Glencoe village, Thomas Courtney had a tavern and store, and George Cowie kept the postoffice.

The main road led south from Briggs' Corners, following a zig-zag line. The first house along the road southwest of Dr. Briggs' was the residence of James Gaveney, over the line in township 20, range 9. South of the next turn in the road was the house built by Noah Comstock, but occupied by Ole B. Canutson. The next house on the west side of the road was that of Noah Comstock, and west of this stood the pioneer cheese factory owned by Noah Comstock and James Gaveney. Further along the road, this same farm several years later was the scene of the pioneer sorghum operators in the county.

At the center of section 6, a branch road led west. On the north side of this road lived A. L. Robinson, while south of it lived Daniel Bigham, and west of him John Bigham.

East of where the road turned was the home built by John Dennis. Further south, at the point where the main road met the south line of section 6, stood the schoolhouse and the Catholic church, the church being east of the road and the schoolhouse west. There the road branched east and west to Meyers Valley and Bill's Valley. On the road to Bill's Valley the first house was that of J. P. Hartman.

With the coming of the railroad, the village of Old Arcadia gradually dwindled away. The drug store of Dr. F. L. Lewis, the blacksmith shop of Ed. Nichols, the schoolhouse, and later the mill, were moved to the newer village, other buildings were moved to other locations and converted to other uses, some of the structures were left on the same location and converted into residences. The famous Gay T. Storm store was vacated and is still standing, a notable relic of the past. The only store now at Old Arcadia is that of James Brownlie, who occupies the old John D. Rainey

store. Mr. Brownlie is the town clerk, and a wooden addition has been built to the building for the purposes of a town hall.

The railroad reached Arcadia in the fall of 1873, and the depot was constructed on the present location. Southwest of it along the right of way, in the rear of the present village hall, Canterbury & Smith built a warehouse, and still further along Elmore & Kelley, of Green Bay, built a warehouse. The Elmore & Kelley warehouse was a unique structure, with high sloping runways, up which teams were driven to enable the pouring of grain into the flathouse.

Considerable bitterness followed the building of the railroad, and it was not until the following spring that a village was platted. The people of Old Arcadia, who had believed that the railroad would pass through their village, were determined to keep the business at the old site, regardless of the railroad. Others were reconciled to the site of the depot, as one large village at the depot seemed better than two small villages.

Consequently, in 1874, after the village was started, the business houses began to spring up. The land was a swamp, no grades had been established, the houses were built on piles, and the sidewalks on stilts, while the customers wallowed through mire and pools.

Probably the first business house to go up was the hotel of James Alexander, afterward operated by John Eckel, the saloon being conducted by John Gaugler. Many business houses followed, and the sound of building was heard on every side.

Two Fountain City concerns, realizing that much of the Waumandee, Glencoe and Montana trade would be turned in the new direction, established branch stores here, Bohri Brothers & Hensel, with Charles Hensel as manager, moving into a building erected by A. F. Hensel, and Fugina Brothers & Fertig, with J. M. Fertig as manager, moving into a store erected by Edson A. Morgan, who had previously lived at Old Arcadia and vended patent medicines throughout the region. The W. P. Massuere Company had its beginning the same year in a building erected by John D. Rainey, who had been a merchant of the old town. For a time E. J. Geislin and Milo Campbell, also merchants at Old Arcadia, were interested with Mr. Massuere in the venture. The Bryan drug store, with a stock of drugs, paints and oils and notions, was also opened.

J. C. Muir, from Glencoe, who had assisted in building the bridge across the river that spring, formed a partnership with G. H. Krumdick and erected a flathouse for the buying of grain. He also dealt in hides and farm produce. C. N. Paine & Co., of Oshkosh, with C. E. Hollenbeck as manager, opened a lumber yard. A year later they erected an office building on Main Street.

Several saloons were opened, the first being that of Matt Danuser.

A number of residences went up the same year.

The village grew in 1875, and when the flood came in the spring of 1875, the flats already contained a village of considerable size, the business houses being scattered along Main Street both sides of the track, and down Commercial (Grant) Street.

Whitehall

Whitehall, the county seat of Trempealeau County, is located at the geographical center of the county, within the northernmost bend of the Trempealeau River. Platted on the river bottoms, the village is almost entirely level, but is almost entirely surrounded with picturesque hills and bluffs, broken here and there by cooleys and valleys which lead into some of the richest farming lands in the county, notable among which is the Pigeon Valley region, known far and wide for its prosperity and fertility. The Trempealeau River, dammed a short distance below where it receives Pigeon Creek, forms a picturesque artificial lake, excellent for boating and fishing. The public bathhouse and the city light plant are located below the dam.

The business section of the village is located north of the Green Bay tracks. This section is surrounded by a portion of the residence district. Many of the principal residences, however, are located on the two principal streets south of the tracks, one of the streets being at right angles to the tracks, and the other parallel with the tracks.

In the south portion of the village are the courthouse, the jail, the high school, the hospital, the village hall, the public library, the town hall, and the churches, as well as the public park and the cemetery.

Among the leading business industries of the village are the tobacco warehouse, the creamery, the pickling station, the mill, three elevators, two banks and the newspaper. The principal shipments are tobacco, butter, grain, eggs and potatoes.

Especially beautiful is the park system. Beginning at the railroad tracks, a small park north of the village hall is ornamented with numerous flower beds and a cement bandstand erected by the ladies of the Chautauqua Circle in 1915. Southwest from the village hall, the courthouse yard begins, with its spreading lawns and magnificent trees. The courthouse and jail are of yellow brick, and the schoolhouse, west of these buildings, is of the same material. Without interruption, the courthouse grounds and the school playgrounds merge into the John O. Melby Park, and this in turn stretches to the slightly public cemetery, and likewise faces the community hospital. On the hill above towers the reservoir of the waterworks system.

The waterworks system was originally inaugurated in 1895. A large tank, on a nearby ridge, gives ample pressure, and the system covers the principal streets. On Feb. 23, 1895, the village voted bonds for the installation of a waterworks system, and on May 31, 1895, the first contract was awarded for about \$6,500. The original sewer system was installed in the spring of 1902, bonds of \$2,500 being voted for the purpose. Additions to the water and sewer system have since been made, and an elaborate extension is now planned in the north and west part of the village at a cost of some \$12,000, bonds of \$8,000 having been voted.

The electric light current is furnished by the mill. It gives an every-night service from twilight until midnight, and also furnishes power for domestic purposes on Tuesday forenoons. Bonds of \$2,000 were voted

for electric light service on Oct. 21, 1897, and the lights were first turned on Oct. 21, of that year.

The village hall is a slightly brick structure, which houses the fire department, the public library and the council chamber, and provides a large audience chamber for theatrical entertainments and public meetings. The hall cost about \$18,000. Bonds of \$12,000 were voted Dec. 8, 1911, the hall was opened late in December, 1912, and the first council meeting was held therein on January 13, 1913. Elections are still held in the town hall of Lincoln, half a block south of the village hall.

The town hall was built in 1877, in anticipation of securing the county seat. It is of frame, originally designed to be one story high. But the Odd Fellows subscribed \$600 and the original plan was changed to make the building two stories high. It cost a total of \$1,200. For a time before the courthouse was built it was used for county offices.

The principal streets were macadamized in 1915 and 1916 at a cost of about \$8,000.

Whitehall was incorporated in 1887. The census of April 15, 1887, having shown a population of 318, application was made to the circuit judge, who on April 26 ordered an election to be held on July 8. The election was duly held in charge of C. E. Scott, L. L. Solsrud and C. A. Adams, resulting in a vote of 47 to 25 in favor of incorporating. The first election of officers was held Aug. 12, and resulted as follows: President, H. E. Getts; trustees, J. S. Tull, Even Ekern, John Porter, M. C. Olson, Joseph Sherwood and A. T. Tucker; clerk, F. M. Scott; treasurer, L. L. Solsrud; supervisor, C. E. Scott; constable, William Duer; justice, R. A. Odell; police justice, A. Tuttle. The officers for 1917 are: President, Ludvig Hammerstad; trustees, Anton O. Melby, A. E. Wood, E. A. Sorenson, C. A. Adams, George Larson and Ed. Scott; clerk, F. N. Larson; treasurer, J. E. Wilberg; assessor, O. F. Harlow; supervisor, N. L. Fredrickson; justices, F. N. Larson and Henry Hundt.

The Whitehall Community Hospital was started in 1916, and will be completed late in 1917. It is a beautiful structure, constructed along the most modern lines, and occupies a most commanding position facing the John O. Melby Park. No less than 843 citizens are shareholders in the venture, and the rooms are being furnished by various local organizations. The officers are: President, Ludwig Solsrud; vice-president, Ole J. Eggum; secretary, George Larson; treasurer, S. N. Hegge; directors, Ludwig Solsrud, Richard H. Holtan, Claude Everson, F. W. Lowe, Gilbert Peterson, A. E. Wood and Ole J. Eggum.

The John O. Melby Park is to be developed into one of the beauty spots of Whitehall. Already it is beautified by a boulevard and a number of shade trees. It is devoted at present largely to athletic purposes. The original gift was made by Mr. and Mrs. John O. Melby, Sept. 28, 1906, and at the same time the village acquired an additional tract by purchase. Mr. and Mrs. Melby's dedication of the park declares that its purpose is to promote the comfort, enjoyment and well being of the people of Whitehall. The park borders on the cemetery, the community hospital, the courthouse, the jail, the high school and several churches.

Music has been an important factor in the life of Whitehall since the

earliest days. The Whitehall Concert Band, which enjoys a wide fame, was established some thirty-five years ago. The present officers are: President, Joel Haugh; vice-president, Herbert Holtan; treasurer, A. P. Tallman; secretary, Ralph H. Wizeorek. The leader is Leo Haesle. The Whitehall Ladies' Band is a notable organization that has won extensive praise wherever it has appeared. It was organized in 1913, composed of the leading ladies of the town, and is an important social as well as musical organization. The officers are: President, Mrs. Ted Harnden; vice-president, Mrs. Ward Lowe; secretary, Miss Mabel Larson; treasurer, Mrs. Eugene Sorenson; leader, Leo Haesle.

The Whitehall Free Library is one of the vital educational features of the village. In early days, the idea of a free library had been growing in the minds of the citizens of Whitehall, and in May, 1881, we find from the Whitehall Times, a dime entertainment was given to start a fund for establishing a public library.

In June of that year, a library association having been formed, the first order of books was made from Holmes, Hawthorne, Bryant, Longfellow, Dickens and Scott. Maple sugar parties and other forms of entertainment helped until in 1883, the "Ladies Athenæum," a reading club being founded, they began immediately to incite more interest, so that at the end of that year 152 volumes were in the library, as reported by J. O. Melby. The old bookcase in which the books were stored can still be seen in the Whitehall Times-Banner office. The checking system was very primitive.

In March, 1899, the village president, Charles Harnden, called a meeting of the village board to consider the proposition of a free library in Whitehall. It carried and he appointed Messrs. F. E. Beach, E. Berg, A. M. Dake, H. L. Ekern, J. O. Melby, Ludwig Solsrud, Mesdames W. J. Webb (who has served continuously to present time), O. Rogan, W. H. Stallings and Professor C. F. Huleatt as ex-officio member from the public school. Five hundred dollars was appropriated. "Whitehall was the first village in Trempealeau County to vote an appropriation for such a cause." Besides the village, the town of Lincoln gave \$100, with promise of further support. J. O. Melby donated a lot, and private individuals increased the amount until at the first meeting of the library board, April 9, it was decided to build.

The building was dedicated Sept. 14, 1899. The formal exercises were held in the afternoon, Judge R. A. Odell presiding. R. S. Cowie gave the address of welcome. H. L. Ekern, who was entitled to more credit than any one other person, gave a history of the movement. L. H. Withee, of La Crosse, and Senator Stout, of Menomonie, both had been very helpful and were present, with about 500 out-of-town visitors. A social evening session closed the day.

The library has grown from 450 volumes at dedication to about 3,000. The last year's report gave the borrowers as 615, and reading room attendance as 9,295.

The village appropriation is at present \$300 annually, \$200 for library board, \$100 on librarian's salary.

The present library board is: President, C. B. Melby; vice-president, Mrs. W. J. Webb; secretary, S. N. Hegge; Miss Minnie Barron, O. J. Eggum,

D. P. Gibson, Mrs. C. F. Huleatt; P. K. Risberg and A. E. Wood, with Principal F. C. Martin as ex-officio member.

At the beginning of each school year, the librarian meets the high school and eighth grade pupils to explain the working use of the library. Each teacher is given a special card on which they may draw as many books and keep as long as they need. The Whitehall Free Library is depository for county traveling library system, which at present has fifteen boxes in different parts of the county.

A Chautauqua course has been given at Whitehall every year beginning with 1913. The work had its beginning in April, 1910, when 20 ladies gathered as a Whitehall Lecture Course committee. At the second meeting but six ladies were present, and these six—the Mesdames R. S. Cowie, O. J. Eggum, E. F. Hensel, J. F. Hager, C. B. Melby and J. M. Ingalls—have since constituted the entire committee. In the winter of 1910-11 a four-number lecture course was given, the talent being furnished by the Central Lyceum Bureau. In 1911-12 no hall was available. In 1913-14 and 1914-15 the University Extension Lecture Course was given. Then the lecture field was left in the hands of the high school. The Chautauqua is given under the direction of the Travers-Wick system. In 1913 the committee purchased the piano which now stands in the village hall. In 1915 the ladies, at a cost of \$700, erected a cement bandstand which now ornaments the village park. They are at present planning to furnish a room in the new hospital. The officers are: Chairman, Mrs. R. S. Cowie; secretary, Mrs. O. J. Eggum; treasurer, Mrs. E. F. Hensel.

The Trempealeau County Industrial, Agricultural and Driving Park Association held a county fair in Whitehall for several years, beginning with 1887, maintaining grounds and a race track on the south side of Dewey Street near the west limits of the village.

The vicinity of Whitehall has a history dating back to 1855, when the first settlers arrived in this vicinity. The railroad came through late in 1873, and at that time the future site of the village was yielding a rich harvest of wheat. Up and down the Trempealeau Valley, and spreading into the tributary cooleys and valleys, many a prosperous farm could be found.

A mile up Pigeon Creek was located Old Whitehall, platted on May 23, 1862, by Alex. A. Arnold for Benjamin F. Wing. Another mile further up that creek was Coral City, platted May 28, 1868, by George Hodgkin for Phineas Wright. Both of these hamlets were flourishing trading points.

For a time it appeared that the railroad was to go westward from Blair to Arcadia, without following the northern loop of the river, but the present route was finally decided upon, and a village near this point assured.

The tracks were laid through the wheat field that is now Whitehall, on Sept. 2, 1873. Charles Adams, now a leading Whitehall merchant, was one of the crew. Where the courthouse now stands, the harvesters were gathering wheat.

In November, 1873, Theodore H. Earle arrived and selected the site for a dwelling. He was the son-in-law of Henry Ketchum, for several years president of the railroad, and his purpose was to establish a town in the

interests of Mr. Ketchum and C. M. Kelley, a Green Bay grain capitalist and one of the backers of the Green Bay road.

On New Year's Day, 1874, the first passenger train passed Whitehall on regular schedule. That same day the lumber was unloaded for the first depot, and a section crew in charge of Charles Adams started putting in the sidetrack and switch. Jan. 4, C. J. Lambert purchased the first load of wheat at \$1.00 a bushel. Jan. 6, Daniel C. Camp arrived as station agent and grain buyer for Elmore & Kelley. Jan. 20, the village was platted by T. H. Earle, C. M. Kelly and Henry Ketchum.

During the winter two grain houses went up, one owned by Elmore & Kelley, of Green Bay, and one by T. H. Earle and C. J. Lambert, who came here to make their homes. Mr. Earle's interest was soon acquired by H. E. Getts.

The first residence started was that of T. H. Earle, the second that of George Olds.

During the spring and summer of 1874, the village presented a scene of busy activity. Hotels, business houses and residences went up here and there, and before fall a flourishing hamlet had been established.

The first hotel was the Empire House, erected by Henry Stratton. The Alexander Hotel, owned by S. L. Alexander, and the Whitehall House, moved in part from Coral City by M. V. Allen, soon followed.

H. E. Getts built the first store. August Cook and Nelson Comstock started hardware stores, but before they could open the tornado demolished their buildings, and they never opened for business. The general store of L. H. Whitney was also swept by the tornado, but he at once rebuilt, and put in a stock of goods.

D. L. Camp put up a double block, and opened a general store in one side, while T. C. McDermott opened a hardware store in the other. C. E. Scott put up a building and opened a general store. Benjamin F. Wing, the original proprietor of Old Whitehall, moved in and erected a general store. John Rogerson and C. H. Warner opened a hardware store and Melby & Johnson a tailor shop.

The first carpenters to locate permanently in the new village were William Blodgett, Joseph Augustine, A. J. Roscoe and James Hiner. A year or two later came William Scott, also a carpenter, and Alonzo Tucker, a mason.

The first physician was Dr. R. G. Floyd.

Charles Adams thus describes the village in the late fall of 1874:

South of the track and east of the street was the store of B. F. Wing.

North of the track and east of the street on the present site of the Model Store was the Alexander Hotel. North of what is now the John O. Melby & Co. Bank was the store of H. E. Getts, the building being still standing. D. L. Camp and T. C. McDermott were on the present site of the Solsrud Mercantile Co., Camp occupying the side farthest north.

East of the present site of the Solsrud building was the tailor shop of Melby & Johnson. East of this was L. H. Whitney, east of this were the foundations of the stores of August Cook and Nelson Comstock.

North of the track and west of the street north of the present location

of the Huleatt Mercantile Company was the home of George Olds, the second residence in the village. North of this was the Rogerson & Warner store. On the northeast corner of the block was the store of C. E. Scott. The building is still standing. In this block, the first term of Circuit Court in Whitehall was held.

The Empire Hotel was on the present site of the American House. The Whitehall House, now called Hotel Allen, is still standing and is operated by Mrs. M. V. Allen.

The Earle House was a block east of the present site of the Model.

Various other residences were scattered about the plat.

The Trempealeau Messenger had already been started, Bert E. Clark having purchased the Galesville Journal and Recorder from George S. Luce and moved the material here.

A schoolhouse had been moved from its location a half mile east, and a new building, still standing but not now in use, had been built west of what is now the O. P. Larson residence.

The wisdom of the establishment of the village was shown by the fact that during the year there were shipped from Whitehall 225,000 bushels of wheat in addition to quantities of oats, barley and corn.

The village was now well established, the various lines of industry were satisfactorily represented, and during the next two years there were but few new business houses erected, though there were many additions to the number of residences. The schoolhouse was completed in 1875, and the Baptist and Methodist churches erected. In that and the succeeding year the new business houses were the grocery store of A. J. Cady, the tailor shop of M. C. Olson, the harness shop of Edward Romander, the general store of Decker & Lawton, the general store of Melvin Johnson, the lumber yards of A. S. Trow & Co. and T. H. Earle Company, and the liveries of Eugene Webster and J. R. King.

Galesville

Galesville, situated in the Beaver Creek Valley on the banks of Lake Marinuka, a beautiful artificial body of water, is one of the most picturesque villages in Western Wisconsin. The site of the village is divided into an upper table, the residence section, and the lower table and flats, which constitute the business section, most of the stores being located about the Public Square or the street immediately adjoining. An extensive park system adds to the beauty of the village, and numerous mineral springs attract tourists. The village is equipped with electric lights, waterworks, sewer system, village hall, fire department and high school. Two telephone systems furnish excellent service. The two banks reflect the financial stability of the surrounding country. A public library is well patronized, and a modern newspaper chronicles the weekly life of the neighborhood.

The Norwegian Lutherans have two churches, and the Presbyterian, Catholic and Methodist denominations each one. A band adds to desirability of life here. The annual celebration of the Burns Club and the annual county fair bring visitors from near and far. The Commercial Club has taken an active interest in the civic development of the village. The leading

industries are the mill, the creamery, the elevators and the stock yards. Gale College is one of the oldest in the State, having opened its first classes in 1859. Galesville is connected with the outside world with a branch of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, and by an excellent system of improved highways.

Founded, settled and platted in 1854, Galesville soon assumed substantial proportions as the county seat and the home of Gale College, enjoying its greatest growth from 1856 until the year following the Civil War. It was not materially affected by the railroad which was built in the southern part of the county in 1870, or by the railroad built through the Trempealeau Valley in 1873. The loss of the county seat late in 1876 took away some of the hotel and legal business, and possibly a little of the mercantile trade.

With the coming of the railroad in 1883, the village took on new life and soon assumed an importance which it still retains as a shipping and trading center.

In that year efforts were made to incorporate the village. A census taken on Oct. 16, 1883, having shown a population of 439 persons, an application was presented to the district court asking for the incorporation. A remonstrance was presented at the same time. Accordingly on Dec. 16, 1883, Judge A. W. Newman appointed Hugh Cameron, of La Crosse, as a referee to hear the testimony in the matter. Mr. Cameron failed to act and the application continued in abeyance for several years. In 1887 the proposition was revived, and on June 13 of that year Judge Newman appointed Isaac Clark, George H. Smith and Moses King inspectors of an election to be held to decide the matter. July 2, 1887, Gustavus Holmberg was appointed in place of Moses King. The election held Aug. 1, 1887, with H. L. Bunn and Charles T. Silk as clerks, favored the proposition by a vote of 80 to 32. The first election was held on Aug. 20, 1887, and resulted as follows: President, G. Y. Freeman; trustees, C. B. Thrall, O. N. Sagen, A. Kribs, A. H. Czepull, G. F. Myhre and F. Langenohl; clerk, H. L. Bunn; treasurer, A. Tibbitts; supervisor, Wilson Davis; constable, William Raymond; justice, A. Tower. The first meeting of the council was held Sept. 5, 1887.

The present officers are: President, A. T. Twesme; trustees, Carl McKeeth, I. G. Herried, R. H. Ashley, R. E. James, W. F. Plummer and J. A. Berg; clerk, O. D. Witherbee; treasurer, Nils Lund; assessor, J. A. Kellman; supervisor, Ben W. Davis.

The village government has been most admirably conducted. Waterworks and a sewer system have been installed and extended, the streets have been improved and excellently cared for, a city hall has been built, a good fire department maintained, the business center has been paved, and considerable attention has been given to the extensive park system and to public health and recreation, in addition to the usual routine village maintenance.

The park system is in charge of a commission which was created in 1915, and now consists of A. T. Twesme, O. D. Witherbee, J. F. Cance, Rev. L. M. Gimmestad, Bert A. Gipple, Emil Francar and Charles Bortle. City beautiful plans have been prepared by John H. Forrer, of La Crosse,

and are being gradually worked out by the commission. The plans include public and private property and will make the village one of the beauty spots of the Northwest. The Upper Table Park and the Public Square on the lower table were platted with the village and were donated by George Gale, the founder of the village. The wide streets which enclose the Public Square were paved in 1912, and soon afterward a cement bandstand erected at a cost of nearly \$1,000 raised by public subscription. The Upper Table Park is well shaded with old trees and is also supplied with a bandstand. Reception Park, originally called Riverside Park, was acquired from C. E. Perkins in the summer of 1889. At once upon its purchase the property was turned over to William C. Pierce, who agreed to pay Mr. Perkins for the property, to keep the park open to the public except when in use for baseball, horse racing or fair purposes, and at the end of ten years to sell to the village at a fair valuation. Two years after, Mr. Pierce disposed of all his interest to the village. In 1892 extensive plans were made for the advertising of Galesville as a summer resort. A landing platform was erected at Reception Park for the convenience of railroad excursionists, a pavilion was built, an excursion steamer was purchased, lights were installed in Reception and High Cliff parks, and the weeds were cleared from the lake. Efforts were made to have the railroad move its station to the lake front. But the depot was not moved and in a few years the steamboat was sold, owing to lack of patronage. In December, 1902, a curling rink was erected in the park by the Galesville Curling and Burns Club. The park consists of a little over 11 acres lying along the banks of Beaver Creek. It is well shaded and in addition to the pavilion, curling rink and landing platform already mentioned, has an excellent baseball field and an artesian well 600 feet deep. The High Cliff Park consists of a narrow strip of land having Beaver Creek on one side and high, perpendicular water-worn cliffs on the other. It is covered with native foliage and has several springs and caves. The park is open to the public through the courtesy of Ben W. Davis. East Side Park is on the lake shore and is made up of groves of native trees. It is open to the public through the generosity of the heirs of Captain A. A. Arnold. On the flat above the East Side Park are the grounds of the Trempealeau County Agricultural Society, purchased in 1892. At the head of the lake are the Arctic Springs, which will also soon be surrounded with a park. The waters of the spring are widely known for their purity and health-giving qualities, and a company has been formed for exploiting and developing this important asset. In connection with the beauty spots, the public cemetery deserves special mention. The Association was organized in 1861 with Isaac Clark as president and A. A. Arnold as secretary, and eight acres of land obtained from George Gale. The Association has continued to be maintained, and the cemetery is being constantly beautified.

The village waterworks were inaugurated in the summer of 1888, when the village contracted with Wilson Davis to extend his mill waterworks to protect all the property on the lower table, to put in hydrants and to furnish hose for the use of the fire company, the hose and hosecart to be kept in repair by the village. This contract was renewed until the present

water and sewer system was put in operation in 1899. Aug. 5, 1898, the citizens voted bonds of \$3,000 which were used to construct a reservoir on the property of Charles Boulin. Technical difficulties stood in the way of voting sufficient bonds for the construction of the entire system, so a number of citizens organized a temporary firm known as the Galesville Waterworks Co., and engaged John P. Dales, of the Western Engineering & Construction Co., as contractor. The contract price was \$20,000, to be paid by the village at the rate of \$1,000 a year under the guise of a hydrant rental.

The electric light system was installed in the fall of 1889 by T. P. and W. W. Benton under the firm name of T. P. Benton & Co. Since then the system has been continuous, and is now operated by the Davis Mill Company.

Local telephone service was started in the fall of 1895 by W. P. Veitch and George S. Luce.

The city hall was erected in 1896 and opened Oct. 9 of that year. It houses the opera house, the fire department, village offices and the jail.

The splendid high school building was erected in 1908, replacing the earlier building erected in 1873-74. In addition to the usual classical and English courses, work is given in domestic science and manual training, and special attention is paid to music, oratory, debating, athletics and general community endeavor.

The public library is supported by the village, the building having been donated by the will of Ellen Burchard Burdick, who died Oct. 9, 1913.

The Galesville Commercial Club, whose name was changed from the Galesville Business Men's Association on Nov. 18, 1916, was organized Sept. 16, 1899, the first directors being G. O. Gilbertson, L. N. Hammer, E. F. Clark, F. A. Kellman, Ben W. Davis, Henry Yeoman, W. S. Wadleigh, R. H. Robertson and George Rall. The present officers are: President, J. A. Berg; vice-president, Carl McKeeth; secretary, Emil Francar, and E. F. Clark.

Independence

Independence is a thriving village located at the junction of Elk Creek and the Trempealeau River, on the line of the Green Bay & Western, and at the mouth of the far-reaching Pleasant Valley. It is an important shipping point for stock, poultry, butter, eggs, cheese and pickles, and aside from the usual business activities, has four elevators, two banks, a creamery, a mill, two stock yards, a pickling station, and a newspaper. Municipal improvements include the village hall, electric lights, waterworks and sewer systems, and a public library. There are three churches, the Catholic and the Norwegian Lutheran, and one which is used in common by the Methodists and the Evangelical Association. The streets of the village are paved with petrified brick, and macadam roads extend in all directions.

There are a number of beauty spots in the village. The railroad right of way south of the track has been parked, furnishing a beautiful approach to some sightly houses which parallel the track. Elk Creek, dammed at this village, forms a beautiful artificial lake, admirably suited for bathing, boating and fishing. A bath house was erected in the summer of 1917 by popular subscription, and the beach is being improved.

Independence was incorporated in 1885. A survey having been made

May 5, 6 and 7, by H. B. Merchant, a census was taken Oct. 21, 1885, by J. C. Taylor, showing a population of 350. A petition was accordingly presented to the court by E. S. Hotchkiss, J. C. Taylor, P. Husom, J. A. Johnson, A. W. Liver and John Sprecher. Judge A. W. Newman, on Dec. 16, 1885, granted the petition, and appointed an election. This election was held at the lumber office of E. S. Hotchkiss Jan. 22, 1886, in charge of L. E. Danuser, J. W. Runkel and E. S. Hotchkiss (clerk), and resulted in a favorable vote of 49 to 29. Officers were chosen Feb. 26, 1886 as follows: President, M. Mulligan; trustees, Thomas Thompson, J. C. Taylor, Edward Linse, John Sprecher, E. S. Hotchkiss and Frank Tubbs; clerk, W. B. Faulds; treasurer, George H. Markham; supervisor, J. A. Johnson; constable, Daniel Garlick; justice of the peace, B. M. Johnson; police justice, A. W. Liver.

The Independence Public Library was organized some time in 1907, under the auspices of the Wisconsin Library Commission. The first board consisted of George A. Markham (president), and Dr. C. F. Peterson (secretary), and Anton Senty. When the village hall was built, provision was made for a library, so, upon organization of the board, \$500 appropriated by the board was wisely spent in buying books, and the library opened, with Edna Elstad as librarian. The village appropriates some \$200 or \$300 annually, and the library is open three evenings a week, in charge of Mrs. Minnie Cole and daughter, Sadie Cole. The present board consists of Dr. C. F. Peterson (chairman), Mrs. George A. Markham (secretary), and Mrs. E. E. Runkel.

The first village hall was a two-story wooden building, purchased from John Sprecher June 21, 1886. Later the need of a larger and modern building was apparent, and accordingly on May 5, 1902, the village voted bonds of \$8,000 for a village hall and electric light system, the vote being a close one of 98 to 79. The hall is a slightly, two-story building fully adequate for all purposes. It houses the public library, the council chambers, the fire apparatus, the jail and the opera house. A splendid clock adorns the stately tower of the building. The hall was partly demolished by the cyclone of 1903 and was not completely rebuilt until 1906. In 1903 the electric light system was installed, separate bonds having been voted.

The village has an excellent system of waterworks and sewer, consisting of six wells, a pumping station, and a reservoir at the top of the neighboring bluff. The elevation of 176 feet gives adequate fire protection for all needs, a volunteer fire department being well equipped with all necessary apparatus. The first waterworks consisted of wrought iron mains covering about three blocks, and a pump which the village put in at the mill. Water was obtained from the pond. This system was inaugurated in 1886. In 1895 the system was extended, an artesian well drilled and a reservoir built. In 1898 a shallow filtration well was dug.

On June 22, 1909, a special election was held to determine the issuing of bonds for putting in a complete sewer and water system. The proposition was rejected by a vote of 65 to 54. But in the meantime, the old system was condemned by the State Board of Health and on April 25, 1911, sewer and waterworks bonds were authorized by a vote of 93 to 37.

A system of street grades was established Aug. 5, 1908. Oct. 20, 1915, the village voted \$1,000 tax for highway purposes, and with this beginning some 12,000 square yards of petrified brick have been laid. There are also some two miles of limestone macadam in the village limits. Two miles are macadamized west to New City, a short link being missing. South, the macadam extends a mile. North the macadam extends up Elk Creek four miles, one mile being in the village and three in the township. In 1916 the business men subscribed \$1,000 to help build a macadam road east from the road to the town limits of Lincoln. The permanent street improvements for the two years cost the village \$2,500 without creating any bonded indebtedness.

The new High school building, erected at a cost of some \$40,000, is one of the finest in the state, and is constructed along the latest improved lines. It was first occupied in January, 1916. The building is of brick. It is excellently equipped, and surrounded by spacious grounds. Aside from the usual graded and High school studies, there are special courses in domestic science, agriculture and the manual arts. The school history of Independence is a most interesting one. The district was organized in July, 1876. In the fall, school was opened in Taylor's Hall. A storehouse on Adams street was next used. In 1880, a brick schoolhouse was erected on a tract of land donated by D. M. Kelley, the village proprietor. Two additions were later erected. In 1914, the agitation for a new schoolhouse was started, and a bitter controversy ensued, resulting finally, however, in the decision to build the new structure. Frank Tubbs and B. L. Hutchins, who had just platted a new addition, made the village what was considered an excellent offer of 24 lots, most of them 50 by 120 feet, on the most advantageous terms. A committee was appointed, consisting of John A. Markham, August A. Mish, John F. Kulig, Frank A. Hotchkiss, C. J. Peterson, H. O. Carthus and Peter C. Schrock, to consider suitable plans. The committee decided upon the present model, and the decision has since met with general favor. The old school is still used for several phases of the school work, the original donor not having yet cancelled the clause in his dedication of the property, which provided for the revision of the property to him in case its use for school purposes would be abandoned.

Independence had its beginning in 1876, and received its name from the fact that the Centennial celebration of American Independence fell on that year. The agitation for a village at this point started in 1873, when it became certain that the Green Bay & Lake Pepin, now the Green Bay & Western, was to build a railroad down Trempealeau Valley, and a proposition was made that the town of Burnside aid the company by voting bonds of \$20,000. But at a special election held for that purpose, May 3, 1873, the result was 9 for and 93 against the proposition, with one vote deficient.

During the summer of 1873 the question of a depot was strongly agitated. The railroad agreed to build a depot in the town if given a bonus of \$5,000, and a special election was held Nov. 10 to vote on the question of granting bonds to that amount. The vote stood 29 for and 53 against. The vote resulted from the agitation over the location of the depot rather than from opposition to voting the bonds. At that time the present town

of Chimney Rock was a part of Burnside. Those living in the north part of the town wanted the depot on the northeast side of Elk Creek, while those in the southern part of the town wanted the depot about a mile south of Elk Creek at New City.

New City was quite a flourishing hamlet. It had been started about 1869, when Elliott J. Carpenter came to the mouth of Travis Creek and constructed a dam and a mill, also opening a small store. He was followed by Michael Fugina, who opened a store and saloon, and by Peter Eichman, who opened a tavern and saloon. Henry Gibson opened a small store and was appointed postmaster. Carpenter sold the mill to Albert Bautch and Gibson sold his store to David Garlick, who succeeded him as postmaster.

A man named Fancher had a blacksmith shop there, also.

At the Corners, half way between New City and the present site of Independence, Ed Gorton erected a store, and across the road from him, Ernest Walthers erected a small tavern and saloon.

In the fall of 1875 the question of a depot was again strongly agitated. J. C. Noteman, at that time station agent at Dodge, took up the matter with the officers of the railroad with the result that the railroad agreed that if the people would raise \$5,000 by subscription, giving their notes for that amount, the request would be granted. It was finally agreed that the depot was to be located between Elk and Travis Creek, and that George H. Markham was to hold the notes until the railroad company should fulfil its part of the contract. If the railroad failed to build the depot the notes were to be returned to the makers. The full amount was subscribed, and the depot was erected at its present site in the spring of 1876.

At this time the present site of the village was a wheat field, operated by Lawrence Pampuch. David M. Kelly secured a tract of land here, and on May 13, 1876, had John Stewart lay out a town. The letter which Mr. Kelly wrote to George H. Markham, thanking him for his hospitality at that time, is now preserved by the Trempealeau County Historical Society. Lots in Independence were offered for sale on May 25, the first to purchase being David Garlick, Edward Elstad and J. C. Taylor.

Then came an influx from New City, Gorton, Walthers, Fugina and Garlick all moving in. Gorton moved his stone building to the southeast corner of block 2, at the corner of Third and Washington streets. Walthers moved his tavern building to lot 6, block 1, on the east side of Second street, between Washington and Adams streets. This building is now occupied by the Farmers & Merchants Bank. Later, north of this building, Walthers erected a large structure, with rooms for a saloon and store on the first floor, and with a public hall on the second floor. This hall was the social center of Independence for many years. Fugina moved his store to the northwest corner of block 2, at the corner of Third and Adams streets. Later he erected another building to the east. Garlick erected a building east of the Fugina buildings, on the south side of Adams street, between Second and Third streets. In the lower front room of this place he kept the post office and a small store. Mrs. Garlick was the first lady to take up her residence in the village.

J. C. Taylor erected a drug store at the southeast corner of block 1, on

First street, between Washington and Adams streets. Block 1 was irregularly shaped, the southeast corner being cut off. When Mr. Taylor's building burned, he succeeded in having the village abandon a part of the alley, so that the present building covers what was originally the alley south of his first building.

Cyrus J. Lambert and O. P. Larson opened a store in the Walthers building, and also started buying grain. Later this firm erected a large building on the southeast corner of block 2, at the corner of Second and Washington streets, the present location of the Lambert Brothers, who now conduct a general store as the successors of their father, Benjamin F. Lambert, who entered business here April 9, 1879.

E. H. Warner erected a hardware store on the north side of block 2, between Second and Third streets. The history of this store is most interesting. Christ Meuli bought the store in 1877, and A. W. Liver entered his employ. Meuli later took in L. F. Danuser as a partner, and the company became Meuli & Danuser. Then Meuli sold to Ferdinand Horst and the firm became Danuser & Horst. In the meantime, since 1883, A. W. Liver has been conducting a place of his own. In 1888 he bought out Horst and the firm became Danuser & Liver. In 1894 Christ Torgerson bought out Danuser and the firm has since been Liver & Torgerson. The Lang Brothers opened a harness shop on the present site of Paul Sura's place of business on the west side of Second street. Nick Theisen opened a shoe shop on Washington street. Later he erected a brick building and moved into it.

Ira Smith opened a lumber yard for White & Emery, on the site of the present lumber yard. The same year Artemus Emery himself came and took charge. Years later he sold to E. S. Hotchkiss. George Hiles opened a lumber yard and sent George Hibbard here to conduct it. The Payne Lumber Company, of Oshkosh, opened a lumber yard where the present stock-yards are located. Charles Hallenbeck was the general manager of the Payne interests in this region, but confined his attentions largely to Arcadia, while Charles E. Davis conducted the yard here. J. C. Noteman was the first station agent and the first elevator man. Giles Cripps, Noah Comstock and Mr. Noteman erected a warehouse, the one now used by John Sprecher & Son. For several years all the grain bought in Independence by the different firms went through this warehouse. Noteman lived in the station until his home was completed. John Sprecher came here as the representative of Krumdick & Muir, implement dealers and grain buyers, of Arcadia, where he previously worked. In 1878 he bought out Krumdick, and a year later bought out Muir. In 1897 Mr. Sprecher sold a half interest of the implement business to William Steiner, and the firm became Sprecher & Steiner. In 1897 Mr. Sprecher sold his remaining interest to Mr. Steiner. He still retains his grain business under the name of John Sprecher & son. Nathaniel Nichols, a lawyer, came over from New City. Dr. W. R. Allison located here, and Drs. Lewis and Brandt, of Arcadia, opened a branch office here, Dr. Brandt attending to most of the practice.

J. W. McKay opened a hotel on the south side of Washington street, across from Gorton's store, which he called the Tremont House. While

the building was being erected he had kept boarders in a nearby shack. The following year he sold to William R. Trumbull, who put on an addition, and changed the name to the Trumbull House. Later the name was changed to the Welcome House.

Edward Elstad built a saloon about the middle of the south side of block 2, on Washington street, between Second and Third streets. Later he erected a store where the firm of Elstad Brothers was established. Hans Melgard opened a saloon at the northeast corner of block 2, at the corner of Second and Adams, where the Sura garage is now located. Andrew Anderson opened a saloon east of the Walthers building on the south side of Adams street, between First and Second streets. Eugene Webster opened a livery on the west side of Second street, where the warehouse addition to the Lambert Brothers' store is now located. West Snow opened a livery east of the Tremont House.

Thus the business of the village started. In addition to the places of business many residences have been put up. Among them were two buildings north of the present business section, which were intended as hotels. The main road then skirted the foot of the hills west of the village, and crossing Elk Creek, continued eastward along the present road to Whitehall. But this route was soon abandoned for one passing through the center of the village and the hotels were never opened as such.

In 1877 a number of important enterprises were started. S. M. Newton erected the dam and mill at a cost of about \$22,000. Later this mill came into possession of Noah Comstock and James Gaveney, of Arcadia, bought the mill and controlled it the remainder of their lives. Ira Smith put up the Merchants Hotel at the foot of Washington street. Previously he had operated a small hotel on the north side of Washington street, just north of the present Lambert Brothers' store. John W. Runkle started a furniture store and undertaking establishment. It was this year that Artemas Emery erected the residence south of the tract which has since been a landmark.

The village gradually grew, the business section stretching from the depot north and west. The residence section stretches north and west of the business section west of the artificial lake, north from the bridge east of the lake, and south and west of the depot.

Blair

The village of Blair is one of the best shipping towns of its size in the state. The village has about 500 people within its borders, but there are twenty families living just outside the corporate limits in the town of Preston.

It is situated in the east central part of the county and is surrounded by some excellent stock farms. The farmers are enterprising and a big majority of them have fine herds of full-blooded stock.

Blair can well feel proud of its municipal improvements. The electric light and waterworks systems are municipally owned and the power for operation is both water and steam. The main streets are macadamized and it has recently purchased a large market square.

There is a credited High school, two large Lutheran churches and a Baptist church; a large village hall; two banks; a newspaper; a flour mill; a creamery, and the usual stores, garages and other places of business.

In 1894 an application was made to the circuit court for Trempealeau county for incorporation. The territory embraced was the southeast quarter and south half of the northeast quarter of 16-21-7, and comprised 241.68 acres. The application was signed by E. L. Immell, T. I. Gilbert, L. S. Fenny, G. A. Slye, J. W. Dalton, J. E. Mayer, Ole O. Moe, H. Thorsgaard, J. O. Gilbert, J. Leasum and E. O. Gilfillan. The survey was made by Geo. M. Adams. The census, taken by Oscar T. Gilbert, gave the proposed village 324 residents. The judgment was entered on September 6, by O. B. Wyman, circuit judge, and a vote was taken on October 16, which resulted as follows: 50 for incorporation and 43 against.

At the first village election held on October 30, 1894, the following officers were chosen: Village president, M. A. Peterson; trustees, E. Bergseng, J. E. Thorstad, Lars Hanson, H. Knutson, O. H. Benrud, C. O. Hanson; supervisor, Morris Hanson; clerk, S. H. Neperud; treasurer, H. T. Thompson; marshal, W. H. Welch; justices of the peace, O. A. Brekke, H. N. Halvorson; police justice, F. M. Immell; constable, Lars Hanson. The question of issuing corporate bonds in the sum of \$3,000 for the purpose of constructing a waterworks system for the village was submitted to the electors at a special election held May 28, 1898. There were 68 votes cast, of which 64 favored the proposition and 4 opposed.

The electric light system was constructed through private subscription together with moneys in the general fund, the village having been bonded almost to the constitutional limitation. The lights were installed in the early part of 1901, and the shares owned by the individuals were gradually taken over by the village in the following five years.

On Sept. 8, 1911, an election was held for the purpose of authorizing the village board to borrow \$10,000 from the trust funds for building a village hall. At the election there were 45 in favor and 39 against. The matter was protested before the trust board and the loan held up until the middle of the year 1913, when it was granted. On August 29 of that year the village board let the contract for its construction for the sum of \$11,850, and the building was completed and opened for use in February, 1914.

A movement was made in the spring of 1917 for the extension of the corporate limits of the village so as to include a number of families of the town of Preston, living east of Blair, but the proposition was defeated by a vote of the people.

There is no village park, but the High school has ample grounds and the magnificent grove of Thomas Hogan near the banks of the Trempealeau is used for picnic and recreation purposes.

Following is a list of the present officers of the village: President, J. O. Knutson; trustees, A. E. Bratland, E. C. Hanson, A. L. Thompson, A. S. Fenney, G. W. Metzgar, E. L. Immell; village clerk, A. J. Sather; treasurer, O. B. Borsheim; assessor, C. O. Grinde; supervisor, K. S. Knutson; justice

of the peace, K. H. Skaar; police justice, Ebert Olson; constable and marshal, Sid Jacques.

The vicinity of what is now the village of Blair was a center of travel long before the railroad was projected through Trempealeau Valley. From further down the main valley, from many a vale and cooley, and from over the ridges, came the travel into the older Jackson County region, especially to Merrilan, where the pioneers of the eastern Trempealeau County sold their wheat and where they secured lumber to build their houses and barns. One of the principal routes came up from Bear Creek over the ridge, led north through Reynolds Cooley, joined the Trempealeau Valley road as at present, just west of what is now the Ettrick & Northern right-of-way, ran east on the section line a quarter of a mile, turned north on the dividing line of section 16, past what is now the United Lutheran church, thence across the Trempealeau River on a bridge some distance west from what is now the mill bridge, and then eastward up the Trempealeau Valley, north of the river.

A few rods west of where the Reynolds Cooley road joins the main road, lived Martin Hanson. Just north of the north end of the Reynolds Cooley road lived Carl O. Strum. This farm was a famous stopping place, where the settlers arriving in the evening on their return journey from Merrilan, found it convenient to rest before undertaking the slow and toilsome trip over the ridge. Many a night found the house filled to overflowing with drivers and the barns and yard crowded with teams and vehicles. Just east of where the Reynolds Cooley road joins the main road, T. I. Gilbert, about 1870, opened a small store, moving to that location from Mound Spring, four miles east. Ole Strum lived a short distance south of what is now the United Lutheran church. On the east edge of what is now the village was the house of Duke Porter, while his mother and her family lived still further east. North of the river, west of where the road after crossing the bridge, turned east toward Jackson county, was the South Bend postoffice at the home of Ebenezer Thurston, "Yankee" Thurston, as he was called by his foreign-born neighbors.

Early in 1873, the railroad being assured, and a station at this point having already been decided upon, John Van Ness, Orrin Van Ness and Henry Thorsgaard came over the ridge from Ettrick and selected on the snow-covered flats the location for a mill. These men had all been actively interested in the milling industry in western Wisconsin for several years, and at the time of this trip, Mr. Thorsgaard was employed by John Van Ness in the mill which Orrin Van Ness had built at Ettrick, Orrin Van Ness himself being in charge of a mill near West Salem. Mr. Thorsgaard became the active factor in the Blair mill and in a few years bought out the Van Ness interests. He rebuilt the mill after it was burned in 1880, sold it in 1883, and is now actively engaged in the grain business.

As soon as the snow was off the ground in the spring of 1873, active operations were commenced. Two forty-acre tracts were purchased from Ebenezer Thurston for a mill and pond, lumber was hauled from Merrilan, and men put to work on the dam, the mill, the bridge and a dwelling for Mr. Thorsgaard. At the same time the tracks for the railroad were being

laid, and every farmhouse along the line was crowded with workmen. While the work was in progress, a farmer named John Thinbacken broke through the old bridge with a yoke of oxen, and the mill bridge received all the traffic. Soon afterward a road was established from the mill south to the main highway.

The depot was erected not far from the mill. Two warehouses and a lumber yard were opened in the same neighborhood. The business center developed on higher ground several blocks south of the mill. Even Berseng opened a hotel, the first business establishment in the new village. Three years later an addition was built. This hotel was an important feature in the village life until it burned in 1916. In the hall on the second floor were held dances, public meetings and theatrical entertainments, and many an entertainer since famous played behind its oil footlights in the seventies and eighties.

Some time during the summer of 1873, T. I. Gilbert & Co. moved from Strum's Corners to the new site, and within a short time other places of business had started, including C. C. Hanson's general store, John E. Johnson's hardware store and John Hanson's drug store.

In the meantime Ebenezer Thurston had given forty acres to the railroad, and on a part of the Porter estate, Duke Porter had platted a village which he called Porterville. The Hiles & Ketchum plat of Blair, the railroad plat, was filed April 16, 1877. Later the land was the subject of considerable litigation, and the title to some of the best land in the village remained long in dispute, some of the railroad officials claiming that the plat belonged to them personally instead of to the railroad as a company.

In 1891 the business section of the village was entirely wiped out by fire. The conflagration took place at about noon on July 27, and rapidly destroyed several blocks, leaving on the east and west a blacksmith shop, on the north the hotel, and nothing else but blackened ruins.

Undaunted the citizens started to make plans for rebuilding. For a time there was considerable talk of remodeling the village plat and establishing a public square around which the business houses would be grouped, but the owners were unable to agree upon a satisfactory plan, for the stores were eventually rebuilt on their former sites.

Eleva

Eleva is a popular trading center in the northern part of the county on the Mondovi branch of the Omaha. It is located on the north bank of the Beef River, and is intersected by the Big Creek. Trout Creek comes in from the south a short distance east. The mill pond is north of the village. The business section is west of the creek, while the area east of the creek is, except for the creamery entirely devoted to residences.

The churches are of the Norwegian Lutheran and Methodist Episcopal faith. The slightly brick school building of four rooms covers twelve grades of school study.

The bank, mill and creamery, the two elevators and a lumber yard are in flourishing condition, and the usual business houses are well patronized.

A private park consisting of a two-acre grove east of the mill pond furnishes health and recreation.

The electric light service was inaugurated in December, 1914. The village furnished the plant and Henry Ruseling erected the building. The power is furnished from the Ruseling mill.

Eleva was incorporated in 1902. November 29, 1901, Alex A. Arnold made the survey under the direction of N. I. Gilbert, M. C. Whipple, Even Bratberg, A. C. Danuser, Ole Halverson, F. J. Hartman and F. E. Brown. The next day, F. J. Hartman took the census and found a population of 314 persons. A petition was duly presented to the court by N. E. Bersing, Ole Halverson, Even Bratberg, O. A. Breakey, Ole Vold, A. C. Danuser, F. J. Hartman, J. Vold, J. B. Rice, E. S. Englesby, H. H. McNish, F. E. Brown, K. Jenson, N. Gregerson, N. B. Nelson, Carl Voss, Peter Steen, N. I. Gilbert, A. P. Davis, Wm. Jackson, Martin Olson and C. H. Elkinton. The court granted the petition January 14, 1902, and ordered an election to be held February 11, 1902. The election resulted in 53 votes for the proposition and 11 against it.

The first election of officers was held March 11, 1902, and resulted as follows: President, F. J. Hartman; trustees, N. Gregerson, Andrew Olson, F. E. Brown, Ole Vold, K. Jenson and William Cleasby; clerk, G. H. Snoyenbos; treasurer, N. E. Bersing; assessor, Sever Nicholson; supervisor, Henry Ruseling; constable, A. C. Danuser; police justice, N. I. Gilbert; justice of the peace, H. H. McNish and F. Mason.

Situated on the broad flats of the Beef River Valley, Eleva, like nearly all the other villages of Trempealeau County, is situated at a natural center of travel. A long stretch of the Beef River Valley, and the fertile expanses of Big Creek and Trout Creek are immediately tributary to it. Through this point in the early days, passed the stage lines from Fairchild to Mondovi, and from Eau Claire to Independence and Whitehall in the Trempealeau Valley.

In this locality, probably about 1876, Philo Englesby erected a hotel on a small hill overlooking Big Creek, the present site of the home of H. H. McNish. Jan. 20, 1877, Geo. O. Babcock platted the village on land of E. J. Carpenter and R. P. Goddard. About this time Mr. Carpenter built the dam and the grist mill, since replaced by the mill of Henry Ruseling. Mr. Goddard put up a store on what is now the northwest corner of Main and Mondovi streets, the present site of the Fogland Brothers' store. In his store the postoffice was kept. In the year that followed, a number of business houses went up. John Redfield put up a blacksmith shop. A. C. Hal-langer built a large store, Knute Jenson a blacksmith shop, Martin Olson a hardware store, W. W. Wyman a drug store, Thomas Olson a confectionery store, Ole Halverson a meat shop, Henry Moxen and John Cook a boarding house. The Methodist church was also erected.

The railroad came through late in 1889, and on Dec. 13, 1889, an excursion was given to celebrate the installation of the first passenger service. The first mail arrived by train Feb. 18, 1890.

Dec. 30, 1889, Henry Ruseling, who owned a mill there, shipped the

first load of flour sent on the railroad, and Gilbert & Hallanger shipped the first load of stock and grain.

At that time, as at present, the center of the village was at the intersection of Mondovi and Main streets. The arrival of the railroad brought several additions to the business life of the village. Gilbert and Hallanger put up an elevator, an outside concern put up another elevator, N. C. Foster opened a lumber yard, and Knute Jenson and David Odell opened hotels.

Osseo

Osseo is a thriving village on the Mondovi line of the Omaha. Its business section parallels the Beef River, and a dam provides a pretty artificial lake for bathing and boating. The residences are sightly and commodious, and reflect in their architecture and surroundings the New England country from which many of the pioneers hailed.

The principal municipal improvement is the beautiful and thoroughly modern high school completed in the spring of 1917 at a cost of about \$35,000. Electric lights have been furnished for several years by the Lee & Son mill. The old schoolhouse has been refurnished and refitted as a village hall.

The chief industries consist of the mill at the village, the mill a short-distance away, a cheese factory and a creamery. Two banks and a newspaper are in a flourishing condition.

Osseo was not materially affected by the arrival of the railroad. Started in the fifties (see account of H. Hyslop elsewhere in this work), the village on June 20, 1887, when the railroad was completed, was already a flourishing hamlet, and the business houses were but little changed by the introduction of railroad transportation.

Among the business industries at that time were the Osseo and Sumner mills, the general stores operated by F. E. Field & Co. and C. H. Shores & Co., drug stores operated by Dr. A. L. Wooster and Hotchkiss (E. S.) & Bewell (George); blacksmith and wagon shop operated by John O. Christenson & Co., and blacksmith and machine works by Errick Nelson & Co.

To this list, D. L. Remington adds: J. H. McKenney, hotel and meat market; Fred Smith, harness shop; Valorus Campbell, livery; Montgomery Reynolds, photographer; J. Huntington, hardware, and Matt Johnson, shoemaker. E. J. Matchett adds to the original list: Anderson Brothers, general store; Hewett & Foster, hardware; Smith Brothers, hardware; William Henry, cheese factory; Hiram Field, dealer in stock and horses, Arthur Gates, dealer in machinery, and the Osseo Creamery Co.

An important part of the business section was destroyed by fire on May 29, 1891, but was at once rebuilt with larger and better buildings.

Osseo was platted in September, 1857, by J. E. Irish, county surveyor of Richland County, on land of W. A. Woodward, A. McCorkle, Caroline E. Sexton and Willard H. Thomas. It embraced 116 blocks of 8 lots each, many of which have since been abandoned.

The village was incorporated in 1893. A survey having been made Feb. 23, 1893 by Thomas G. Cox, a census was taken July 3, 1893, by A. C. Gates and E. A. Olson, resulting in a numbering of 305 persons. Aug. 31, 1893, a petition was signed by E. J. Matchett, F. A. Smith, C. H. Shores, A.

C. Gates, A. L. Wooster, George F. Newell and E. A. Olson, M. D., asking for the incorporation of the village. The petition was granted by the district court Sept. 4, 1893, and E. J. Matchett, Dr. E. A. Olson and George F. Newell appointed inspectors of election. The election, duly held on Oct. 9, 1893, resulted in a vote of 33 to 8 in favor of the proposition.

The first election of officers was held Nov. 2, 1893, and resulted as follows: President, Dr. E. A. Olson; trustees, W. K. Lewis, J. H. LeBarron, C. H. Shores, F. M. Smith, Thomas Fox and James McIntyre; treasurer, George Newell; clerk, J. W. Smith; supervisor, E. J. Matchett (J. H. McKenny, who was tied, lost on a drawing of cuts); constable, A. H. Rogers; police justice, A. C. Gates.

About the year 1859, the first school in Osseo was held in the house now occupied by Eric Nelson; at that time it was owned by W. H. Thomas, who used the front part of the building as a general store, and in the rear were rooms used as a dwelling and occupied by Mrs. Buckley, later better known as Mrs. Barber. In one of these rooms school was held and taught by her. There were only four pupils at that time, consisting of the two daughters of W. H. Thomas, now Mrs. Della Field, and Julia Shores, and Kate and Fannie, daughters of Dennis Lawler.

Later school was held in the barroom of a hotel erected by Mr. Thomas on the spot where Bert Humes' blacksmith shop now stands, and still later in an old building located just north of the church where Mr. Horgan's house has since been erected.

As the children grew in number it was deemed necessary to build a schoolhouse, which was done in 1860. It was a one-room building and located on the site as the present graded school building.

As years passed the number of pupils outgrew the capacity of this building and it was moved across the street where it still stands and is known as the Town Hall, being occupied by the Sixth and Seventh grades, taught by Miss Mabel Hagen. A two-story frame building was erected in its place in 1881. Miss Nettie Tracy, now Mrs. Nettie Jones, was the first teacher and for six weeks had charge of all the pupils in the district, then numbering 59, as the upper room was not completed at the beginning of the school year.

Malcolm McPhail was the first teacher in this room when finished.

In October, 1881, the people voted to have a graded school and admit tuition pupils from outside the district. The result was that the number of pupils increased so rapidly that again the rooms were over-crowded and in the fall of 1892 there were 83 pupils seated in what is the lower north room of the present building, taught by Agnes Hyslop, now Mrs. A. McKenny. At Christmas time it was decided to hire another teacher and use the Town Hall. Lottie Field taught during the two months' winter term, and in the spring it was decided to use the recitation room instead of the Town Hall, and Agnes Walsh of Fairchild was hired as assistant. Frank Robinson was principal at that time.

In 1894 an addition was annexed to the south side of the schoolhouse to correspond with that on the north.

The building is surrounded by beautiful trees, planted by children and

teachers. David Isom also took great interest in the planting and caring for them.

Again the building fails to accommodate the number of pupils which have increased from 59 in 1881, to 220, and the corps of teachers from one to seven, and we are compelled to vacate its walls for one more modern and beautiful.

In 1916 the people voted to have a High school and to build a new building which is now, 1917, completed, and is a beautiful, modern, one-story brick building, known as Lincoln High school, located in the northeastern part of the village on a slightly spot known as Lincoln Hill.

It is a structure of which the village of Osseo may well be proud as it ranks as one of the best in the state.

Strum

Strum is a busy trading center in the Beef River valley on the Mondovi line of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway. Like many of the villages in Trempealeau county the village is located at a natural center of traffic and stores were in existence here long before the coming of the railroad.

The pioneer merchant was Thomas E. Holden, who came here about 1884 and erected a small store north of the river, and just west of where the road turns east toward Osseo. About 1885 came Ole Kittleson. He opened a store north of the river a few rods east of Holden's store. Situated as he was in the western part of the Unity township, he received considerable trade from that town and from Albion as well. In connection with his store business he bought home-made butter, and in 1888 he and the farmers organized the Strum Creamery Association.

In 1887 the railroad reached Osseo, and plans were made for continuing the line west to Mondovi through Strum. A switch was laid at Strum in 1889. The depot was not built until 1892. An elevator and lumber yard were built near the depot.

Mr. Kittleson then moved his store to the street leading from the depot to the river, and thus established the location for the future business of the village, all the stores now being located along this street. The mill was also built on the river bank near the same street.

The growth of the village has since been steady and satisfactory. The original mill, erected by Samuel Hogue, has been replaced with a large structure several rods east of the depot. The original creamery has become the flourishing Unity Co-operative Creamery, located on the railroad right-of-way. Two slightly churches have been built, a bank with a most satisfactory amount of deposits is well housed, and the Woodman Hall furnishes an adequate place for public meetings and theatrical entertainments. The school, first occupied in 1914, is a subject of considerable pride to the citizens, and furnishes excellent instruction in the usual grade studies.

The fire of Christmas, 1915, which swept the east side of the principal street, did not retard the growth of the village, but rather gave it new life, for a number of larger and substantial business houses soon replaced those destroyed.

Although Strum is one of the youngest villages in the county, none of the first settlers are now here, and in the neighborhood there are but few of the pioneers of the county. But the newcomers have brought prosperity, and with the constantly increasing improvement of the farms, and the gradual development of the county highway system, the hamlet is designed to be a point of still greater importance.

Ettrick

Ettrick is the terminus of the new Ettrick & Northern railroad, and evidences of the prosperity and growth which is to follow the opening of that line is already seen. Outside companies are purchasing building lots, and many new business houses are being projected. At the present time the village has a creamery, a flour mill, a woolen mill, and a new bank and hotel.

It is situated in the valley of the Beaver Creek in the midst of one of the finest farming regions in western Wisconsin.

Ettrick had its beginning in 1870, when Iver Pederson came over from Frenchville, and erected a store here. Later the dam was put in, the two mills built and the creamery started. Gradually a small village grew up at the point. June 20, 1877, the village was platted by Alfred P. Ford on land of James Corcoran, P. J. Huff, Iver Knudson, Hans Christianson and Iver Pederson.

Dodge

Dodge Village is located at a point which has been a center of traffic since the earliest days. Just above the present village was the old Indian ford over the Trempealeau River. At the same ford, was the crossing of the old stage line from Fountain City to Arcadia and Trempealeau. The railroad came through in 1873, the village was platted Feb. 20, 1874, on land of August Bambenek, and business started that year. Nick Lehrback opened the first store. Fred Hoesley opened the first hotel and restaurant John Noteman, the first grain buyer, was also the first station agent. The first blacksmith was James Tandutschy. The village is not incorporated, but is a busy trading center, and is located in a region of fertile farms and rich farmers. It has a good bank and creamery and several good stores.

Pigeon Creek

Pigeon Creek is the trading center of Pigeon Valley. It is the only village of any importance in the county, aside from Ettrick, not supplied with railroad service. The village was started in 1867 when Cyrus H. Hine purchased a tract of land from George Hale and erected a mill. Shortly afterward Johnson & Olson put up a store. Peter Ekern came here in 1875, purchased the mill and store, and established the varied activities of the place. The estate now owns a large store, the creamery and the mill. In addition to this there are a number of other stores. There are likewise two churches. Good roads extend in various directions, and the village is a most attractive little hamlet with many advantages.

Trempealeau

Trempealeau is located in the southern part of the county, and spreads along the banks of the Mississippi under the shadows of the overhanging bluffs and back a mile across the prairie to the depot of the Northwestern Railroad, which with the Burlington supplies its railroad service.

The story of the village since its settlement in 1842 has already been told.

Trempealeau now has a village hall, electric light service, a village park, a bank, a newspaper, a public library, and several elevators.

The shipments are farm products, fish and lime.

The present organization of the village dates from March 10, 1900, when the old pioneer village government was reincorporated along modern lines.

CHAPTER XII

NEWSPAPERS

Seven newspapers cover the journalistic field in Trempealeau County. The Whitehall Times-Banner traces its history directly to the Galesville Transcript, founded in 1860, and indirectly to the Trempealeau Times, issued in 1858. The Arcadia Leader dates back to the Trempealeau County Republican established at Trempealeau in 1873. The Galesville Republican, itself established in 1897, has absorbed the Galesville Independent which was started in 1874. The Independence News-Wave had its beginning with the Independence Weekly News in 1878. The Trempealeau Herald was established in 1885. The Osseo News dates from the Osseo Recorder, established in 1890. The Blair Press was established in 1898.

For the most part, the papers of Trempealeau County have been started as commercial ventures. Support of the labor movement has been the motive underlying the establishment of at least two, and some have had the prohibition cause as their sponsors. Civic pride also entered into the establishment of several of the papers, and the county seat controversies caused the inauguration or change of location of a number of the publications. Two foreign papers flourished for a while.

The first paper published in the county was the Trempealeau Times, issued in the spring of 1858 by Charles and Francis A. Utter, who had brought type and a printing press from Elkhorn, Wis., and got out four issues for the purpose of publishing the Buffalo County tax list.

The printing material was used in the publication of the Trempealeau Banner, established Oct. 8, 1858, by J. Ketchum Averill. Averill remained in Trempealeau a short time and then went to Tomah, where he established the Tomah Chief.

The Utters, who still held a mortgage on the plant, foreclosed and sold out, a portion being taken to Galesville for the printing of the Galesville Transcript. The Transcript was the most notable paper ever issued in Trempealeau County. Fortunately its early files have been preserved. A bound volume of the first two years is in the possession of the Trempealeau County Historical Society. The same society, and also Bert Gipple of the Galesville Republican, are in possession of a large number of unbound issues. "Devoted to home improvements," the paper made its first appearance March 16, 1860, with Samuel S. Luce as editor. An important feature was the department of "Law Intelligence," giving in full the proceedings of the Circuit Court of the district. George Gale was the corresponding editor. The paper contains many historical and literary contributions, and was remarkable for the quality of its contributions. Charles A. Leith succeeded Judge Gale as part owner of the paper. In October, 1865, Leith and H. R. Gale became the owners. It continued in Galesville until November,

1867, when Leith and A. F. Booth, who had purchased an interest, caused its removal to Trempealeau, where it was published under the name of Trempealeau County Record. In August, 1869, Mr. Leith sold his interest in the paper to his partner, Mr. Booth. For a short time A. Atwood was a partner and A. W. Newman editor. Then T. D. Stone purchased a half interest. In January, 1873, Stone and Booth disposed of the paper, the printing materials being taken to Madison to print the Wisconsin Good Templar, and the good will going to Geo. S. Luce, who merged the paper in the Galesville Journal under the title of Journal and Record. He continued to print a column or more of Trempealeau news. Geo. S. Luce sold the Journal and Record in August, 1874, to B. E. Clark, who removed the paper to Whitehall under the name of Trempealeau County Messenger. A committee of citizens under the name of the Whitehall Printing Association took over the paper in June, 1875, and placed Dan A. Camp in the editor's chair. Geo. Eads bought the paper in September, 1876, and in July, 1878, sold to F. B. Wagner, who in September, 1879, sold to B. F. Wing and Dan Camp. In January, 1880, the Messenger (which name it retained as a sub-title until January, 1882), was purchased by Fred E. Beach and the name changed to the Whitehall Times, Camp still being retained as editor. In December, 1880, J. B. Beach became a partner and in 1887 the sole owner. Nov. 5, 1891, the Blair department of the paper had developed to the extent that the paper appeared with the caption, "Whitehall Times and Blair Banner." Jan. 27, 1916, the title Whitehall Times-Banner was adopted. After the death of J. B. Beach in 1915 the paper was leased by Fred E. and Z. T. Beach.

The Trempealeau Representative was founded in August, 1859, and was conducted by Francis W. Newland and S. D. Hastings, until suspended in 1861.

The Galesville Journal was established in May, 1870, by Geo. S. Luce, with J. H. Powers as a partner. Powers sold his interest to H. L. Bunn in May, 1871, Bunn to H. F. Burt in February, 1873, and Burt in June, 1873, to his partner Luce, who thus became the sole owner. Julius C. Chandler was employed as editor from January to April, 1871, and Samuel S. Luce from April, 1871, to May, 1872. In January, 1873, upon the absorption of the Trempealeau County Record, the paper became the Journal and Record.

The Trempealeau County Republican was established in March, 1873, by Charles A. Leith at Trempealeau. In July, 1875, ——— Hackston and C. E. Hollenbeck started the Arcadia Leader. In April, 1876, Mr. Hackston sold to Noah D. Comstock and the firm became C. E. Hollenbeck & Co. A year later Mr. Comstock assumed the entire ownership. Later in 1877 the Trempealeau County Republican and the Arcadia Leader were combined and issued at Arcadia, Mr. Leith being the editor and Mr. Comstock the corresponding editor. H. F. Pond had charge of the Trempealeau department. During January, 1881, the name was shortened to Republican Leader of Trempealeau County, and was next styled the Arcadia Republican and Leader. Following Mr. Leith the editors were: F. F. and E. A. Morgan, January to May, 1884; F. F. Morgan, May, 1884, to January, 1887;

Morgan and Truman F. Ball, three months; Ball alone, March, 1887, to June, 1888; George Z. Heuston, six months; George and Leonard Mathys, 1889. The Mathys Brothers changed the politics from Republican to Democratic, and in January, 1890, shortened the name to Arcadia Leader. Then came George Mathys and J. G. Faulds, January, 1890, to July, 1891; Faulds and A. J. Cowie, July, 1891, to August, 1893; Faulds alone until February, 1894; Peter J. and L. G. Barth till April, 1896; Peter Barth, April, 1896, to November, 1902 (except March to June, 1901, by W. G. Cameron); John Maloney and Henry F. Theuver, November, 1902, January, 1904, when it was sold to Albert Hess, who conducted it alone until Jan. 15, 1914, since when Christ Fuoter associated himself with Mr. Hess as business manager.

The Galesville Independent was established in October, 1874, by the Galesville Printing Association, and was edited by Cunningham and Luce till October, 1875; by W. M. Doty, November, 1875, to March, 1877, and by S. S. Luce till May, 1881. It was then purchased by Luce and his son, W. S.; conducted by them till 1889. Afterward came T. F. Ball, succeeded by Frank Huntley and then by H. L. Vandervort, who sold the paper to W. A. Tower in January, 1895. Tower was publisher till 1898, when he sold to Bunsen Brothers, who conducted the paper until 1907, when it was sold to Richard E. Smith and Carl C. Gwynne. In 1908 it was absorbed by the Galesville Republican.

Newton P. Tucker established a small paper called the Free Press in 1878 at Trempealeau, where it was published for about one year, when its materials were removed to Galesville for the purpose of setting up the Trempealeau County Democrat. A year later the Trempealeau County Democrat was removed to Arcadia, where it was suspended in the fall of 1880.

The Galesville Republican is the outgrowth of a small job printing plant established by Bert A. Gipple in February, 1897. Mr. Gipple entered the office of the Galesville Independent as an apprentice in 1890 and was with that paper much of the time during the seven years following. He sought to lease or purchase the Independent plant in 1896, but was unsuccessful, and the job shop was the outcome of the movement. The first issue of The Republican appeared in September, 1897. It was a four-column quarto, printed on a job press. The little paper found favor from the start. A few months later its form was changed to a five-column folio, all home print, and thus it continued until 1907, when larger quarters were secured and a cylinder press installed. A year later The Republican Printing Company was organized and the Galesville Independent was merged with The Republican, which was then, as now, issued as a six-column weekly, with from eight to twelve pages. From the beginning Mr. Gipple held a majority of shares of stock in the new company, and has continued as editor and manager. The Republican was launched as a Republican newspaper, but with no political backing. This was at a time before the split came in the Republican party in Wisconsin. A few years later LaFolletteism spread and political lines were drawn on this issue. The Republican has always been known as anti-LaFollette.

The Independence Weekly News was established March 9, 1878, by Geo. E. Gilkey. The Blair Bulletin was absorbed in April, 1879, and for a time the paper was called the Weekly News Bulletin, the original name, however, being soon resumed. In December, 1879, Gilkey sold to W. R. Allison, who conducted it until April, 1880, followed by H. I. Turnbull four months. Then J. R. and W. P. Faulds at intervals, alone or in partnership, owned the paper until 1888. Then came George A. Markham, who in April, 1892, united it with the Independence Wave. Since then it has been styled the Independence News-Wave. It was conducted by George A. and Ada R. Markham until the former's death in July, 1909. Since then Mrs. Markham has been the editor.

The Independence Wave was established about May, 1888, by A. A. McIntyre, and edited by George A. Markham. In March, 1889, it absorbed the Eau Claire Progress (founded October, 1887), and a few weeks later became the property of Markham, who conducted it, assisted by C. G. Simpson, April, 1889, to April, 1891; by O. G. Briggs, until January, 1892, and then by Ada R. Markham. It was united with the News April, 1892. Its politics were Prohibitionist.

The Trempealeau Gazette was founded in 1890. In that year Clarence S. Utter, who had been publishing the Sunday Morning Gazette in Winona, moved his printing outfit to Trempealeau, occupying the old Ford building, now known as the New Hotel. He published the Sunday Morning Gazette, and during the winter F. C. Utter and C. S. Ford joined him in partnership. "We had an old wooden reel press," said one of the firm, "and we used to fill the reel with sand for ballast, and when we run out the paper the machinery made as much noise as a bean thrasher." The following spring the partnership was dissolved, and the editor paid F. C. Utter and C. S. Ford a five dollar gold piece each for their share of the dividend. C. S. Utter then leased his equipment to Chas. Morrison, who ran the Gate City Review in La Crosse for a year, when Utter bought the lease and returned to Trempealeau with his outfit and revised the Gazette as a campaign sheet. But in 1894 he sold out to A. A. Gibson and brother, and they remained a year in the newspaper field, when Utter bought them out and resumed the publication of the Trempealeau Gazette. In June, 1903, Thomas Bohen bought the Gazette and published it until 1909. Then F. J. Pearson conducted the paper for a year, after which it was suspended. Shortly after Bohen bought the Gazette he opened up with virile attacks on the former owner of the paper, and in self-defense Utter soon launched the Trempealeau Tribune, thus making three newspapers running in Trempealeau at one time. The first few issues of the Tribune were type-set and printed at St. Paul and then sent here for mailing. Later Utter ran the paper with a small outfit of his own. It was suspended for a time and again picked up and run until the fall of 1904, when the outfit was destroyed by fire and the paper ceased.

The Trempealeau Herald was founded in December, 1884. Jacob Tenney conducted it as a labor organ. He sold to Cecil Stewart, a fireman on the steamboat Belle of Bellevue. Stewart knew nothing whatever about the newspaper business; moreover, lacking an education he appeared

to be sadly equipped for the new undertaking. But he secured competent assistants, and with their aid he began his career as a printer. He was an apt pupil and by applying himself under a qualified tutor he soon was able with his typo and printers' devil to turn out a good sheet. Later he held cases on the Milwaukee Sentinel and was classed as a successful printer. Elbert Newton Goodhue purchased the Trempealeau Herald in 1888 and edited the paper October, 1897, and then sold out to his sister, Aletta D. Goodhue, the present owner and publisher.

The Arcadian was established May, 1895, by E. G. Farlin. It was conducted by S. G. Wheeler from 1898 to 1900; by David Stevens from 1900 to 1907, and then moved to Beacher, Ill.

The Blair Press was started about March 1, 1878, by W. A. Asmues, who sold to Henry Russell. Simon Berseng, who was employed by Russell, next took over the paper and after conducting it for a while sold to O. B. Borsheim and Earl F. Hensel. The next owners were A. O. Likken and Sneider Stout. Then the creditors took over the paper and subsequently it was conducted by Martin Amundson and his son, Omar Amundson. A. H. York was the next proprietor. On Sept. 1, 1915, he sold to the present owner, H. C. Kirkpatrick.

The Osseo Blade. The railroad reached Osseo June 20, 1887, and on July 4 Daniel A. Camp started the Osseo Blade. Later it passed into the hands of W. C. Thomas. Henry E. Browne became the editor in 1890. The plant was burned in May, 1891, but within a few months resumed publication.

The Osseo Recorder was established about Dec. 29, 1893. In January, 1912, E. J. Matchett purchased an equity in the paper from E. E. Carpenter, who had bought it from W. S. Gilpin, but who had defaulted in his payments. Mr. Matchett changed the name to the Trempealeau County Farmer. Jan. 21, 1915, the paper was consolidated with the Osseo News.

The Osseo News was established May 3, 1912, with W. S. Gilpin as editor, and with Mr. and Mrs. Gilpin as proprietors. It absorbed the Trempealeau County Farmer, formerly the Osseo Recorder, on Jan. 21, 1915.

The Eleva Herald was published in 1915.

The International Good Templar, a sixty-page magazine devoted to the interests of Good Templary throughout the world, was founded at London, Canada, in 1888, was published at Independence from January, 1906, to January, 1909, with G. A. Markham as publisher and B. F. Parker of Milwaukee, supreme secretary of the order, as editor. In 1909, because of a change in secretary, it was moved to Glasgow, Scotland.

The Wisconsin Good Templar, a temperance paper devoted wholly to the interests of the Good Templar order in the State of Wisconsin, was established in November, 1891, and was published by George A. Markham, with Ada R. Markham as managing editor. With the death of Mr. Markham in 1909 Mrs. Markham became publisher as well as editor. The paper was suspended in 1912.

The Anzeiger was founded in December, 1899, by John Uttermoehl. He sold to Napoleon Cramolini, who in turn sold to Emil Schulze. The paper terminated with the sudden death of Mr. Schulze on Feb. 8, 1916.

Der Nord Staed, a Norwegian paper, was published in Whitehall in 1877.

The Booster was established in 1908 by Dan P. Gibson, superintendent of schools for the county, the publication being authorized by the county board and the expense being met by the county. Its purpose was educational and to furnish a better means of communication between the superintendent and the teachers and school boards. With the change in county superintendent in 1917 it has been discontinued for a time at least.

CHAPTER XIII

RAILROADS AND TELEPHONES

Trempealeau County owes much of its development to its railroads, which, crossing its northern, central and southern portions, give the best of shipping facilities within easy distance of nearly every farm, and have been the means of the upbuilding of many a thriving village. The projected line from Blair to Ettrick will tap another rich region, and give still further impetus to the agricultural life of the county.

One village, however, suffered from the coming of the railroads. Trempealeau in 1870 was a great wheat market, and its river shipping business brought to its river front the farm produce of a vast region, extending as far as fifty miles to the interior. The railroad weakened the steamboat industry, and diverted much of the agricultural produce to crossroads shipping points, while much of the shipping trade of this region was diverted to La Crosse and Winona.

Four railroads operate in Trempealeau County: the Chicago & Northwestern Railway, the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, the Green Bay & Western Railroad and the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway. A fifth, the Ettrick & Northern Railroad, is in the process of construction.

The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy crosses the southwestern part of the county, through the towns of Trempealeau and Caledonia. It has a station on the river front at Trempealeau and nearly parallels the Mississippi.

The Chicago & Northwestern also crosses the southwestern part of the county, through the towns of Trempealeau and Caledonia. It has a station at Trempealeau about half a mile back from the river front. Unlike the Burlington, it does not follow the river between Trempealeau and Winona, but extends back to the bluffs and runs along their foot. A branch line also reaches from Trempealeau to Galesville. By an agreement made a number of years ago the Green Bay uses the Northwestern tracks from La Crosse to Marshland.

The Green Bay & Western follows the valley of the Trempealeau River through the central part of the county, crossing the townships of Dodge, Arcadia, Burnside, Lincoln and Preston. Its stations in this county are at Dodge, Arcadia, Independence, Whitehall and Blair.

The Mondovi branch of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha follows the course of the Buffalo River in the northern part of the county, crossing the townships of Albion, Unity and Sumner. Its stations in this county are at Eleva, Strum and Osseo.

The Ettrick & Northern is being projected from Ettrick to Blair, a

distance of twelve miles. It has been proposed to extend the road fifty miles to Onalaska, thus making connections with La Crosse.

The project which resulted in the building of the first railroad in Trempealeau County had its beginning March 6, 1857 (Chapter 280, Private Laws of 1857), when the Wisconsin legislature granted a charter to a company called the La Crosse, Trempealeau & Prescott Railroad Company (also known as the La Crosse, Trempealeau, Lake Pepin & Prescott Railroad Company), to locate and build a line along the east bank of the Mississippi from La Crosse to Prescott, Wis., by way of Trempealeau and Fountain City. The first board of directors consisted of P. V. Wise, O. T. Maxon, T. B. Wilson, David Noggle, Charles McClure, Edmond Bishop, Henry D. Huff, Samuel D. Hastings, George Batchelder, George Gale and D. D. Cameron. With the financial crisis of that year interest in the project was allowed to lag.

But a year later the project was revived with much fervor. Winona at that time bid fair to be an important railroad point, as the eastern terminus of the Transit Railroad (now succeeded by the Chicago & Northwestern) and the Minnesota & Pacific (now succeeded by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul). La Crosse also had aspirations toward becoming a railroad center, that city being the western terminal of the La Crosse & Milwaukee (now succeeded by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul), over which through connection with the east had been established by the opening of the road Oct. 14, 1858.

Winona and La Crosse were bitter rivals. No one believed that more than one railroad would ever cross the Mississippi in this region. The Winona people believed that if they could bridge the river at that city, and connect with the Milwaukee & La Crosse at some point east of La Crosse, Winona would be a great center for the eastern and northern connections, and that La Crosse would be left at the blind end of a little used stub.

In the winter of 1858-59 three well known Winona men started out to look for a practical route from Winona to a point east of La Crosse on the recently built Milwaukee & La Crosse. At that time the people of Winona knew but little about the interior of Trempealeau County. The three men cut their way through the swamps from Altoona, now Bluff Siding, to the Trempealeau River, at what is now Marshland. Continuing southeast from that point they were overtaken by darkness and camped all night in a tract of timber, suffering severely from the cold and lack of warm food. The next morning, after eating frozen bread and meat for breakfast, they proceeded on their way, and in half an hour came out on a prairie covered with fenced fields and good farm houses. They had spent the arctic night in what they had supposed was a wild country, when in reality they were in the midst of a settled community of comfort and plenty. Continuing on their way the prospectors completed a tentative route and returned to Winona. In the spring the people of Winona, having somewhat modified their ambitions, decided to include La Crosse in their plans and made a preliminary survey of a route which is practically the present line of the Northwestern. But even with this change of heart on the part of the Winonans, the people of La Crosse did not look favorably on the

project, and threatened, if possible, to prevent the granting of a charter by the Wisconsin legislature.

Facing this opposition, the Winona people enlisted the aid of prominent Trempealeau County citizens, determined to reorganize under the old La Crosse, Trempealeau & Prescott charter. Possession of the old charter was obtained and a reorganization perfected with eleven directors, five of whom were from Trempealeau. Galesville had endeavored to be included in the route, and had prepared a line from Marshland over the prairie to that village, thus cutting Trempealeau off entirely. But their plans did not succeed. Thomas Simpson was elected president; A. W. Webster, vice-president; J. H. Newland, secretary, and Thomas E. Bennett, treasurer. The company with the aid of N. F. Hilbert as chief engineer, who was to be paid whenever the company could secure any money, started at once to survey the line, obtain the right of way and perfect other plans, in order to secure vested rights before the legislature could convene and revoke the charter.

Gradually the opposition of the La Crosse people died away. The charter was amended April 4, 1864. In time a majority of the stock was acquired by D. N. Barney & Co. and was by them sold to the Chicago & Northwestern, Oct. 31, 1867. Late in 1870 the road was completed from Winona to Winona Junction, originally called Trempealeau Junction, near La Crosse, a distance of 29 miles. Through railroad connection was thus established between Trempealeau County and the East. A few days after the completion of the road to a point opposite Winona, the bridge to that city was completed, Dec. 29, 1870. At that time Winona had railroad connections to the westward with Janesville and to the northwest with Weaver. Aug. 15, 1871, railroad communication was established between Winona and St. Paul, thus connecting Trempealeau County with the Northwest. The La Crosse, Trempealeau & Prescott Railroad was consolidated with the Chicago & Northwestern June 6, 1877.

The Galesville branch of the Chicago & Northwestern, extending from Trempealeau to Galesville, was put in operation in the summer of 1883. In 1882 a number of public spirited citizens approached the Chicago & Northwestern officials on the subject and were told that if the people of Galesville would secure a right-of-way and grade the roadbed the railroad would lay the ties and rail and put the branch in operation. Preparations were accordingly made, the Galesville-Mississippi Railroad Company was organized March 1, 1882, a subscription was taken, and the town voted bonds of \$12,000. The company consisted of: President, A. A. Arnold; vice-president, Isaac Clark; treasurer, A. H. Kneeland; secretary, G. Y. Freeman; H. Birchard, Geo. H. Smith and David Kennedy. The light in which some of the farmers regarded railroads even as late as the eighties is seen in the communications in the newspapers of the time, in which the noise and odor of the railroad were prophesied as great evils, and the prediction made that the road would take all the business away from the village. But those in favor of the proposition persisted in their efforts, and at great personal sacrifice completed their labors. The grading was in charge of Isaac Clark and David Kennedy and was nearly completed when

winter set in. The faith of the promoters was more than justified, for Galesville at once became an important business and trading center.

The Green Bay & Western Railroad has been one of the principal factors in the development of central Trempealeau County. The company was organized Feb. 7, 1866, and chartered as the Green Bay & Lake Pepin Railway Company, with Wabasha as its objective western terminal. Four miles were graded in 1869 and 30 miles in 1870. Track laying was commenced in the fall of 1871, and completed 39 miles from Green Bay to New London, Dec. 20, 1871. Four days later the first passengers were carried by special train. During the summer of 1872, 110 miles between New London and Merrilan Junction in Jackson County were graded and the tracks laid. The whole work was completed at 5 o'clock on the afternoon of Dec. 24, 1872. During the summer and fall of 1873 the tracks were graded and iron laid from Merrilan Junction to Marshland, where connections were made with the old La Crosse, Trempealeau & Prescott Railroad, now the Madison division of the Chicago & Northwestern. The first passenger service between Green Bay and Winona was inaugurated Dec. 18, 1873. The first train ran on regular schedule Jan. 1, 1874. Sept. 5, 1873, the name was changed to the Green Bay & Minnesota Railroad. At that time it was believed that the road would be consolidated with the Winona & St. Peter, John I. Blair being a large stockholder in both roads. But the Chicago & Northwestern absorbed the Winona & St. Peter, and the Green Bay was left to its own devices. The struggle was a severe one. Running through 209 miles of a new and sparsely settled country, the receipts were not sufficient to maintain it. Early in 1878 it went into the hands of a receiver. June 20, 1881, it was sold at a foreclosure sale and reorganized as the Green Bay, Winona & St. Paul Railway Company. June 10, 1896, it was again sold under foreclosure and the name changed to the Green Bay & Western Railroad Company. In 1891 a spur track was completed from Marshland to East Winona, and the Winona terminal was established at the Burlington station instead of at the Northwestern station.

Of the selection of the route through Whitehall, Stephen Richmond has said: "Arcadia was offered and had within reach an opportunity such as comes to few localities indeed when the Green Bay Railroad was projecting its line across the state and pointing to the Trempealeau Valley in the winter of 1872. The line of the road had early been definitely decided upon from Green Bay to Merrilan, where a junctional point was to be made. Black River Falls was practically inaccessible because of the difficulty of crossing Black River at that point. Had this not been so the road no doubt would have been built to that city and thence down the Black River Valley to Melrose, and thence across country to Trempealeau Village, or down the Black River to La Crosse. The complete history of the location of the Green Bay line would be an interesting story. It may never be written. The parties behind the road were poor and the question of cost of right of way and construction were pressing matters in fixing its location from the junction point at Merrilan, and were largely the elements which were most influential. Trempealeau Valley offered a great saving in these elements. The valley to Blair was an easy proposition and solved itself

in offering cheap right of way and inexpensive construction in the river bottoms, but at Blair the conditions differed in the turn in the course of the valley from southwesterly to an abrupt northwesterly, and then a westerly course, adding at least seven miles to the length of the line over a southwesterly course from Blair to Arcadia; but this shorter course necessitated an added expense in construction, to cross the Preston ridge, or hills, between the head of Welch Cooley, in Preston, and Newcomb Valley in Arcadia. The extra cost in construction was estimated or fixed at \$75,000, and the town of Preston and Arcadia were asked to bond for such sum, Preston for \$25,000 and Arcadia for \$50,000. Men in these towns clearly saw in such construction the advantage to local business interests and supported the proposition, so that each town voted bonds. So far wisdom was manifested, but thereafter a want of prudence followed in delivering the bonds without a clearly and definitely fixed obligation on the part of the road to build directly southwest from Blair to Arcadia Village (Old Arcadia). However, the bonds were delivered unconditionally, and without a binding obligation to construct the road as it had been previously located, between Blair and Arcadia Village, and hence Arcadia lost and forfeited its first great opportunity, for the road was afterward constructed in the valley from Blair by way of Whitehall and Independence to Arcadia, and thence to Marshland. One cannot fail to see the loss of territory which otherwise would have been tributary to Arcadia and the large market opportunity and trade cut off, and to which she believed herself entitled for the bonds delivered. With the road built as originally planned the village would have remained at the old and early location on the tableland, where every advantage would have been given by nature for good streets, easily obtained drainage and desirability, which no one can say would not have made the town an important city long ago, with a population of many thousands."

The Chicago, Burlington & Northern, which on June 1, 1899, became the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, built its line through Trempealeau County in 1886. In March of that year Alexander A. Arnold of Galesville, D. D. Chappell of Caledonia, and Andrew R. Carhart of Trempealeau were appointed a commission to appraise and condemn necessary land that had not been already secured for the right of way. Track laying was completed through Trempealeau County and to a point opposite Winona, April 24, 1886. The first train from St. Paul to Prairie du Chien was sent over the line Aug. 9, 1886. July 4, 1891, the drawbridge at Winona was completed, thus giving Trempealeau County three railroad connections with that city.

The Mondovi line of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway Company was built through the northern part of the county in the late eighties, reaching Osseo June 20, 1887, and Eleva late in 1889. The Fairchild & Mississippi Railway Company was organized in 1886 to build and operate a line of railroad from Fairchild, Wis., to some point on the line of the Burlington & Northern Railroad in Buffalo County, with a branch line from Fairchild to some point on the line of the Wisconsin Central Railroad in Clark or Marathon County.

Articles of incorporation were executed March 27, 1886, and filed in the office of secretary of State, and patent issued March 29, 1886. On May 7, 1887, a resolution was adopted at stockholders' meeting of the company, changing the name to the Sault Ste. Marie & Southwestern Railway Company, which resolution was filed in the office of secretary of state on July 16, 1887.

On April 1, 1891, the line was acquired by the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway Company by acquisition of the outstanding stock, and was operated by that company from that date, and on June 3, 1893, was conveyed to it. As already stated, the road reached Osseo, 14.21 miles from Fairchild, on June 20, 1887. After a little delay it was pushed westward. At Strum, then called Tilden, a switch was constructed in the fall of 1889. Eleva, 12.89 miles from Osseo, was reached late in 1889, the opening being celebrated by an excursion Dec. 13, 1889. The depot was complete in February, 1890. A little later work was started on the line toward Mondovi, 9.65 miles away, and was soon completed. The depot at Strum was put up in the fall of 1892 and the first station agent started work in 1893.

The Ettrick & Northern Railroad Company had its inception in the minds of H. F. Claussen, banker; M. P. Pederson, former sheriff, agriculturist and well contractor, and John Raichle, road contractor. These gentlemen interviewed former Senator John C. Gaveney of Arcadia and interested him in the proposition of furnishing railroad facilities for the vast region tributary to Ettrick. In this region there were 170 square miles, occupied by some of the richest farms in western Wisconsin, absolutely without railroad facilities. The nearest shipping points were Galesville, Blair, West Salem and Sparta. Money and time spent in reaching these points greatly increased the cost of producing and marketing products of the farms in the Ettrick region.

One solution of the problem was the extension of the Northwestern from Galesville, but that proposition not receiving favorable response from the Northwestern officials, a unique plan was conceived of building a railroad as a co-operative effort of the farmer to be served, and with all costs of promotion absolutely eliminated.

Accordingly, subscriptions were solicited, and on June 5, 1915, a company incorporated with John C. Gaveney, president; M. P. Pederson, vice-president; H. F. Claussen, secretary and treasurer; T. A. Whalen, A. G. Hagestad, A. J. Ekern, Ed. Quammen, Fred Fillner and Peter Corcoran as the incorporators. A route was selected from Ettrick to Blair, where connection will be made with the Green Bay & Western.

The contract for constructing the line was let to Ed. J. Matchett and John Raichle. Work was started in the fall of 1916 at Blair. At the present writing, in the fall of 1917, the road is graded to within a mile of Ettrick, the "cut," a remarkable feat of excavating through one of the main hills of the "ridge," is nearly done, all the bridges are completed, the ties and rails are at Blair, and track laying has commenced at that village. The town of Ettrick has voted bonds of \$75,000, the railroad has issued its own bonds of \$50,000, and over 400 farmers in the territory to be served

have subscribed to the stock. While there is every indication that the road itself will prove a profitable investment, its principal object is the development of the country, and the improvement of the market facilities in the region in which its stockholders live. The traffic manager, L. J. Trexler, has already arranged rates with all the leading railroads of the country

TELEPHONES

Telephone service in Trempealeau County is extensive and adequate, supplied by the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company, with exchanges in the leading villages, by the Osseo Telephone Company with an exchange at Osseo, and by numerous farmers' telephone companies which operate rural lines and maintain exchanges in several of the villages.

Probably the first telephone in Trempealeau County was that of Dr. G. N. Hidershide, who in April, 1894, strung a wire between his office and residence in Arcadia.

The first telephone exchange in the county was put in operation in the fall of 1895 by W. P. Veitch and Geo. S. Luce at Galesville. The switch was a crude affair manufactured by Mr. Luce himself. A single wire was strung to Winona, thus giving connection with the outside world.

The first telephone company organized in Trempealeau County was the Bluff City Telephone Company, incorporated at Trempealeau, Nov. 12, 1895, by Clarence S. Utter and B. A. Cornelle at Trempealeau for the purpose of building a telephone line from Trempealeau to Centerville. Acting under this charter Clarence S. Utter erected tamarack poles at irregular intervals from Trempealeau to Centerville, and thence to the village limits of Arcadia.

At this time a telephone line had been established from Waumandee to Fountain City. Through this line the people at Fountain City were receiving much trade from the rich Waumandee valley and from the Montana region. Senator John C. Gaveney, with keen foresight, realized that Arcadia's opportunity had come. He consulted with Emil Maurer, J. M. Fertig and W. P. Masseure, local merchants, and these gentlemen, with Dr. G. N. Hidershide, constructed a telephone line between Montana and Arcadia, with intermediate stations at Glencoe and Waumandee. But connection with Fountain City was refused at Waumandee, and the men turned their attention southward to the line which Clarence S. Utter had projected. For \$200 they purchased the rights of Clarence S. Utter, A. W. McCullom and H. Carrey in the Trempealeau-Centerville-Arcadia projected line and proceeded to organize a company.

The Arcadia Telephone Company was incorporated June 5, 1896, the officers, on motion of John C. Gaveney, being: J. M. Fertig, president; G. N. Hidershide, vice-president; Emil Maurer, secretary, and Geo. A. Schneller (representing W. P. Massuere), treasurer. The company acquired the interests of its individual members in the line to Waumandee and the projected line to Trempealeau. A conference at Winona resulted in a promise from the Independent companies at La Crosse and Winona to build connecting lines to Trempealeau. Mr. Gaveney then went to Independence, Whitehall and Blair and raised funds by selling coupon books to

be used after the Valley line was in operation. The line was built up the valley in 1906 and put in operation at once, Independence and Whitehall securing service in the winter and Blair in the spring. Then the line to Trempealeau was completed.

In 1900 an exchange was opened at Whitehall, and the same year the lines were extended up Elk Creek and up Pigeon Valley. In 1901 the Galesville line was purchased, giving connection with the Galesville and Ettrick region, connections were made at Osseo giving access to the Beef River country, and an exchange was opened at Independence. An exchange was opened at Blair in the spring of 1902.

In the meantime many farms were connected with the various lines, and to make the company a truly community endeavor it was decided to reorganize with the stock distributed among the farmers.

The Western Wisconsin Telephone Company, a reorganization of the Arcadia Telephone Company, was incorporated May 19, 1902, with thirty-seven stockholders. An exchange was at once established at Centerville. In March, 1903, the lines of the Trempealeau & Buffalo County Telephone Company and its line to Mondovi were purchased. Soon afterward the Winona Telephone Company turned over to the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company all its holdings in western Wisconsin, and in 1904 the exchange at Pigeon Falls was established. Later this exchange was abandoned. The company covers the greater part of the county, and the southeastern part of Buffalo County, and crossing the Black River at Hunter's Ridge covers a considerable territory in the northern part of La Crosse County. It has adequate connections at La Crosse and Winona. Besides operating extensive rural lines it has exchanges at Arcadia, Centerville, Galesville, Trempealeau, Blair, Whitehall, Independence and Ettrick, and makes connection not only with the local exchange of the Osseo Telephone Company at Osseo, but also with the farmers' local exchanges at Ettrick, Galesville and Blair.

The officers are: President, John C. Gaveney; vice-president, G. N. Hidershide; treasurer, G. A. Schneller; secretary, Emil Maurer; general manager, J. I. Dewey; superintendent, Thomas Cummings; directors, Frank A. Kellman, Galesville; O. B. Borsheim, Blair; Frank C. Richmond, Arcadia; George Bohrnstedt, Arcadia; Emil Maurer, Arcadia; K. K. Hagestad, Ettrick; David Wood, Whitehall; John Sprecher, Independence; Geo. A. Schneller, Arcadia; G. N. Hidershide, Arcadia; John C. Gaveney, Arcadia.

Underground wires are maintained at Arcadia, Galesville and Independence, and conduits for that purpose have been laid at Whitehall.

The Osseo Telephone Company was organized May 3, 1900, and incorporated May 15, 1900, by J. L. Linderman, Dr. E. A. Olson, Charles F. Trager and F. M. Smith. The first officers were: F. A. Smith, president; C. F. Trager, vice-president, and H. L. Smith, secretary and treasurer. The capital stock at beginning was \$4,500, which was subsequently increased to \$10,000 and later to \$25,000. The present officers are: A. G. Cox, president; C. I. Fields, vice-president; D. L. Remington, secretary and manager; F. M. Smith, assistant manager; T. J. Thompson, treasurer. The exchange at Osseo was opened in July, 1900, the one at Eleva in June, 1901. The

exchange at Mondovi was purchased the same year and in 1904 was sold to the Mondovi business men. In 1901 a line was built to Eau Claire from Eleva and later was sold to Chas. Sequni of Shaw. The Eleva exchange was sold to the Eleva Farmers' Telephone Company of Eleva in February, 1913. At the present time the Osseo exchange furnishes service to nearly 500 subscribers.

The first farmers' companies in Trempealeau County were at Whitehall and Blair. The dates of organization of the various farmers' 'phones are as follows:

The Lincoln Telephone Company (with local exchange at Whitehall), organized April 4, 1905.

The Preston Telephone Company (with local exchange at Blair), organized July 25, 1905.

The Tamarack Telephone Company (in which is included the Newcomb Valley Telephone Company, organized April 4, 1906), organized March 14, 1906.

The Ettrick Telephone Company (with local exchanges at Galesville and Ettrick), organized Jan. 8, 1906.

The Beef River Valley Telephone Company (with a short line east of Osseo), organized Sept. 16, 1906.

The Strum Telephone Company, organized Sept. 13, 1907.

The Pigeon Valley Farmers' Telephone Company, organized March 31, 1908.

The Independence Telephone Company (with local exchange at Independence), organized June 18, 1908.

The Pleasant Valley Telephone Company, organized March 26, 1909.

The Eleva Farmers' Telephone Company, organized April 13, 1909.

The Elk Creek Telephone Company, organized Dec. 22, 1910.

CHAPTER XIV

PLACE NAMES

Trempealeau County is rich in place names. Some are picturesque and original, others are commonplace and duplicates of those found in other localities. Some are the names of national heroes, some perpetuate historic incidents, some are fanciful and poetic, some are descriptive, and hundreds bear the names of early settlers. Some were chosen deliberately, and some are the result of natural growth. Some are very old, dating back to the explorers and fur traders, while others are very recent, and have not yet become entirely fixed. For the most part the origin of the names is known, though there is yet much research to be done to determine who applied the names, and when and under what circumstances they were first applied. The following list is a brief summary of the subject, its purpose being to form a basis for future study and investigation:

Townships

Albion is the ancient name for England, still applied in poetry.

Arcadia is the name given to the township by Mrs. David Bishop, who was afterward Mrs. Sarah Mercer. It was suggested by Noah Comstock from the real or fancied resemblance of the valley to the state of Arcadia in ancient Greece, a beautiful locality, the inhabitants of which, according to the ancient poets, enjoyed a peaceful and happy life.

Burnside was named after Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside (born 1824, died 1881), for a short time commander of the Army of the Potomac in the Civil War.

Chimney Rock is named from a conspicuous landmark within its boundaries.

Caledonia is the Latin name for Scotland. It was applied to the present township by Alex. and Donald McGilvray, and other early Scotch settlers.

Dodge was named from William E. Dodge, philanthropist; a prominent financier for many years in New York. He was associated with John I. Blair, Moses Taylor, Joseph H. Scranton, E. F. Hatfield and others in the construction of the Green Bay & Western Railroad and was also connected with many philanthropic institutions and at one time was the treasurer of the Protestant Syrian College at Constantinople, Turkey.

Ettrick was named from Ettrick Forest in Scotland, as described in Scott's Marmion. It was given by John Cance.

Gale and Galesville took their names from Judge George Gale, who also gave his name to Gale College.

Hale is named from George Hale, its first settler. He was born in Glastenbury, Conn., and came to Trempealeau County in 1858, settling about nine miles above what is now Independence.

Lincoln is named from the martyred president.

Pigeon Township and Pigeon Falls took their name from Pigeon Creek.

Preston was named from Susan H. Reynolds, the wife of Edmond M. Reynolds, one of the earliest settlers of Preston Township. Mrs. Reynolds came of the old New England family of Prestons, and at the first town meetings Mr. Reynolds proposed that the town be named in her honor.

Sumner Township was named after the distinguished American senator and statesman, Charles Sumner (born in 1811, died 1874), who was one of the leaders of the abolition party and a confidential advisor to President Lincoln during the Civil War.

Trempealeau is a corrupted form of the French phrase, *La Montagne Qui Trempe Dans L'Eau*, meaning the Mountain that is Steeped in Water. This name was applied as early as 1731 and possibly earlier. It was the French translation of the Winnebago word, *Hay-nee-ah-chah*, the Soaking Mountain. The Sioux name was *Pah-hah-dah*, the Moved Mountain.

Unity. When this township was organized Dennis Lawler felt that he was entitled to the honor of having it named after him, but P. B. Williams, another early settler, wished to call it Unity, which was the name of the town in Maine from which he had come. Upon the suggestion of Noah Comstock the matter was decided by lot, and Mr. Williams drawing the longest "cut" named the town Unit.

Incorporated Villages

Galesville and Arcadia are names of the same origin as those of the townships in which they are located.

Blair was named from John Insley Blair of Blairstown, N. J., a stockholder in the Green Bay & Western. During the Civil War he advanced the Federal government over \$1,000,000. He presented \$6,000 to endow an academy in his home town; he assisted in the building of Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa, and he was a large contributor to Princeton University and Lafayette College. He also built more than a hundred churches throughout the western states. Mr. Blair died at his home in 1899 at the age of 97 years. The village of Blair was originally platted as Porterville.

Eleva was named by R. P. Goddard of Mondovi, Wis., on the suggestion of Mr. Gates, who formerly lived there. The origin of the name is unknown to Mr. Goddard, but he thinks that Mr. Gates found a place of that name in France.

Independence was so named because it was platted during the year of the Centennial celebration of American Independence. It is thought that Giles Cripps first suggested the name.

Osseo was started in 1856, and was named by Robert C. Field, one legend says from the Spanish word *oso*, meaning bear, while another says it came from an Indian word *ossi*, meaning stone or stony place or stone on stone or having relation to river and stone. The name is used by Longfellow in his *Song of Hiawatha*. He called Osseo the Son of the Evening Star, and has him, when apparently a very old man, turned into a very handsome and attractive young man. Where Longfellow got the name is

not now known. A fanciful explanation given by some of the early settlers is that an Indian, seeing the improvements made by the white men, exclaimed, Oh! See! Oh! thus giving the name Osseo.

Trempealeau Village is named from Trempealeau Mountain. James A. Reed settled here in 1840 and opened his cabin as a tavern. The name Reed's Town or Reed's Landing came to be applied to the place. When the village was platted in 1852 it was called Montoville, the significance being Mountain Ville.

Whitehall was probably named by Benjamin F. Wing, who platted Old Whitehall. Probably it was named from Whitehall in New York, though it may have been named from a hall painted white. It is possible, also, that the name was given by Ole Knudtson, or by ———— Georges, co-partner with Mr. Wing in the townsite.

Platted Villages

The names of Caledonia, Dodge, Ettrick and Pigeon Falls have the same origin as those of the townships in which they are located.

Coral City was at one time a flourishing hamlet located in section 18, Pigeon Township. The construction of the Green Bay & Western Railroad in 1873 blasted its hopes of future greatness. At one time Coral City had its Main street, State street, Public square and prospects of a prosperous future. It had several general stores, shops, hotels, saloons, a good mill; in brief, all the equipments for a lively, busy country village. But later its business was absorbed by the railroad towns. The Wright brothers, Phineas and Benjamin, may be credited with beginning the town. They built a flouring mill in the summer of 1863, and other places of business soon followed. Egbert Carpenter, C. E. Scott, Andrew Olson, Ryland Parker, Dr. Shelden and Seneca Johnson are well remembered names of some of its business men. Granville McFarland, one of the men employed in building the dam for the mill, is probably more responsible for the name given to this place than anyone else. While digging dirt on the north side of the creek for the dam some queer-looking rock was found. McFarland, it appears, made Pheaneas Wright, who headed the enterprise for building the mill, believe that the rock was coral. Mr. Wright, who was one of the best and most straightforward men in the country, not knowing he had been imposed upon by a practical joker, platted the village and called it "Coral City." The village was noted in the early days for its law suits, which served not only to settle disputes, but also afforded highly seasoned amusement. Some of the trials in the justice court there lasted for over a week. The noted flood in March, 1876, entirely destroyed the mill built by the Wrights, but the following summer another mill took its place. This mill and some sightly houses are now all that remains of a once flourishing settlement.

Montoville was the name under which Trempealeau Village was originally platted. It means the Mountain ville.

Porterville, the name under which Blair was originally platted, was named for Richard Porter, who settled on land now occupied in part by the village, June, 1855, and died July 26, of the same year, as the result of an

encounter with a band of wolves near Galesville. His son, Duke Porter, platted the village in 1873, and gave it the name of Porterville. But when the railroad established a station near his plat, they gave it the name of Blair.

Strum was named by Congressman William T. Price for his friend, Louis Strum, of Eau Claire, Wis. Under the first Cleveland administration the hamlet was called Tilden, for Samuel J. Tilden, the statesman, but on Jan. 1, 1890, was again changed to Strum.

Trading Centers

Tamarack, Elk Creek and Pine Creek take their names from the streams on which they are located.

Centerville is named from its geographical location on Trempealeau Prairie. It was originally called Martin's Corners from an early settler.

Dooney's Siding was named from James B. Dooney, present general agent of the Green Bay. It has a wood yard, a stock yard, and a railroad platform and switch. It is an important shipping point for wood and stock, and considerable lime and the like is shipped in.

Dewey's Corners was the name applied to Old Arcadia, from the family of that name prominently identified with its early history. J. I. Dewey, son and nephew of the original Deweys, is still a resident there.

Frenchville takes its name from its location on French Creek.

Glasgow was named by reason of the numerous hardy Scots who made their new home there.

Hegg is in the upper Beaver Creek country, which was naturally settled later than the lower valley. As late as 1871 a postoffice was established in K. K. Hallanger's residence, and Mr. Hallanger was appointed postmaster. The name chosen for the postoffice was Hegg, in honor of Colonel Hegg, commander of the Fifteenth Wisconsin Norwegian Regiment in the Civil War. A short time after this a general merchandise store was opened at Hegg, which is still doing a thriving business.

Iduna. This was the name of the post office established in French Creek Valley in 1899 and which flourished for a short time under the management of John Hovre as postmaster, but ceased to exist when rural routes were established in the vicinity. As Mr. Hovre is still conducting a general mercantile business where the postoffice was located, it is quite probable the name will continue to live, notwithstanding Uncle Sam has shut up shop at that particular place. The tendency to invent a fictitious origin where the true origin is unknown, is well illustrated by a current legend which by some has been accepted as truth. The legend is this: That after the petition for the establishment of a postoffice had been granted, the Postoffice Department sent Mr. Hovre a blank asking him to suggest three names for the postoffice to be established. Hovre, being short on inventing names, and likewise on grammar and spelling, decided to let the government select the name, and wrote across the blank, "I-dono," and sent the paper back to Washington. Whether the department officials misread the final vowels or for the sake of euphony changed them, the legend does not state, but

it informs us that the government practically adopted Mr. Hovre's negative reply as the name of the postoffice. Legends properly embalmed by time and firmly established in the affections of mankind, unless harmful, ought not to be ruthlessly destroyed. But this particular legend is of too modern birth to have acquired any special sanctity and as the writer is familiar with the true origin of the name, he feels in duty bound to dispel the romantic illusions created by it. When the government blank, already mentioned, was received by Mr. Hovre, it was sent to A. H. Anderson, who had assisted in getting the government's consent to the proposed postoffice. Knowing that this is a big country, with an almost unlimited use for new names, the writer at once turned to his Norse Mythology, and selected three names and sent them to the Postoffice Department. Among these was the name "Iduna." According to our Northern Mythology. Iduna was the custodian of the apples of immortality which the gods tasted from time to time to perpetuate their youth. Loki, the spirit of evil, once stole the golden apples, which caused great grief in Valhalla. Iduna's husband was Bragi, the divine bard.

Martin's Corners was the original name of Centerville.

Pleasantville is named from its location in Pleasant Valley. Who gave the name of Pleasant Valley to the valley of Elk Creek is not known.

Russell was named from William Russell, who came to the county in 1864 and located in Burnside. When the postoffice was opened in Burnside Township there was considerable controversy over the name. About 20 years ago the office was moved to Chimney Rock Township, where mail was received three times a week until the office was discontinued by reason of the establishment of the rural delivery system. The school district is still known as the Russell district.

Rhodes Station, in Caledonia Township, was named from Joshua Rhodes, who settled in that locality in 1853.

Scotia was a postoffice which flourished for a while in section 7, Caledonia. The name indicates the nationality of the early settlers of that neighborhood.

Skillins' Corners. In 1860 Moses Skillins settled about five miles above Arcadia. In 1862 came his brother, Hiram Skillins, a Baptist clergyman. The creek flowing through his farm was called Skillins' Creek and the vicinity came to be called Skillins' Corners. When the postoffice was established the name was changed to Williamsburg.

Williamsburg was a name given when a postoffice was established at Skillins' Corners in 1866 with William B. Arnold as postmaster. Mr. Arnold suggested the name for the fact that three Williams, himself, William Eastman and William Boorman, all lived in the vicinity.

Wright's Corners was named from Hollister M. Wright, who settled there in 1853.

Principal Streams

The Beef or Buffalo River in the days of the French explorers took the name that Hennepin in 1680 applied to the Chippewa River. "Beef" is a corruption of "Beeuf," the designation applied by the early French explorers

to the American buffalo. The R. de Beeufs appears on the earliest maps, though in some of them it is evident that the Chippewa River is meant.

The Black River was called R. Noire, by Hennepin in 1680, and has since borne the English translation of that word. Hennepin says that the Sioux called the river, Cha-be-de-ba or Cha-ba-on-de-ba. The modern Sioux, however, called it Wat-pah-zappa or Minne-sap-pah, meaning Black Water or Black River.

Beaver Creek. Tradition says that two Frenchmen (probably the same Joseph Rocque and companion from whom French Creek was named) wintered on Beaver Creek above Galesville in the days of the trappers, and there caught a large number of beavers. Willard B. Bunnell and James Reed also caught many beavers there and gave the creek its name.

Cedar Creek was named by Willard B. Bunnell and James Reed. In the early days it was the haunt of many deer. The creek was named because of the abundance of dry red cedar used by Mr. Bunnell and Mr. Reed in "fire hunting."

Elk Creek was named in 1842 by Willard B. Bunnell and William Smothers while on a hunting expedition. The valley of Elk Creek is usually called Pleasant Valley.

French Creek, according to Winnebago tradition, was so called from the fact that Joseph Rocque, the father of Augustine Rocque, once maintained his wintering ground in that vicinity while hunting and trapping in the Beaver Creek Valley.

Hardie's Creek was named from James Hardie, an early settler and sturdy Scotchman.

Pigeon Creek was named by Willard B. Bunnell and William Smothers while on a hunting trip. Bunnell then lived at Reed's Town (Trempealeau) and Smothers at Holmes' Landing (Fountain City). Of the great flocks of pigeons that frequented this vicinity in the early days L. H. Bunnell says: "I was returning in a canoe from a trip up the river (in 1842) and as I came in sight of the oak timber then growing on the Wisconsin side below the site of the lower bridge, I saw clouds of pigeons settling to roost, when crash, would fall an oak limb, and then a noise would follow like the letting off of steam. It did not occur to me at first, what it was that made the latter noise, but as I approached nearer, and saw limb after limb fall, some of them very large size, and then heard the increased noise, I saw, and heard, that it was numberless pigeons breaking down the limbs and chattering in glee at their having overloaded and broken them down. Some of the young Sioux were watching the 'roost,' to see if any had commenced laying, for some were already building nests, and when I told James Reed of the Indians being there and not a shot fired at the pigeons, he told me that the Indians never disturbed pigeons or ducks by shooting at them when nesting, and that the life of a man doing so would not be safe among the Sioux, as the whole tribe would feast upon the squabs as soon as big enough. The pigeon roost extended for 25 miles below La Crosse, as reported to us by up-coming steamboats, and where there was heavy timber, the same scenes were repeated that I had witnessed—the whole length of the roost being about

45 miles. Pigeons are easily disturbed and driven away when they commence nesting, but when they begin to set, they are not so easily scared."

Pine Creek was named after the towering scattered pines which grew in abundance in that vicinity, some of which stand today, one being utilized by a farmer as a tower for his windmill, a little south of the Pine Creek church, the central building in Pine Creek village.

The Big and Little Tamarack creeks were named from the abundance of tamarack timber grown along their banks and in the bottom lands and adjoining. Al and Abe Holcomb, two early settlers, built a sawmill on the prairie near their homes to manufacture this timber into lumber for building and fence purposes. The old mill was doing business in 1870 and remained many years later to serve a very useful purpose, when its site and building were put to use as a grist mill by Squire A. Pickett, later purchased by John Bonum and Stephen Richmond, and Bonum's interest conveyed to Blackhawk Johnson, who in 1878 purchased the whole property and continued the milling business a number of years. The mill and power are in recent years nearly unknown.

Trempealeau River received its name from Trempealeau Mountain and Bay. It was called by the Winnebagoes Ne-chann-ne-shan-ah-ga, or overflowing stream, and by the Sioux Wat-pah-dah, the moving stream.

Trout Creek or Trout River was named by Willard B. Bunnell. As the Sioux seldom fished, but confined their activities in this line to spearing large fish with a spear, the spring creeks were filled with trout of good size. In the early '40s Mr. Bunnell once caught six dozen trout in Trout Creek in a few hours. The larger trout were caught in the main stream, but they did most of their spawning in Little Trout Creek.

Lakes

There are no natural lakes in Trempealeau County, but the streams are dammed in many places, forming artificial lakes. Trempealeau Lake, so called, is merely a portion of the Mississippi River.

Marinuka Lake is an artificial body of water formed by the mill dam at Galesville. Charles E. Freeman (letter to Stephen Richmond, Jan. 21, 1912, now in the possession of the Trempealeau County Historical Society) says: "At the head of the lake at Galesville, on the property known as the Arctic Springs, is the headstone that marks the resting place of Marie Nounka, a granddaughter of One-Eyed Decorah. She died in 1884, and in the old Galesville Independent for the week beginning Oct. 5, 1884, there appeared the following notice: 'Death of an Indian Princess—The Princess Marie Nunka, granddaughter of the great chief Decorah, died on the morning of Oct. 4, 1884, at the Arctic Springs, and was buried at midnight of the same day on a point of land belonging to the springs property. An impressive ceremony was performed with only the light of the moon to shadow forth the dusky figures of the red men and the few spectators present. Wallace Parker, John Sheely and Charles E. Freeman prepared the grave, as the relatives are not allowed to help in this part of the ceremony. G. Y. Freeman wishes to state that any desecration of the grave will be resented by him to the full extent of the law.' A good head-

stone was placed at the head of the grave and the facts of her genealogy engraved upon it. In the summer of 1911 the body was removed across the little creek and is now resting about a rod south of the road. Mr. Gardner and son, Bert Gipple, Dr. Mailer and myself, with one or two others, assisted in the transfer of the body to its new resting place. A few years after her death, on motion of A. A. Arnold at a meeting of the village board, it was decided to christen the little lake at the edge of the village Marinuka, which is an abbreviation of the woman's full name, Marie Nounka. Byron Olds has written and published a song entitled, 'By Marinuka's Moonlit Shore.'"

Geographical Landmarks

Chapultepec Peak is named from Mount Chapultepec, Mexico, at whose base, two miles from the City of Mexico, the Battle of Chapultepec was fought Sept. 12 and 13, 1847. Charles J. Cleveland, whose father was a veteran of that battle, was an early settler of Big Tamarac. In the spring of 1856 he located at Big Bend, in charge of the lumber and rafting business of Thomas Douglas. In one of his trips to La Crosse in 1856, he purchased a rifle, and instead of returning home by the usual route, he sent his team by a hired man, and returned by way of McGilvray's Ferry, traveled through Galesville, up along Beaver Creek, and crossed the divide into Trempealeau Valley. He observed a mountain on the top of that valley, which appeared to him to resemble the description of the Mexican mountain described by his father. He therefore called it by the name of Chapultepec.

Chimney Rock is a towering, ragged pile, caused, as other similar formations in Western Wisconsin, by the erosive action of the wind, snow, frost and rain, wearing away the surrounding formations and leaving the rock in its present shape and condition. The work of erosion is still going on. The rock is the highest point in the vicinity. It was originally called Devil's Chimney and was a landmark to guide the traveler of the early days. The rock is now obscured by trees.

Decorah Peak was named from the Indian dynasty of Decorah, of which extended mention is made in the Indian chapter in this work. The name is variously spelled, the form "Decora" being possibly in more general use in Trempealeau County than the form "Decorah" used in this history. Charles E. Freeman writing to Stephen Richmond on Jan. 21, 1912 (manuscript in the library of the Trempealeau County Historical Society) says: "I remember quite distinctly a visit my parents made to Decorah's encampment at the mouth of the Little Tamarack, when I was very small. My father saw him and tells me that he was lying down, resting upon his elbow. He was naked to the waist, and was the finest specimen of manhood he ever saw, tall, big-muscled and having the appearance of a bronze statue. He was nearly blind and was very old. There is a legend that a battle was fought on the Black River, just south of Decorah's Peak, and that after Decorah's warriors were beaten he hid himself in a cave of the peak until it was safe for him to make his way to Prairie du Chien. In confirmation of this, Bert Gipple, editor of the Galesville Republican, tells me that when a boy attending Gale College, he, with several others, accompanied a man

from Washington, D. C., over to the Peak and was there shown a place where Indians had been buried. The boys dug into the mound and found a confused mass of many skeletons in a very mouldy and decomposed condition. One skull, however, was well preserved. This they took home and gave it to the Winona High School to place in their museum. This mound is about 40 rods south of the Peak. Mr. Gipple says he looked for the mound some years after this and found it only with the greatest difficulty." The Prairie was originally called Scotch Prairie, but gradually assumed the name of the Peak.

Oak Openings, or The Openings, was the name applied by the early settlers to a stretch of land embracing parts of Caledonia and Trempealeau townships. The name is self-explanatory. The fall and spring fires since the earliest time had swept down the valleys and the bluffs and over the Prairie from the northwest, dying out when they reached the southern part of the Prairie, where they encountered the region of sun-dried and wind-swept sands. Thus safe from fires, and protected by the Mississippi and Black rivers, the timber made a struggle for life in what was a small desert, converting it into a desirable tract for agricultural endeavor.

Trempealeau Prairie is one of the distinctive geological features of the county. The causes that have made the Prairie are explained by George H. Squier elsewhere in that work.

Whistler Pass is one of the remarkable geographical formations of the county. The winds from the northwest sweep through it with great force, and with a whistling sound that has caused many to make an incorrect guess as to the origin of the name. It has been said that Selfus Spain, an early settler of Cross Township, in Buffalo County, and later a resident of Fountain City, gave the name. He and his family crossed the pass in 1856, having to chain all the wheels to get his wagon down the bluff. He camped at the foot of the bluff on the north side, and during the night noted the moaning and whistling of the wind in the depression of the hill over which he had just passed. However, the name of Whistler's Pass had been given some time previous. Reese Whistler had filed on a claim in section 14 in 1853, but so far as is known did not then settle there. In 1855 Martin Whistler settled in Pine Creek Valley and opened a trail over the hills into a branch of Tamarack Valley to meet the road leading to Trempealeau, his market-place. This trail became the main road into the upper part of Pine Creek Valley and later was the main road from Trempealeau to Arcadia. The portion over the divide toward Whistler's place was known as Whistler's Pass. Ichabod Wood, also an Englishman, came and settled near Whistler within about a year. Of the unusual scenery in this vicinity Dr. Pierce has said: "Last August we drove up the west side of Tamarack Valley and over Whistler's Pass. It was a lovely day, cool and refreshing, and breezy, and the farmers were busy in the spreading harvest fields cutting grain. From Whistler's Pass it was a beautiful sight down the Tamarack, and off on Trempealeau Prairie. Field after field of yellow grain spread out over the country and here and there the grain was shocked. On the stubble fields the red wild buckwheat showed its gaudy color. Far across the prairie the Trempealeau bluffs loomed green against the blue

sky. Then we turned and on the other side of the Pass, in Pine Creek Valley, a new panorama opened to view with broad fields of golden grain and green meadow lands. What scenes one encounters along the country road, among our cozy Wisconsin hills in the summer time. Strange-shaped bluffs peering down with their green slopes adorned with grazing herds of cattle, rocky peaks with their white limestone, and then the little valleys, the woodland haunts and waving grain and rustling cornfields."

Valleys and Cooleys

Trempealeau County is filled with valleys and cooleys, all bearing a local name, usually the name of the first or most prominent settler in the locality. The names of hundreds of these vales are yet to be gathered by the earnest historian of future years. The origin of a few of the typical names is here presented:

Abraham's Cooley, six miles north of Galesville, is named from Abraham Madson, a native of Norway, who came to Trempealeau County from Coon Valley, Vernon County, in the spring of 1863 and here spent the remainder of his life. Following Mr. Madson the early settlers in the valley were Andrew Anstensen, Ole Olson Sorgendahl, Johanes Nelson Berge, Andrew Lebakken and Christian Breningen.

Bill Valley was named after one of its earliest settlers.

Bruce Valley is named for Nathaniel P. Bruce, who settled in the valley in the fall of 1867.

Borst Valley was named after Martin W. Borst, who located several sections of land there at an early date and opened up hundreds of acres of this choice soil to grain and tame grass.

Crystal Valley, situated several miles from Galesville, was settled in 1854 by John Marten. It was named by H. W. Maughmer.

Fitch Cooley was named from Joseph Fitch, who was frozen to death while carrying hay to his oxen in that cooley in the winter of 1863-64.

Fuller Cooley is so called from a man of that name who settled in the cooley and was killed by lightning.

German Valley was named from several German settlers, among them the Coop and Berkanauer families.

Holcomb Cooley was named after Al and Abe Holcomb, who purchased or by homestead claim took up lands there from which they removed the timber to their sawmill on the Prairie. A son of Abe Holcomb, Henry Hibbard, lived on these lands in the fall of 1870 and for several years afterward.

Hungary Valley, also called Latsch Valley, takes its name from the large number of Hungarian Poles who settled in the valley from 1865 to 1870, the first to come being Frank Pellowski, whose sons, Jake, Frank and Barney, are all prominent men in the county.

Korpall Valley was named from John Korpall, an early settler.

King Valley was named from James King, long its most prominent settler.

Lake Cooley is named from Henry Lake, who settled there in 1856 and secured extensive tracts of land. He was widely noted for his hospitality,

keeping open house for all the travelers coming up over the ridge from French Creek.

Latsch Valley was named in honor of John Latsch, a native of Switzerland, who in 1856 settled near the creek at the mouth of the valley which is located a few miles above the present village of Dodge. He later became founder of the firm of Latsch & Son, wholesale grocers at Winona. From 1865 to 1870 a number of Polish and Hungarian settlers located in the main valley, and the name Hungary Valley came to be applied. By some the whole valley is called Hungary Valley, by some it is called Latsch Valley, while others apply the name of Latsch Valley to the region where Mr. Latsch settled, and the name Hungary Valley to the main portion of the valley.

Lewis Valley is named from Captain John D. Lewis, a veteran of the Civil War and of the Colorado Indian campaign, who settled in the valley that now bears his name, in May, 1866. He lived in the valley the remainder of his life and became one of the county's leading men.

Meyers Valley was named after Nic, Casper and Peter Meyers, who settled on farms there in 1856.

Newcomb Valley was named from Isaac and Harold Newcomb, who settled in the main valley in 1866.

Niffin Cooley, the valley of Niffin Creek, which flows into Lewis Valley, is named from Lewis Niffin, who took a claim on the creek, four miles above Arcadia, and remained there about a year.

Niphon Valley was the name originally applied to Lewis Valley.

Norway Cooley was so named because all its early settlers were of the Norwegian race. The first to arrive was Knudt Leofson Strand, who is still living there on his old homestead. Mr. Strand, who came to America with his wife and one child in 1861, had located in Vernon County, Wisconsin, where he heard such favorable reports of Trempealeau County that he resolved to investigate them. With a friend named John Gunderson he came to the county in the summer of 1863 and, selecting a pleasant location in Holcomb Cooley, the two men began cutting hay. But hearing of good land to the northward they started out on a further trip of exploration and after a long tramp reached the mouth of one of the most beautiful cooleys they had ever seen. Here Mr. Strand determined to locate, and accordingly went to La Crosse and filed claims. In the following spring he came back and built a hut, also a shed as shelter for some stock he had brought with him. In June of the same year, 1864, he brought his family and began in earnest the task of developing a farm.

Reynolds Cooley, Preston Township, was named from Edmond M. Reynolds, an early settler. The ridge over which the early settlers came into this valley from the Ettrick country is now pierced by a great "cut" to allow the passage of the Ettrick & Northern Railroad.

Travis Valley is named from Joshua Travis, an Indian herb doctor who settled in the valley at an early date. The valley is often incorrectly called Traverse Valley, but the man's own signature shows the correct spelling.

Tappen Cooley is named from Ole O. Tappen, who settled in the valley in 1857.

Tracy Valley was named from A. D. Tracy, a distinguished early pioneer who arrived in 1858, and settled in the valley in 1859.

Tromp Cooley is named from John Von Tromp, a carpenter by trade, who in 1855 settled on what is now the Bernt Peterson farm. He afterward sold and secured a farm across the Trempealeau River at the mouth of the valley which has since been called in his honor. He afterward moved to Iowa.

Thompson Valley was named after three brothers by the name of Thompson, who settled there and opened large farms now the homes of their children.

Vosse Cooley is in the southeastern corner of Trempealeau County. Nels Anderson Evangorhougen settled in the valley in 1856. He was known as Vosse Nels and the valley took his name.

West Prairie received its name from its geographical position in regard to the Trempealeau Prairie.

Wickham Valley was named after James Wickham, long its most prominent settler.

Zabrinski Valley was named from Joseph and Anton Zabrinski, who settled there in 1865.

CHAPTER XV

BIOGRAPHY

The intimate life of the community is best told in the personal stories of its citizens. Biographical facts not only provide permanent geneological material for the families of which they treat, and valuable information for the historical investigator, but also furnish inspiration for worthy emulation. In so new a county as Trempealeau there are few men who have not started as poor boys and attained their success by their own efforts. The story of their equipment for the struggle by birth, training, environment and experience is of vital significance. So, too, is the story of the men of the younger generation, who with better preparation and under more favorable circumstances, have taken up the work which their fathers have laid down.

Therefore in supplementing the general county history, the publishers of this volume and their staff have gathered biographical data from some eight hundred leading families of the county. The list is comprehensive and thoroughly representative. The research involved in collecting the material has extended over a period of two years, and during that time the opportunity has been opened to all of those who desired their family story thus recorded and preserved.

It is manifestly impossible to include every family of the past and present; such a task would be beyond human ability. The criticism that in such a work many worthy families are omitted is of little force; the scope of the book might be trebled, yet still omit many a family whom some one would like to see thus honored. And while the story of many of those here included is no more worthy of preservation than the story of many who are omitted, those here printed are thoroughly typical and represent every phase of the county's citizenship.

These biographical and geneological sketches have been gathered from personal interviews, from records and from newspapers. They have all been submitted to some member of the family most concerned. While it is believed that a high degree of accuracy has been maintained, the responsibility rests with the families themselves and not with the publishers. In a few cases sketches submitted for correction have not been returned. In such instances the duplicate has been printed, containing the facts as originally gathered.

The difficulties of gathering such a vast amount of material are many. Even brothers and sisters often give widely varying accounts, not only of the facts and dates concerning their parents, but even of the rendering of their parents' names. In a few instances, where an agreement was impossible, both versions are here given.

All personal estimates of life, character, accomplishments, worth,

influence and ability have been added by the board of editors, constrained by a desire throughout to avoid extravagant laudations, though in many instances such laudations would be most thoroughly deserved.

John O. Melby, for many years a leader in the business, political and financial integrity of Trempealeau County, was born Oct. 15, 1845, at Askim, Smaalenenes Amt, Norway. He was reared to farm pursuits and received a common school education. As a young man he was employed for five years in a clerical position in Christiania, and during this period attracted the favorable attention of several prominent citizens. But at the advice of his friends, who saw in the young clerk those talents which in after years were to be the foundation of his success, he determined to seek the wider opportunities of the new world. Accordingly, bidding farewell to his old associates, he embarked for America in 1869, and found his way to Omaha, Neb., where he remained but a short time. Thence he came to La Crosse, Wis., where he was employed for a short time in the saw mills. It was in 1870 that he came to Ettrick, in this county, and secured work as a clerk in the general store of Iver Pederson, in whose employment he remained for five years. While a resident of that town he was elected to the office of town treasurer, a position he held for four years. His character as a man, his ability as an official, and his willingness to render services to his fellowmen whenever needed made him well known throughout the county, and in 1874 he was elected registrar of deeds of Trempealeau County, which office he held continuously until 1887. He was a conscientious official, and discharged the duties of his office with dignity and ability. Especially was his influence marked among his fellow countrymen, who, finding themselves in a new land with new laws and customs, constantly sought his competent advice. From 1887 to 1888 he was cashier of the Bank of Galesville, and it was upon retiring from this office that he entered upon his notable career as near the end of the latter year he began the operation of a private bank at Whitehall, which he conducted as such until 1894. In 1894 he organized a stock company and incorporated this as a state bank under the name of John O. Melby & Co. Bank. In 1906 the charter of this bank was extended and the capital stock increased to \$50,000. He was president of this institution from its creation to the date of his death, June 12, 1909. The Times Banner, in summing up his life and work after his death said of him: "In the death of Mr. Melby, Trempealeau County loses one of its leading citizens and Whitehall its most lofty type of a Christian gentleman. For almost a quarter of a century he has been identified with the business, political and social life of the county, and perhaps no man in all its history has enjoyed such a wide circle of personal friends as he. From every section of the county people came to him with their problems and troubles, and this is especially true of those of his own nativity, whose inability to speak the English language or whose lack of knowledge concerning our laws made them hesitate to confide in others. To those he gave his time and the benefit of his intimate business knowledge with a patience and kindly interest that early in life endeared him to all who knew him. How much of his time he has thus devoted gratuitously to others will never be known, nor can we ever

estimate what his advice and help thus taken from his busy life has done for the peace of communities, the tranquillity of homes, and the upbuilding of characters in the county and even beyond its borders. With a modesty becoming his generous nature, these are all closed incidents for which he made no charge and kept no record. Only once has he held public office, that of registrar of deeds of Trempealeau County, and his services in that capacity were so highly appreciated that it was with difficulty that he could retire at the end of twelve years of continuous service. Time and again in later life he refused the offers of high political honors to devote his time to his business and his family. Perhaps no stronger testimonial of his clean and rugged character could be written than the record of the birth and steady growth of the banking institution that bears his name. For twenty-one years this institution has been almost the sole depository for the wealth of the county seat and the surrounding territory. During all those years it has stood with the strength of a Gibraltar. Whether the financial tide ran high or low, the people's faith in this bank never faltered, chiefly because of their unquestioned faith in the man at its head. He died possessed of a comfortable fortune, and always gave with a liberal hand to every worthy charity and to every cause looking to the improvement of the social and educational conditions in the village of Whitehall. In his boyhood he joined the United Lutheran Church of Norway, and has always been an earnest Christian worker, giving liberally to the aid of church work, regardless of denominations. The Methodist Episcopal Church of Whitehall owes much to his enthusiastic work and liberal support. The best epitome of the life and character of John O. Melby was his request, as the end drew near, for a simple Christian burial, and his acceptance without fear and with quiet resignation of the infinite decree. John O. Melby is gone, and the light of his kindly presence on the streets of Whitehall is dimmed by death, but the influence of his upright Christian life will remain with us to cheer and guide the generations yet to come." Such encomiums but briefly skim the surface of the real depths of his character, his worth and the meaning his life had on the community. He furnished backing for several financial and business institutions throughout the county; he encouraged many a worthy business enterprise that had a part in the upbuilding of Trempealeau County villages. In Whitehall there was scarcely any phase of the village's activity in which he did not have a part. His benefactions were widespread, his hand was ever open. The blessings which the people of Whitehall will receive from the park which he and his wife presented to the village will increase yearly. Mr. Melby was especially happy in his domestic life, and in his home and family he took his greatest pride. At the beginning of his career Nov. 3, 1875, he married Jennie L. Beach, at Ettrick, and her influence and encouragement were important factors in his success. Their home was brightened by five children. Two died in infancy. Kathryn F. is the wife of Judge Robert S. Cowie of Whitehall, Charles B. is cashier of the John O. Melby & Co. Bank of Whitehall, Marie A. is the wife of Harold W. Dawdy of Onalaska, Wis.

Jennie L. Melby, the inspiration and companion of her husband in all his efforts, was born at Charlotte, Vt., Oct. 9, 1847, daughter of Charles



Jennie L. Melby.



CHARLES B. MELBY

Grant Beach and Caroline Barnes Beach. In 1854 the family moved to North Ferrisburg, Vt., where she attended the common school. In 1859 she attended the seminary at Charlotte, and in 1864 the select school at the Hollow, in North Ferrisburg. In 1866 she entered the female seminary at Middleburg, Vt., remaining there, however, only one year, as her parents then left for Wisconsin, where Mr. Beach owned a farm near Ettrick. Shortly after coming west she began a term of school in the settlement now known as Hegg. The following winter she taught in what was then known as the lower district of Scotch Prairie; then the next two terms in Ettrick, and finally a term of school in what is known as the Beach district. At the close of the term she returned to Vermont, where she remained about a year, returning to Wisconsin in 1872. On Nov. 3, 1875, she was married to John O. Melby, at Ettrick, Wis. In 1876 they moved to Galesville, where they remained until the county seat was moved to Arcadia, leaving Galesville in the fall of 1876 for Arcadia, where they resided until the fall of 1877. At that time the county seat was moved to Whitehall, to which place they came to remain until the present time. Mrs. Melby was always active in community endeavors wherever she was located, especially in the work of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which she is a leading member. Being deeply interested in music, and possessing an unusually sweet voice, she was prominent in all musical organizations until late years. She was a charter member of the local Woman's Christian Temperance Union and its first president. She was also an active member of Ivy Chapter, No. 115, O. E. S.

Charles B. Melby, financier and man of affairs, is one of the leading citizens of Trempealeau County. His wide experience has admirably fitted him for the onerous duties of the position he occupies in the community, and his influence has ever been used in behalf of progress of development. Every movement that has for its object the betterment of the county finds in him a warm friend, and busy though he is with his numerous business activities, he is finding time for considerable public service. Born in the village where he now lives, March 1, 1883, only son of John O. and Jennie L. (Beach) Melby, he was reared with the special end in view of some time assuming control of the extensive Melby holdings. He passed through the graded schools, and was graduated from the Whitehall high school with the Class of 1899 at the age of sixteen years. Then he attended Lawrence University at Appleton, Wis., for three years. In 1905 he became chief page in the House of Representatives at Washington, D. C., in which capacity he met nearly all of the men prominent in American public life. In the meantime he studied law at the George Washington University, graduating in 1907 with the degree of LL.B. Upon being admitted to the bar he took up the practice of his profession at Washington. April 1, 1909, he was called home to take the position of assistant cashier in his father's bank. In July, 1911, he was promoted to the office of cashier, which he still retains. In addition to his work in this connection he is vice-president of the Bank of Eleva, and treasurer of the Central Trading Association of Whitehall. His financial holdings include stock in the new Ettrick & Northern Railroad Company, of which he has been an enthusiastic and loyal

supporter. His public work has included service as a member of the school board and of the library board. War activities in the county have given him an unusual opportunity for effective help. The sale of the first Liberty Bond issue found in him an enthusiastic promotor, and the Defense League counts him among its most useful members. His decisions as a member of the exemption board have been marked by a discretion which has realized the full need of the government, and yet which has taken into due consideration all angles of local needs and local conditions. Of a fraternal disposition, he was a popular member of the Phi Delta Phi while at college, and in the Masonic order he has passed through the chairs of the local lodge and has also joined the Chapter. Mr. Melby was married April 26, 1809, to Frances Gunby Bethune of Washington, D. C., born in Warrentown, Va., May 1, 1887, daughter of James A. Bethune, a Washington pharmacist, and of Narcissa Garrett Bethune. Mr. and Mrs. Melby have two children: John Bethune, born April 5, 1912, and Natalie Grayson, born Jan. 16, 1915.

Anton O. Melby, president of the John O. Melby & Co. Bank, Whitehall, is one of the substantial figures in the financial stability of Trempealeau County. Connected with his present institution since 1888, he has worked his way to the top, and his personality and ability have been important factors in its success. He was born in Askim, Norway, Jan. 1, 1858, the son of Ole Christianson and his good wife, Maria Olson, farming people, the former of whom died in 1871 and the latter in 1896. Of the six children in the family three came to the United States and found their way directly to Ettrick, in Trempealeau County, John O. arriving in 1869, Edward in 1871 and Anton O. in 1873. Upon reaching Ettrick Anton O. secured employment in the store of Iver Pederson, with whom he remained nearly six years. Then he spent nine years traveling. In January, 1888, he came to Whitehall. In the fall of that year, when his brother, John O. opened his bank, Anton O. became assistant cashier. In 1894 he was made cashier, and in 1911 he was elevated to the duties of his present position. With all his busy life, he has found time for considerable public work, and has given excellent service as a member of the village council since 1894. He has been a member of the Odd Fellows since 1888. His religious affiliation is with the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he is a member of the official board as a trustee. Mr. Melby was married July 26, 1893, to Della E. Hazard, a school teacher of North Ferrisburg, Vt., who was born in 1865 and died in 1899, the daughter of Ezra and Caroline (Williams) Hazard. This union was blessed with three children: William H., who is engaged in the lumber business at De Smet, S. D.; Sylvia M., who was graduated from the La Crosse normal school in 1916, and is now teaching at Norwalk, Wis., and Edward C., who lives at North Ferrisburg, Vt. June 11, 1903, Mr. Melby married Mrs. Mary E. (McKay) Shane of Modena, Wis.

Robert S. Cowie, attorney of Whitehall, is one of the best known citizens in Western Wisconsin, and for many years has taken an active and influential part in public affairs. He has held national, state and county appointments, and as an attorney has participated in many of the most important cases that have been tried in the courts of the Sixth Judicial Circuit. He was born in Glencoe, Buffalo County, this state, April 18, 1872,



Anton M. M. M.



MR. AND MRS. ROBERT S. COWIE

son of George and Margaret (Faulds) Cowie, was educated in the public schools, and while still a youth became a teacher. By this means he was enabled to enter the law department of the University of Wisconsin, from which he was graduated with the degree of LL.B. in 1894. While in the university he took a deep interest in all student activities, and was especially prominent in the Columbia Literary Society. In the fall of 1894 he located at Arcadia, as a partner of Attorney John C. Gaveney. There he successfully practiced until Jan. 1, 1898, when he became district attorney, a position in which he did the county most efficient service. While serving his second term he resigned to accept an appointment by President Theodore Roosevelt as deputy auditor in the United States Navy Department, in which position he served from 1903 to 1905, when he resigned. In the spring of 1905 he was elected county judge, and served with much distinction from Jan. 1, 1906, to July, 1909, when he was appointed a member of the State Board of Control by Gov. James O. Davidson. At the expiration of his term he established himself at Whitehall, where he has since been in practice. His business holdings include stock in the John O. Melby & Co. Bank at Whitehall, the Central Trading Association of Whitehall and the Farmers & Merchants Bank of Independence. His fraternal associations are with the Masonic, Elk and Odd Fellow lodges. Judge Cowie was married Dec. 25, 1897, to Kathryn F. Melby, born in Arcadia, April 1, 1878, daughter of John O. and Jennie (Beach) Melby. This union has been blessed with one daughter, Janice M., born Dec. 31, 1900.

George Cowie, an early settler of Buffalo County, Glencoe Township, was born near Edinburgh, Scotland, Aug. 25, 1828, son of George Cowie, Sr., and Janet (McDonald) Cowie, both of ancient Scotch Highland ancestry. George Cowie was reared to the occupation of iron and coal mining in his native land, and in 1848, at the age of nineteen years, came to America. Landing in Nova Scotia, he engaged in mining there for a time, and then went to Pottsville, Pa., where he engaged in the same occupation. Going thence to the city of New York, he left that port on Jan. 5, 1850, for California. Going via the Isthmus, he landed at Aspinwall, and thence went across the Isthmus on foot to Panama on the Pacific side. At that place he took the steamer Winfield Scott for San Francisco. This proved a most eventful voyage. The vessel was an old one, and both yellow fever and cholera broke out on board. The vessel was crowded with 1,000 passengers, 300 of whom were sick, and seventy-five died before the vessel reached the port of San Francisco, and were buried in the sea. On reaching California Mr. Cowie went to Nevada County, where he engaged in gold mining, and remained on the Pacific coast for about one year, when he returned to his home in Pottsville via the Nicaragua route. Soon after his return home he removed to Lonaconing, Alleghany County, Md., where he engaged in mining. In the spring of 1855 he started for Wisconsin, going by rail to West Virginia, thence by the Ohio River to Cairo, and thence by steamer to Fountain City (then known as Holmes' Landing), an Indian trading post. That, it will be remembered, was 62 years ago. La Crosse at that time was but a village, and the existence of Winona had scarcely begun. Mr. Cowie made his present settlement at once, purchas-

ing government land at \$1.25 per acre. Mr. Cowie was prominently identified with the growth and development of Buffalo County, and was called upon to serve in many public positions. He was the first postmaster of Glencoe, filling that office very efficiently for twenty-seven successive years, and gave the name to the office, which was established in 1862. He gave the name Glencoe to his town in honor of a valley in the highlands of Scotland called Glencoe, which was the home of the McDonalds, from which clan he is descended. He also served as chairman of the town for six years, and held nearly all other local offices, and was largely instrumental in the organization of the town of Glencoe. He served in the legislature in the sessions of 1871-72, and has the honor of being the first Democrat elected to the legislature from Buffalo County. In November, 1894, Mr. Cowie reluctantly retired from the old farm home and with his wife moved to Arcadia, Trempealeau County, where they resided until his death. He died on Feb. 17, 1904, while visiting his daughter, Mrs. F. P. Taft, at Longmont, Cal. His wife died May 29, 1913, at her old home in the town of Glencoe. Mr. Cowie was married at Pottsville, Pa., to Margaret Faulds, daughter of James Faulds, who, with his son and daughter, John and Elizabeth Faulds, came to Wisconsin with the Cowie family. Mr. and Mrs. Cowie had twelve children: David, Frank, Nettie, Anna, George and Louis (deceased), and James F., George M., Allan J., Albert E., Robert S. and Margaret M.

Eugene F. Clark, legislator, financier and man of affairs, is one of the leading citizens of Galesville, where his interests and influence extend to almost every phase of village and rural life. As president of the Bank of Galesville he has been an important factor in the standing which that institution has maintained in the community, and as secretary of the Trempealeau County Insurance Company his able administration of affairs has made that organization a model of its kind in every particular. For twenty-two years his work as clerk of the board of education assisted in shaping the careers of several generations of Galesville youth, and his voice was ever raised in behalf of progress and efficiency in educational and administrative methods. For twenty-three years he helped to guide the destinies of the county as a member of the board of supervisors. In 1916, with a splendid previous record in the assembly, he was elected to the state senate from this district, and has by his notable work in that body not only increased his popularity in his district, but also won the admiration and applause of his colleagues, and the people of the state at large. His stand on every public question has been on the side of stauncher patriotism, and for a wider helpfulness and benefit to the people in state affairs. Desiring to do his share toward every business proposition that has for its object the upbuilding of Galesville and vicinity, he has become a stockholder in the Davis Mill Company, the Maxwell-Davis Lumber Company and the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company. With all his busy public activities he has been regularly faithful to his church duties, and has been a valued member of the Methodist Episcopal choir for a period of some forty years,

The career that has brought Mr. Clark to these varied activities has



been a most interesting one. Descended from distinguished New England ancestry, he first saw the light of day in the home of his parents, Isaac and Emily (French) Clark, at the quaint old hamlet of Kingfield, Maine, Aug. 14, 1850. As a small boy he was brought to Wisconsin, living a year in Monroe, Green County, before coming to Galesville, Trempealeau County. Here he was reared to manhood, learning farming from his father and receiving a good education first in the public schools and later at Gale College, and at the La Crosse Business College. After his marriage in 1876 he took up his home on a farm of 100 acres, one mile from Galesville, which he had purchased in 1871. In 1895, a few months after his father's death, he succeeded him as president of the Bank of Galesville, and disposing of his own place moved back to the parental farm. That same year he began his first term in the assembly. In 1902, while serving a second term in the assembly, he sold the family farm and moved to Galesville. There he has since resided, spending, however, some of his winters in the South or West.

Senator Clark was married Dec. 24, 1876, to Emily Crouch, who was born Jan. 13, 1851, in Green Lake County, Wisconsin, daughter of William and Susan (Frizzelle) Crouch. This union has been blessed with three children: Emily Blanche, Susan Mildred and Ethel Grace. Emily Blanche passed through the graded and high schools of Galesville, was graduated from the University of Wisconsin with the class of 1901, and for two years was assistant principal of the Galesville high school. She was married on Oct. 21, 1903, to Earl E. Hunner, a mining man of Duluth, Minn. Susan Mildred passed through the graded and high schools of Galesville, took a course in the Columbia College of Music at Chicago became supervisor of music at Hibbing, Minn., for two years, also at Marinette, Wis., for two years, and then became a music supervisor at Missoula, Mont., having ten schools under her supervision. She was married on Aug. 29, 1916, to Leonard Larson, assistant cashier of the Trust and Savings Bank of Missoula, Mont. Ethel Grace passed through the graded and high schools of Galesville and attended Milwaukee Downer College for two years. She then went to Appleton, Wis., where she graduated from both the Conservatory of Music and Lawrence University. After this she taught English and music for three years in the schools of Evansville, Wis., and a private school near Milwaukee, Wis. She was married on Aug. 29, 1916, to George C. Nixon, a business man of Milwaukee.

Isaac Clark, one of the early settlers in this region, and one of the sturdy group of men who had in their hands the shaping of the early history of Galesville, was born in Maine, of English descent, Jan. 21, 1826, and was there reared, receiving such educational training as the neighborhood afforded. Growing to manhood's years, he was married, and settled down to quiet New England farm life. But the blood of pioneers was in his veins, and in 1854 he brought his family to Wisconsin, to seek the wider opportunities of a newer country. For a year they lived at Monroe, in Green County. Then leaving his family there he came to Galesville, and secured a farm within what are now the corporate limits of the village. On this place a small frame dwelling was standing, and to this house

he brought his family. Here he made his home for the remainder of his days, and followed the occupation of a farmer, taking an interest also in many other ventures. In 1883 he organized the Bank of Galesville and was its first president. He also organized the creamery company and was largely instrumental in having the railroad constructed to Galesville. Another important enterprise which he helped to found was the Trempealeau Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company, of which he was secretary for a number of years. He was also actively interested for many years in the Trempealeau County Agricultural Society, serving as its treasurer and general superintendent. In short, Isaac Clark was one of those men of far-sighted enterprise and energy who are the leading factors in advancing any community in which they may cast their lot. He saw opportunities where other men passed them by and having once started in any enterprise he worked hard until it was established upon a sure footing. He was a member of the town board in 1861, 1862 and 1863, and served in the state assembly in 1870. After a long and useful life he died Sept. 24, 1894, widely honored, beloved and mourned. His name will live in the story of the institutions he helped to found, and in the hearts of the friends whom his sterling worth drew to his side. In 1893 he built the M. E. Church and presented it to the M. E. Society.

Mr. Clark was married in Maine, July 9, 1848, to Emily French, a native of that state. She died in 1865, leaving Eugene F., Florence M. and Genevieve. By his second marriage, Mr. Clark had two children, Wilford and Leslie, and by his third marriage he had one child, who died in infancy.

William Crouch, a pioneer, spent his interesting life in four states, and was a useful and substantial citizen of every locality in which he made his home. He was born near Lockport, N. Y., May 3, 1828, of English descent, spent his boyhood in much the same manner as other boys of his age and period, and as a young man became a miner. Later he came to Wisconsin and took up farming at Big Creek, near Sparta, in Monroe County. Subsequently he moved to South Dakota and later made his home at Ballaton, Minn. He died there Sept. 24, 1908. His wife was Susan Frizzelle, of English and French descent, who was born Dec. 31, 1828, and died March 7, 1883, on the farm at Sparta, Monroe County, this state.

Alexander A. Arnold was born in Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, N. Y., Oct. 20, 1833, son of Archibald H. R. and Catherine M. E. Schultz. After mastering his primary studies he was sent to Starkey Academy and later to an institution known as the Nine Brothers Boarding School. This was supplemented with a business course at a college in Poughkeepsie. Thus equipped he started out as a teacher, but this profession did not appeal to him and he entered the Ohio Law School at Poland, from which he graduated in 1855. Fresh from college he added to his knowledge of the law and acquainted himself with actual practice in the office of Hon. Theodore Miller, then a prominent lawyer of Hudson, N. Y. Six months later he was admitted to practice before the supreme courts of that state and Ohio. The tide was flowing westward and the young man saw his future in that direction. Early in 1857 he set out for Wisconsin, and having relatives at Elkhorn that was his first place of residence. Elkhorn also was the scene

of his first case as a trial lawyer. Having two cousins located at Galesville, Mr. Arnold decided to visit them before fixing a permanent location, and later in the year 1857 found him in the settlement, which was then in its third year and was known as Galesville. There was little demand for a lawyer, but there were thousands of acres of land to be entered and new settlers were arriving. The prospects looked good to the young lawyer and he cast his lot with Galesville, which was destined to be his home to the end of his days. There were few frame buildings at this time, and one of these (still a part of the W. A. Tower house) had just been completed by a Captain Finch. This building was purchased by Mr. Arnold and his lawyer's sign was swung to the breeze. The building was small, but it provided ample room for his desk and a few books, besides space for the postoffice. The late Dr. William M. Young was postmaster. There was little mail, and as the doctor was a busy man in his practice the lawyer attended to the office most of the time. In 1859 Mr. Arnold returned to New York and was married to Hattie E. Tripp, returning with his bride to Wisconsin soon after. The young wife died two years later, leaving a daughter Blanche. The child died at about three years of age. When the Civil War broke out, in 1861, Galesville, along with the rest of the country, caught the martial spirit. In August, 1862, the Thirtieth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry was organized and Mr. Arnold enlisted in Company C and was chosen captain. He was so commissioned by Governor Lewis. The service of this regiment the first year was largely in this state. The second year it was stationed on the Indian frontier in the Dakotas. Not until the third year was the regiment sent south, and then its operations were confined to Kentucky. At the close of the war Captain Arnold returned to Galesville. He did not resume his law practice, but turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. He had, on his first arrival here, purchased eighty acres of land. After the war he added 160 acres to this and continued to increase the tract to the 400 acres which make up the present Arnold properties. The Arnold place has for years been one of the finest farm homes in the state. Farming fifty years ago was carried on on a much smaller scale than at the present time, and Captain Arnold found ample time to assist in shaping the affairs of the community and to study politics. His college education had included a practical knowledge of surveying, and few of the original stakes set in this section of the county were not placed by him. He held the office of county surveyor many years. He was also one of the early district attorneys and was once county superintendent of schools. His first prominence in politics was gained in 1870, when he was elected to the state legislature. From 1878 to 1880 he served his district as state senator. In 1880 he was again sent to the assembly and was elected speaker of that body. As an advanced farmer and breeder of pure-bred stock Captain Arnold has been known throughout this and in other states for forty years. He was one of the organizers of the Trempealeau County Agricultural Society in 1859, and served as president and as secretary at different periods. He was a member of the executive board of the State Agricultural Society for a time, and during a long period was one of the state's farmers' institute conductors. He commenced the breeding of

Shorthorn cattle when there was not a pure-bred animal in this part of the state outside of those on his farm. The breeding of this particular strain has gone on for more than forty years and is continued by his sons. Captain Arnold was made a Mason in Trempealeau Lodge fifty-seven years ago. When Decora Lodge was organized he was one of its charter members. He was a past master of the lodge and one of its faithful patrons to the end. He was president of the Trempealeau County Historical Society and vice-president of the Bank of Galesville at the time of his death. As one of the organizers of the Charles H. Ford Post, G. A. R., he was ever active in that body. Captain Arnold was again married Feb. 1, 1869, to Miss Mary Douglas of Melrose. The bride came from a family then prominent in Jackson County, and was the oldest of five children. She was educated in the district schools and at Galesville University, first attending when Bishop Fallows was president, and then taking another course of two years seven years later. For many years she was president of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, of which she is still a member.

Seven children were born to Captain and Mrs. Arnold: Archibald H., Roy D., Kittie H., Mollie D., Gerald D., Alex. W. and Beulah. Archibald H. is a fruit grower, residing at College Place, Wash., three miles from Walla Walla. He married Fannie M. Parsons of Whitehall and has two children: Dewey and Douglas. Mollie D. is the wife of S. C. French, Gale Township, a farmer and stock grower. They have three children: Henry C., Miriam H. and Arnold S. Gerald D., county surveyor, a resident of Galesville, is engaged in farming and raising Shorthorn cattle. He married Jayne E. Burrows of New Richmond, Wis. They have two children: Wm. A. and John B. Alex. W., who resides on the home place, is conducting the home farm and is engaged in stock raising. He married Myrtle Smith of Tomah, Wis. Beulah is the wife of Gilford M. Wiley, principal of the high school at Greensburg, Ind. They have two children: Arnold R. and Mary Esther.

George Young Freeman was born in the village of Quakerstreet, Schenectady County, N. Y., Aug. 13, 1827. He was of Puritan and Knickerbocker Dutch ancestry. He received an academic education at Union College at Schenectady, and in 1843 came to Wisconsin with the family of his Grandfather Young and settled at Elkhorn, Walworth County. At Elkhorn he pursued the study of law with Judge Gale, and in 1852 went to New York and entered the office of Judge Waterman, then judge of the Marine Court of that city. He remained in that city six years, coming to Galesville in 1858 to visit his relative, Judge Gale, the founder of Galesville. He remained here a short time, returning to New York to sever his connection with Judge Waterman before entering upon the practice of law in the west. The spring of 1859 found Mr. Freeman admitted to the bar and permanently located here. When Mr. Freeman settled in Galesville he found located here Romanzo Bunn, engaged in the practice of law. The late Capt. Alex. A. Arnold also was installed in an office and united law with surveying. Galesville was then the county seat, and the old courthouse was the scene of many a legal contest with these three as advocates. Mr. Freeman at once came into prominence as a lawyer, and his reputation soon spread over a wide territory. In 1862 he was elected district attorney for Trempealeau

County, but a steadily growing practice demanded most of his time, and in the active years of his life he found little time for political office. In the earliest years of his life he was a Whig. He voted for Lincoln in 1864 and Grant in 1868, but after that time he was affiliated with the Democratic party. He was once the candidate of his party for congressman in this district, and later was named for state senator against the late Senator Withee. The district was then comprised of Trempealeau and La Crosse Counties. Mr. Freeman carried La Crosse County, but the overwhelming Republican majority in Trempealeau County elected Mr. Withee. In 1888 President Cleveland called Mr. Freeman to Washington as principal examiner of land claims and contests. Of the dozen lawyers employed in this branch of the Department of the Interior, Mr. Freeman was recognized as an authority. It was during his service at Washington that the famous Oklahoma decision was handed down. The findings in this case were written by him, although the document necessarily appeared over the signature of the head of the department.

Mr. Freeman remained in Washington under President Harrison a year after the Democratic administration was retired. A few years later he sold his office and equipment. Later he associated with him his son Robert, and the firm of Freeman & Freeman continued until 1898. Mrs. Freeman died in 1896, and from that time Mr. Freeman gradually lost interest in business affairs. Mr. Freeman was ever a man of affairs, and he had much to do with the making of Galesville. When the Trempealeau County Agricultural Society was founded in 1859 he was the first in the movement and piloted it through its infancy. As the first secretary of the society the record books show the interest he took in the organization. His penmanship in the old secretary's book is like copperplate engraving. He was a power in the building of the railroad from Trempealeau to Galesville, and was secretary of the company that promoted the road. In this movement he was tireless in his efforts. When Galesville was incorporated Mr. Freeman was its first mayor. Along in the nineties he served in this capacity a second time, when he was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of W. B. Thompson. That was a year when Galesville was a dry town, and in after years when he thought the generation that followed him extravagant in city affairs he delighted in saying that when he was mayor he ran the town on nothing but the poll and dog tax. Not the least of Mr. Freeman's exploits was the development of the Arctic Springs, which property passed into the hands of a syndicate a few years ago. While he spent considerable money on the springs and in getting the water before the public, his peculiarities prevented his interesting capital or winning the co-operation of the public in marketing the product. In the early days of Galesville University he was prominent in its affairs. He was also one of the first to organize a Burns Club here. In fact, in all things for the betterment of the community in his active years he was a conspicuous figure. Mr. Freeman was a man of fine personal appearance, well groomed, polished in his speech, and when in the mood, had the politeness of a cavalier. While never a member of any church, he was one of the few men in Galesville in his time who regularly attended church, and all his life he was a

liberal contributor to the Presbyterian society. He was a charter member of Decora Lodge, F. & A. M., but he had not been affiliated with the lodge for twenty-five years. Mr. Freeman is survived by his three sons: Edwin W., a prominent attorney and promoter, living at Los Angeles, Cal.; Robert, also a lawyer and man of public affairs, residing at Corona, that state, and Rev. Charles E. Freeman of Galesville, who temporarily retired from the ministry some years ago that he might care for his father in his helpless condition.

Joseph Barnes Beach, for some 35 years a distinguished figure in Western Wisconsin journalism, was born in Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vt., May 12, 1853, son of Charles G. and Caroline (Barnes) Beach. He spent his early boyhood in his native state, came to Trempealeau County with the rest of the family at the age of 13, and was reared to farm pursuits in Ettrick Township. At the age of 21 he entered the office of the Galesville Journal, then conducted by George Luce, and spent two years learning the printers' trade. When Mr. Luce sold to B. E. Clark in 1876 Mr. Beach established the Galesville Independent, under the auspices of the Galesville Printing Association. In 1877 he and E. H. Lowe established the North La Crosse Star. Selling this a short time later he returned to his father's farm. Frederick E. Beach, a brother, established the Whitehall Times in January, 1880, and in December, of the same year, Joseph B. Beach bought a half interest, buying the other half and assuming full ownership and control five years later. He conducted this paper until March 20, 1915, when, owing to failing health, he leased the plant to his brothers, Frederick E. and Zachary T., and retired. He died May 3, 1916. Entering political life as a young man, he took a deep interest in public affairs. For 14 years he was chairman of the Republican County Committee. He also served on numerous other committees and delegations, and was a member of many political conventions. In 1897 he did his district good service as a member of the assembly. A Republican of the old type for many years, he later espoused the cause of the progressive wing of that party, and labored zealously in its ranks. His great joy was in his newspaper work. At the time of his death it was written of him: "His was a busy life. Possibly he thus overtaxed himself, for it was his delight to be constantly accomplishing some worthy object. Where others found enjoyment in society and travel, work at his desk, or at the case, afforded him all the pleasure his nature seemed to crave. When the day's labor was over he found recreation, in the summer months, in his well-tilled garden, in which he took great pride; during the winter months he found life's greatest joy with his family, in his comfortable home. He was pre-eminently a home man, a devoted husband, a sympathetic and loving father, and the training of his children was one of the vital things in his life. Mr. Beach was married Sept. 5, 1889, to Hattie M. Olds, born in Pigeon Township, March 27, 1869, daughter of George H. and Nancy J. (Oliver) Olds, the pioneers. This union has been blessed with four children: Kathryn Florence, Joseph Barnes, Jr. (first), Joseph Barnes, Jr., and George Harrison. K. Florence was born Nov. 9, 1893, and is now a high school English teacher. She graduated from the Whitehall high school in 1911 and received the degree



J. B. BEACH

of B. A. from Lawrence College at Appleton, Wis., in 1915. While at that institution her scholarship won for her the honor of membership in the Phi Beta Kappa. Joseph Barnes, Jr. (first), was born May 3, 1895, and died April 29, 1896. Joseph Barnes, Jr., was born Nov. 10, 1897, was graduated from the Whitehall high school in 1915 and is now a student at the University of Wisconsin. George Harrison was born July 27, 1901, and is a junior in the Whitehall high school.

Charles Grant Beach, an early settler, was born in Vermont, Aug. 15, 1815, son of Aaron L. Beach and descended on both sides of his house from a long line of Colonial ancestry. He was reared on a farm and in his adult years became interested in railroad work. As a young man he married Caroline Barnes, who was born in Vermont March 24, 1817, and was likewise descended from the colonists of that state. In Vermont eight children were born, of whom one, a girl four years of age, died there. In 1866 the family came to Trempealeau County and settled on a farm in Ettrick. There the mother died in 1887, and the father, two years later, moved to Whitehall, and took up his home with his daughter, Mrs. John O. Melby, with whom he remained until his death, May 13, 1906. Of the seven children who came to this county with their parents, Charles, who became a railroad man, remained in Vermont, where he died in 1903; Edgar S., who came west some years before the others, died in Mankato in 1874; Henry, a railroad man, died in Whitehall in 1904; Jennie L. is now Mrs. J. O. Melby of Whitehall; Zachary T. and Frederick E. are newspaper men in Whitehall; Joseph B., who died May 3, 1916, was also a newspaper man for many years.

George H. Olds, pioneer, was born in Chenango County, New York, Jan. 8, 1834, son of William and Marietta (Jackson) Olds. William Olds was born in Hillsdale, N. Y., March 1, 1799, and in that state grew to manhood and was married. In 1853 he came to Wisconsin and located in Caledonia Township, where he purchased 40 acres of land from William Cram. Later he secured a homestead from the government, and from time to time added more land until he owned in all some 520 acres. His wife died in Caledonia Township. He died at Rice Lake, Wis., when more than 98 years old. George H. Olds came west with his parents and remained with them several years. In 1857, with his brother, James D.—who had come west in 1851, located in Chippewa Falls, Wis., and there remained until joining the family in 1853—he opened a mercantile establishment at Caledonia. In 1861 he served for a short time in the Civil War, being discharged on account of ill health. He moved to Pigeon Creek in 1863 and in 1874 came to Whitehall and secured the first lot sold in the townsite. The same year he was made postmaster, a position he held until May, 1889, when he retired. He died Sept. 13, 1905. Mr. Olds was married in Pigeon Township, June 26, 1864, to Nancy J. Oliver, their only child being Hattie M., who was born March 27, 1869, and was married Sept. 5, 1889, to Joseph B. Beach, now deceased.

George Gale, jurist and pioneer, founder of Galesville, founder of Gale College, one of the framers of the Wisconsin constitution, and one of the organizers of Trempealeau County, was born on the banks of Lake Champlain, at Burlington, Vermont, Nov. 30, 1816. His grandfather,

Peter Gale, was a native of Vermont, and served in the Continental army; his father, whose name was also Peter, was one of the "Minute Men" of Barre, Vermont, in the War of 1812; his mother, whose name was Hannah Tottingham, was of genuine Puritan stock. George Gale lived on a farm during his boyhood, and divided his time in working on a farm and attending school. His schooling was thorough, and although he was not a graduate of any college, he acquired an excellent knowledge of the higher branches of mathematics and the sciences. In March, 1839, he commenced reading law at Waterbury Center, Vermont, and was admitted to the bar in 1841, having in the meantime served his village as postmaster. Soon after becoming a lawyer, he came to the then territory of Wisconsin, and located at Elkhorn, in what is now Walworth County, where he practiced law, and at the same time continued his studies with great diligence. In addition to his professional labors, he was for one year the editor of the *Western Star*, published in Elkhorn, to which he contributed many able articles. The *Wisconsin Farm Book* he first published in 1846, issuing revised editions in 1848, 1850 and 1856. Soon after his arrival at Elkhorn, he entered public life, and was elected to various town and school offices, serving one term as chairman of the county board of supervisors. In 1847 the scope of his services broadened, and he was sent to the Constitutional Convention, in which body he was a prominent and hard working member, winning distinction for his labors on the judiciary committee. The same year he was elected district attorney for his county. In 1850 and 1851, he served in the state senate, being chairman of committee on privileges and elections in the first session, and chairman of the committee on industry the second session. July 4, 1851, he received from the governor of the state, the appointment as brigadier-general in the militia. In the fall of that year he moved to La Crosse, and shortly after his arrival was elected county judge of La Crosse County, having both common law and probate jurisdiction not only of La Crosse County, which then embraced a large area, but also over Chippewa County, which had been attached to La Crosse County for judicial purposes. Jan. 1, 1854, he resigned, and in April, 1856, he was elected judge of the Sixth Judicial District, composed of the counties of Buffalo, Clark, Jackson, Monroe, Trempealeau, La Crosse, Vernon and Crawford, for the judicial term of six years, commencing Jan. 1, 1857. The duties of this office he discharged with much dignity and ability. During Judge Gale's residence at La Crosse, he urged very strongly upon the prominent citizens of that place the importance of their establishing a college or an institution of learning of a higher order, but the country being new, the project did not find favor with the people, and nothing was done to carry out this worthy project. He shortly afterward decided to found a college and town on his own responsibility. Accordingly in 1853, he purchased about 2,000 acres of land, including the present location of Galesville, with the water power on Beaver Creek, and in January, 1854, he procured from the state legislature the organization of the new county of Trempealeau, with the location of the county seat at Galesville. At the same time he obtained a charter for a university to be located at that place. The board of trustees was organized in 1855, and



GEORGE GALE, JR.



GEORGE GALE, SR.

the first edifice commenced in 1858. In June, 1854, the village plot of Galesville was laid out. Even through the financial crisis, Judge Gale carried the university to success, and had the great joy of seeing the first class graduated in July, 1865. After eleven years as president of the board of trustees and of the faculty, he resigned, and left the work in other hands, although he never lost his active interest. In 1863 the institution conferred upon him the degree of LL.D., the University of Vermont having paved the way by granting him the degree of M.A. in 1857. As an historical writer, Judge Gale took a high rank. For the Wisconsin State Historical Society, of which he was at one time vice-president and later an honorary member, he prepared an elaborate paper entitled, "History of the Chippewa Nation of Indians," which is included in the published "Collections" of the society. In 1866 he published at Galesville a "Genealogical History of the Gale Family in England and in the United States, With an Account of the Tottingham Family, of New England, and of the Bogardus, Waldron and Young Families, of New York," a volume requiring a large amount of patience and persevering investigation. His last work, to the preparation of which he devoted many years, was published in 1867 and was entitled, "The Upper Mississippi, or Historical Sketches of the Introduction of Civilization in the Northwest," a work which was well received and widely circulated. Judge Gale's health partially failed him in the summer of 1862, and the three following winters he spent in the South and West, most of the time in the service of the Sanitary and Christian Commissions. During February and March, 1863, he had charge of the United States Sanitary Commission Depot, on Morris Island, during the siege of Charleston. He departed this life with all the consolations of the Christian religion, at Galesville, April 1, 1868. In all the relations of life, in which he had been called to take a part, Judge Gale was always faithful, honest and persevering, with habits of industry and close application. Those who knew him the best esteemed him the most. In all respects he was an estimable man, discharging every duty to the best of his ability. He retained his mental faculties to the last. his faith was strong, and his last days were full of peace.

December, 1844, Judge Gale married Gertrude Young, born at Schenectady, N. Y., in 1810, daughter of George and Anna (Waldron) Young. She died March 3, 1902. In the family there were three children: George, a leading attorney of Galesville; William, a prominent attorney of Winona, who died Aug. 13, 1903; and Helen, wife of H. J. Arnold, who is engaged in the drug business at Kansas City.

George Gale, Jr., a distinguished attorney of Galesville, was born in Elkhorn, Walworth County, Wisconsin, Sept. 14, 1845, son of George and Gertrude (Young) Gale. He was taken to La Crosse as a small boy, and was but 12 years of age when his parents brought him to Galesville. Here he attended the public schools, and in due time entered Gale College, from which he was graduated in June, 1866. Then he studied law in his father's office. In 1868 he was admitted to the bar of Wisconsin and Minnesota, and the following year moved with his mother, brother and sister to Winona, where he spent one year in the office of Judge Thomas Simpson.

In 1870 he and his brother, William, engaged in the practice of law at Winona, under the firm name of G. & W. Gale. In 1880, the partnership was dissolved, and George Gale moved to Fairmont, Minn., where he continued his practice. He subsequently practiced at Berlin, Wis., and later engaged in the lumber and supply business at Merrill, Wis. Because of his wife's failing health, he returned to Trempealeau County in 1885, and moved onto the old Gale farm. In 1894 he moved to Galesville village, where he has since resided. He devotes his time to the practice of his profession, and to looking after his farm and village holdings. He is the justice of the peace for the village, has been city judge of Berlin, Wis., and was county attorney of Martin County, Minn. His fraternal relations are with the Knights of Pythias, in the local lodge of which he was an officer for a number of years, and in the state lodge of which he has sat as a delegate. Mr. Gale was married in 1874, to Myra Johnson, who was born in Elkhorn, Wis., daughter of D. R. and Katherine (Pike) Johnson, of old Huguenot stock, early settlers of Wisconsin, and natives of New York. The father engaged in the furniture business in Elkhorn, Wis., and at Berlin, Wis., established a casket factory, which is now the Milwaukee Casket Co. By this marriage Mr. Gale had two children, Mamie, who died at the age of eight years, and George, who died in infancy. Mr. Gale was married Dec. 31, 1903, to Mrs. Elizabeth (Glennie) Stewart, daughter of John and Elizabeth Glennie, and widow of Duncan Stewart. She was born in Scotland, came to America as a child, was married at Northbend, later moved to West Salem, and there lived for some years. She has a daughter, Margaret. Mr. and Mrs. Gale have two sons, George Glennie, born Feb. 14, 1905, and William John, born May 13, 1912.

Peter J. Enghagen, president of the Hammer-Enghagen Co., Inc., general merchants, of Galesville, was born in Ettrick township, Trempealeau County, June 16, 1867, son of Iver and Ingaborg (Jacobsen) Enghagen. He attended the common school at French Creek and was subsequently a student for two years at Gale University. Residing at home until he was 21 years old, he then entered the employ of Jordan & Hammer as clerk in their general store. After two years in their employ, he worked four years for Gilbertson & Myhre. He then purchased the interest of Mr. Jordan in the Jordan & Hammer concern and the business was conducted under the name of Hammer & Enghagen Mercantile Company, until Feb. 15, 1917, when they incorporated and Mr. Enghagen became president. He devotes all his active hours to the store and is also stockholder in the Bank of Galesville. As a public spirited citizen, interested and willing to aid in local progress, he has served a number of times as a member of the city council. In politics he is independent.

Mr. Enghagen was married May 22, 1895, to Lena Johnson, who was born at Half-way Creek, near Holman, in the township of Holland, La Crosse County, Wis., daughter of Louis and Marie (Brudlas) Johnson. Both her parents were born in Norway, the father in Laud and the mother in Vordal. Her father, who came to the United States during the Civil War, enlisted and served in the Union army. At the close of the war he engaged in farming, residing in La Crosse County, Wis., until the fall of



O. P. Larson

1915, when he retired and took up his residence in Galesville. Mr. and Mrs. Enghagen have two children: Inez Minerva, who is a student at St. Olof College, Northfield, Minn., and Marie Lucile, who is attending the public schools of Galesville. The family are members of the Lutheran church. As a business man Mr. Enghagen has been successful, and as a man and citizen he is held in high esteem by his neighbors.

O. P. Larson, for many years a resident of Whitehall, was one of the most successful men in Trempealeau County. Coming here as a poor boy, and working for many years under the handicap of poor health, he gradually built up a series of establishments which formed a chain of successful houses throughout the states of Wisconsin, Minnesota and North Dakota. In building his own fortunes, he also aided many another man to achieve prosperity, and more than this, his stores and banks have had a part in the development of many a rural community. O. P. Larson was born on the estate of Eastern Piltingsrud, Begnadalen, Valdres, Norway, April 15, 1849, and there received such education as his neighborhood and circumstances permitted. In 1866 he came to the United States and found his way to Trempealeau County, where he secured employment as a farm hand. His inclinations, however, turned to mercantile pursuits, and before long he was working in a store. His shrewdness, ability and courtesy won recognition, and it was not many years before he was at the head of an establishment of his own. The first store he owned was at Independence. After a while he looked to other fields, and gradually extended the scope of his activities. At the height of his career, he owned an interest in some twenty establishments, the most notable of which were the Bank of Eleva, Wis.; the Bank of Melrose, Wis.; the Churches Ferry State Bank, Churches Ferry, N. D., and the J. O. Melby & Co. Bank, Whitehall, as well as the mercantile stores of Larson, Melby & Co., Eleva, Wis.; Larson, Stevning & Co., Stephen, Minn.; Larson, Ringlie & Co., Binford, N. D., and Aneta, N. D.; Larson, Gravlje & Co., Adams, N. D.; Larson, Lander & Co., Fairdal, N. D.; Larson, Dokken & Co., Knox, N. D., and several others. To all of these concerns he gave considerable personal attention. His health, never robust, continued to fail, and in 1912 he went to Norway, in hopes that the land of his birth might bring to him restored vigor. But these hopes were not realized, and on Aug. 30, of that year, he died at Christiania, Norway. His body was brought back to Whitehall for burial. An obituary notice said of him: "Among the many hardy Northmen who have come to this country to share the blessings of our prosperous land, few have availed themselves of its privileges and opportunities more successfully than O. P. Larson. No one could spend an hour with Mr. Larson without realizing the intense energy of his mind, and his keen and almost intuitive analysis of any question or situation presented. For more than thirty years, always in delicate health, he wrestled with business problems, and the question of making his physical strength respond to his ever active mind, and as a sedative to his restless mental faculties and a stimulus to his lagging physical abilities, he traveled almost constantly. In pursuance of health and business he visited nearly every state in our Union. He crossed the Atlantic Ocean at least 24 times. He exemplified in the highest degree

the power of mind over matter. He has left behind him sons and daughters eminently fitted to successfully carry on the many business enterprises which he established." Mr. Larson married Lina Waller, June 26, 1878. She was born in Snartingsdalen, Norway, Aug. 14, 1856, daughter of Ole Jacob Johansen and Martha Waller. Mr. and Mrs. Larson have had six children: Martha, Oliver, Lewis, Clarence, Julia and Manda. Martha married Bent Lander, a merchant of Fairdale, N. D., and they have two sons, twins, Bernhart and Reinhart. Oliver died March 27, 1900. Lewis is a merchant at Binford, N. D. He married Florence Ringlie, and they have one child, Lucille. Clarence is a banker at Eleva. Julia married Christian F. Zoylner, a business man of New York, where they reside. Manda resides at home. Mrs. Larson was the help, encouragement and inspiration of Mr. Larson in all his undertakings. A lover of her home, and taking the greatest delight in domestic duties and the rearing of her children, she has nevertheless found time for much church and charitable work, and has taken an especially important and active part in the affairs of the Ladies' Aid Society. Few ladies have traveled more than she, her journeys with her husband for the benefit of his health having taken her to Norway half a dozen times, and to Colorado, the Pacific Coast states, and the gulf states. When but a mere child she lost her father in 1876, and was reared by her mother, receiving a good education, which her travels and experience has since deepened and broadened. In 1877 she came to America with her brother, Oliver Waller, and her sister, Kristina Waller, who became Mrs. Martin Nelson. She took up her home near Independence, with another sister, Ingeborg (Mrs. Sever Amundson), who had come to America some years previous, and there lived until her marriage to Mr. Larson.

Daniel Levi McCallum, who for a number of years was proprietor of a small but well cultivated and improved farm in Gale township, was born on the same farm, May 19, 1866. His parents were Charles Rodney and Abigail (Lindsey) McCallum, natives of Pennsylvania and of Scotch descent. The father, a farmer, came to Trempealeau County in 1859, locating on the farm above mentioned, where he resided until a few years before his death in July, 1900. He was a veteran of the Civil War and an industrious and respected citizen. For many years before his death he had been a widower.

Daniel Levi McCallum was the seventh born in a family of ten children. He was reared on his parents' homestead, of which he took full charge when 25 years old, later becoming the owner. It consisted of 80 acres of land, supplied with good buildings and other equipment. Here he carried on general farming until his death, which occurred March 6, 1914. He was industrious and enterprising and his efforts were rewarded by prosperity. Mr. McCallum was first married to Mamie Wood, a native of this township, who died Nov. 18, 1903. She left one child, Vilas, who is now residing with his grandfather and guardian, William Wood, of Gale township. May 23, 1908, Mr. McCallum married for his second wife Lena Olsen, who was born in Norway, daughter of Ole and Mary Olsen. Her father came to the United States in 1888, locating in Jackson County, near Melrose, where the family lived two years, and where the father still resides.



Mrs Lina W Larson



His wife died in July, 1916. Of Mr. McCallum's second marriage there were two children: Arlene Beatrice and Nadine Clara, the former of whom is attending school. Mrs. McCallum has recently sold the farm with the intention of taking up her residence in Galesville. Her husband was a man devoted to his home and family. Politically he owned allegiance to the Republican party, but never aspired to official position. He was widely respected and had many friends, to whom his death caused grief.

Ben W. Davis, one of the leading business men of Galesville, where he operates a mill and is engaged in other lines of enterprise, was born in the house in which he now lives, July 28, 1867. His parents were Wilson and Mary E. Davis, the father born March 4, 1827, Kentucky, in which state during his earlier manhood he was engaged in farming. Later Wilson Davis migrated to St. Mary's Landing, Mo., from which place he went to Minnesota, finally coming to Wisconsin. With his father, Timothy, at one time congressman from Dubuque, he built a mill at Elkader, Iowa, which was the first of several that they erected. The second was built at Pickwick, Minn., in 1854, and this they operated for about 11 years, coming to Galesville in 1866. Soon after their arrival here they built the mill that is now owned by the Davis Mill Company, starting it in 1867 and completing it in 1869. It was built of limestone found near the village and is seven stories high, measuring 98 feet from base to roof, and 50 by 70 feet ground dimensions. Its capacity is 200 barrels of flour a day. Wilson Davis operated the mill until his death in 1898, and was besides a director in the Bank of Galesville. He and his wife had four children: Augustine A., who resides in New York City, where he is engaged in the acetylene welding business; Ella, wife of Alfred Campbell, a farmer of Hartland, Wis.; Frank G., who is engaged in the retail lumber business at Tarboro, N. C., and Ben W., of Galesville. Ben W. Davis acquired his education in the school at Galesville, which he attended until he was 17 years of age. He then became a traveling salesman and followed that occupation until he was about 26 years old. Returning to Galesville in 1892 he became connected with the Davis mill in the capacity of manager and the business has since been under his control. In 1894, soon after assuming the management, Mr. Davis rebuilt and remodeled the mill. In 1898 it was burned down, but in the following year he again rebuilt it, its dimensions and capacity being each time enlarged, until its capacity has been brought up to 200 barrels a day. The company also operate an electric plant furnishing light for the city of Galesville. The principal brand of flour turned out is sold under the name of "Peach Blossom," and commands a good market throughout this section and in many of the western states. Mr. Davis gives most of his time to this business, but also has other interests, being vice-president of the Bank of Galesville, president of the Maxwell-Davis Lumber Company of Galesville, a stockholder in the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company. He is a member of the Masonic order, the Knights of Pythias and Modern Woodmen of America. In politics a Republican, he served as mayor of Galesville for nine years. As a business man and public spirited citizen he has proved himself a worthy successor to his father and has taken active part in advancing the growth and interests

of the city. Mr. Davis was married in June, 1894, to Leora A. Avery, who was born in Seattle, Wash., daughter of the Rev. J. H. and Lucy (Washburn) Avery, her father being a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church. He and his wife have one child: Katharyne A., who resides at home and is attending Lawrence University at Appleton, Wis.

Ludwig N. Hammer, secretary and treasurer of the Hammer-Enghagen Company, conducting a general mercantile business in Galesville, was born in Heedmarken, Norway, Jan. 26, 1857, son of Nels Burson and Thrine Hammer. Both parents died in their native land, where the father followed the occupation of millwright. Ludwig N. was the sixth born in a family of eight children and attended both common and high school in Norway. Remaining with his parents until he was 16 years old, he then left home and for some years worked at different occupations, chiefly as clerk in stores. At the age of 23 he left Norway for the United States, locating in Frenchville, Wis., in 1879. In 1881 he came to Galesville as clerk for Wilson-Davis, and remained in their employ until 1889, when he became associated with W. H. Jordan. In 1895 Mr. Jordan sold his interest to Mr. Enghagen, since which time the business was conducted under the style of Hammer & Enghagen. The firm moved into their present quarters in the spring of 1916. They carry a large stock of goods and enjoy a wide and growing patronage. Feb. 15, 1917, the firm incorporated as Hammer-Enghagen Company, with a \$50,000 capital. The officers are: P. J. Enghagen, president; Carl Svensen, vice-president; L. M. Hammer, secretary and treasurer. Mr. Hammer is a stockholder and director in the Bank of Galesville, and also owns business and residence property in the village. He was president of the Business Men's Association for a number of years and is at the present time one of its trustees. He is also a member of the board of trustees of Gale College and has served on the village council several terms. In politics he is an independent Republican, supporting his party at national elections, but exercising his own discretion on other occasions. Mr. Hammer was married Nov. 7, 1885, to Lena Trondson, who was born in Trempealeau County, Wis., daughter of Anders and Agnethe Trondson. Her parents were both natives of that province in Norway in which Mr. Hammer was born. After coming to the United States they lived for some years in Trempealeau County, Wis., later moving to Duel County, South Dakota, where, after a number of years spent in farming, he died. His wife also died in that county. Mr. and Mrs. Hammer have had seven children, of whom two, Nora and Arthur, are deceased. The survivors are: Joseph, a bookkeeper in the Bank of Galesville; Hulda, who is engaged in teaching; Margaret, residing at home, who is a graduate of the high school class of 1916; and Ruth and Rolf, who are attending school. The family are affiliated religiously with the Lutheran church.

Benjamin F. Gipple, a pioneer merchant, was born in Scipio, Cayuga County, N. Y., April 26, 1827, of substantial Pennsylvania-Dutch ancestry. He spent his early life in the East, and after learning farming from his father, was apprenticed to a builder, who taught him the carpenter's trade. In 1856 he came West, and located at Hokah, Minn., where he was employed for a year at his trade. In 1857 he went to La Crosse, and started work for



BERT A. GIPPLE

Mons Anderson, at that time conducting the largest mercantile establishment in the Northwest. In this concern his promotion was rapid, and in a short time he was given charge of all the sales force of the large establishment. During his years in this employ, he gained experience and won the confidence of the people to the extent that he was enabled to open a store of his own. Subsequently he owned stores in Montello, Marquette County, and in North Bend, Jackson County, in which latter place he served as postmaster. In 1889 he came to Galesville and opened a store which he conducted until 1908, when he retired. He died Jan. 7, 1911. It was one of the deep regrets of Mr. Gipple's life that he could not serve in the Civil War. He enlisted twice, and was twice rejected, and was subsequently drafted, but was again rejected, the rejections being due to an injury which he had received early in life. While Mr. Gipple was not a practicing attorney, he took a deep interest in the law from the time of his earliest boyhood, and was well versed in legal procedure. He was a justice of the peace for some fifty years, and in this time handed down hundreds of decisions which met with the praise and approval of many distinguished jurists.

Mr. Gipple married Mary Ann Snure in May, 1849. She died Aug. 6, 1862. To this union were born six children, five of whom are living at this date. He married Emily Ruth Bradshaw June 2, 1865. She was born in Indiana Oct. 9, 1843. There were born to this second marriage three sons, Benjamin F., Bert Allen and William B., and one daughter, Mayme, who died at the age of 31. Mrs. Gipple died March 21, 1917.

Bert A. Gipple, journalist and man of affairs, editor of the Galesville Republican for twenty-five years, has taken an active part in every move that has for its object the upbuilding, development and betterment of the community. Few men are better known in the county. He is a native of this State, born in La Crosse, Wis., Dec. 16, 1870, son of Benjamin F. and Emily R. (Bradshaw) Gipple. At the age of seventeen he became shipping clerk in a wholesale house in La Crosse. In 1890 he began his journalistic career as a printer's assistant on the Galesville Independent. His first reportorial work was done under W. R. Finch, on the La Crosse Republican and Leader in 1892. In 1893 he took charge of the editorial department of the Prairie du Chien Union. Subsequently he was employed on the Mondovi Herald, and then returned to Galesville, where he worked on the Independent. In 1896 he took charge of the Cumberland Advocate in the absence of its publisher. Again returning to Galesville later in the same year, he opened a job printing office. He founded the Galesville Republican in 1897, and in 1908 on the organization of the Republican Printing Company he was the principal stockholder. The company absorbed the old Galesville Independent, and now has the only newspaper and job printing plant in the village. Mr. Gipple is a high degree Mason, belonging to the Blue Lodge at Galesville, and the Chapter and Council at La Crosse. He was appointed Grand Steward at the communication of the Grand Lodge in 1916. He was a charter member of the Galesville Colony of Beavers. He was married July 28, 1893, to Emma J. Sagen, daughter of Ole N. and Ella (Trondson) Sagen, and they have one daughter, Dorris C. Mrs. Gipple was educated in the schools of Galesville, and in Gale College.

The daughter graduated from the Galesville High School in 1914, and from the La Crosse Normal School in 1916. She has the unusual record of having attended school for eleven years without being absent or tardy. At this date she is a teacher in the public schools of Sparta, Wis.

Carl McKeeth, who is doing a successful business in Galesville, dealing in farm implements, road machinery and automobiles, was born in Gale Township, six miles north of the village, Sept. 11, 1878. He is a son of John and Lorette (Bigelow) McKeeth, the father a native of New York State and the mother of New Hampshire. John McKeeth was formerly a well-known man in Trempealeau County, to which he came in 1856. He homesteaded a farm in the county, on which in time he made improvements, and being elected sheriff served in that office and as deputy for 16 years. He was also chairman of Gale Township board for 20 years and for a number of years served as mayor of Galesville. During the Civil War he served in the First Wisconsin Battery, enlisting as a private. His death took place in 1908 and was regretted throughout the county. His wife passed away in 1900.

Carl McKeeth was the second-born in a family of three children. He was educated in the grammar and high schools of Galesville, and being 20 years old when the Spanish-American war broke out, he enlisted and served six months. On his return he engaged in business with his father, dealing in farm implements, road machinery, automobiles and other similar goods, this association being continued until the father's death, since which time Carl McKeeth has carried on the business alone. In his automobile department he is now selling the Maxwell, Chalmers, Marion, Hanley and Cadillac cars. He is the owner of a considerable business and residence property in Galesville. Oct. 17, 1900, Mr. McKeeth was united in marriage with Bird Converse, who was born in Caledonia Township, Trempealeau County, daughter of Henry and Sarah (Bender) Converse. Her father, an engineer by former occupation, is now assisting Mr. McKeeth in the store. Her mother is now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. McKeeth have three children: Gale, Ray and Verna, all residing at home. Mr. McKeeth is independent in politics and has served as a member of the village council. He belongs to the lodge of Beavers and he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church.

Cyrus Kass, who operates a good farm in Section 27, Trempealeau Township, was born in Holland Township, La Crosse County, Wis., Feb. 4, 1864. His parents, William and Katie (Dextra) Kass, came to the United States from Holland in 1856, leaving Rotterdam May 27 and landing at New York July 25. From the latter city they came West by rail to Dunleith, Ill., and from there by boat to La Crosse. The parents were both natives of Holland, the father born in Friesland State—the home of the Holstein cattle—April 23, 1835, and the mother in the city of Leeuwarden, Friesland, July 28, 1832. They were married only about three weeks before sailing for America—on May 5, 1856. After reaching La Crosse County, Wis., they resided there near the village of Amsterdam, until 1868, and then came with wagon and team to Trempealeau County, William Kass buying 40 acres of land in Section 27, Trempealeau Township. The land was but slightly

improved, but there was a small frame house on it, 14 by 20 feet in dimensions, and a one-story pole stable, with hay cover, which was, however, of little account. Lying immediately west of Mr. Kass' 40 acres was a tract of uncultivable bluff land, and of this he homesteaded 120 acres to use as pasture land. A few years later he purchased another tract of 40 acres, some of which was cultivatable land, lying north of the original 40 acres, so that he now had a farm of 200 acres. For the first four years he used oxen on his farm, as, being more hardy than horses, they were better fitted for pioneer conditions. He and his wife endured many hardships, the usual lot of pioneers, but never allowed themselves to become discouraged or relax their efforts. While he was developing his farm Mr. Kass cut and hauled during the winters thousands of hoop-poles, which he sold in Winona for \$8 to \$10 a thousand, and in this way maintained his family. He also sold quite a number in Pickwick, Minn., having to start from home at 3 o'clock in the morning, and cross the Mississippi River on the ice with his ox team, returning late at night. In 1869 he built a log barn. For many years William Kass continued the improvement of his farm, he and his wife at the same time bringing up a family of six children, namely: John born July 30, 1857, who died on his parents' farm in February, 1889; Seba, born June 16, 1859, who is now living near Eau Claire, Wis., on a farm; Mary, born Nov. 21, 1862, who died on the farm in Trempealeau Township in February, 1889; Cyrus, born 1864; Theodore, born March 10, 1866, who died in Trempealeau Township in February, 1889; Katie, born September 28, 1868, who is now Mrs. Fred Weiss, of Rock Island, Ill. John, Seba, Mary, Cyrus and Theodore were all born in Holland Township, La Crosse County, and Katie in Trempealeau Township. The deaths in the same month of John, Mary and Theodore were caused by an epidemic of measles, and were a heavy blow to the surviving members of the family. Katie, the daughter born in Trempealeau Township, was educated in District No. 3, at Gale University, and at the Winona Normal School, from which institution she was graduated, subsequently teaching school for years. The other children in the family attended only the district school. The mother, Mrs. Katie Kass, died on the homestead Jan. 14, 1911, and is buried at Evergreen Cemetery, at Centerville. Cyrus Kass was brought up on his parents' farm and has always remained there. He learned farming from his father and is now engaged in it on the old home place, his operations including dairying and the raising of orchard and small fruits. He has 11 head of cattle and five horses, his cows being graded. He has also a herd of 60 sheep, Shropshire and Oxford crossed, and a herd of hogs. The house on the farm is a story-and-a-half upright, with two wings, and containing nine rooms. His hay barn, 32 by 48 by 16 feet in dimensions, has a basement in which he keeps his sheep. His other barn, for horses and cattle, measures 28 by 48 by 24 feet. Mr. Kass was married Oct. 30, 1906, to Stella, daughter of Peter and Julia (Wojcie) Chowski, of Winona, Minn. Their children are: Mary, born Oct. 8, 1907; John Cyrus, born June 26, 1909; William Henry, born April 27, 1911, and Stanley Peter, born Nov. 18, 1913. Mr. Kass is a charter member of Galesville Lodge of Beavers, and he and his wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he is independent,

but is not active politically, not having served in public office, but having so far devoted his whole attention to the business of the farm, on which his father resides with him.

Rev. Lars M. Gimmestad, pastor of the Norwegian Lutheran Synod Church in Galesville, Wis., and also president of Gale College, was born in Nordfjord, Bergenhus Amt., the west central province of Norway, Jan. 20, 1868. He is a son of Mons M. and Anna (Vasenden) Gimmestad, both of whom were natives of the same province. The father, a stone mason and carpenter by trade, died in Norway in 1878, and his widow subsequently came to the United States, settling with her family of five sons in Redwood County, Minn., where she died in 1907.

Lars M. Gimmestad, who was the youngest member of the family, acquired his elementary education partly in Norway and partly in Redwood County, Minn. By the time he was 14 years of age he was practically earning his own living, which he did by herding cattle, and later working on a farm for an older brother. In the meanwhile he entered Luther College, at Decorah, Iowa, which he attended for seven years, continuing to work on the farm during his vacations. After graduating from this institution he entered Luther Seminary, at Minneapolis, where he studied theology for three years, during this period teaching parochial school and assisting other pastors. He was ordained July 22, 1894, at Eau Claire, Wis., and for one year subsequently was in charge of a congregation there. From that time until the fall of 1901 he had charge of congregations in Dane, Columbia and Trempealeau counties, becoming pastor of the church at Galesville. In the year last mentioned he took up his residence in Galesville in order to become president of Gale College, which at that time was transferred to Lutheran hands. This office he has since held, devoting most of his time to it, though still remaining pastor of the Lutheran congregation here, thus making twenty-three years of continuous service. Much of his life has been devoted to teaching, and he has administered the affairs of the college in an efficient manner, maintaining a high scholastic standard and a Christian atmosphere conducive to the moral and spiritual growth of the students. Politically he is an independent Democrat.

Mr. Gimmestad was married July 22, 1896, to Amalie Anderson, who was born in Dane County, Wis., daughter of Hans and Oline (Hanson) Anderson. Her parents, who were natives of Norway, came to America about 1873, locating first in Dane County. A few years later they removed to Eau Claire, Wis., where Mr. Anderson was employed in a shoe factory, and where he subsequently died. His widow is still residing in that city. Mr. and Mrs. Gimmestad are the parents of six children: Marie Helen, Agnes Olava, Herman, Laura Matilda, Bernard Oscar and Victor Edward. Mr. Gimmestad owns his own residence and also a number of acres of land in the vicinity of Galesville.

William E. Bartholomew, a well-known citizen of Galesville, who has resided in Trempealeau County for about 47 years, was born in Atwater Township, Portage County, Ohio, Sept. 4, 1846. His parents, Albert and Minerva (Potter) Bartholomew, were both of Welsh descent, but born in Eastern States. The father in early life was a farmer, but in later life



REV. L. M. GIMMESTAD
President of Gale College

engaged in business as a wagon maker. He came to Elkhorn, Walworth County, Wis., in 1850, and he and his wife both died there some years later. William E. Bartholomew was the youngest of five children. When left an orphan he was still a young child and for some years his home was with his older sisters and other relations, who cared for him until 1859. He then found employment on a dairy farm at \$5 a month, and in five months, having saved enough money to pay his fare to Chicago, he went to that city, arriving there without a cent. He succeeded, however, in making his way to Elkhorn, Wis., where he had a sister living, with whom he took up his residence. For a number of years he worked for others, at first having charge of a horse-power used for threshing. In the summer of 1864 Mr. Bartholomew, not yet 18 years of age, enlisted at Spring Prairie Center, near Elkhorn, in Company I, Thirty-ninth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served with the organization as a private for about four months. On his return to Spring Prairie he again worked out for others and continued to do so until his marriage in January, 1867, to Alice Bell, who was born in Geneva Township, Walworth County, Wis., daughter of Anson and Eliza (Chapman) Bell, who were early settlers in that county, but are both now deceased. After his marriage Mr. Bartholomew took his wife to Chickesaw County, Iowa, where he farmed for three years. He then sold his farm and came to Trempealeau County. Here he was engaged in farming until 1903, when, on account of impaired health he took up his residence in Galesville, and entered the employ of Dr. Jegi, having the care of his stable and other parts of his estate. His health improving, in the spring of 1914 he entered the employ of the Illinois Oil Company and has since continued with them. He is the owner of several lots in Galesville in addition to his own residence. In politics Mr. Bartholomew is a Republican, and in earlier years was a member of the village board. He and his wife have six children: Albert, who is a marble cutter and drafter in Madison, Wis.; Walter, a butter maker by trade, who is now engaged in the grocery business in Seattle, Wash.; Mary, wife of N. P. Jensen, of Galesville, a deputy of the Order of Beavers; Belle, wife of Julius Keholer, a barber of Galesville; Edith, wife of Mert Jensen, form maker in a printing plant at Bobells, N. D.; and Ida, wife of Lee Merrill, of St. Paul, who is bookkeeper in the purchasing department of the Omaha division of the North Western Railway.

John Beck, the pioneer, was born in Ekeby, Sweden, in 1815, and was there reared. Apprenticed to a carpenter as a youth, he learned the carpenter, furniture-making and cabinet-making trades, and in following his occupation wandered about the Scandinavian countries for a while. Thus he met Christina Anderson, who was born in Kumla, Sweden, in 1815. Taking his bride to his home in Ekeby, he was there permanently employed for a considerable period. While there he was called to service in the Swedish regular army during the time when Denmark was disputing with Prussia and the Germanic Federation, the ownership of Schleswig-Holstein. Although participating in a number of bloody engagements, he escaped injury and wounds. Soon after, he determined to locate in the United States. Reaching Chicago in 1853, he found employment at his trade, and there remained until June 15, 1857, when he came to Trempealeau County

and located on a farm in Gale Township, three miles from Galesville. He died there in 1878, and his wife moved to Grand Meadow, Minn. She died in 1896 at Northfield, Minn.

Andrew A. Beck, ice dealer of Galesville, was born in Ekeby, Sweden, Aug. 2, 1843, son of John and Christina (Anderson) Beck, the pioneers. He was brought to Chicago in 1853, attended school there for a while, came to Gale Township in 1857, and attended school here, later taking a course in Gale College. As a boy he was employed by Captain Alex A. Arnold, and when the Civil War broke out, enlisted in August, 1862, in Company C, Thirtieth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, which Captain Arnold organized at Galesville. Going in as a private, he was soon promoted to corporal. His company served about a year in enforcing the draft in Wisconsin, a similar period in fighting the Indians on the western plains, and a like interval in doing police duty in Louisville, Ky. For a time, because of a scalded foot, Mr. Beck was confined to a hospital. Mustered out at Madison, he returned to the home farm. After his marriage he moved to another farm near by. In 1879 he moved to the village, and a short time later established his present ice business. He has an ice house, 40 by 40 by 20, and during the summer months disposes of about 100 cakes of ice daily. He also continues his farming operations. By reason of his war service he has joined the G. A. R. and his wife is a member of the Relief Corps, and was a charter member of the O. E. S. of Galesville. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias of Galesville. Mr. Beck was married April 29, 1871, to Hannah B. Ladd, born in Unity, N. H., April 29, 1847, daughter of Lorenzo D. and Laura (Bunnell) Ladd. This union has been blessed with one son, Roy Russell, born May 21, 1878.

Lorenzo D. Ladd, an early settler, was born in Unity, N. H., Aug. 23, 1813, and was there reared and educated. As a youth he devoted his life to farm industry in his native State, but in his young manhood he became a salesman, traveling from farm to farm, selling general merchandise. Later he sold books on the same plan. April 16, 1857, he arrived in Trempealeau, and in a few days located on a near-by farm, and while there served as justice of the peace. In 1873 he came to Galesville and became a general salesman. Here he attained a position of honor and respect in the community. He was a member of the Masonic order. He died July 4, 1893, being buried with Masonic honors. His wife, Laura Bunnell, was born in Clairmont, N. H., Sept. 18, 1817, and died Oct. 31, 1900.

Roy R. Beck, chicken fancier, and owner of the Marinuka Poultry Yards, the home of the Mammoth Light Brahmas, Galesville, was born in the village where he now resides, May 21, 1878, son of Andrew A. and Hannah B. (Ladd) Beck. He attended the schools of the village, and is now engaged with his father in the ice business, in addition to his poultry work. In this line he has won wide recognition, having been awarded prizes at Minneapolis, St. Paul, Omaha, Lincoln, St. Louis and Chicago, and receiving orders for his birds and eggs from all over the United States. The high repute in which his work is held is shown by the fact that he is now the first vice-president of the Wisconsin branch of the National Brahma Club. He keeps about 500 fowls annually, and issued an attractive booklet



W. S. WADLEIGH

describing his stock. Mr. Beck is a member of Decorah Lodge, No. 177, A. F. & A. M., at Galesville, having served his lodge as Worshipful Master.

Oscar T. Sagen, secretary and treasurer of the Sagen-Schuster Mercantile Company, of Galesville, and one of the leading business men of the village, was born in Galesville, Wis., April 20, 1879, son of Ole N. and Ella T. (Tronson) Sagen. Oscar T. was educated in the public schools of Galesville. At the age of 18 years he began working for the Galesville Creamery and was thus occupied for about two years. He then spent one year as clerk in the drug store of F. H. Fiedler, after which he was employed for two years in the Galesville postoffice. Then he returned to the drug business and continued in it for seven years. Then becoming postmaster, he served five years in the office and, at the expiration of his term of office, engaged in the general mercantile business, in which he still continues. He has other business interests in Galesville, but gives his entire time to the Sagen-Schuster Mercantile Company. In politics Mr. Sagen is a Republican. His five years' service in the postoffice followed his appointment under the Taft administration. He has also served one year as a member of the village board. He is a member of the Lutheran church. The Sagen family, of which the subject of this sketch is a typical representative, has long been prominent in the affairs of Galesville, and its various members have done much to advance the material interests of the village.

William Samuel Wadleigh, who is engaged in the general practice of law at Galesville, Wis., was born in Green Lake County, Wis., Oct. 29, 1869, son of Samuel and Lucy (Towne) Wadleigh. The parents were both born at Kingsey Falls, Province of Quebec, Canada, the father Oct. 28, 1824, and the mother Oct. 3, 1827. They were married in Canada, and came to Wisconsin in 1856, locating on a farm in Green Lake County, near Markesan. There Samuel Wadleigh engaged in farming, although by trade he was an expert blacksmith, and maintained a shop on the farm. He became a prominent man in the community, holding various offices, and died on the farm Feb. 11, 1887. The widow continued to reside on and operate the farm until 1906, when she removed to Brandon, Fond du Lac County, where she resided until her death, which occurred May 1, 1917. Seven children were born of this union, three of whom now survive, the subject of this sketch being the youngest of the family.

William S. Wadleigh laid the foundation of his education in the common schools of Green Lake County, and later the High School at Brandon. At the age of 15 years he left home, and after further attendance at school, taught for a year. He then attended the Oshkosh State Normal, from which institution he was graduated in 1891. After this followed a period of musical and theatrical work on the road, which was given up for the study of the law, and Mr. Wadleigh graduated from the Law Department of Wisconsin University in the class of 1894. After his graduation he entered the law office of M. P. Wing, at La Crosse, remaining until Mr. Wing's death in the spring of 1895. In June, 1895, he located at Galesville, forming a partnership with the late G. Y. Freeman, which continued for about two years, since which time Mr. Wadleigh has practiced alone. Mr. Wadleigh is a stockholder and director of the Bank of Galesville,

and also interested in other business enterprises in Galesville. He also owns valuable farming properties in this State, and in North Dakota. He has proven himself a reliable lawyer, and enjoys a large practice, and while always a busy man, has at all times found time to interest himself in public work. Some six years ago, as a revival of his musical work, he organized and became director of the Galesville Concert Band, and under his directorship this organization has made great progress, and acquired more than a local reputation as a musical organization capable of interpreting the best class of music. Weekly concerts are given during the summer season, and have become an institution in Galesville. In politics Mr. Wadleigh belongs to the now increasing order of independent voters. As he expresses it, he is in politics "An American Citizen." While he has never sought public office, he has served the people of Galesville as mayor for nine terms. Mr. Wadleigh is a Mason, having passed all the chairs in the local lodge; also belongs to the Beavers, Mystic Workers, Yeomen and Foresters, in which last mentioned order he has been secretary since its organization in 1898. Mr. Wadleigh was first married Sept. 30, 1895, to Nellie May Atkins, who was born in Sauk County, Wis., daughter of Thornton L. and Caroline (Simmons) Atkins. Both of Mrs. Wadleigh's parents still survive, living at Reedsburg, Wis., where Mr. Atkins is in the employ of the Collins Monument Works. Nellie May Wadleigh died at Galesville, April 24, 1909, leaving five children, Gerald Eugene, Marjorie Rose, William St. Clair, Lucy May and Thornton Lee, all of whom reside at home with the exception of the eldest son, who is engaged in college work in Chicago, and the youngest, who resides with his grandparents at Reedsburg.

On June 30, 1911, Mr. Wadleigh married for his second wife Carrie May Collins, who was born at Reedsburg, Wis., daughter of Sanford A. and Allie (Thayer) Collins. Mr. Collins, the father, is a dealer in and importer of fine monumental work, having an extensive plant at Reedsburg known as the Collins Monument Works. One son, John Collins Wadleigh, born July 22, 1912, is the fruit of Mr. Wadleigh's second marriage.

Frederick Martin Symonds, rear admiral U. S. N., now retired and living in Galesville, Wis., was born in Watertown, N. Y., May 16, 1846, son of Charles F. and Louisa (Grannis) Symonds. His paternal grandfather was a captain in the United States Army in the War of 1812-15, and took part in the battle of Sackett's Harbor. Charles F. Symonds, father of the Admiral, was born in New Haven, Conn., and was a miller the greater part of his life. During the Civil War he was marshal of the northern district of New York. He and his wife—the latter a native of Long Island—never came west of Utica, N. Y.

Frederick Martin Symonds was the third born in a family of six children. He attended school in Watertown, N. Y., and at the age of 16 years entered the Naval Academy, which during the period of the Civil War was located at Newport, R. I. While a member of his class he took part in a cruise after the Confederate steamer Tacony and also in a search for the rebel ship Alabama. He was graduated with the class of 1867 and went to sea as midshipman aboard the U. S. S. Piscataqua, on which vessel, a flagship, he remained until November, 1868, when he was transferred to the

U. S. S. Ashuelot. June 9, 1870, he was returned to the Piscataqua, now named the Delaware, and which was still the flagship of the squadron. On this vessel he came home, being detached from her Nov. 23, 1870, and ordered to Washington for examination. He had already been advanced two grades, having been promoted June 13, 1869, to the rank of ensign, and on March 21, 1870, to that of master.

After examination he returned home to await orders. March 21, 1871, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant, and on June 2 was ordered to Newport, R. I., on torpedo duty. May 4, 1872, he was ordered to the U. S. S. Tuscarora on duty and proceeded to the Pacific Ocean. April 24, 1875, he was detached from that vessel and ordered home. Sept. 15, 1875, Lieutenant Symonds was ordered to the flagship Minnesota and remained with it until he was detached Dec. 18, 1878. April 14, 1879, he was ordered to the U. S. S. Jamestown for duty in Alaska, being detached and ordered home Sept. 9, 1881. From 1882 to 1885 he served on the New Hampshire, and from 1885 to 1888 on the Mohican. From 1889 to 1892 he was on duty on the Great Lakes, during the latter part of that time serving with the rank of lieutenant-commander, to which he was promoted July 31, 1890. From May 5, 1893, to October, 1896, Lieutenant-Commander Symonds was inspector of ordnance at Mare Island, Cal. He then proceeded to Alaska to take charge of the Pinta and was commander of that vessel until 1897, being detached Aug. 4 and ordered to the U. S. S. Marietta, and while on this vessel, June 19, 1897, he was promoted to the rank of commander. In June, 1899, he left the Marietta to become inspector of the Ninth Lighthouse District, with headquarters at Chicago, until April, 1902. April 7 that year he was promoted to captain and detached from duty in connection with the lighthouse district April 15. May 23, 1902, he was ordered to the Naval War College and Dec. 1 that year was placed on the list of retired rear admirals. Later he was ordered to the inspection service Oct. 25, 1904, to investigate the manner of conducting the steamboat service on Lake Ontario, Ninth District, and afterward sent to Louisville, the Sixth District, on similar duty. June 2, 1905, he was discharged from duty and ordered home, this being his last active service. During the Spanish-American War, while in command of the Marietta, he traveled 44,000 miles in 22 months, his vessel being one of the two—the other being the Oregon—which hastened from the Pacific Ocean, making the voyage around Cape Horn, to the West Indies, to take part in the operations against the Spanish fleet under Admiral Cervera. After arriving he, with his vessel, took part in the blockade of Havana.

Admiral Symonds, while holding the rank of master, was married, Jan. 3, 1871, at Ogdensburg, N. Y., to Anna C. Parker, of that city, daughter of George and Fannie Eliza (Wilcox) Parker, both natives of Vermont. Her father in early life was a railroad man, but later engaged in the wholesale milling business. He was born Feb. 18, 1817, and his wife Nov. 20, 1819. Both died in Ogdensburg, N. Y., of which city George Parker was mayor for a number of years. Ogdensburg was also the home of Admiral Symonds after his marriage and until April, 1906, when he came to Galesville, wishing to get in closer touch with rural nature. He had seen 40 years of active service in his country's navy, 22 years of which had been spent at sea.

Here in Galesville he has a small farm of six acres, which he calls "The sailor's snug harbor," and where he takes his ease when he does not wish to travel. Admiral Symonds is a member of the Loyal Legion of America, the First Order, affiliated with the Command of Wisconsin, a member of the Military Order of Foreign Wars, at Philadelphia, and member of the Society of Naval Commanders of the United States. He has a Civil War medal and a Spanish-American War medal for efficient services, both issued by Congress. He also belongs to the Masonic order, in which he has advanced as far as the Commandery.

Admiral Frederick M. Symonds and wife have been the parents of four children: George Parker, born in March, 1872, who is a mechanical engineer in New York City and chief engineer of the Alberger Condenser Company; Frederick W., born June 18, 1876, who is an engineer in Seattle, Wash.; Carl, born June 3, 1881, at Sitka, Alaska, who is a constructing engineer; and Ralph W., born in August, 1889, who resides with his parents. Admiral Symonds in early life was affiliated with the Episcopal church, but is now a Christian Scientist. In politics he is a Republican.

Ole J. Eggum, attorney-at-law and man of affairs, now located at Whitehall, was born in Dane County, Wis., March 10, 1878, the fifth of nine children born to John L. and Martha (Eggum) Eggum. John L. Eggum was born in Sogn, Norway, came to America in 1857 and located in Dane County, Wis., living for a short time in Norway Grove, and then going to Mount Horeb, where he farmed until his death, March 13, 1904. His wife Martha, whom he married in 1865, was also born in Sogn, Norway, and was brought to Dane County by her parents in 1854, when only 9 years of age. She passed away Feb. 9, 1896. Ole J. Eggum passed through the common schools, and in 1897 was graduated from the Mount Horeb Academy, at Mount Horeb, Wis. After teaching for a while he entered the collegiate department of the University of Wisconsin, and graduated in 1904. He then worked in Chicago and Los Angeles. In 1906 he was employed by the Insurance Investigating Committee of the Wisconsin Legislature to compile insurance laws, statistics and other insurance information, at Madison and Milwaukee. Subsequently he entered the Law Department of the University of Wisconsin and was admitted to the bar in 1907. For the next two years he practiced at Abbotsford, Wis., and did law editorial work for a law book company of St. Paul. In May, 1909, he formed a partnership at Whitehall with Herman L. Ekern, who was State Insurance Commissioner from 1910 to 1915. The partnership was dissolved April 1, 1913, and Mr. Eggum has since continued the practice alone. He never sought public office, but has taken an active interest in public affairs and has been called to various positions of public honor and trust. Mr. Eggum was married Feb. 16, 1909, to Alice M. Bushey, of Appleton, born at Plainfield, Wis., June 14, 1878, daughter of George P. and Elizabeth (Hutchinson) Bushey, the former of whom died in February, 1917, and the latter of whom died June 30, 1909. Before her marriage Mrs. Eggum taught in various public schools of the State, including the State School for Dependent Children at Sparta, and for two years was a district representative of the Wisconsin Home Finding Society.

Since coming to Whitehall she has taken an active interest in public welfare work and is now president of the Trempealeau County Woman Suffrage Association. Mr. and Mrs. Eggum have an adopted son, Karl William, who was born Nov. 9, 1916.

Henry E. Getts, first postmaster of North La Crosse, first general store-keeper in Whitehall, and for many years owner of the Whitehall Mill, was born in Philadelphia, Pa. He came West during the Civil War, and for several years kept a grocery store at North La Crosse, where he was appointed first postmaster. In 1873 he came to Whitehall, and established the first general store in the village. This store he successfully conducted until 1892, in the meantime having acquired the Whitehall Mill. In 1892 he took his son, Edmond C. Getts, as a partner, and for six years, under the firm name of H. E. Getts & Son, engaged in the hay and grain business at Whitehall. At the end of this period he removed to La Crosse, where, for about six years, he was employed as manager of the shoe department of the Doerflinger Department Store. Then he retired and resided in La Crosse until his death, Sept. 2, 1910. His wife, whose maiden name was Emma Lambert, now makes her home in Whitehall.

Edmond C. Getts, produce buyer of Whitehall, was born in La Crosse, Feb. 9, 1867, son of Henry E. and Emma (Lambert) Getts, who brought him in 1873 to Whitehall, where he was reared and educated. In 1886 he and Frank W. Potter started a cheese factory in Whitehall, which they operated for two years. In 1888 he and C. E. Evenson started the first creamery in Whitehall, and operated it for some four years. In 1892 he and his father engaged in the hay and grain business under the firm name of H. E. Getts & Son. In 1896 with A. E. Wing became interested in the A. E. Wing Company, of which he was made the manager. The firm was changed to Wing & Getts in 1908, and since 1912 Mr. Getts has conducted the business alone as sole owner, under his own name. Mr. Getts buys eggs and poultry on an extensive scale. He also handles coal to some extent. He is a prominent man in public affairs, having been village president for two years and village clerk for four years. In fraternal circles he has taken an active part, belonging to the Blue Lodge of the Masons, in which he has passed through the chair, and also to the Commandery. Mr. Getts was married April 14, 1892, to Pearl Emma Sherwood, of Whitehall, who was born Oct. 23, 1872, and died June 30, 1913, the daughter of Charles A. and Mary (Barrington) Sherwood, who now live at Whitehall, the former being a Civil War veteran and a retired nurseryman. To Mr. and Mrs. Getts were born two children: Clark Hallum and Katherine Agnes. Clark Hallum was born Aug. 5, 1893, passed through the Whitehall graded and high schools, received his degree of A. B. from the University of Wisconsin in 1914, and his LL. B. from Columbia University in 1916, and is now associated with the firm of Counselman & Co. in Chicago. Katherine Agnes is at home.

Arthur A. Gibbs, manager of the electric plant of Trempealeau, is a man who has had wide experience in various branches of industrial activity. He is a native son of the village, as he was born here July 25, 1863, his parents being O. E. and Louisa (Grant) Gibbs. As a young boy he attended

the district school of Caledonia Township, and from 12 to 16 continued his studies in the Trempealeau village school. Until 1883 he resided on his father's farm, near the village, during the winters, but his summers, beginning with 1880, he spent on a farm which his father owned in South Dakota, near Arlington. In the fall of 1883 Mr. Gibbs became assistant agent for the American Express Company at Tracy, Minn., and was thus occupied until the spring of 1885. He then returned to Trempealeau and bought an interest in the boot, shoe and grocery business with Charles B. Allen, also taking care of the express business for both the American and Adams Express Companies here. In the spring of 1887 Mr. Gibbs sold out his interest in the store to Mr. Allen and in the following summer went back to South Dakota and opened a meat market at Arlington. He conducted this market until the fall of 1889 and then again returned to Trempealeau. He now entered the employ of the "Burlington" Railroad Company as bridge carpenter, and continued in that department until the summer of 1891, when he engaged in train service for the same road as freight brakeman. In 1893 he was promoted to the position of conductor and ran freight until 1898. That fall he went into the meat business at La Crosse, Wis., having a market on George street, and here he remained in business for about two years, selling out in the spring of 1900. He now entered the employ of the Duluth & Iron Range Railroad, as conductor, hauling iron ore and logs, and continued at this work until the close of navigation, in the winter of 1900. From that time until the fall of 1902 he was on the police force of Two Harbors, Minn., but then resigned and went to Arlington, S. D., to take charge of his father's farm there for a season.

In the fall of 1903 Mr. Gibbs went to Ohio and married Minnie McNaughton, a daughter of Harlow and Lucinda McNaughton, of Rutland, that State, and who was born there Dec. 12, 1875. After his marriage he returned to the South Dakota farm. Adjoining the farm was a tree claim of 160 acres, all improved, with good buildings, which Mr. Gibbs purchased in the spring of 1904, and which increased the size of the farm to 320 acres. In 1906 he bought 80 acres more of adjoining land, and on this farm of 400 acres he lived until 1910, when he sold it to John Murphy, of Aurelia, Iowa. In the fall of 1910 Mr. Gibbs returned to Trempealeau Village, but did nothing until the spring of 1911. He then went to Alberta, Canada, where he homesteaded 160 acres of land along the Athabaska River, which lay 65 miles from a railroad, Whitecourt being the postoffice. The first year he broke ten acres and built a log house, and for three successive years he broke ten acres each year in order to meet the requirements of the law, obtaining a land patent from the government in October, 1914. In the winter of 1912-13 he hauled over the country, a distance of 65 miles, a 100-horsepower sawmill outfit, which he set up at Whitecourt and is still operating. In October, 1914, Mr. Gibbs again returned to Trempealeau and has since remained here, having charge of the village electric light plant. He still owns 160 acres of land near Highmore, Hughes County, S. D., also 124 acres on "Sam Noyes Island," Minnesota, opposite Trempealeau Village, and is president and manager of the Eagle Cliff Lime Product Company, of Trempealeau. His society affiliations are with the Order of Railway Con-

ductors, Division No. 61, of La Crosse, to which he has belonged since 1894; and Hamilton Lodge, Knights of Pythias, of La Crosse. He and his wife have four children, all living at home: Grace Helen, born at Arlington, S. D., Feb. 26, 1905; Alice Louisa, born at Arlington, Sept. 26, 1907; Clara Eva, born at Arlington, Nov. 23, 1908, and Frank George, born at Trempealeau, Wis., Sept. 7, 1910. Mr. Gibbs was brought up to attend the Methodist Episcopal church, but has never affiliated himself with the church as a member. His wife is a member of the Christian church in Ohio. They are people well known and esteemed in Trempealeau Village and the vicinity.

Charles Henry Growt, president and general manager of the Trempealeau Mercantile Company, of Trempealeau Village, was born at St. Charles, Minn., May 10, 1867, son of Bateman and Susanna (Hartley) Growt. The father was for many years a farmer in Wisconsin and Minnesota, and is now living retired in Trempealeau Village. Charles H. Growt attended country school in his boyhood, and also spent three years in Trempealeau village school, and one term in the State Normal School at Winona, finishing his studies June 24, 1888. He then immediately entered the employ of E. J. Hankey, general merchant of Trempealeau Village, with whom he continued as clerk and assistant for 26 years, or until January, 1914, when Mr. Hankey sold the business to the Trempealeau Mercantile Company, Mr. Growt becoming president and manager. In January the same year the company was incorporated by R. H. Parker, Charles H. Growt, Mrs. Minnie Parker and Mrs. Nellie Growt. Mr. Parker is secretary and treasurer. The concern deals in general merchandise, dry goods, clothing, shoes, groceries, carpets, rugs, linoleum, etc., and the business is prosperous and steadily growing. Mr. Growt is also a stockholder in the Citizens' Bank of Trempealeau and the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company, in which latter concern his wife also holds stock. He was married, April 14, 1897, at the home of his bride, to Nellie, daughter of William, Sr., and Charlotte (Dunham) Nichols, of Caledonia Township, Trempealeau County, Wis., the ceremony being performed by the Rev. Mr. Griffith, pastor of the Trempealeau Congregational church, of which he and his wife are both members. Immediately after their marriage they began housekeeping in the Bloom residence, on West Second street, where they lived for a year and a half. They then moved to a home on East Fourth street and resided there until 1909. In the spring of 1910 Mr. Growt bought his present residence on East Third street—a comfortable and commodious house. He and his wife have one child, Glen Nicholls, who is now a student in his third year at the Trempealeau High School. Mr. Growt has served six years on the village school board, being secretary at the present time. He is not active in politics, but votes the Republican ticket. Fraternaly he is affiliated with the Masonic order, belonging to Lodge No. 117 at Trempealeau, of which he is now Master, having passed all the chairs from Senior Deacon. With his wife he belongs to the Eastern Star, and is a member of Camp No. 2813, M. W. A., of Trempealeau.

George Grant Gibbs, of the firm of Ford & Gibbs, implement dealers, of Trempealeau Village, is a man who has had a thorough training in the line of work in which he is now engaged, although he has been established

here but for about three years. He is, however, a native of the county, having been born in Caledonia Township, Nov. 13, 1865, the youngest son of O. E. and Louisa (Grant) Gibbs. His father being a farmer, he was early initiated into agricultural methods, gradually becoming acquainted with the various kinds of machinery used on a farm and the respective value of the different types of machines. He attended school up to 19 years of age, working on the parental homestead during his vacations, and after putting away his class books, continued to do so all the time until he was 23, except for the summer of 1887, when he was employed as clerk on a Mississippi River steamboat. March 8, 1890, he was married to Jennie Hudson, daughter of Henry and Kate (Stark) Hudson, of Trempealeau County, and immediately after went to South Dakota, and until the spring of 1892 was engaged in managing his father's farms in the vicinity of Arlington, that State. It was just after this that he became connected with the implement business, taking a position as local salesman with S. C. Cornell, of Arlington, for whom he worked one year. In the spring of 1893 he entered the employ of the Altman Miller Company, of Akron, Ohio, in the same capacity, traveling in South Dakota, but remained with them only one season. His next employers were Sherman Bros. & Bratager, wholesale implement dealers, of Sioux Falls, S. D., for whom he traveled eight years, at the end of which time they went out of business. In 1900 he went with the Janesville Machinery Company, of Janesville, Wis., and until July, 1911, was engaged in selling goods for them in South Dakota. In the year 1900, when he went with the Janesville company, he was living in Brookings, S. D., but in the spring of the following year he moved to Watertown, that State, his next removal being a return to Sioux Falls in the spring of 1903. During his last two years in Sioux Falls, 1909 and 1910, he was associated with P. F. Sherman, of that city, as proprietor and manager of a wholesale and transfer implement house, the business being the jobbing, storing and reshipping of agricultural implements. Mr. Gibbs now returned to his native county, taking up his residence in the village of Trempealeau, but until Jan. 1, 1914, he continued to travel for the Janesville Machinery Company. Having saved some money, he now resolved to sell goods for himself, and accordingly, taking as partner his brother-in-law, C. S. Ford, he opened his present place of business in Trempealeau Village, and his success up to date has fully justified this action. He has taken an active part in promoting the general business interests of the village and has been president of the village commercial club since settling here. For the past three years he has also been president of the La Crosse and Trempealeau County Implement Club—a similar position to that which he held while living in Sioux Falls, where he served as president of the Sioux Falls Implement and Vehicle Club. In short, Mr. Gibbs has always endeavored to rise above mere routine work, and has proved himself a "live wire" whenever there was opportunity for advancing his personal interests, those of his employers, or of the community in which he lived. For the last three years he has rendered good service on the county board. In politics he is a staunch Republican. Brought up in his youth to attend the Methodist Episcopal church, he aids in its support, but is not identified with it as a member. His wife also

takes a similar interest in the church. They have a neat and substantial residence in the village, provided with modern conveniences. Mr. Gibbs has membership in several fraternal orders, including Lodge No. 117, A. F. & A. M., of Trempealeau; Lodge No. 838, B. P. O. E., of Watertown, S. D., to which he has belonged since 1902; the A. O. U. W. Lodge at Arlington, S. D., which he joined in 1890, and the U. C. T. Lodge, No. 100, of Sioux Falls, S. D., which he joined in 1897.

Oliver E. Gibbs, pioneer, public official and prominent citizen, was born at Cherry Creek, Chautauqua County, N. Y., April 15, 1837, son of Israel and Charlotte (Wright) Gibbs, the former of German descent and the latter of Colonial English stock. The father, who was a building contractor, specializing in bridges, piers and warehouses, came West, bringing the family, in 1844, and settled at Racine, Wis., where he spent the remainder of his days. In the family there were eleven children: Sidney, Melvin, Augustus, Gilbert, Oliver E., Lewis and Hoel, Ruth, Mary and Grace. All are now deceased except Oliver E. Of these children, Gilbert was the one who first contemplated settling in Trempealeau County. He started out in the fall of 1854, with an ox team, provisions, household goods, and a herd of young stock. Oliver E., in his brother's employ, drove the stock. After a journey of over two weeks they reached their destination, four miles east of Trempealeau Village. There Oliver E. worked on Gilbert's farm for four years. In the meantime, in 1856, he bought 200 acres of wild land in Section 25, Caledonia Township, and 40 acres in Section 26, Trempealeau Township. In 1858 he built a house on Section 25, and there established his home. The succeeding years were busy ones. Land had to be broken, buildings erected, equipment secured, fences constructed, and the farm developed. Together with general farming on an extensive scale, Mr. Gibbs bought and sold cattle, swine and horses, and even shipped horses to South Dakota. The opportunity presented itself to acquire more land, so he purchased 30 acres of heavy timberland in Caledonia Township, which he is still preserving, and 50 acres of meadow and pasture land in Trempealeau Township. For a while he also owned a quarter section of good land in Ridgeville Township, Monroe County, Wis., which he sold in 1860. For several years he was interested in South Dakota real estate, though, aside from staying long enough to prove upon a claim, he never actually lived there. In 1880 he homesteaded 160 acres near what is now Arlington, in Brookings County, S. D. The same year he took a tree claim of 160 acres, adjoining the other claim, but across the line in Kingsbury County. On the homestead he built a good two-story house, a large barn, a swine house, a granary, and other buildings, and set out a fruit orchard. On the tree claim he built a good house, a large barn, two granaries, a swine house, a chicken house and a large tool shed. The buildings on both places were painted, well furnished and well equipped. In 1904 Mr. Gibbs disposed of all his South Dakota holdings. In the meantime, in 1882, he had moved his family to Trempealeau Village in order to secure better educational advantages for his children. He bought a house and two lots, improved the house, and has there made his home since that time. With all his busy life, Mr. Gibbs has found time for active public service. For a considerable period he was chairman of the

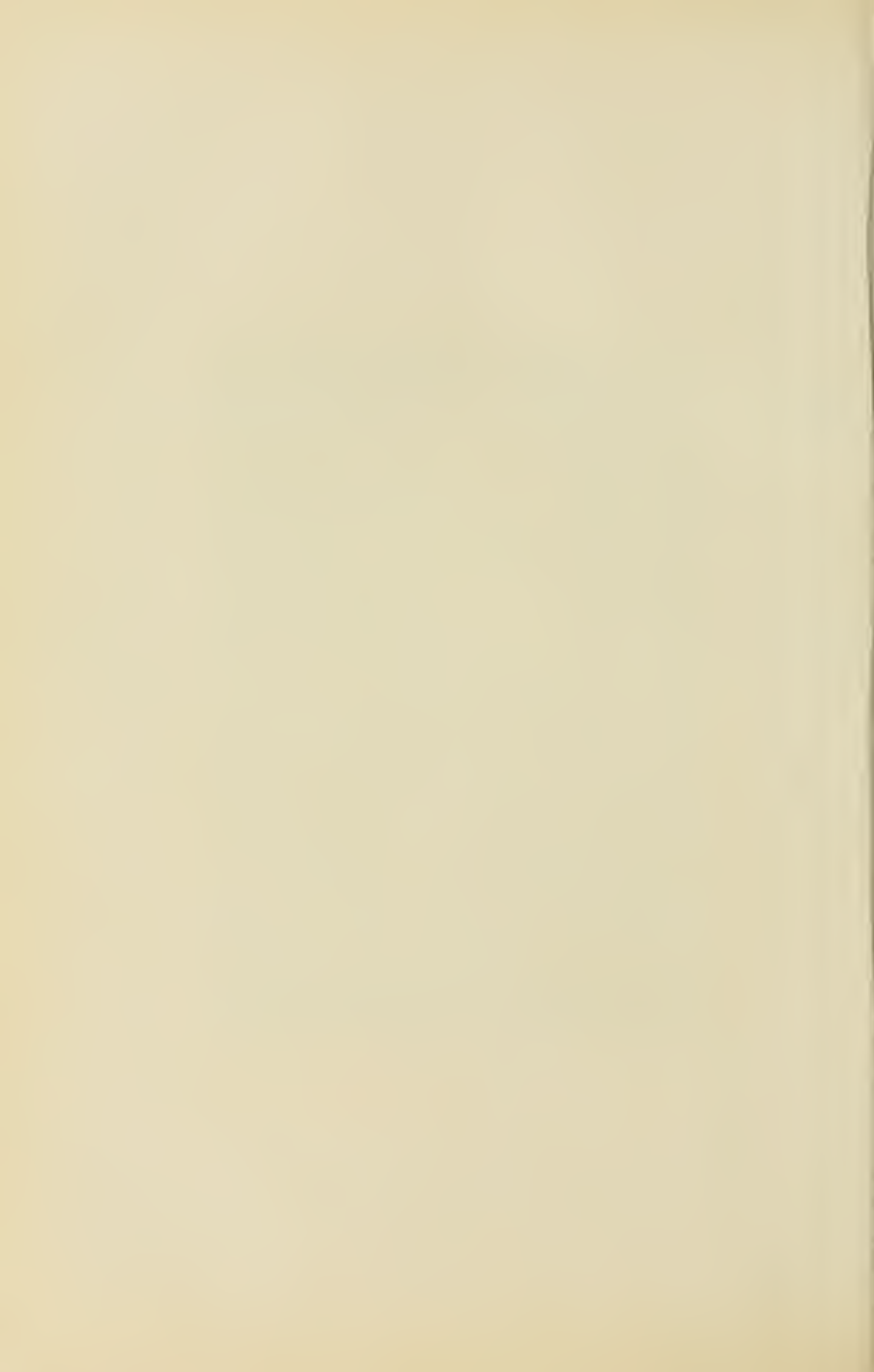
board of supervisors of Trempealeau Township, and chairman of the board of supervisors of Trempealeau County. At one time he was master of the poor in Trempealeau Village and Township. His distinguished work in relation to the establishment of the County Insane Asylum at Whitehall is recorded elsewhere in this history. On many different occasions he has done jury service in the district court. He has also served on various committees and delegations.

Mr. Gibbs was married at Trempealeau, Sept. 21, 1861, to Louisa Grant, who was born in Pomeroy, Meigs County, Ohio, April 7, 1841, and came West with her parents. She was an able helpmate to her husband in all his undertakings, a faithful wife and a loving and considerate mother. Her services in the Methodist church, especially her work in the Sunday school department, will never be forgotten. In 1910 her health began to fail, and on Dec. 16, 1914, she died. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs was blessed with five children: Arthur A., George G., Jessie, Grace B. and Blanche. Arthur A. is superintendent of the village electric light plant at Trempealeau. He was married in 1903 to Mary McNaughton, of Ohio, and they have four children, Grace, Alice, Clara and Frank. George G. is a member of the firm of Ford & Gibbs, of Trempealeau, dealers in farm implements. He married Jane Hudson, of Bloomington, Wis. Jessie was married April 5, 1901, to Clifford Ford, of the firm of Ford & Gibbs, and they have four children, Neil, Harold, Edith and Jessie. Grace B. and Blanche are at home.

Tolef Bergeson, a well-known resident of Arcadia Township, where he settled at an early date, was born in Telemarken, Norway, Nov. 24, 1847, son of Bjorgub and his wife Anna Sigerson. When he was 2½ years old his parents decided upon emigrating to the United States, Bjorgub having a brother residing in Dane County, Wis. The father came first, being followed soon after by his wife and their five children, Tolef, Sigor, Jack, Charles and Jennie. After a ten weeks' voyage on the ocean in a sailing vessel the party landed and came on to Dane County. Here, a few weeks later the children were bereaved by the death of their mother, who had been taken sick on the vessel and never recovered. She died without having seen her husband in America, as before she and the children arrived he had gone on further west seeking a good place in which to locate. He found a temporary place in Vernon County, not far from La Crosse. There he was rejoined by his children, who, in the meanwhile, had been taken care of by friends, some of whom, coming West, brought them to him. While residing in Vernon County Bjorgub heard favorable reports of Whitehall, Trempealeau County, and set out to investigate the prospect. With Ole Gottornson he left home with an ox team and on arriving in Trempealeau County halted for a short time at Francis Creek. There a Norwegian blacksmith advised them to leave the ox team there and proceed on foot in search of land, which they did, the blacksmith accompanying them eastward and taking them up on a bluff where they were able to obtain a good view of the surrounding country. Looking down Tamarac Valley, they saw good opportunities for raising hay, with plenty of timber, and decided on that locality as their future home, giving up the idea of Whitehall. Then returning to La Crosse they made arrangements for settlement. Mr.



TOLEF BERGESON



Bergeson liked a quarter of Section 28 better than any other claim he had seen, but this had previously been selected by Sigor Chastelson. The latter, however, gave up his right to Mr. Bergeson and this place accordingly became the home of the family and has remained so to this day. Mr. Bergeson cut hay there during the summer of 1863 and built a pole shanty, to which he brought his children in the fall. He never remarried, his daughter Jennie keeping house for him. Later he built a hewn log house of one and a half stories, 14 by 16 feet in dimensions, a hewn log barn, 20 by 32 feet, and other necessary buildings. With the help of his sons he developed about 85 acres, the balance of the quarter section remaining in timber. When he settled on the place there were no roads and easy access to his farm was barred by Big Tamarac Swamp. There were settlements at Trempealeau and Galesville, but his nearest neighbor was K. L. Strand, who was also a native of Norway, coming from the same locality as himself. Bjorgub Bergeson died in 1888, being cared for in his latter years by his son Tolef and daughter Jennie, into whose possession the homestead came. There was a heavy indebtedness on the place at the time of the father's death, but this in time they cleared away, Tolef continuing to improve the place and to engage in general farming and dairying, to which latter branch of agriculture he has in recent years given special attention with profitable results. By the purchase of 40 acres more land he increased the size of the farm to 200 acres. He also built a comfortable frame house consisting of upright and wing, one and a half stories in height. The farm is watered by fine springs. In his early years he had little opportunity for obtaining an education, as there was no school here until he had reached working age. He acquired as much book knowledge as he needed, however, and when a boy and young man learned much about nature from the Indians, who were then numerous in this vicinity. His sister Jennie, who always remained with him, died in June, 1916, and he and his brother Charles, who is living near Leonard, are now the only surviving members of the family. Mr. Bergeson is a Republican in politics, but has taken no active part in public affairs. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Norway Coulie, and is a well-to-do and prosperous citizen, having a wide acquaintance. The memory of his father is well preserved in the neighborhood as that of a kind, helpful and honest man, universally respected.

Hans C. Erickson, a well-known and successful farmer of Ettrick Township, is a good example attained by those foreign-born citizens of Trempealeau County who came to this region endowed with the necessary qualities of industry and perseverance. He was born in Stange, Hedemarken, Norway, May 9, 1863, a son of Christopher and Bertha Erickson. His parents were natives of the same district in Norway, where the father worked for a number of years for wages, but seeking greater opportunities for success, in 1869 he emigrated with his family to the United States, locating in La Crosse, Wis., where he resided until 1877, working in a sawmill during the summers and in the pineries in winter. In the year last mentioned he came to Trempealeau County and bought the farm now owned by his son, Hans C. Here he remained for about 18 years engaged in its improvement, in which task he made considerable progress. In 1895 he bought

another farm, located on Beaver Creek, to which he moved in the following year, and which was his home until his death, Dec. 10, 1916. He had before that become an extensive land owner and was recognized as one of the successful men of his township. In his selection of stock he favored Shorthorn cattle, always kept good horses, and his farm presented an air of thrift and prosperity that made a favorable impression upon every passer-by. He was an upholder of religion, morality and good government, and every Sunday, unless he was prevented by sickness or other strong reasons, found him in his place, with his family, in the French Creek Lutheran church. For many years before his death he was a widower, his wife Bertha having died in 1871. They were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth.

Hans C. Erickson's education was begun in the Fifth Ward School at La Crosse, and he continued his studies later in District School No. 1, at French Creek. When 12 years old he began working in a sawmill at North La Crosse and was thus occupied for two summers. His connection with the lumber business was continued for many years after he came to Trempealeau County, as he spent 17 winters in the north woods cutting timber. At the end of that period, or about 1894, he bought his father's farm and has since given his whole time to agriculture and stock raising. The farm is known as Crystal Springs Stock Farm, and is now a highly-improved piece of property, the most valuable improvements having been made by himself. It takes its name from one of the finest springs in the State, which is located on it, and contains 217 acres of good, fertile land. Mr. Erickson is a stockholder in the Ettrick Creamery and the Ettrick Farmers' Telephone Co., and, like his father, is affiliated with the Lutheran church.

In June, 1900, Mr. Erickson was united in marriage with Dorthea Folkedal, who was born in Hardanger, Norway, daughter of Amund and Anna (Meckletuen) Folkedal, the parents being natives of the same district. The father, Amund Folkedal, who was for 18 years a surgeon in the Norwegian army, in 1885 came to the United States, his family joining him two years later and settling in Osseo, this county. After another two years' interval they removed to Ettrick, wher both the father and mother died, the former March 12, 1913, and the latter April 30, 1915. Their daughter Dorthea (Mrs. Erickson) was the second born of eight children. Mr. and Mrs. Hans C. Erickson are the parents of seven children, who were born as follows: Christopher, June 10, 1901; Eddie Francis, Feb. 2, 1903; Anna Birdella, Feb. 17, 1905; Haakon Goodwin, Oct. 27, 1908; Albert Einar, April 15, 1910; Gulena Elizabeth, April 29, 1912, and Donald Ludvik Bernard, Dec. 26, 1916.

John Jacob Blue, a representative of the manufacturing interests of Trempealeau County as proprietor of the woolen mill at Ettrick, was born at Mechanicsburg, Champaign County, Ohio, Feb. 4, 1844. His parents were John and Sarah (Baldwin) Blue, the father being a native of Pennsylvania, from which State he emigrated to Ohio, where he died in 1847. Mrs. Sarah Blue was born in Scotland and was granddaughter of Richard Baldwin, who served as a soldier in the War of 1812-15 between Great Britain and the United States. She died about 1881. John Jacob Blue



MR. AND MRS. OLE O. ONSRUD

was one of the younger members of a family of ten children. He began industrial life in Ohio at the age of 16 years, at intervals working as clerk or as an employe in the woolen mills. After a service of four months in the army during the latter part of the Civil War, he moved in 1864 to Lincoln, Ill., where he was clerk in a hotel for about six months, and also dealt in stock. His residence in Lincoln lasted three years and he then went to La Crescent, Minn., having been hired to set up the machinery of a woolen mill there. After this job was accomplished he became an employee of the mill and continued to be so for three years. The end of this period found him on the road as a traveling salesman, in which occupation he was engaged continuously for 14 years, or until 1884. That year witnessed the establishment of the present woolen mill in Ettrick, a work accomplished by Mr. Blue, who came here, put in the machinery and began the operation of the mill, which is a one-set mill with three looms. He has since been engaged continuously in its operation, disposing of his product in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and other States. The concern has been a success and is an important factor in the industrial life of Trempealeau County. Mr. Blue is also a stockholder in the Bank of Ettrick and the Ettrick & Northern Railroad now being constructed, and is the owner of business and residence property in the village. He belongs to the Masonic lodge in Galesville and to Camp No. 2940, Modern Woodmen of America. Since taking up his residence in Ettrick he has taken a good citizen's interest in the general advancement and prosperity of the community, and has not hesitated, when called upon, to serve in local office. Thus he was township clerk for eight years, township treasurer two years and clerk of the school board 12 years, justice of the peace four years, notary public for 12 years. In politics he is a Republican.

September 26, 1870, Mr. Blue was united in marriage with Dora B. Ketchum, who was born in the State of New York, daughter of Ambrose and Harriet (Burr) Ketchum, both her parents being natives of that State. The father, who was a farmer, emigrated about 1853 or 1854 to Houston, Minn., during the latter part of his journey having to follow a blazed trail. Arriving in Houston County, he took a tract of government land and engaged in farming there, which was his occupation until his death in 1881. His wife is still living and now resides at Lisbon, N. D., having attained the advanced age of 88 years. They had five children, of whom Dora B. was the second born. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Blue have been eight in number, their record in brief being as follows: Effie, now deceased; Harry, who married Minnie Coocher, and resides in Ettrick, being in business with his father; Herby, deceased; Inez, residing at home and engaged in the millinery business in Galesville; Guy B., engaged in the drug business in Roanoke, Ill.; Frank, engaged in the drug business at Tremont, Ill.; Anetta, wife of Frank Hewett, who reside in Ettrick Village, and Amy, who lives in Tremont, Ill., where she is employed in her brother Frank's drug store. Mr. Blue is a member of the Presbyterian church and he and the members of his family residing here are prominent in the social circles of Ettrick and the vicinity.

Ole O. Onsrud, who died on the old Onsrud farm in Section 28, Ettrick

Township, was an early settler in this county and township, coming here immediately or soon after the close of the Civil War, in which he carried arms as a soldier of the Union. He was born in Biri, Norway, Dec. 26, 1835, son of Ole and Marie Onsrud, the father being a well-to-do farmer. Neither of Mr. Onsrud's parents came to this country, both dying in their native land. Ole O. Onsrud was educated in Norway and was there confirmed in the Lutheran church. From the time he was 18 until he was 22 years old he worked on a farm. In 1857 he took passage on a sailing vessel for the United States, among the members of the party being the family of Amon Amundson, whose daughter Andrine subsequently became his wife. The voyage was long and tedious, lasting seven weeks and three days, and all were glad when they set foot on the Land of Promise. Mr. Onsrud at once proceeded to the home of his brother Lars, at Westby, Vernon County, Wis., which place he made his home until he came to Trempealeau County in 1866. During the last year of the war, while in Monroe County, he was drafted and served nine months in Company B of the Sixth Wisconsin Infantry as a private. Though not wounded, he had many narrow escapes and participated in some heavy fighting, including seven pitched battles, which ended with Appomattox, after which he took part in the Grand Review at Washington and was honorably discharged. He then returned to Westby, but soon came from that town to Trempealeau County, purchasing a farm in Section 28, Ettrick Township, on which he settled and began the work of improvement. It could hardly be called a farm at that time, however, as it was all wild land and he had all a pioneer's work to do in clearing it. This work took him many years, but was finally accomplished, and not only was the land well cultivated, but good buildings erected and enlarged or rebuilt from time to time. The size of the farm was increased from 160 to 240 acres and the crops indigenous to this region were raised and an excellent grade of stock kept. Mr. Onsrud was also a stockholder in the Ettrick Creamery, which he assisted in organizing. He also aided in the organization of the Lutheran Church, of which he was for many years a prominent member and trustee. He also served on the school board a number of years. Mr. Onsrud's marriage to Andrine Amundson took place Feb. 4, 1862. She was born in Biri, Norway, Dec. 22, 1839, daughter of Amon and Agnetta Amundson, who were natives of the same district or province of Norway. As already narrated, they and their family came to America in 1857 on the same ship with the subject of this sketch. On reaching Wisconsin they located at Halfway Creek, La Crosse County, where they made their home for a number of years. They then came to Ettrick Township, this county, settling on French Creek, where they developed a farm, on which Mr. Amundson died in 1890. After his death his wife took up her residence with her daughter, Mrs. Onsrud, at whose home she died in 1897. The latter was the second born of five children, of whom three are now living, and was educated both in Norway and in Trempealeau County. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Onsrud: Alfred Oscar, Amos Marion, Henry, Frank A., and Orrin Melvin. Alfred Oscar, who is now residing in Spokane, Wash., is a retired railroad contractor, and is interested as a stockholder in range properties. He married Etta Harris, of Trempealeau

County. Amos Marion died in 1907. Henry, who resides in Arcadia Township, this county, with his wife Elizabeth, a native of Norway. Frank A., who is a farmer in Arcadia Township, married Josephina Lund, of Trempealeau County. Orrin Melvin died in California while on the way home from Alaska. Mrs. Onsrud, who survives her husband, still resides on the old homestead, the farm being rented and operated by E. Anderson. She is a lady highly respected throughout this part of the county, having made many friends since she arrived in the township over half a century ago.

Odell S. Bue, a farmer and land owner of Ettrick Township, well known and respected, who resides in Section 15, east, was born on his parents' farm in this section, the same place on which he now resides, July 11, 1877, son of Sever and Catherina (Rice) Bue. The parents were natives of Hardanger, Norway, but were married in Trempealeau County, Sever Bue coming to the United States in 1866 and settling here immediately on his arrival. After working for others a short time, he homesteaded this farm, which was his home practically for the rest of his life, though it had become the property of his son, Odell, five years before he, the father, died. The date of his death was June 11, 1913, and that of his wife June 3, 1910. Sever Bue was a prominent citizen of his locality, serving on the school board for a number of years and also as one of the board of directors of his church. He and his wife had five children. Odell S. Bue, was the fourth born child of his parents. His education was acquired in the district school at Hegg and he early received practical instruction in agriculture on his father's farm, of which he became the manager about 1900, when twenty-three years old. In 1905 he bought the farm, consisting of 120 acres, and in addition to this property, has 160 acres one-half mile distant, and 20 acres more situated near Hegg Schoolhouse, making 300 acres in all. On this land he is engaged in general farming and dairying, keeping a number of good cattle, and is doing a prosperous business. He also owns stock in the Ettrick Creamery, the Farmers' Exchange at Blair and the Ettrick Telephone Company. Mr. Bue was married March 31, 1902, to Sarah Underheim, who was born in Norway, daughter of Knut L. and Margaretha (Sunde) Underheim, the family coming to the United States in 1882 and settling in Jackson County. Mr. and Mrs. Bue's family circle has been enlarged by the birth of three children: Sigvart Kenneth, born July 20, 1903; Orrin Sanford, Oct. 1, 1905, and Melvin Clarence, Nov. 3, 1907. Mr. Bue, with his wife and children, are members of the United Lutheran Church. Though not active in town affairs, he is recognized as a good citizen, always willing to support any practical movement for the good of the community.

Frank Melton Butman, an enterprising and successful stock farmer of Section 35, Gale Township, was born in Buckeye County, Ohio, Feb. 25, 1880, son of Stark and Jane (Lynn) Butman. Frank Melton Butman lived at home until 1908, two years after his marriage. When only a lad of fourteen years he commenced buying, selling and trading in stock. Later he took charge of his father's farm and is now the owner of 80 acres, having also a half interest in 170 acres adjacent. He carries on general farming, as well as raising horses and cattle, and is now numbered among the sub-

stantial citizens of his township. Nov. 12, 1906, Mr. Butman was united in marriage with Janet M. Smith, born Jan. 10, 1882, a native of Melrose, Wis., and daughter of Adam and Jean (Love) Smith. Her parents were born in Glasgow, Scotland, the father Oct. 16, 1843, and the mother July 29, 1846. Adam Smith was a boy of ten years when he accompanied his parents' family to the United States. They first settled in the State of Maryland, a few years later coming to Melrose, Wis., where Adam Smith became a land owner. He is now retired and is living with his wife in Galesville. Their daughter, Janet M., was one of eight children, and was educated in Melrose, Wis., and in Trempealeau County. Mr. and Mrs. Butman have had four children born: Dora Vesta, Nov. 22, 1907; Stark Douglas, Oct. 25, 1909; Gerald Henry, Nov. 5, 1912, and Arra Agnes, June 7, 1915. Mr. Butman is a member of the Order of Beavers, and the Modern Woodmen of America, while Mrs. Butman is a member of the Beavers and the Yeomen and the Presbyterian Church.

Anton M. Lee, a prominent representative of the farming and stock raising industry in Gale Township, comes of that hardy Norwegian race that has assisted so largely in the development of the agricultural resources of the county. He was born in Trondhjem, in the northern part of Norway, Aug. 31, 1860, son of Michael and Anna (Anderson) Lee, both parents being natives of the same province. He had the misfortune to lose both father and mother when a mere infant, being only three months old when his mother died. Not long afterwards his father, who was a fisherman, perished at sea. He was reared by relatives and when eight years old came to America with his grandmother and uncle, who located at Stevenstown, La Crosse County, Wis. With this uncle he resided for two years and then, coming to Trempealeau County, worked on farms for different persons, being in the employ of the Poss family in Gale Township for seven years. Later he worked in sawmills and at cutting timber in the woods and was thus generally occupied until he was twenty-four years old. He then purchased his present farm, on which he has made various improvements, erecting modern buildings. He has 280 acres of valuable land and operates the farm as a general stock farm. In 1916 he started breeding Shorthorn cattle, to which line of work he is giving special attention. Among the buildings he has erected is a commodious barn, 136 by 40 feet, with a wing 26 by 40, an 8-foot foundation and 16-foot stockboards, and about 50 feet to the ridge. Mr. Lee is also a stockholder in the Arctic Springs Creamery, in the Farmers' Exchange and in the La Crosse Packing Company and the Independent Harvester Company of Plano, Ill. April 16, 1884, Mr. Lee was married to Agnes Cook, who was born at Decorah Prairie, Gale Township, daughter of David and Anna (Henderson) Cook. Her parents, who were born in Scotland, came to Wisconsin and settled on Decorah Prairie in 1853, where Mr. Cook, who had been both a farmer and miner, followed agriculture for many years, and became a prominent citizen of the township, holding various local offices. He died Feb. 4, 1906, his wife having passed away Dec. 20, 1888. Mr. and Mrs. Lee have been the parents of four children: Roy D., born Oct. 29, 1886, and died Dec. 19, 1886; Hollis L., born Sept. 4, 1889, a graduate of the Galesville High School,



A. M. LEE AND FAMILY





MR. AND MRS. ISAAC GALLAWAY
JENNIE GALLAWAY—WILLIAM GALLAWAY

and is residing at home; Hessa G., born Sept. 17, 1894, also a graduate of the Galesville High School, who resides at home and is a teacher in Grant School, and Howard A., born Sept. 26, 1898, who graduated from the Agricultural School at Onalaska, class of 1917. Mr. Lee is a member of the Brotherhood of American Yeomen, having served as head officer of his lodge since 1908, and also of the American Society of Equity. He served as clerk of the school board for sixteen years and at present is a director; for a number of years also, he has been treasurer of the Decorah Prairie Creamery Association. He and his family are affiliated religiously with the Presbyterian Church.

Arthur A. Gibson, a successful farmer of Section 34, Trempealeau Township, was born in Section 4, near Centerville, this township, son of William H. and Mary N. (Porter) Gibson. The father was born in Canada, July 21, 1850, the mother in Holland Township, La Crosse County, December 23, 1856. She was a daughter of Langdon Porter, of Trempealeau. They were married June 6, 1875, and went to live on an improved farm of 160 acres, in Section 4, which Mr. Gibson had bought. The place is now known as the L. Cook Farm. Here they lived until 1893, when Mr. Gibson bought 160 acres in Section 3, this also being improved land. Later he added 80 acres adjoining, making 240 acres in the farm, though a house was practically the only building, there being no barns. For years he followed general farming, also making a specialty of breeding English Shire horses until 1909, in the spring of which year he and his wife went to Oregon, where they are now residing. They had three children: Kate M., born March 4, 1875, who married A. R. Curtis, of Portland, and died April 29, 1916; Arthur A., of Trempealeau Township, and Winnie, born in this township April 8, 1883, who is the wife of A. H. Lea, of Salem, Oregon. Arthur A. Gibson was educated in the common schools up to the age of fourteen, after which, until he was seventeen he attended the Trempealeau High School. He subsequently remained on the farm with his father until his marriage, December 2, 1908, to Clara L., daughter of Herman and Johanna (Sheehan) Cary, of Trempealeau Township, whose father was a native of this township, her mother being born in Ireland. He then rented the parental homestead, known as Oakwood Farm, and has since resided here, engaged in general farming and in the breeding of Shorthorn cattle and English Shire horses, keeping about 60 head of the former and 10 or 12 of the latter. His dwelling is a two-story frame residence of 14 rooms, his other buildings comprise three barns, a corn crib, machine shed, milk-house and tank, granary and with poultry house attached. Mr. Gibson is also a stockholder in the Farmers' Exchange Elevator of Galesville, and the Trempealeau Shippers' Association. About 200 acres of his land is under the plow, with 40 in pasture and timber. In politics he is independent. He served four years as township clerk and five years as clerk of school district No. 3. He and his wife have had four children, all of whom are living: Elizabeth E., born February 13, 1911; Ruth Evelyn, born October 26, 1913; William H., born April 28, 1915, and Ethel May, born June 5, 1917.

William Gallaway, who is conducting Evergreen Lodge stock farm in section 16, Gale Township, of which he is part owner with his sister,

E. Jennie Gallaway, was born at Penfield, Ohio, Dec. 16, 1855, son of Isaac and Fanny (Jacobs) Gallaway. Isaac Gallaway was born in Methwold, Norfolk County, England, Aug. 6, 1828, and grew to manhood in his native land. In the spring of 1853, with a party of relations and friends, he came to the United States. One of the members of the party was Miss Fanny Jacobs, also a native of England, to whom he was married in August, that year. He and his wife first located in Ohio, where they lived ten years, removing to Wisconsin in 1863, and taking up their residence on the Andrews farm near Galesville. About seven years later they settled on the farm now owned by their son William, and daughter, E. Jennie Gallaway. On this farm Isaac Gallaway died, Sept. 22, 1908, his wife having previously passed away June 13, 1889. He was a farmer practically all his life and was one of the men who assisted in converting this part of Trempealeau County into a fertile farming community. A man of sterling worth, warm in his friendships and strictly honest in his dealings with all men, he was honored and respected by all. For a number of years he served as chairman of the township board and also as a member of the school board. He and his wife had three children: Elizabeth, William and E. Jennie. William Gallaway was educated in the district school of his township and at Galesville high school, which he attended two years. He was early trained to agricultural pursuits under the mentorship of his father. About 1900 he engaged in the stock business and has since been occupied in raising pure-bred Galloway cattle, in which line of industry he has been very successful. The farm is well equipped with good modern buildings and all necessary implements, a recent addition to the machinery being a large Avery tractor. The farm consists of 200 acres of fertile land. Mr. Gallaway is a member of the Galloway Breeders' Association and keeps well up with scientific progress in his line of work. In politics he is independent, and, while he has never been politically active, he has rendered good service to his township as treasurer of the school board.

William F. Kopp, proprietor of a small but excellent farm of 43 acres in section 5, Trempealeau Township, was born in Germany, Nov. 25, 1850, son of John and Mary Kopp. Both parents were born in Germany, the father May 18, 1819. Mrs. Mary Kopp died when the subject of this sketch was a mere infant, and her husband subsequently contracted a second marriage. In April, 1857, he came to America with his family, locating in Milwaukee, Wis., where he resided until the spring of 1858. The family then removed to Richmond, Minn., just opposite Trempealeau Village, which was their place of residence until 1861. They then crossed over the river into Wisconsin, locating at Big Tamarac, in Trempealeau Township, five miles north of Centerville. John Kopp bought 80 acres of wild government land, on which he built a three-room log house, 16 by 24 feet, in which he and his family lived until 1865. He also purchased in the vicinity 320 acres more, which land was partially improved, there standing on it a fairly good farm house. Mr. Kopp continued the improvements by putting up log barns and sheds, and resided on this farm until his death, Sept. 20, 1892. His second wife had previously died, March 12, 1888. They are both buried in Evergreen Cemetery, near Centerville. William F. Kopp

when a boy attended school in Richmond, Minn. He and his brother Charles were the only children by his father's first marriage, but he had three half-brothers, Henry, George and Frank, who are now living in Trempealeau County, and a half-sister, Josephine, who died in 1881. He was trained to agricultural pursuits and in time became the owner of a large farm, which he later disposed of. He now confines his attention to his farm of 43 acres in section 5, which is a very fine piece of agricultural property, under full cultivation. Here, besides raising the ordinary crops, he grows apples, plums and other small fruits. His residence, barn, granary and other buildings are all in excellent conditions, and for rapid transit purposes, and the general convenience of himself and wife, he has a fine automobile. He married Annie, daughter of Peter and Elizabeth Harris, their wedding taking place at the home of the bride's parents in Trempealeau Township, Feb. 17, 1880. Mr. Kopp is a Democrat in politics, but has taken no active part in local government, except that for some years he served as a member of the school board. He was reared in the Lutheran faith and attends the church of that denomination at Galesville.

John N. Brenengen is a member of a family of Norwegian origin that has had much to do with developing the agricultural resources of Gale and Ettrick Townships. He was born near Christiania, Norway, Dec. 8, 1873, son of Nels and Nettie (Johnson) Brenengen. The father was born in the same locality Dec. 27, 1833, and the mother Jan. 10, 1834. They arrived in Trempealeau County from Norway, June 10, 1880, locating in Gale Township. Nels Brenengen, who was a carpenter, soon found work at his trade, which he followed for awhile in Gale and Ettrick Townships, resolving, however, to obtain land as soon as possible and seek prosperity through the cultivation of the soil. Being industrious and economical, it was not long before he found himself in a position to achieve his ambition, and accordingly bought a farm in section 8, Ettrick Township, which place became the home of the family, and here he resided until his death, Oct. 30, 1904. Ten days later his faithful and loving wife followed him to the grave. Their family numbered in all seven children, of whom the sixth born was the subject of this sketch. John N. Brenengen was less than seven years old when he arrived with the Brenengen family in Trempealeau County, and his schooling, therefore, was only just begun. He became a pupil at the Smith school in Gale Township, and there and from his playmates picked up a knowledge of the English language. He had no opportunity for pursuing advanced studies, for his services were early needed on the farm, where he soon acquired a good knowledge of agriculture, stock raising, dairying and everything that goes to make up the life of the modern farmer. Before he was 20 years old he had saved enough money to begin farming on his own account, and with his brother Johannas, he purchased the old home farm, which they conducted together for seven years. He then sold his share to his brother and bought his present farm, containing now 196 acres of valuable land, he having recently sold 40 acres to his neighbor, John Erickson. Mr. Brenengen has added materially to the improvements on his property, having erected a good barn, a hog-house, put up fencing, and did other useful or necessary work. Besides raising

the usual crops, he is engaged in dairying, having good animals for milking purposes; and he is also a member of and stockholder in the La Crosse Packing Company and the Farmers Telephone Company. Success has attended his operations and he is numbered among the enterprising and prosperous agriculturists of Gale Township. For 14 years Mr. Brenengen has been a married man, having been united, Jan. 24, 1903, to Laura Thompson, who was born in Ettrick Township, daughter of Lars and Mary (Peterson) Thompson. Her parents, who came from near Christiania, Norway, settled near Trempealeau, this county, where Mr. Thompson took a farm. He was born April 13, 1842, and died in July, 1909. His wife, born in 1848, died in 1888. They had six children, of whom Laura was one of the youngest. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Brenengen also numbers six children: Minnie Amanda, Neil Ludwick, Lillian Josephine, Gerald Millard, John Leonard and Bernice Vernell, all residing at home. Mr. Brenengen and family are members of the Lutheran church.

E. Jennie Gallaway, part owner with her brother William of Evergreen Lodge stock farm, located in section 16, Gale Township, where she now resides, was born in Penfield, Ohio, Feb. 1, 1859, a daughter of Isaac and Fanny (Jacobs) Gallaway. Coming to Trempealeau County with her parents in 1863, she grew to womanhood on the parental homestead, where she has always remained. Having strong artistic tastes, she took lessons from Sara Birdsall, the well known artist, and has herself achieved no little fame, occupying a recognized place in the art world. Her home is adorned with some beautiful paintings from her own brush, including one of Niagara Falls and one of the Dells of Wisconsin, both instinct with fidelity to nature and showing masterly treatment. Like most true artists, Miss Gallaway is fond of outdoor recreations and a great admirer of flowers. Her rose beds and rose bushes, in the development of which she takes a great and active interest, are famous throughout this part of the county, and attract many people to the farm, the visitors always receiving a cordial welcome. Miss Gallaway is a lady of refinement, tact and good business ability and she and her brother are popular members of society in Gale Township.

Arthur Glassford, proprietor of a good farm in section 27, Gale Township, was born on this farm, March 10, 1876, son of Walter and Jane (Oliver) Glassford. The father was a native of Glasgow, Scotland, and when quite a young man learned the moulder's trade. When about 18 or 19 years old he came to America, locating in Illinois and was for some time in the employ of the McCormick Company, manufacturers of agricultural implements. This was before the Civil War, and when that great struggle came on, Walter Glassford enlisted in Company B, ————— Wisconsin Volunteers, being at that time a resident of Gale Township. During the war, his term of service having expired, he enlisted a second time and served until its close. He was never wounded, but was in the hospital for awhile as the result of an accidental injury. Returning to Wisconsin at the close of his military career, he located on the farm now owned by his son in section 27, Gale Township, and lying about a mile and a half east of Galesville. Here he devoted his time to agriculture and the improvement



MR. AND MRS. HENRY KOPP

of his property, the farm containing 120 acres, and was thus engaged until 1892, when on account of his health he had to give up active work. His death took place March 14, 1895. His wife Jane, who was born at Augusta, Maine, and whom he married in Gale Township, died many years before him, about 1876. Walter Glassford was a man highly respected. Though he never aspired to public office, he served on the board of education for about 20 years, acting as treasurer. He and his wife had three children, of whom Arthur was the youngest.

Arthur Glassford was educated in the district school in Gale Township. He was 16 years old when his father's health failed, and from that time on he took practical charge of the farm, becoming its proprietor on the father's death three years later. He has since operated it continuously, with the exception of a period of two years, during which he rented it out to a tenant. Some important improvements have also been made by him, including the erection of the present fine dwelling, with modern equipment, in 1906, and a substantial barn built in 1913. Mr. Glassford is engaged largely as a dairy farmer, though raising the usual crops, and he has met with good success. He is independent in politics, and is school director in his district, but has not otherwise been officially active. He takes, however, a keen interest in the welfare and progress of the community, and is always willing to do his part as a good citizen.

Mr. Glassford was married Nov. 26, 1902, to Dora De Young, who was born in Holland, May 22, 1883, daughter of Garman and Catherine (Post) De Young. Her parents came to the United States with their family in 1884, settling at Amsterdam, La Crosse County, Wis., where Mr. De Young engaged in farming. He is now retired and he and his wife reside at La Crosse. Mr. and Mrs. Glassford have one child: Beatrice Gertrude, born March 6, 1904.

Henry Kopp, owner and operator of one of the best farms in Trempealeau County, a 450-acre tract lying in sections 21 and 22, Trempealeau Township, was born at Richmond, Winona County, Minn., July 15, 1853, son of John and Mary Kopp. The parents, who were natives of Germany, came to America in 1857. Henry acquired his education in the district school, and was brought up to farm work in his youth. Coming to Trempealeau County, he followed his accustomed vocation. Oct. 26, 1886, he was married in Trempealeau Village, by "Elder" Owen, Congregational pastor, to Avaline, daughter of Nathan and Mary (Bortle) Wilber. For one year after his marriage he worked the Wilber farm, and then, in the spring of 1887, bought 125 acres of improved land in sections 21 and 22, "Big Tamarac" Valley, Trempealeau Township. To this land he has since added by purchase 225 acres more, the new property adjoining the old, and now has a fine farm of 450 acres, beautifully situated, 150 acres of which are plowed land and the rest in timber and pasture. On this farm Mr. Kopp has made numerous improvements, including the erection of a two-story, seven-room house; a barn (No. 1), 32 by 84 feet, with lean-to 14 by 84, for hay and horses; a barn (No. 2), 32 by 64, with basement for cattle, laid with cement floors, and equipped with James cow stanchions, and all modern fittings; a granary, a scale house, a machine shed, an engine room.

Mr. Kopp carries on general farming, and is a breeder of registered Short-horn cattle, keeping about 100 head. He also keeps graded Poland-China hogs, and has a flock of 300 high grade Shropshire sheep. His farm has a rolling surface, the soil being a black loam, with good sub-soil, and is well watered. Up to date in his methods, Mr. Kopp has been very successful and is recognized as one of the most prosperous farmers in Trempealeau County. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Exchange Elevator at Galesville. In politics a Republican, he has been active in the cause of good government, has served several terms as chairman of the town board and has for many years taken a keen interest in whatever was for the good of the township or county, whether along moral or material lines. He and his wife have had seven children, all born on the home farm, whose record in brief is as follows: Ernest, born Nov. 22, 1882, is a farmer in Trempealeau Township. He married Emma Van Vleet, and has three children: Helen, Ralph and Merle. Amy, born March 23, 1885, is the wife of George Wilson, a carpenter, and resides at Red Wing, Minn. She has two children: Doris and Wendel. Grace, born Oct. 4, 1887, is the wife of Herman Kline, a farmer of Trempealeau Township, and has three children: Norman, Gladys and Ethel. William, born Jan. 12, 1880, married Josie Severson, and is operating a rented farm in Trempealeau Township. John, born May 20, 1894, is unmarried and resides at home with his father, whom he assists on the farm. Byron P., born Sept. 18, 1898, is unmarried and living at home. Donald, born Aug. 17, 1901, is also residing at home, a boy of 15 years. Mr. Kopp was reared in the faith of the Lutheran Church, but is not a member of it, attending and supporting the Methodist Episcopal Church in Trempealeau. He and his family are widely known and highly esteemed.

John O. Gilbertson, who is successfully engaged in farming in section 33, Gale Township, was born in Lewis Valley, La Crosse County, Jan. 17, 1859, son of Ole and Olena (Larson) Gilbertson. His parents were born in Biried, Norway, the father Dec. 22, 1818, the mother in 1825. They were married in their native land and came to the United States in 1856, locating in Lewis Valley, La Crosse County, Wis. Ole Gilbertson, who was a farmer by occupation, soon afterwards bought land, but in 1860 he moved with his family to French Creek, in Ettrick Township, Trempealeau County. Here he was engaged in farming until his death, which occurred in 1898. His wife died Aug. 9, 1888. He was a prominent man and held office at various times, being school clerk for many years.

John O. Gilbertson was the youngest in a family of four children. He attended school in his boyhood at French Creek and afterwards the Galesville High School. Residing on the parental homestead until 22 years of age, he then became a land owner, buying a farm in Ettrick Township, which he operated for five years. He then engaged in mercantile business at Hale and later in Whitehall, being thus occupied for six years. At the end of that time he concluded to go back to farming, and accordingly purchased his present property at Frenchville, Gale Township, which consists of 80 acres of improved land, the improvements having been chiefly made by himself. These include his neat and comfortable residence, erected in

1910, and barns and other necessary buildings in 1905, the house being thoroughly modern in its appointments. Mr. Gilbertson devotes his whole time to his farm and is doing a prosperous business in his line. He is an independent Republican in politics and a member of the Lutheran Synod Church.

Oct. 22, 1879, John O. Gilbertson was united in marriage with Mina Helen Nelson, who was born in Biried, Norway, daughter of Borre and Bertha (Haslie) Nelson, natives of the same place. The parents were married in Norway, where the father was born July 29, 1821. They came to America in 1867, locating in Abrahams Valley, Gale Township, where he engaged in farming, his occupation in the old country. He died April 28, 1898. His wife survived him nearly ten years, passing away in February, 1908. Their daughter, Mina Helen, was the third born in a family of six children, and was educated in Trempealeau County. Mr. and Mrs. Gilbertson have three children: Odell, a mail clerk in the employ of the Northwestern Railway, residing in Winona, who married Ida Thompson of that city; Ella Josephine, who is a teacher residing at home, and Celia Berenice, also residing at home, who has been a teacher for eight years, being now in her third year in the Frenchville school.

Alfred E. Gilbertson, an enterprising and successful farmer of Ettrick Township, comes of one of the pioneer families of this township, of which he is a native, having been born here May 11, 1873. His parents were Even and Antoinette Marie (Ofsdahl) Gilbertson, natives of Norway, who were married in Wisconsin, the father being a son of Ole and Oline Gilbertson. Even was born in 1843 and when a boy of 13 or 14 years his parents emigrated with their family to the United States. The voyage, made in a slow sailing vessel, was long and tedious, but the shores of America were sighted at last and a landing effected. Making no stay in any eastern city or state, Ole Gilbertson and his family pushed on for the Northwest, which he had heard was now the land of opportunity for newcomers. He came to a halt at Stevenstown, La Crosse County, Wis., but seems not to have stayed there long, as soon after we find him homesteading 160 acres of land on French Creek, Ettrick Township, this county, and beginning its cultivation with an ox team. There were at that time but few settlers in the county, he being one of the original pioneers. As such he and his family had many hardships to endure and much hard work to perform, but in time his energy bore fruits, and with the assistance of sons he developed a good farm, and became one of the prominent and respected citizens of his township, aiding in the building of a church and taking a leading part in other public affairs. He and his good wife have long since passed to their final reward.

Even Gilbertson spent most of his boyhood days in assisting his father, when he was not attending school. In early manhood he started in for himself, buying a tract of 160 acres, and another of 80 acres, this land being situated in section 20-24-13, Ettrick Township. It was all wild land and there was not even a road in the vicinity, so that his task was to carve a farm out of the primitive wilderness. His first house was a shanty, 16 by 24 feet, and 12 feet high, and with this beginning he set to work, his

labors being hard and strenuous and lasting many years. He was made of the right stuff to succeed, however, and gradually the wild appearance of this land changed its aspect for one of cultivation, the old primitive shanty giving place to a dwelling more suggestive of domestic comfort. Barns and outbuildings, too, appeared, and increased in size with successive enlargements, or the erection of new buildings, while similar changes went on in the neighborhood with the advent of new settlers, until the community presented a civilized and flourishing appearance. On this farm Even resided to the end of his life, dying at the age of 72 years in 1912. He held a leading place among his fellow townsmen, was chairman of the township board for many years and served as assessor eight years, being well informed as to the value of all real property in the township. In politics he was a staunch Republican. A Lutheran in religious faith, he and his family helped to start the church of that denomination on French Creek, he being one of its officials, acting as trustee, foreman and collector of funds. He also aided in the building of the school and served as its clerk and treasurer. Among other enterprises which he took an active part in starting were the creamery and mill at Frenchville and the insurance company. In short, for a number of years there were few important enterprises started in the vicinity in which he was not interested in one way or another. The insurance company he served as clerk for 20 years, and he also became a stockholder in the telephone company. During his active career he developed two farms, starting with straw sheds, which he later replaced with wooden buildings, hauling the lumber from the old mill at Alma, Buffalo County. He kept good stock, favoring Durham cattle and Shropshire sheep, and his horses were also of excellent quality. His wife Antoinette was a worthy helpmate to him, and to her he owed much of his success, which he always readily acknowledged. She was about 12 years younger than himself and is still living, being now 65 years old. Their eight children also are living, namely: Lena, Bertie, Ida, Laura, Sophie, Stella, Emma and Alfred E.

Alfred E. Gilbertson was reared to manhood on the old homestead and acquired his education in the district school. In course of time, as his father became advanced in years, he took over the management of the farm, which he has since operated successfully. For the past three years he has been a trustee of the Lutheran Church, but has held no town office. Mr. Gilbertson married Oriana Hegge, of La Crosse, Nov. 8, 1902, daughter of J. O. and Carrie (Olson) Hegge. He and his wife are the parents of one child, Mildred. On his farm are some fine pine trees, which were set out by his grandfather, Ole, at a very early date, while others were planted by his father, Even, 50 years ago. The development of this place from the original wilderness to its present flourishing conditions, with its highly cultivated land, neat and substantial buildings and modern equipment, is typical of the great changes that have taken place in the county since the pioneer settlers first appeared upon the scene with their ox carts and home-made appliances some 50 or 60 years ago.

Edwin R. Wilber, a pioneer settler of Trempealeau County, now passed away, was of New England birth, born in the southern part of Connecticut.



E. E. WILBER AND FAMILY

Sept. 5, 1822. He was married in the state of New York, May 28, 1853, to Elizabeth A. King, who was born in Holland, Europe, Jan. 30, 1836. After farming for a few years in New York State, they came west in June, 1857, making the journey overland by team to Cleveland, and from there by boat by way of the Great Lakes to Sheboygan. They had brought teams with them, and from Sheboygan drove over country to Trempealeau County, crossing Black River at Gordon's Ferry and spending their first night in the county at the home of two bachelors, who lived at the ferry. In the party were the grandparents of the subject of this sketch, Samuel and Amanda Wilber, who had accompanied them from New York. The grandfather died in 1866 and the grandmother passed away in 1876. The families first located at a point just east of Centerville, but stayed there only two or three weeks until they had located homesteads. The homestead of Edwin R. Wilber consisted of 120 acres of wild land in Big Tamarac Valley, sections 17 and 20, there being no improvements on it. Here Mr. Wilber put up a log house of one and a half stories and three rooms, which is still standing. He soon realized that the horse teams he had brought with him were not adapted to rough work amid pioneer surroundings, and accordingly traded them for oxen, which he used to clear and develop his land. In a few years he had added 160 acres to the original tract of 120, buying 80 acres of this new land from the government and the other 80 from speculators. His four brothers—Samuel D., William M., Acil H. and Nathan P.—had come west with him, and Nathan P. settled with him in Big Tamarack Valley, while Samuel, William and Acil located in Pine Creek Valley, then in Trempealeau but now in Dodge Township, the distance from the two farms being about two miles. Nathan took a wild tract of 40 acres adjoining that of Edwin R., and cleared and improved it. The latter, with his wife, lived in the log house first built but one year, when he erected a second log house, larger and more convenient, into which they moved. This latter dwelling was 16 by 24 feet, with an upper story, and was erected on an "alternate" section, on which Edwin R. Wilber "squatted." It was about 60 or 80 rods north of the first location. He also built three frame barns, which are still standing. In the second log house they lived about 18 years, at the end of which time the residence now occupied by the subject of this sketch was erected. This is a two-story frame dwelling, with upright and wing, containing eight rooms in all.

Elmer Elsworth Wilber, who is engaged in operating the fine piece of agricultural property known as the "Wilber homestead," in sections 17 and 20, Trempealeau Township, was born in the old Wilber residence in section 17, Nov. 27, 1860, son of Edwin R. and Elizabeth A. (King) Wilber. He acquired his education in the district school of Trempealeau Township, which he attended regularly until 15 years old, after which he continued attendance during the winters only until 18. In the meanwhile he assisted his father on the home farm, of which he finally became the owner. To the buildings which his father erected he has added a frame barn. There he resided until his death July 5, 1893, being survived by his wife and several children, of whom he had seven: James M., Mary Jane, Francis M., Elmer E., Mary A., Samuel and Henrietta E. James M., born in February,

1855, in New York State, is now living at Rochester, Minn., being a retired blacksmith. Mary Jane, born Sept. 19, 1856, also in New York State, died Nov. 22, 1861, in Trempealeau Township and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery. Francis M., born Oct. 24, 1858, in Trempealeau Township, is now a prosperous farmer of this township, living near the old homestead. Elmer E., born Nov. 27, 1860, is now owner of the homestead and is engaged in farming. Mary A., born Nov. 8, 1862, is the widow of Frank Bunnell and lives in Minneapolis. Samuel, born Dec. 4, 1870, died Feb. 27, 1871. Henrietta E., born Nov. 2, 1872, is the wife of Clarence Bunnell, a real estate dealer of Orlando, Florida. Mrs. Edwin R. Wilber died in Minneapolis, Minn., April 21, 1909.

Elmer E. Wilber acquired his education in the district school of Trempealeau Township, which he attended regularly until 15 years old, after which he continued attendance during the winters only until 18. In the meanwhile he assisted his father on the home farm, of which he finally became the owner. To the buildings which his father erected he has added a frame barn, with concrete basement, fitted for cattle and horses, the distance from floor to ridge being 40 feet. He carries on general farming and dairying, keeping Shorthorn grade cattle, of which he has a good herd, also Poland-China swine and a large flock of graded Shropshire sheep. He is also interested as a stockholder in the Galesville Creamery and the Farmers' Co-operative Packing Company of La Crosse.

March 28, 1886, Mr. Wilber was united in marriage with Cora A., daughter of James and Amanda (Towner) Adams of Caledonia Township, their marriage taking place at the home of the bride's parents, and the Rev. J. R. Chamberlain of the Trempealeau Congregational Church officiating. Mr. and Mrs. Wilber have four children: Hazel E., born Oct. 22, 1887, who was graduated from the Trempealeau High School, the La Crosse Normal School and the State University at Madison, and is now a teacher in Madison, Wis.; Raud E., born March 18, 1890, who lives at home and is assisting in the management of the farm, and who married Grace E. Dolbier, Jan. 4, 1917; Cora Madge, born April 16, 1893, who was married March 8, 1917, to Edwin Severson and resides in Trempealeau Township, and Mabel A., born Sept. 21, 1894, who is unmarried and lives at home. Mr. Wilber belongs to Camp No. 2977, M. W. A., of Galesville, Wis. He is a Republican in politics but not an officeholder.

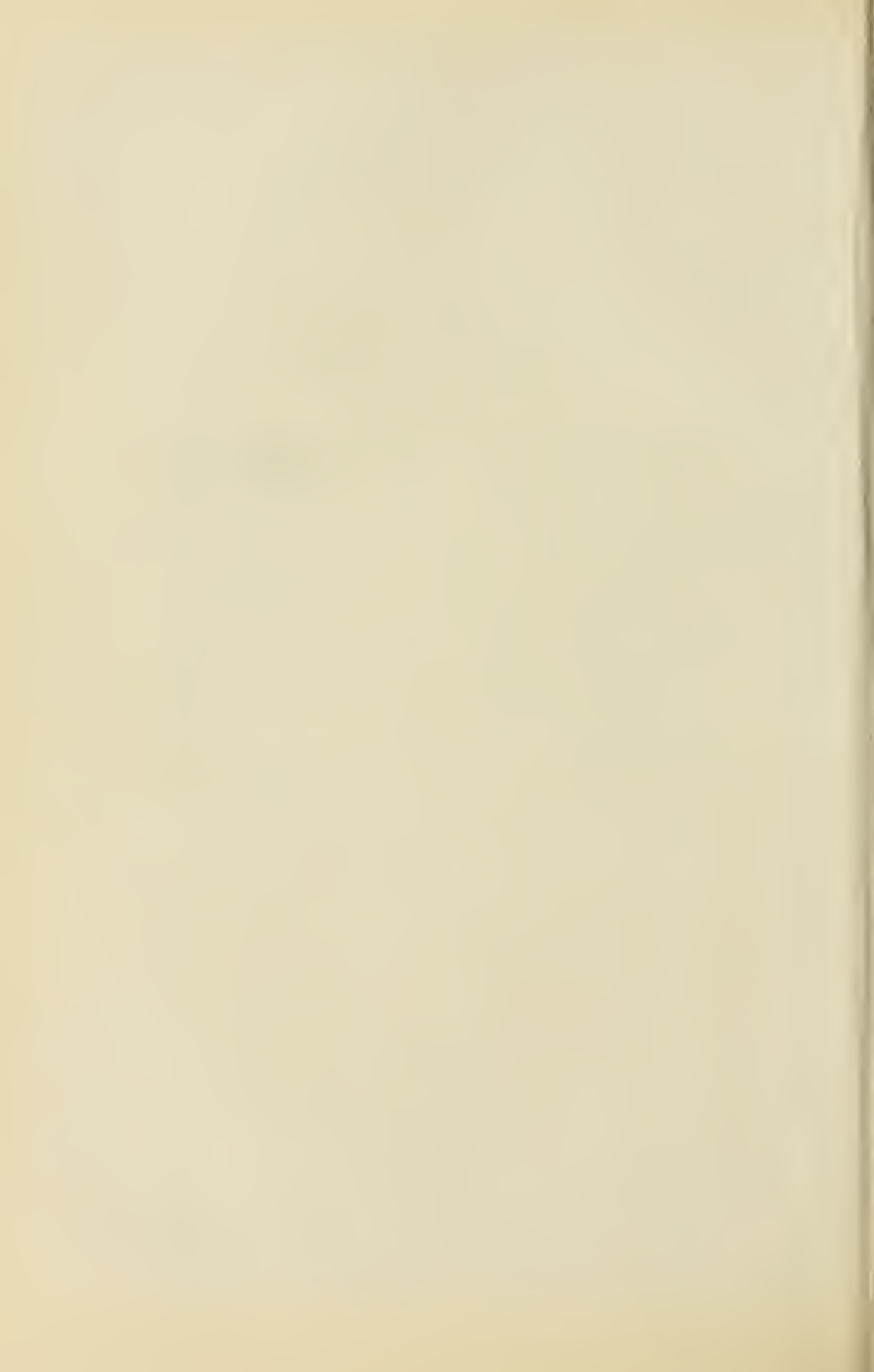
Francis M. Wilber, one of the enterprising farmers of Trempealeau Township, section 20, was born Oct. 24, 1858, at Big Tamarack Valley, this township, son of Edwin R. and Elizabeth A. (King) Wilber. His educational opportunities were limited to attendance at the district school, and he had to become self-supporting at the time when many boys nowadays are thinking of high school and college. The habits of industry he then learned have remained with him all his life and have been the main factor in his present prosperity. Brought up to farming, he has followed that occupation since boyhood, buying and moving onto his present farm of 207 acres in sections 20 and 21, Trempealeau Township, soon after his marriage in 1885 to Emma Bell Bunnell, daughter of George W. and Louise (Atwood) Bunnell. Since taking possession of this property Mr. Wilber



MR. AND MRS. EDWIN R. WILBER



F. M. WILBER AND FAMILY



has made a number of valuable improvements on it. Among them is a two-story frame house, erected in 1908, also a fine large barn with modern equipments; and in addition he has a good granary, hog house, poultry house, machine sheds and other necessary buildings. The farm itself is located in one of the richest valleys in Trempealeau County, and has good fertile soil, yielding bountiful crops. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Wilber includes five children: Grace, who is the wife of Webster J. Calkins, a farmer of Trempealeau Township; Myrtle, wife of Benjamin Rhodes, a farmer at Little Tamarack Valley; Lizzie, now Mrs. William Lakey, whose husband is a farmer in Caledonia Township; Cliffie, who is unmarried and resides at home, and Dewey, also unmarried, who is engaged in assisting his father on the farm. Mr. Wilber is a Republican in politics, but takes no active part in township affairs, being always ready, however, to support any practical enterprise for the welfare of the general community. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, and his wife to the Royal Neighbors, both of Galesville.

George W. and Louise (Atwood) Bunnell, parents of Mrs. F. M. Wilber of Trempealeau Township, were natives of New Hampshire. In early days they came west to Baraboo, Wis., where they resided for a time, subsequently returning to New Hampshire. In 1860 they came again to Wisconsin, this time settling on Trempealeau Prairie, where Mr. Bunnell bought 60 acres of land and engaged in farming. A little later, however, he sold the 60-acre tract and purchased one of 120 acres close by, and there built up a good farm, on which he remained until 1878. He then rented the farm and went to Farmington in Dakota County, Minn., where he lived for two years. The remainder of his life was spent in Minneapolis, his death occurring May 2, 1891. Mrs. Bunnell later married George Harold. She died at Seattle, Wash., June 6, 1916, to which state they had moved. The children of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Bunnell were as follows: Willard, born Aug. 30, 1857, who died Feb. 10, 1911; Frank, born March 11, 1860, who died Aug. 15, 1904; Emma Bell, born April 14, 1863, now Mrs. F. M. Wilber of Trempealeau County; Clarence, born March 22, 1866, now a real estate dealer at Orlando, Florida; Lizzie Rose, born Nov. 24, 1871, residing in Spokane, Wash.; and George Otis, born Dec. 26, 1875, who is the efficient chief of police of Seattle, Wash.

Albert J. Baardseth, proprietor of a general store and feed mill at Hardie's Creek, Gale Township, was born at Hardie's Creek, this township and county, July 4, 1879. His parents were Andrew and Mary (Hemma) Baardseth, both of whom were born in Ringsaker, Norway. Andrew Baardseth came to the United States when 30 years of age, about 50 years ago, locating in Lewis Valley, La Crosse County. For 13 winters he worked in the pineries and in the summers on farms. He then bought land near North Bend, Jackson County, and was engaged in farming there for seven or eight years. At the end of that time he located on the farm on which his son Albert J. was born, and where he is still living, though it is now the property of his son. His wife, to whom he was married in this state, died in 1885, at Hardie Creek. Mr. Baardseth was the fourth born of his parents' six children. He acquired his elementary education at the Glasgow school

where he is now living retired after a long and successful career as an agriculturist, was born on his parents' farm at Decorah Prairie, Gale Township, Sept. 3, 1856, son of John and Mary (Young) Davidson. He was educated in the district school of his neighborhood and resided on the home farm until he was 21 years old, assisting his father and acquiring a good practical knowledge of farming in all its branches. When he came of age he began working in the pine woods at timber cutting during the winters, spending the summers in northern Wisconsin. After being thus occupied for six or seven years he returned to the parental homestead and resumed farming operations with his father, with whom he continued until the latter's death. Then buying out the other heirs, he operated the home farm on his own account for 12 years, at the end of which time he sold it and bought his present residence in Galesville. He still owns land in the county and is now in possession of a competence, acquired by years of industry. In addition to his land holdings he is a stockholder in the Independent Harvester Company at Plano, Ill., and the Arctic Springs Creamery of Galveston, Wis. July 5, 1904, Mr. Davidson was united in marriage with Mrs. Cornelia A. Fuller, who was born in Michigan, daughter of Elijah and Lucinda (Overacker) Brown. Her father was a native of Ohio and her mother of Albion, Mich. In 1865 they came to Wisconsin and settled at Davis Ferry on the Black River, but the following year moved to Wrightsville, and a year later to Jackson County, where Mrs. Brown died. Mr. Brown then took up his residence in Neillsville, Clark County, where his death subsequently occurred. Mr. and Mrs. Davidson have an adopted child, Stella, who was born Feb. 1, 1906, and is now attending school at Galesville. Mr. Davidson is independent in politics and for six years was treasurer of District School No. 2 of Decorah Prairie. He has always taken an interest in good local government, and though taking little personal part in politics, has ever been ready to support measures calculated to promote the general welfare of the community.

John C. Dopp, who is conducting a good farm in sections 3, 10 and 11, Gale Township, known and registered as "Pleasant View Farm," is a native of Trempealeau County, having been born near Frenchville, in Gale Township, April 17, 1865. His parents were born in Germany, but were married in the state of Iowa. The father, John Dopp, born in Mecklenburg, Germany, Feb. 25, 1837, came to the United States while still a young man under 20 years of age, and lived for awhile in McGregor, Iowa. His first winter in this country was spent in Prairie du Chien, where he earned only 25 cents a week as wages, his employer evidently taking advantage of his ignorance, as he was unable to speak English. In addition to the anxiety caused by his inability to find remunerative employment, he was attacked by typhus fever and was very sick, though finally recovering. Later he was in the employ of an English family at Iowa, in which were two little girls, who taught him to speak English. After a year with this family he came to Trempealeau County, crossing the river at Trempealeau in a skiff. Here he worked awhile for Mr. Healy, but soon after took a homestead near Frenchville, which farm he developed and improved, residing on it until his death, Oct. 16, 1908. He married Fredericka Schmidt, who was



JOHN C. DOPP AND FAMILY

born in Germany, Jan. 26, 1838, and who survived him and is now living in the old home with her daughter, Mrs. Dennis Brophy. They have five children, of whom John C. was the first born.

John C. Dopp in his boyhood attended school at Frenchville. He learned agriculture on his father's farm, and at the age of 17 years began working out for others, varying this employment with work on the home farm at intervals. From the age of 21 to that of 30 he worked by the month. He then took his present farm, which at the time had practically no improvements. He has 160 acres of land, which is now well cultivated, and has erected large well equipped barns, and a good modern brick residence. Here he carries on general farming, including the raising of stock, and is doing a prosperous business. His breeding operations are confined chiefly to Durham cattle, Poland-China hogs and Percheron horses. In addition to his immediate farming interests, he is a stockholder in the Arctic Springs Creamery Company and the La Crosse Packing Company. In politics Mr. Dopp is independent. While not politically active, he served as justice of the peace for two years and as school clerk six years. May 1, 1898, Mr. Dopp was united in marriage with Anna Margaretha Elizabeth Claussen, who was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, March 11, 1869, daughter of Peter H. and Anna M. (Messer) Claussen, both natives of the same province, where the father was born Nov. 7, 1836, and the mother Aug. 17, 1837. They came to the United States in April, 1870, and after one summer in Chicago, came in the following November to Trempealeau County, Mr. Claussen locating on what is now known as the old Claussen homestead at Frenchville. He is now practically retired, his son operating the farm. At various times Mr. Claussen held local office and for many years has been one of the best known and most respected citizens of his township. Mr. and Mrs. Dopp are the parents of five children: Esther Margeretha, Herman Claussen, John Henry, Mary Magdalene and Anna Elizabeth. The three older children are students at the Galesville High School, while the two younger ones are attending the rural school of this district. Anna Elizabeth, the youngest, only seven years old, will enter the fourth grade September, 1917. Religiously the family are affiliated with the Presbyterian Church.

Peter Thomas, a former resident of Trempealeau County, but now deceased, was born in Germany, Oct. 15, 1840. When eight years old he accompanied his parents to the United States, they settling at Mineral Point, Iowa County, Wisconsin, in which locality he was reared. When a young man he engaged in mining. About 1880 he and his family settled at Onalaska, La Crosse County. About a year later he came to Trempealeau County and located on a farm about two miles from Galesville, the property being now known as the Stoner farm. A few years later he bought a farm at Frenchville, where he died August, 1914. Mr. Thomas married Leah Ayer, a native of the state of Maine, and they were the parents of nine children, one of whom, Cullen A., is now a farmer in Gale Township. Another, Leah, married Walter Birchard, who lives on a farm on the outskirts of Galesville. Mrs. Leah Thomas died in Galesville in 1909.

Walter Birchard, a stock dealer, now partially retired, who resides on

a farm of 57 acres almost adjoining the city limits of Galesville, was born at Black River Falls, Wis., Aug. 13, 1854, son of Harrison and Elizabeth (Heinick) Birchard. Harrison Birchard was born in Detroit County, New York, in 1827, and came to Wisconsin about 1848. After a short stay here he returned to New York state, but came back to Wisconsin in 1851, when he married and engaged in the lumber business at Black River Falls, which place was his home until 1878. At times he followed the occupation of river pilot on the Mississippi, his services being so much in demand that he was paid at the rate of \$10 a day. In 1878 he came to Galesville and conducted a lumber yard here for a number of years subsequently. He also engaged in the butcher business for awhile, and later became a farmer. He died Aug. 31, 1905, after having been some years retired. A man of ability and force of character, he was prominent in every community in which he lived, while a resident of Black River Falls serving on the township board, and later as assessor of Gale Township, besides holding other office at various times. He was twice married, his first wife, Elizabeth, dying in 1866. She was the mother of five children, including the subject of this sketch. Of Harrison Birchard's second marriage one child was born.

Walter Birchard when a boy attended school at Black River Falls. When 15 years old he became his father's assistant and so continued until he married. At that time—1882—he settled on the farm where he now resides, and engaged in buying cattle for the market. He also for awhile operated a butcher business in Galesville. Though now practically retired, his son operating the farm, he still buys stock at intervals. Mr. Birchard is an independent Republican in politics, and served as assessor of Gale Township for a number of years. Fraternally he is connected with the Red Men, Beavers and Guardians of Liberty. Dec. 27, 1882, Mr. Birchard was united in marriage with Leah Thomas, who was born at Mineral Point, Iowa County, Wis., daughter of Peter and Leah (Ayer) Thomas, who settled in Trempealeau County in 1881. Mr. and Mrs. Birchard are the parents of two children: Mildred G., who is the wife of Ingvald Nelson, a merchant of Stoughton, Wis., and Warren E., who is engaged in working the home farm.

Goodwin Toraason, D.D.S., successfully practicing his profession in Blair, is a native of this village, born Nov. 4, 1885, son of Peder and Carrie (Lovberg) Toraason. He was reared in the village of his birth, passed through the graded and high school, and entered the dental department of the Northwestern University, at Chicago, graduating in 1908. In the fall of 1908 he opened an office here. Dr. Toraason became interested in baseball as a young boy, when he played on vacant lots with the other youngsters. His abilities increased and in time he became a professional ball player. In 1907 he pitched the town team of Blair to many a victory against semi-professional and professional teams, and in 1908 he did excellent work as pitcher for the Manitowoc team in the Lake Shore League. He has since received many flattering offers, but chooses to devote his time to the practice of his profession. Dr. Toraason was married Sept. 4, 1912, to Theresa Gilbert, daughter of T. I. and Maria (Thirston) Gilbert, the former of whom, a merchant of Blair, died in 1904, the latter now making



ISAAC ARTHUR DUTTON AND FAMILY

her home in Blair. Dr. and Mrs. Toraason have one son, Goodwin Ernest, born Feb. 6, 1914. Peder Toraason, father of Dr. Toraason, was born in Soler, Norway, and in 1866 came to this county and located in Blair, where he and his wife still reside. They are the parents of ten children: Tena, Lena, Ole, Minnie, Palmer, Claus, Goodwin, Clifford M., Stella and Hiram. Lena is the wife of James Harvey of St. Paul. Ole lives in Westby, Mont. Minnie is the wife of H. A. Lober of Minneapolis. The rest are all in Blair.

Oscar B. Johnson, of the firm of Hanson & Johnson, hardware and implement dealers of Blair, was born in Preston Township, this county, Jan. 1, 1880, son of Bent B. and Martha (Otterson) Johnson, the former of whom came from Norway and took a homestead in Preston Township in 1865. Oscar B. Johnson was reared to farm pursuits and remained on the home farm until 1904, when he went to Springfield township, in Jackson County, and there farmed until 1911. Then he returned to Blair, and purchased the blacksmith shop of Ole L. Olson. His connection with his present firm dates from Jan. 20, 1915. Mr. Johnson is well known in the community, and has served on the city council. The family faith is that of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church. Mr. Johnson was married May 14, 1903, to Christina Nordness of Lincoln Township, this county, daughter of Ole and Bagnild Nordness. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have two children: Bernice and Raymond.

Isaac Arthur Dutton, proprietor of Maplewood farm in section 9, Trempealeau Township, was born at Whitewater, Walworth County, Wis., June 12, 1855, son of John and Delia B. (Huntley) Dutton, who were residents of Utica, N. Y. Both parents were born in the state of New York and they were married in Utica in May, 1846. In 1850 they moved to Wisconsin, going by way of the Great Lakes to Milwaukee, and then overland to Whitewater, Wis., by team. Here John Dutton bought 160 acres of unimproved land, and there being no house on it he and his family spent the first six months in a corn crib. In 1857 he built a frame house one and a half stories in height, with five rooms below and two upstairs. This house is still standing and is now occupied by Mrs. Esther Hanson, a cousin of the subject of this sketch. In 1866 the Dutton family moved to Trempealeau County, the parents, with their son Isaac A., coming by train to La Crosse, while Charles, another son, and Henry Cox, a friend, drove a team across the country. Reuniting at La Crosse, they came the rest of the way to Trempealeau County up the river on the ice. The father had bought 200 acres of wild land in section 10, Trempealeau Township, now known as the Shumway place; also 40 acres of timber land near Henry Kopp's present homestead in section 22. He now constructed a frame house, consisting of an upright and "L," and containing 10 rooms, and a two-story granary. Here John Dutton and his family resided until 1880, when he retired and moved to Galesville. He died in Galesville March 5, 1907, being survived several years by his wife, who died in that village April 4, 1911. Their children were: Charles, born in New York state, in December, 1846, who is an employee of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company and resides at Winona, Minn.; Mary Ellen, born in New York state in April, 1850, who is the wife of the Rev. A. L. Tull, a Methodist minister, now resid-

ing at Atlanta, Ga.; Lydia Ann, born at Whitewater, Wis., Dec. 25, 1852, who married George Tobey of Trempealeau and died in 1874, being buried in Evergreen Cemetery; Isaac Arthur, whose name appears at the head of this sketch; Alice, born at Whitewater, who died in infancy and was buried there; George Ellsworth, born at Whitewater, March 13, 1861, who died February, 1901, and is buried at "High Cliff," Galesville, Wis.; Cora Belle, born Oct. 5, 1866, at Whitewater, and now living at Seattle, Wash., the widow of George E. Sanderson; Jennie Euretta, born Sept. 19, 1870, who is unmarried and is living at Winona, Minn., where she is matron at the Young Woman's Christian Association.

Isaac Arthur Dutton resided with his parents on the old Dutton homestead farm until he was 23 years old. He was educated in district school No. 9, Trempealeau Township, which he attended until the age of 16 years, then at Wasioja, Minn., and later at the Trempealeau high school. Nov. 10, 1878, he was married at Centerville, Wis., by Rev. A. L. Tull of the M. E. Church (a brother-in-law) to Eveline Lydia, daughter of Zebulon Mantor and Minerva Jane (Cook) Viles. She was born in Richmond, Walworth County, Wis., and on the father's side is a descendant of John Hancock, and on the mother's of the Marquis de Lafayette, and from 1861 up to the present time has resided in the same township and within sight of the house in which she lived 35 years ago. She was educated in Trempealeau Township, and as a girl went barefooted to school, church and Sunday school over the road she now traverses in an automobile. When she first came to this township from Whitewater she made the journey by ox team, which required two weeks, but in 1915 she visited her old home, going by automobile and thoroughly enjoying the contrast afforded by that method of travel with the primitive methods of her younger days, this last trip being made in two days.

After his marriage Mr. Dutton remained on his farm until 1885, and then, in the spring of that year, bought 80 acres in section 9, to which land he had added 100 more adjoining it on the west. He has greatly improved the house, which was a very primitive dwelling, and has erected several other buildings, among them in 1896 the first round barn in Trempealeau Township. This barn has an 80-foot drain, with 20-foot studding, and a stone basement, with a silo in the center of the barn, 44 by 16 feet, and having a capacity of 170 tons. His other buildings include hog, corn and hen houses. He keeps a good herd of grade cows and markets about 125 hogs annually, and is doing a prosperous dairy business. He has thoroughly equipped creamery, turning out annually about 5,000 gallons of cream, which he ships to La Crosse. For 25 years he was a breeder of Red Poll registered cattle, and attained a high reputation, exhibiting at the Chicago International Fat Stock Show, and at the Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin State Fairs annually. He always carried about 50 head and sold and shipped registered stock to Tennessee and other southern states, to many western states, and to Canada. For 16 years the entire butter product of Maplewood Farm was marketed in Winona, Minn., at a uniform price of 25 cents a pound.

Mr. and Mrs. Dutton have had three children: Carroll Arthur, Mabel

Eva and Mae Belle. Carroll Arthur was born Nov. 13, 1879, in Trempealeau Township. He attended the district school, Trempealeau high school for two years, and Gale College two years, afterwards taking a two years' course in the agricultural College of Wisconsin. He resides at home and assists his father in the management of the dairy, in which line of work he is very competent. While at the agricultural college he was the winner of two medals in a class of 101 members, first prize as the best judge of horses and the second prize as best judge of cattle, hogs and sheep. Mabel Eva, born July 12, 1884, in Trempealeau Township, died Aug. 11, 1887, and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery. Mae Belle, born Aug. 6, 1889, also in this township. She was graduated from the Trempealeau high school in 1909, and trained as nurse at Asbury Hospital, Minneapolis. April 12, 1917, she was united in marriage to H. W. Coit. They reside on a farm in Gale Township. Mr. Dutton is a stockholder in the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company, and a stockholder in and life member of the International Fat Stock Show, Chicago. He is a Prohibitionist by principle, and he and his family are members of the Centerville M. E. Church, of which he has been a trustee for years, Mrs. Dutton being a member of the Ladies' Aid Society. Their home, Maplewood Farm, is one of the best pieces of agricultural property in this part of the county. The soil is a dark silty loam, mixed with fine sand, but without gravel, and the land is sufficiently rolling to make perfect drainage. The buildings are located on a gentle rise of ground, sloping south, and sheltered on the west by a large grove of maple trees, from which the farm derives its name. The equipment of machinery and tools is very complete and the best of its kind. Church and school are located but three-quarters of a mile away, while two stores and blacksmith shop are within a mile and a quarter. The farm has been the home of the Duttons for 32 years and has always been operated as a combined dairy and general stock farm. Nearly all hay and grain produced has been fed on the farm and the manure returned to the land.

Carl L. Kittleson, a business man of Galesville, was born in Ettrick Township, this county, April 6, 1880, son of Lars and Sena (Olson) Kittleson. Lars Kittleson was born in Perry Township, Dane County, this state, Aug. 23, 1859. He was brought to Ettrick Township, by his parents, as a lad of six years, was here reared, and finally inherited the home place, now owning 220 acres, on which he conducts general farming. Carl L. Kittleson remained at home until 17 years of age, and then found employment as a farm hand. Later he found work in a creamery. Wishing to further perfect himself in this line of industry he entered the Dairy School of the University of Wisconsin in November, 1902. With this preparation he was successively employed as cheese maker at Kewaunee, Wis., one season, and as butter maker at Ettrick, Wis.; helper, St. Paul, Minn., Salt Lake City, Utah, Osseo, Wis. In May, 1909, he purchased a restaurant at Osseo. Three years later, his lease having expired, he came to Galesville and purchased the Hauge & Ragness restaurant, which he has since conducted. In addition to operating the restaurant, which he had moved from the Grover block to the old Funston building, which he now owns, he conducts a soda fountain and ice cream parlor, manufacturing all his ice cream. His estab-

lishment is equipped with modern devices, and his fountain is of the latest design. Mr. Kittleson was married May 12, 1909, to Augusta Frase, daughter of William and Charlotte (Geske) Frase. William Frase was born in Posen, Germany, in 1855, came to America at the age of 17 years, located in Otter Creek Township, Eau Claire County, and there engaged in farming until his death, Oct. 28, 1904. He was an influential citizen and served on the school board for many years. His wife was born Sept. 22, 1858, and now lives in Augusta, Wis.

Ernest H. Butman, who is engaged in farming in section 36, Gale Township, was born at Decorah Prairie, on the farm on which his father is now residing, son of Stark and Mary Jane (Lynn) Butman. Ernest H. Butman was the sixth born of nine children. He was educated in the district school at Decorah Prairie and was brought up to agricultural pursuits. He resided with his parents until his marriage and then rented a farm in Gale Township, on which he lived for about two years. At the end of that time he purchased the farm, in company with his brother Milton, and operated it for a number of years, after which he exchanged his interest in the place with his father for a part of his present farm and has since resided here. He has now 100 acres of highly improved land on Decorah Prairie, and carries on general farming. He has made all the improvements on the place and has modern and convenient buildings. His outside interests include the ownership of stock in the Farmers Exchange, the La Crosse Packing Company and the Independent Harvester Company at Plano, Ill. March 15, 1899, Mr. Butman was married to Elizabeth M. Burt, who was born in Cross Township, Buffalo County, Wis., daughter of Robert and Jeanette (Davidson) Burt. Her parents were natives of Scotland, who came to the United States about 1855, before their marriage, the latter event taking place in Wisconsin. Robert Burt is now a resident of Winona, Minn. His wife, who was a daughter of John and Mary (Young) Davidson, is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Butman have three children: Lloyd Ernest, Burel Stark and Mary Jane, all residing at home. Mr. Butman is independent in politics. He has served on the school board for a number of years and is the present clerk of the board of education of his district. His fraternal affiliations are with the Order of Beavers.

Christian N. Brenengen, proprietor of an excellent farm of 274 acres in section 11, Gale Township, was born near the city of Christiania, Norway, Oct. 31, 1861, son of Nels and Nettie (Johnson) Brenengen, who came with their family to Gale Township, Trempealeau County, Wis., in June, 1880. Further mention of the parents may be found in biographies of other members of the family. Christian N. Brenengen was 18 years of age when he arrived in America and was unable to speak English. He had begun industrial life at the age of 14 or 15 years in Norway, where he had worked in a livery stable for three years. After coming here he found work as a farm hand at \$16 a month, and was thus occupied for years. He then began working in the woods in the winter time, at logging, and in the summer was employed on the farm of John McKeeth, his logging operations being on the Mississippi River. When 26 years of age he married, and at that time entered the employ of the Iver-Pederson Company, at Ettrick,



MR. AND MRS. J. W. JONES AND GRANDCHILD

driving a four-horse team for nine years. During all these years he was saving his money until at last he found himself able to purchase his present farm. Some time after this he gave up his position with the Iver-Pederson Company, and, moving onto his farm, began agricultural operations. He has since made a number of valuable improvements on his place, having a fine modern residence and two separate water systems, and his barns and other buildings are substantial and equipped with all necessary appliances. Mr. Brenengen started farming with about \$500 capital and has since made steady strides in prosperity until he is now one of the well-to-do men of his township. He has given his whole attention to his farm and is not an office holder. In politics he is independent. Oct. 26, 1887, he was married to Julia Olson, who was born in Norway, near Christiania, daughter of Ole and Johanna (Johnson) Estby, who were natives of the same place. Her father dying in Norway, her mother came to this country in 1836, residing first in Galesville and afterwards in Ettrick, in which village she died in 1906. Their daughter Julia was the youngest of three children, and attended school in Norway. Mr. and Mrs. Brenengen are the parents of 12 children, all born in Trempealeau County, and all of whom are living, namely: Orron, who married Johanna Paulson and is a farmer residing near the Brenengen homestead; Guy, single and residing at home; Nels, who married Lillian Madolin and lives in Blair; George, single and living at home; Arthur, who married Selma Osley and lives near Ettrick; and Lottie, Amelia, Anna, Norah, Alice, Christ and Joseph, all living at home. Mr. Brenengen is a stockholder in the Ettrick Creamery. He and his family are members of the Lutheran Synod church.

John W. Jones, an enterprising agriculturist of Gale Township, who is carrying on general farming and dairying in section 16, was born in Cadiz Township, Green County, Wis., Nov. 21, 1854. His father, Kinsey Jones, born in Coshocton County, Ohio, Dec. 31, 1827, was a farmer who located in Green County, Wis., where he followed his occupation for some years, or until September, 1855, when he came to Trempealeau County, taking a farm in Caledonia Township. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary Shrake, and who was born in Coshocton County, Ohio, April 9, 1833, accompanied him, with their son John. After their arrival here a daughter was born to them, who was the first white girl born in the county. April 17, 1866, Kinsey Jones and family removed to what is now the Herman farm, Gale Township, which was his last place of residence, as he died there Dec. 22, 1881. He was a steady, reliable citizen, but took no active part in public affairs, devoting all his time and attention to his farm. His wife survived him about 25 years, dying at Oberon, N. D., Feb. 30, 1907. They were the parents of a large family numbering 14 children, of whom John W. was the second in order of birth.

John W. Jones first attended school in Caledonia Township and afterwards in Crystal Valley, Gale Township. He resided with his parents until he was 21 years old, and worked for his father both during that period and afterward until he was 27. He then purchased 100 acres of land, forming a part of the farm on which he now lives. There were no improvements on it at the time, but since then he has increased its size to 240 acres and

erected all necessary buildings, which are modern in construction and equipment. Besides raising the usual crops, he keeps cattle and hogs and is doing a good dairy business. Mr. Jones was married July 13, 1877, to Ida McClary, who was born at New Bedford, Hillsboro County, N. H., daughter of Daniel and Harriet (Wyman) McClary, her father being a native of the same place, and her mother of Grasmere, in the same county, born July 8, 1827. Daniel McClary, who was a farmer, came to Gale Township, this county, in 1856, with his family from Beloit, Wis., where he had resided about six months. He located on a farm near Galesville, and the bridge known as McClary bridge was named after him and his family. He and his wife had six children, of whom their daughter Ida (Mrs. Jones) was the second born. Mr. and Mrs. Jones are the parents of six children: May, wife of William Kribs, a carpenter residing in Trempealeau; Effie, wife of Hiram Warner, a salesman of Coldwater, Mich.; Rosie, wife of Earl Hall a farmer living near Tunnel City, Wis.; Leonard, Grace and Dean, who are unmarried and living at home. Mr. Jones is independent in politics, but has not taken any active part in political matters, preferring to devote his attention to his farming interests. He and his family are widely known in this part of the county and have many friends.

Sever J. Brovold, who carried on agriculture successfully for a number of years in Ettrick Township, and is now living retired on his farm in section 20, was born in Hardanger, Norway, Feb. 14, 1852. His parents were John and Christe (Twite) Brovold, natives of the same place, who came to America in 1866, locating in Beaver Creek Valley, Trempealeau County, Wis., where John Brovold purchased a tract of unimproved land. This he cleared and developed into a good farm, on which he spent the balance of his life, dying in September, 1890. His wife died in March, 1911. He was a good neighbor and well liked, but was a man who attended to his own business and took no part in public affairs.

Sever J. Brovold was the second born of five children. He attended school in Beaver Creek Valley, and assisted his father until he was 21 years old, when the management of the farm came into his hands. Two years later he bought it and has since operated it on his own account. He has made many improvements on the place, having put up modern buildings, and has a full equipment of first-class machinery and implements. The farm contains 205 acres of highly improved land, and here, though now retired, Mr. Brovold expects to reside in the future. He is a stockholder in the Ettrick Creamery Company, in the Bank of Ettrick and in the First National Bank of Blair. In politics, though not a strict party man, he usually votes the Republican ticket. For about 16 years he has served as a member of the school board of his district. July 2, 1875, Mr. Brovold was united in marriage with Mrs. Martha (Gunderson) Hagestad, daughter of Torkel and Anna (Rasmussen) Gunderson, natives of Norway, from which country they came with their family to the United States in 1854, settling at Lodi, Dane County, where Mr. Gunderson farmed for about five years. The family then removed to Jackson County, driving overland with an ox team and settling just across the county line, where Mr. Gunderson resumed his farming operations. There both he and his wife died in 1891.



MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL BARR

They left three children, of whom their daughter Martha was the youngest. She was first married to Ole Hagestad, by whom she had one child, Anna, now the wife of John Knutson, of Ettrick Township. From her marriage with Mr. Brovold four children have been born: Josephine, Amelia, Theodore, born Aug. 25, 1885, and Archie J., born March 2, 1894. Josephine and Amelia are deceased. Theodore resides at home.

Archie J. Brovold, proprietor of the old Brovold homestead in Ettrick Township, was born March 2, 1894, son of Sever J. Brovold and his wife, Martha, whose surname was Gunderson. In his boyhood he attended the Beach District School and subsequently entered the Scandinavia Academy at Scandinavia, Wis., where he completed the four years' academic course. In 1915 he was graduated from the agricultural department of the State University at Madison, after completing the short course. He is now the owner of the parental homestead and intends to engage more extensively in the dairy business. He breeds Guernsey cattle, owning a pure-bred sire, and is a stockholder in the First National Bank of Blair, the Ettrick Creamery Company, the Ettrick Telephone Company, the Scandinavian Insurance Company, and a member of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experimental Association and the Alfalfa Order.

Archie J. Brovold was married Oct. 12, 1915, to Senie Sexie, daughter of Lars O. and Carrie (Bue) Sexie. Her father, who was a native of Hardanger, Norway, came to America at the age of 17 years, located at Beaver Creek Valley and engaged in farming, which occupation he still follows. His wife was born in America. They were the parents of ten children, of whom Senie was the second in order of birth. She was educated at the Hegg High School and always remained at home until her marriage.

Samuel Barr, formerly a leading citizen in Trempealeau Township, of which he was a pioneer settler, was born in Madison County, N. Y., March 28, 1818. While still a single man he came with his brother James, via the Great Lakes, to Wisconsin. They had intended to land at Milwaukee, but owing to heavy weather had to go on to Chicago. There they procured ox teams and proceeded to Fort Atkinson, Wis., overland. James Barr subsequently went to Eau Claire County, Wis., while Samuel bought land in Walworth County, this State, and then removed to Dodge County, all this territory lying in the southeastern part of the State. He improved his land and at the same time worked at his trade of cooper. April 2, 1856, he was married in Dodge County to Caroline Lilly, who was born Jan. 13, 1830, in Binghamton, N. Y., daughter of Henry and Anna (Robinson) Lilly. In the same year they came to Trempealeau County, Mr. Barr buying 160 acres of wild land, which now forms a part of the present homestead in Trempealeau Township, sections 28 and 29. To this he later added that part of the farm now contained in section 32. There were no buildings on the land at first, and they spent their first winter in a log house with Thomas Sutcliff, whose place lay just east of their farm, but as soon as possible Mr. Barr built a frame house of studding, with brick between, sheeted inside and boarded up and down outside with boards and batten. This house contained three rooms and an attic, and was superior in construction to most of the neighboring residences. A barn was also erected by Mr. Barr,

he and Daniel Bonumn rafting the lumber down Black River for both buildings. He cleared and fenced his land and in time brought it to a high state of cultivation. He built other buildings as needed, also the present residence, a two-story house of 11 rooms, which is a commodious and comfortable dwelling. Here he died Oct. 19, 1902, after an active and successful career, during which he had risen to a prominent place in the community, serving as supervisor of the township many years, chairman of the board and clerk of School District No. 9. His wife did not long survive him, passing away Oct. 24, 1902. They were prominent members of the Trempealeau Baptist church, of which Mr. Barr was a trustee for years, and every Sunday the family might have been seen driving to and from church in a lumber wagon—a distance of seven miles. They had a family of eight children, whose record in brief is as follows: Eliza Idella, born May 10, 1857, who died, an artist of some distinction, March 26, 1901; Emma Jane, born July 13, 1858, who died in Trempealeau Village, Nov. 6, 1868; Ira Adelbert, born May 27, 1860, who is superintendent of construction for the General Chemical Company of New York; Clara Lilly, born Aug. 4, 1861, who died Feb. 19, 1896; Irwin Roscoe, born Sept. 11, 1864; Bessie Elsie, born March 12, 1868, and Ella Lelia, born Sept. 24, 1869, both of whom are living on the homestead, and Rose May, born Oct. 30, 1871, who died Jan. 25, 1886.

Irwin R. Barr, who operates one of the best farms in Trempealeau Township—the Barr homestead, in sections 28, 29 and 32—was born on this farm Sept. 11, 1864, son of Samuel and Caroline (Lilly) Barr, his parents having settled here in 1856, the year of their marriage. He attended district school regularly until he was 15 years old, and from that time until he was 17 he was a pupil during the winter in the grade school in Trempealeau Village, being employed on the farm in summer. Afterwards he spent two winters at Gale College. In 1886 he became attached to the carpenter crew of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway and was engaged in building depots and in other similar work for two years. During the three following years he, with his brother Adelbert, followed similar work for the Santa Fe road, after which, for about three years, he was with the Northwestern Construction Company of Chicago. He also took part in the construction of the World's Fair buildings in that city in 1893. In the spring of the following year he went to Alaska, in which country he spent about five years. Going first to Edmonton, Alberta, he was employed there in building river boats, but the firm failing, he, with the other workmen, had to take an outfit boat and tug for the wages due them. With that he, with the others of the party, went down Athabaska River, through Athabaska Lake into Big Slave River, through Slave Lake into the McKenzie River, and down that river to Fort McPherson, the last post of the Hudson Bay Company, situated north of the Arctic circle. Then they went up Rat River 65 miles to McDougal Pass through the "Rockies," then through Porcupine River to Yukon. In December, 1902, Mr. Barr returned from Alaska and took the management of the old Barr homestead in Trempealeau Township. He carries on diversified farming and dairying, keeping a good herd of Shorthorn cows of the dairy type, a large flock of sheep and a good sty of graded swine. He has built a large and commodious barn, the basement

being constructed of reinforced concrete, with cement floors. It is equipped with the "James" outfit, including "B. L. K." milkers. The horse and cow apartments are divided by a 16-foot driveway. On the floor of the barn are four grain bins, each of 500 bushels capacity. In connection with the barn there is also a large silo, and in the basement of the barn a milk separator run by gasoline power. Both house and barn are provided with running water. Mr. Barr has also built a machine shed and other necessary buildings. In short, it would be hard to find a better equipped farm anywhere in this vicinity. Although a very busy man, Mr. Barr has found time to assist in local government affairs, having held the office of town chairman for several terms and chairman of the county road and bridge committee. He is always willing to aid in promoting the general interests of the community, knowing that its advancement along either moral or material lines benefits each member of it. In politics he is a Republican.

J. C. Button, for many years a distinguished figure in the legal procedure of western Wisconsin, is now living in retirement in the village of Trempealeau, at the ripe old age of 84 years. He has known varied experiences, has seen the world in many lands and climes, has taken an active part in the formation of the policies of several Mississippi valley counties, and has lived to see his fondest hopes and ambitions realized. High thinking and clean living have given him a store of vitality which is still unimpaired, and the world has brought him a full measure of joy and contentment, his only sorrow being the passing away of his friends and relatives whom the changing years have taken one by one. His ruggedness of health and staunchness of character are inherited from a long line of worthy forebears. The father, Charles Button, was of Colonial English stock. As a young man he studied medicine, but never engaged in extensive practice, choosing rather to spend his life in agricultural pursuits. He was married in New York State to Cynthia Watson, who was likewise descended from Colonial stock. From New York they went to Lorain County, Ohio, and there J. C., the subject of this sketch, was born, June 3, 1830. When he was an infant they went to Oakland County, Mich., and settled on the Stony Creek road, not far from Pontiac. In 1836 they moved to Illinois, and settled on a farm 12 miles south of Ottawa. From there in 1843 they came to Green County, Wis., and took up their home eight miles east of Monroe, the county seat. The father died in 1844 and the mother in 1878. Living in pioneer communities, and left fatherless at the age of 14 years, young J. C. had but meager opportunities for schooling, most of his early education being obtained in a little log schoolhouse. In 1848 he entered the Academic Department of Beloit College, and was graduated from the Collegiate Department in 1852. Then he started out for California in search of gold. The parting with his mother was a pathetic one. Standing hat in hand, and with his mother's arms about his neck, he promised never to use profanity, never to indulge in any game of chance, and never to taste or handle intoxicating drinks of any sort. This promise he has kept to this day, and to it he attributes his health and happiness. His farewells said, he joined his party and continued with them as far west as Salt Lake City, Utah. There he and a friend struck out alone, and located in Salem, Ore.,

for a time. From there young Button went to Portland, and from there by ship to San Francisco. After a trip to Sacramento and neighboring mines, he embarked on a ship which carried him to the west coast of Panama, where he secured a team which took him to Graytown, on the Gulf coast. Then, touching at points in Florida and Cuba, he reached New York, and returned to his home. Desiring to further perfect his education, he went to Janesville, Wis., and entered the offices of Sleeper & Norton, where he studied law, and was admitted to the bar. It was in 1858 that he opened an office in St. Croix Falls, Polk County, Wis., and started housekeeping in a home which he erected with his own hands. In the fall of 1859 he was elected to the office of district attorney and moved to Osceola, the county seat. At the expiration of his term, he moved to Prescott, and entered into partnership with J. S. White, a partnership which lasted until 1876. Soon after his arrival in Prescott he was elected district attorney of Pierce county, a position in which he ably served for a term of two years. Having been in continuous practice of his profession for 20 years, part of the time as a public official, Mr. Button determined, in 1877, to take a well-deserved vacation, traveling in Europe and Asia Minor. Accordingly he set out and visited in turn England, Scotland, France, Spain, Egypt, the Holy Land, Turkey, Albania, Greece, Italy, Alsace-Lorraine, Germany, Russia, Holland, Belgium, France, England, Wales and Ireland. Among the many notables whom he saw may be mentioned Queen Victoria, and it is remarkable that he attended the funeral of King Victor Emanuel, of Italy, who died Jan. 9, 1878, and of Pope Pius IX, who died in February of the same year. Upon his return to America, Mr. Button came to Trempealeau County in the fall of 1878, for the purpose of assisting his brother, S. W. Button. S. W. Button had been in partnership with Judge Newman, and upon the elevation of Judge Newman to the district bench found the work too strenuous for his failing health, and so called his brother J. C. to his assistance, going himself to the Panhandle country, in Texas, where his health was restored, after which he took up the practice of his profession in Sparta, Wis. Accordingly, J. C. Button took up his home permanently in Trempealeau Village, where he has since resided. For one term he was district attorney of this county. He is a man of sincere convictions and is highly honored and respected throughout the community. Mr. Button was married, June 16, 1858, to Charlotte Wheaton, daughter of Cyrus Wheaton, of Green County, Wis. Mrs. Button died in December, 1890. Their only child, Charles, died at the age of 4 years and 10 months of age.

Bostwick Beardsley, a pioneer settler of Caledonia Township, now passed away, was born in Delaware County, N. Y., July 11, 1813. On Dec. 7, 1841, he married Mary Fowler, who was born in East, Pa., Oct. 8, 1820, their marriage taking place in Racine County, Wis., Dec. 7, 1841. In 1853 they moved to Burlington, Racine County, Wis., and in 1854 came to Trempealeau County, reaching here June 13. Locating in section 29, Caledonia Township (then Montoville) Mr. Beardsley purchased 300 acres of government land, consisting of prairie and "burr oak openings," and two years later he increased his holdings by buying 200 acres termed by the government "swamp land," making 500 acres, all in Caledonia Township. This



WIEB ANDRIESEN AND FAMILY

land, of course, was wild and without improvements, and the first residence of the family here was a one-room log cabin, which he built and in which they lived until the fall of 1854, when he erected a frame house of one story, with three rooms. During their brief log cabin days the members of the family, except the father and mother, slept in a covered wagon drawn up near the shanty. They had at this time six children, who were born in Racine County: Henry D. and Benjamin P., both of whom died in hospital while serving as soldiers in the Civil War; Oscar E.; Narcissa, who is deceased; Lyra Alice, also deceased; Elam, who is a resident of Caledonia Township. Their subsequent children, who were all born in Caledonia Township, were: Huldah, who is the wife of J. O. Wing (he died in 1915 and she now resides in the State of Washington); Otto, who resides on the old homestead; Rebecca May, and Mary, who are deceased.

Oscar E. Beardsley, who is operating a good farm in section 29, Caledonia Township, was born in Burlington Township, Racine County, Wis., June 28, 1845, son of Bostwick and Mary (Fowler) Beardsley. He was in his ninth year when he came to Trempealeau County, and was brought up on the homestead, where he acquired a knowledge of farming under pioneer conditions. When he reached his majority his father gave him 120 acres of land, 80 acres of which belonged to the original homestead, the other 40 adjoining it. From that time up to the present he has carried on general farming here and has made great improvements in his property. In 1876, about ten years after he started agricultural operations on his own account, he erected his present residence, a brick veneer structure, with brick wing, the house being one and a half stories high, with seven rooms below and four above. The other buildings he has put up include a barn, a stone granary, a stone hog house, with poultry house adjoining, a wood house, a corn crib, attached to the barn, and a machine shed, all being painted and in good condition. For the last 15 years Mr. Beardsley's son Ora has managed the farm for him and built in 1903 in the same yard with his father's house a substantial brick veneer dwelling of seven rooms. The farm is well stocked with horses, cows and hogs of good breeds. His cream is shipped to Winona, Minn. Mr. Beardsley was first married, Dec. 8, 1876, to Lena Olson, of Trempealeau Township, by whom he had two children, Ora, born April 1, 1878, and Clara, born July 4, 1880. Ora, who married Mary Voss, of Caledonia Township, has one child, Mildred Lena. Clara is the wife of M. E. Risinger, of Winona, Minn., and has two living children, Florence and Harold. Mrs. Lena Beardsley died July 22, 1892, and on Dec. 9, 1895, Mr. Beardsley married for his second wife Betsy Lewis, of Caledonia Township. Of this marriage there have been no children. Mr. Beardsley has served one term as a member of the school board in District 3, but has otherwise taken no active part in public affairs. He is a stockholder in the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company and has been a member of Trempealeau Lodge, No. 117, A. F. & A. M., of Trempealeau, since about 1868. As a good citizen he takes a keen interest in the progress and development of his township and county.

Weib Andriesen, who is carrying on general farming and stock raising on 106 acres of land in section 30, Gale Township, was born in Holland, Jan.

30, 1864, son of Andrew and Elizabeth (Van Buren) Andriesen. His parents were both natives of Holland, the father being a farmer. Neither came to America, but both remained and died in their native land.

Weib Andriesen acquired his education in Holland and began working on farms at the age of 9 years, also helping his father. For 17 months he served in the standing army of Holland, stationed at Den Haag. After he was 22 he continued work as a farm hand, but kept and saved his earnings except what he used for living expenses. It was in 1903 that he came to the United States, locating at once in Trempealeau County, where he had a brother already settled. After arriving here he rented a farm for three years in Gale Township, subsequently renting another farm for two years. Then going to Montana, he bought 120 acres of land, resided there one year and then sold out, returning to Trempealeau County. Here he purchased his present farm of 106 acres in section 30, Gale Township, and has made practically all the improvements on it, having built a modern house, with a good barn, silo and other necessary buildings. He is engaged in dairy farming, favoring the Durham breed of cattle, his stock of which he is gradually increasing. He is also a stockholder in the La Crosse Packing Company. In addition to the farm he is working he owns another, of 130 acres, near Galesville, on which his son-in-law resides. He now owns from 40 to 50 head of cattle, with horses enough to work his farm, and all necessary implements. Although not yet a naturalized citizen of the United States, he has taken the preliminary steps to become one and expects to enter into the full rights of a citizen in the near future. Mr. Andriesen was married in May, 1887, to Johannah Fan-Wal, who was born in Holland, daughter of Henry and Katy (Rondaan) Fan-Wal. Her mother died in Holland and the father came to America with his daughter and her husband, Mr. Andriesen, in 1903, and died subsequently in Onalaska, Wis. Mr. and Mrs. Andriesen are the parents of eight children: Elizabeth, unmarried; Katie, married William Boersma, they live in La Crosse, Wis., and have two children, William and Annadean; Annie, wife of Albert Sandbergen, residing on Mr. Andriesen's farm of 130 acres, above mentioned, they have one child, Johannah; Nellie, unmarried and residing at home, and Ella, Hessie, Johnnie and Johannah, all living at home. Mr. Andriesen and wife are members of the Presbyterian church. They are industrious and thrifty people who have already reached a prosperous condition in life and whose prospects are bright for the future.

Lars L. Swaim, who for the last 30 years has been engaged in agricultural pursuits on a farm of 300 acres in sections 13, 24 and 14, town 23 north, range 8 west, Hale Township, was born in Biri, Norway, Nov. 13, 1852. He is a son of Lars Larson Sveum by his wife Aganetta Larson, both natives of Norway, the father born in 1824. In 1861 the family emigrated to America, settling in Coon Valley, Vernon County, Wis., where the mother died in 1863. Lars L. Sveum afterwards continued to reside on his farm there until his death, which occurred in 1896. Lars L. Swaim, the direct subject of this sketch, began working out at the age of 16 years and was thus employed for some three years. The next two years he spent on the family homestead, after which he began working in the pineries. Three years

later he took a homestead in Brookings County, S. D., and was there three years, from 1878 to 1881. He then resumed work in the pineries and so continued until 1886, in which year he bought his present farm from Ole Olson Bates and has since resided on it engaged in its cultivation. The place is now highly improved and is making a good return for the money Mr. Swaim invested in it. In 1901 he built his present residence, of two stories and basement, containing ten rooms, which are heated by furnace and illuminated with gasoline lights. The barn was built in 1898, and measures 48 by 90 by 12 feet, having cement floors and steel stanchions. The other buildings are a granary, 16 by 28 by 14 feet; a chicken house, 14 by 28 feet, and a machine shed, 42 by 42 feet. Mr. Swaim keeps Shorthorn cattle, having 60 head of graded animals, of which he milks 25. He feeds and ships one carload per year. A good woven wire fence surrounds his farm. May 8, 1886, Mr. Swaim was united in marriage with Caroline Johnson, of Ettrick Township, this county, but who was born in Norway, daughter of Eric and Bertha Anderson. He and his wife have had six children: Arthur, who died at the age of 5 years; Emil, born Oct. 2, 1888; Lila, born July 15, 1892, who was married, Aug. 28, 1915, to Sigvart Peterson, a farmer of Hale Township; Clarence, born May 8, 1895; Esther, born Sept. 2, 1900, and Lawrence, born Oct. 31, 1902. The three last mentioned, with Emil, are residing at home with their parents. Aside from his farm interests, Mr. Swaim was president and treasurer of the Pleasant Valley Telephone Co., and a stockholder in the Central Trading Association of Whitehall, and in the Whitehall Hospital. He has served three years as treasurer of the school board. Affiliated religiously with the Norwegian Lutheran Church, he holds therein the office of trustee, and it was he who gave land for the church of that denomination at Pleasantville. He has always been strict in the fulfilment of his duties as a man and citizen, and he and his family stand high in the estimation of their fellow townspeople.

Otto Beardsley, a prominent farmer of Caledonia Township, son of Bostwick and Mary (Fowler) Beardsley, was born in this township, Feb. 13, 1860. Otto Beardsley was educated in the District School No. 3, Caledonia Township, which he attended regularly up to the age of 12 years, and after that during the winters until he was 18. He assisted his father on the farm until reaching the age of 18. From that time until his father's death he rented the farm. It became his property at that time, with the exception of a tract of 80 acres which the father gave to his son Oscar E. Later Otto purchased 40 acres from his mother that had been given her by his father, now 280 acres. The buildings on Mr. Beardsley's farm include a 14-room frame house of one and a half stories; a frame barn, 36 by 100 feet, with basement and modern equipment; the other outbuildings include a granary, poultry house attached to the granary, a corn crib and hog house, with basement, and a machine shed. Mr. Beardsley and his sons are engaged in general farming, having a herd of good grade cattle and horses and Poland-China swine. Mr. Beardsley is a stockholder in the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company. For many years he has been a member of the Independent Order of Foresters at Trempealeau, also of Trempealeau Lodge, No. 117, A. F. & A. M., of Trempealeau, and since 1910 of the Mystic Work-

ers, of Trempealeau. In politics he is a Republican; though not especially active in local affairs, he has served four years as treasurer of Caledonia Township and as treasurer of School District No. 3 for six years. Mr. Beardsley's farm is fenced and cross-fenced into 40-acre lots, and includes 120 acres of plow land, 100 acres of pasture land, and 80 acres of timber. It is watered by two spring brooks and a well 120 feet deep. Oct. 4, 1886, Mr. Beardsley was united in marriage with Jennie, daughter of August and Dena (Ehlert) Wagner, of Caledonia Township. He and his wife have five children: Lester Olna, Henry O., Una May, Archie Lee and Cordella D. Lester O., born April 16, 1888, is now living on the north 80-acre tract of the old farm, which he owns. He married Elizabeth L. McCartney, of Caledonia Township, and has two children—Bertha Catherine and Raymond Otto. Henry O., born July 9, 1889, resides on the home farm, which he is renting. Una May, born April 14, 1891, who was graduated from the district school, Trempealeau High School and, in 1912, from Winona Business College, is now employed as stenographer in Koch's Vegetable Tea Company, of Winona, Minn. Archie L., born July 18, 1893, lives on the home farm, being associated with his father and brother Henry in its operation. Cordella D., born June 14, 1899, is residing at home. Mr. Beardsley and his family attend the Congregational church at Trempealeau, though he is not a member. As a farmer he has been successful, and the Beardsley family in general have contributed their full share to the agricultural development of Caledonia Township.

Lars K. Underheim, one of the leading merchants in the southern part of Trempealeau county, proprietor of a general store at Hegg, Ettrick Township, was born in Norway, Dec. 10, 1878, son of Knut L. and Margretha (Sunde) Underheim. It was in 1882 that the family came to the United States, settling first in Roland, Iowa, where Knut L. Underheim, who was a carpenter, followed his trade for one season. He then removed with his family to Jackson County, Wis., where he was not only engaged in carpenter work for many years, but also bought land and became a farmer. In the spring of 1916 he moved to Trempealeau County and has sold his farm, but still works at his old trade. In Jackson County he served as treasurer of his township for five years and as assessor for four years and was a man highly regarded for his industry, honesty and other personal characteristics.

Lars K. Underheim, who was the second born of his parents' children, attended school in Franklin Township, Jackson County, after which, under his father's direction, he acquired a knowledge of the carpenter's trade, and at the age of 16 or 17 was working with his father as a journeyman in Jackson County. After this association had lasted eight years he came to his present location at Hegg, in Ettrick Township, as manager of the store of A. Anderson, who resided at Blair. He continued with Mr. Anderson for four years, at the end of which time the business was sold to A. B. Pederson, and for two years subsequently Mr. Underheim conducted the store for the new owner. At the end of that time he bought out the business, with the stock and buildings and has since conducted it on a profitable basis, keeping a complete line of general merchandise, including groceries and country produce, and is drawing patronage from a wide extent of rich



LARS K. UNDERHEIM AND FAMILY

surrounding territory. He has also other financial interests, being a stockholder in the Bank of Ettrick, the Home Bank of Blair, the Blair Farmers' Exchange, the Ettrick Telephone Company, the Ettrick Creamery Company and the Ettrick Lumber Company, besides being half owner of a valuable farm, known as the K. S. Knutson farm. Mr. Underheim has shown good business foresight in the conduct of his business, being careful to give first-class service and make his prices as low as can be found in any of the surrounding towns, and as his store is conveniently situated, it is patronized by many farmers to save making longer trips to other places.

June 27, 1906, Mr. Underheim was united in marriage with Josephine Olson, who was born on the Olson homestead at Beaver Creek, this county, daughter of Anve and Kari (Gunderson) Olson, who were natives of Norway. Anve Olson was one of the early settlers of Trempealeau County, breaking land and spending many years in developing a good farm. During the last 10 months of the Civil War he served as a private in Company E, Thirty-second Wisconsin Infantry, and while in the service received a gunshot wound. He survived that great struggle for half a century, however, dying in the fall of 1915, having lived retired for some 12 years previous to his death. His wife is still living and is a resident of Ettrick. Their daughter, Josephine (Mrs. Underheim) was among the younger members of a family of nine children and was educated in Trempealeau County. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Underheim: Margaret Cornelia, who died in infancy; Caspar Arnold, born January 21, 1912, and Margaret Louise, born Oct. 1, 1914. The family are members of the United Lutheran church. Mr. Underheim, who is in politics a Republican, has served one year as treasurer of the school district and has held the same office in his church for three years. He is a director in the Bank of Ettrick and for five years has been a notary public.

Clif Ford, who in company with his brother-in-law, George G. Gibbs, is engaged in the implement business in Trempealeau Village, was born in this village Sept. 9, 1868, son of Alfred P. and Lizzie D. (Heald) Ford. His education was acquired in the graded school of Trempealeau, which he left at the age of 16 years, after passing the grades, in order to learn the printer's trade in a local office. After working at that trade for five years in the village, he went to La Crosse, Wis., where he was employed for two years on the Daily Chronicle. At the age of 23 he entered the employ of the Chicago, Burlington & Northern Railroad as bridge builder and was thus occupied until the spring of 1900. In the meanwhile, April 5, 1891, he had married Jessie J. Gibbs, daughter of O. E. and Louise (Grant) Gibbs, at Trempealeau Village. In the year 1900 he went to South Dakota, to the farm of his father-in-law, O. E. Gibbs, near Arlington, on which he resided four seasons. He had already homesteaded a tract of 160 acres of land near Pierre, S. D., on which he lived eight months to meet the requirements of the law. This land he subsequently sold without improving it. In the fall of 1904 Mr. Ford went to Sioux Falls, S. D., and worked for Sherman & Bratager, a transfer house handling farm machinery. Here he did general work, both as clerk and in the shipping department, remaining until the following year. He then returned to Trempealeau Village and was unem-

ployed until the spring of 1906, when he again entered the service of the Burlington Railroad as bridge builder, remaining with them until October, 1913. He then engaged in his present business in Trempealeau Village, in which he is meeting with good success. Aside from this he is a stockholder in the Trempealeau Lime Products Company, and has also subscribed for stock in the proposed creamery. In politics he is a Republican, but has held no political office. His fraternal affiliations are with Lodge No. 2813, Modern Woodmen of America, of which he is clerk at the present time. Reared a Baptist in religion, he supports church work, but is not a member of any religious body. He and his wife have had five children: Arthur Neil, born May 25, 1892, at Trempealeau, who is unmarried, and is engaged in the auto repair business at Omaha, Neb.; Harold George, born in November, 1894, also at Trempealeau Village, who is unmarried, and a civil engineer by profession; Edith, born at Arlington, S. D., in 1901, who is attending the Trempealeau Village school; a child that died in infancy, and Jessie, born July 10, 1909, at Trempealeau, who is attending school in the village.

Mrs. Lizzie D. Ford, now living retired in the village of Trempealeau, Wis., of which she is a highly respected resident, was born in Norridgwock, Maine, Nov. 13, 1841, daughter of William and Esther (Cutler) Heald. The parents were married, Dec. 29, 1840, at Farmington, Maine, where they resided for some years subsequently, the house in which they lived being still standing. William Heald was born Sept. 24, 1816. He was of a roving disposition and finally came west to Trempealeau County, Wis., settling in Trempealeau Village, where he died Oct. 6, 1896, at the age of 80 years and 12 days. For the last 18 years of his life he was blind. His wife Esther was born Nov. 24, 1814, and died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Ford, in Trempealeau Village, Dec. 6, 1890. She was a charter member of the Trempealeau Congregational church. To William and Esther Heald were born two children: William E., Oct. 15, 1846, and Lizzie D., the date of whose nativity has been given above. William E. Heald was a farmer all his active life and died Jan. 4, 1916, at Mendota, Wis., leaving a wife and one daughter, Gertrude, who is now living in Trempealeau Village. Lizzie D. Heald acquired a good education and in early womanhood taught seven terms of school in Trempealeau County. She was married, April 4, 1866, to Alfred P. Ford, of Trempealeau, the marriage taking place at Galesville, Wis. Mr. Ford was a native of New Hampshire, born at Haverhill, that State, Aug. 27, 1829. At the age of 26 years, in 1855, he came West, settling in Trempealeau Village, this county. For many years he served as county surveyor of Trempealeau County. In 1857 he built the residence to which after marriage he took his bride. From 1876 to 1883, the year of his death, he was engaged in the furniture business in Trempealeau, after which Mrs. Ford carried it on for several years, but finding the care of her family and the management of the business together too much for her powers, she sold the business to her son Clif and has since lived retired. She has four children: Clif, Fred C., Nora and William, all of whom are living but William, who died at Arlington, S. D. Fred, Mrs. Ford's second son, married Mabel Graves, of Trempealeau Village, and has six children: Lester, Ruth, Lynn and Lytle (twins), Fred, Jr., and Charles H., all of whom are

living. Nora, Mrs. Ford's only daughter, married Thomas Growt, of Trempealeau Village, and has one child, William, who is now a student. Mrs. Ford, though not a member of any church, is greatly interested in church work, in which she gives active aid and assistance, her closest affiliations being with the Methodist Episcopal church.

George A. Trim, who is engaged in farming in section 35, Trempealeau Township, was born in this township, in section 34, Aug. 2, 1866, son of William and Martha R. (Robinson) Trim. He remained with his parents until his marriage, and as a boy acquired his education in the common school of District No. 3. Dec. 3, 1891, he was married at the home of his wife's parents, by the Rev. E. Trimm, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church, of Necedah, Wis., to Alta, daughter of Nephi and Elma Nichols, of Trempealeau Township. Immediately after his marriage he moved with his bride to his present home in section 35, which was his father's old homestead, and began farming on his own account. April 2, 1900, Mr. Trim's first wife died. She had been the mother of five children: Lulu, born Nov. 7, 1892, who is unmarried and is living with her sister, Mrs. Nichols, in section 34; Willard, born Jan. 6, 1894, who is married and is a traveling salesman, residing in Chicago; Harry, born Feb. 29, 1896, who is unmarried and is living at Galesville, Wis., where he is occupied as a grocery clerk; Edward, born March 5, 1898, who is a carpenter residing at home, and Albert, born March 22, 1890, who died in infancy. Oct. 23, 1901, Mr. Trim married his second wife, Marie Baumgardt, of Fountain City, Buffalo County, Wis., their wedding taking place in the German Lutheran church of Winona, Minn., presided over by the Rev. Mr. Von Rohr. The children of this marriage are: Grace, born Dec. 31, 1902; Earle, born July 3, 1905; and Archie, born March 7, 1909, all residing at home. Mr. Trim is engaged in general farming and dairying, keeping 20 grade Shorthorn cows and about 50 head of Poland-China hogs. His farm contains 302 acres, of which 170 acres are plowed land and the balance in pasture and timber. He has also a large apple orchard of well-selected varieties. In 1915 he remodeled the house, which is now a two-story, 12-room frame residence, with bath, laundry, hot and cold water, and general modern equipment. His father's original residence is still standing on the farm, a one and a half story upright, with wing—a frame building—built over 50 years ago, and now occupied by his family of hired help. The outbuildings include a barn, 40 by 120 feet, with a poultry house attached; a buggy shed, and cattle shed, 24 by 100 feet. The barn was built in 1885 and in 1906 was remodeled and enlarged. There is a sheep shed with barn attached, on stone basement; a hay barn attached, a horse barn, built in 1887, a granary with hay loft overhead, a milk and ice house combined and a concrete silo, all the buildings being well painted and in good shape. Mr. Trim's farm is known as Hillhurst Dairy and is an excellent example of the up-to-date dairy farm of this region. Mr. Trim is a stockholder in the Exchange Elevator at Galesville, and in the Farmers' Co-Operative Packing Company, of La Crosse, Wis. Since 1898 he has been a member of Lodge No. 2977, M. W. A., of Galesville, and since 1902 of the Mystic Workers' Lodge at Trempealeau. He has been treasurer of School District No. 3 for the past 15 years, but in politics is independent.

James Irvine, for many years a prominent citizen of Trempealeau County, was born in Maryland, in 1853, and early determined to devote his life to farm pursuits. When a mere lad he accompanied his parents to this county, and here grew to manhood. As soon as he was able he acquired land and was soon numbered in the ranks of the successful agriculturists of the county. At different times he owned and operated various farms here until the spring of 1911, when he moved to the vicinity of Bowman, S. D., and engaged in farming and stock raising there. While living in Gale Township he served a number of years as township treasurer and as a member of the school board. His wife, Agnes Dick, was the first white child born at Decorah Prairie. Mr. and Mrs. Irvine were the parents of five children: John Quinton, Nellie (deceased), William Walter, Myrtle Beatrice and Rose Irene.

John Quinton Irvine. The name of Irvine is familiar to those acquainted with the agricultural development of Trempealeau County, as for many years members of the family have been engaged here in the tilling of the soil, in stock raising, or kindred occupations. The subject of this sketch was born at Decorah Prairie, in Gale Township, Sept. 7, 1877, oldest of the five children of James and Agnes (Dick) Irvine. In his boyhood he attended the district school at Decorah Prairie, there acquiring the elements of knowledge before settling down to the more serious business of life. His first 25 years were spent on the parental homestead as his father's assistant, and he then came to his present farm in section 23, which contains 160 acres, and on which he has made practically all the improvements. His buildings are modern and well constructed and he has an ample supply of tools and implements for both general and dairy farming, to which he devotes all his time.

June 4, 1902, Mr. Irvine was united in marriage with Tillie Olson, who was born in Pickwick, Minn., fifth of the eleven children of Thomas and Sarah Olson. The other children were Mattie (deceased), Rena, Oluf, Ida, Tommy, Hannah, Helmer, Eddie, Hilda and an unnamed infant. The parents, who were born in Norway, came to Minnesota at an early date and are still residing in the vicinity of Pickwick. Mr. and Mrs. Irvine have had two children. The first born died in infancy. The other, Thomas James, born Dec. 16, 1904, is attending school. Mr. and Mrs. Irvine are members of the Presbyterian church. In politics he is a Republican.

Almon Everett Cram, who is engaged in raising fruit and nursery stock on his farm of 72 acres in section 34, Gale Township, was born near Belfast, Maine, March 27, 1856. His parents, Nathan and Esther (Bucklin) Cram, were also natives of that State. The family came to Wisconsin in 1860, locating about three miles west of Galesville. While the Civil War was in progress Nathan Cram enlisted in Company J, Thirty-sixth Wisconsin Regiment, and was killed in the battle of Cold Harbor. He had followed the occupations of miner and farmer. His wife survived him nearly half a century, dying about 1910. They had four children, of whom Almon E. was the eldest.

Almon Everett Cram was a child of 4 years when he accompanied his parents to Trempealeau County, and his earliest boyhood recollections are

associated with pioneer conditions. The Indians were numerous, but never gave them any trouble, and when he grew older he kept on good terms with them, avoiding them as much as possible without the appearance of doing so, but always treating them in a just and friendly manner when he had occasion to meet them. The woods in those days were full of game. Deer could be shot at almost any time on the bluffs, and bears were not uncommon. As for pigeons, they were so numerous as to be a serious pest to the farmers, eating the grain as fast as it could be sown. When 16 years old young Almon began to work out for others and continued to do so until he was 22, when he bought land and began farming for himself in Stearns Valley, Trempealeau County. About 1879 he took up his residence in Galesville, where he resided for 12 years, engaged in teaming. He then, in 1891, began operations on his present farm, which he had previously purchased, making a specialty of the fruit and nursery business, in which he has been successful. He was a charter member of the first fire company in Galesville and for three years has served as president of the Burns Curling Association. Mr. Cram was married in 1876 to Isabelle Gunderson, who was born in Norway, daughter of Michael and Betsy Gunderson. She came to America with her parents when a child of 7 or 8 years, they settling in Bear Creek Valley on a homestead five miles north of Ettrick. After residing there a number of years they moved across the river into Minnesota, near Bear Park, where Mrs. Gunderson is now living, her husband being deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Cram have had seven children, one of whom died in infancy. The others are: Blanche, wife of Thomas Hunter, a hardware merchant of Galesville; Lela, wife of Harry Bennett, a farmer of Centerville, Wis.; Ray, who married Eunice Tucker, and resides in Galesville; Mabel, wife of Milton Merwin, a farmer of Centerville; and John and Vilas, who reside at home and are assisting their father in operating the farm. Mr. Cram is a Democrat in politics, but has taken no active part in local government affairs. He is warmly interested, however, in the progress and development of the community in which he lives, and always ready to aid in advancing its interests.

M. N. Hammer, proprietor of Fair View Farm, in section 17, Gale Township, was born in Hedemarken, Norway, son of Nels Burson and Thrine Hammer. His parents, who died in their native land, were born in the same province, the father Nov. 22, 1820, and the mother Jan. 12, 1817.

M. N. Hammer attended school in Norway until he was 17 years of age, when he began to learn the moulder's trade, which he followed for some four years or more, in Norway, and for seven years in the United States, to which country he came in 1881. He located first in Frenchville, Trempealeau County, and then went to Clay County, Minn., where he took up land and resided three years, subsequently returning to this county and settling in Galesville. For some years thereafter, however, he worked in various places, and then bought his present farm, but in the same year, 1891, began working in the flour mill of Wilson Davis at Galesville. He continued to work in the mill for 16 years, at the end of which time he moved onto his farm of 40 acres, where he has since been engaged in breeding Jersey and Holstein cattle. He has made a number of improvements on the place,

greatly increasing its value, and is doing a profitable business. He is also a stockholder in the Arctic Springs Creamery. For a number of years he has served as superintendent of roads. In politics he is a Republican.

Mr. Hammer was married May 28, 1882, to Marthea Larson, daughter of Lars Keos and Alice Sather, who was born March 24, 1853, in the same province in Norway that the Hammer family came from. Her parents died in their native land. He and his wife have had five children: Nels N., residing at home and engaged in the lightning rod business; he married Josephine Brenengen; John M., who is connected with the J. I. Chase Company, of Racine, Wis.; Elmer and Alice, residing at home, and Thorval, who is deceased. Mr. Hammer is fraternally connected with the I. S. W. A., of Galesville. The family are members of the Lutheran church.

Thomas W. Bibby, who is engaged in agriculture in sections 22 and 26, Gale Township, was born on his present farm, Nov. 7, 1869, son of Joshua and Jane (Allan) Bibby, who were natives of Scotland. Joshua Bibby was born at Airdrie, Scotland, Aug. 5, 1838, and his wife in Lanarkshire, Jan. 22, 1840. After marrying in their native land, they came to America in 1859, settling in Gale Township, this county, and soon afterwards locating on the farm now owned by their son Thomas, which, however, then contained but 100 acres of land. Here Joshua Bibby died May 15, 1889, having made fair progress in the development and cultivation of his farm. His wife survived him nearly nine years, passing away Jan. 9, 1898. They had a family of 11 children, born in the following order: Janet (1), Janet (2), Margaret Allan, Jemima, Thomas W., Alexander, Mary Fauls, Agnes Janet, Ruth Ora, Joshua and Ross. All are now deceased except Thomas W., and his sister Jemima, who resides with him. Thomas W. Bibby attended school at Glasgow, Gale Township. When he was 20 years old his father died and he took charge of the estate and has since resided on it, carrying on general farming and dairying. The farm now contains 240 acres, and is well provided with good buildings and all necessary equipment, Mr. Bibby having made many improvements on it since his father's death. He is also a stockholder in the Arctic Springs Creamery and the Independent Harvester Company of Plano, Ill., also in a company operating a threshing machine. In politics he is an independent Democrat, but has not participated in local government affairs. He and his sister Jemima attend North Bend Presbyterian Church. The latter was also educated in the Glasgow school, and afterwards attended Trempealeau high school and Gale University. She presides over the domestic arrangements of the farm and she and her brother are popular members of the community of Gale Township, and for ten years was a proficient teacher in the rural schools in Trempealeau County, teaching mostly in her own district, where she attended when a girl.

Thomas Bibby, a prosperous citizen of Galesville, who is engaged in market gardening and chicken raising, is a native son of this county, born at Glasgow, Oct. 10, 1858. His parents were John and Mary (McMillan) Bibby, both born in Scotland, the father Aug. 15, 1832, the mother a year or two previously. John Bibby came to the United States in 1853, settling in Maryland. Later he removed to Kentucky and from there to Ohio,



MR. AND MRS. JOSHUA BIBBY





JOHN M. BIBBY AND FAMILY

subsequently returning to Maryland, and was there married. In 1856 they came to Trempealeau County, where Mr. Bibby was engaged in farming until his death in February, 1912, his farm being located nine miles northeast of Galesville. He had been a widower for some 14 years, his wife having died in September, 1898. He was a man of prominence in the township, and at different times held local office. Thomas Bibby was the second born in a family of six children. His education was begun in the old Glasgow schoolhouse of his father's farm and he subsequently was a student for three terms in Gale University. He began assisting his father on the farm when 14 years of age, and the management came into his hands a few years later, on account of the father's health failing. When 30 years old he and his brother James rented the farm and operated it on their account for three years. He then purchased a farm adjoining the old home on the north, which he operated eight years. Then selling this farm, he moved to Galesville and two years later—1904—purchased the place where he now resides, although he did not move onto it until 1909. This is a tract consisting of 12 lots, all inside the city limits, and here Mr. Bibby devotes his time to truck farming, raising vegetables and similar produce, finding a ready market in Galesville. He also keeps about 60 White Leghorn chickens, to which he devotes most of his time in the winter. In politics Mr. Bibby is a Prohibitionist. He has served as village treasurer two years and in 1916 was a candidate for county treasurer. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church and of the order of Beavers. Mr. Bibby was married June 16, 1893, to Anna Pryse, who was born in New London, Ohio, daughter of James M. and Mary (Morgan) Pryse, who were natives of Wales. Her father came to America when a child, his family settling near Palmyra, Ohio. He became a Presbyterian minister and came to Wisconsin about the time the Civil War broke out, or previously. From this state he went to Lawrence, Kansas, where he was living at the time that place was attacked and raided by the notorious rebel guerrilla Quantrel. Later he returned to Wisconsin and made his home at North Bend, where his death occurred, he having been active in church work until the last. His wife, who subsequently made her home with her son-in-law, Thomas Bibby, died Nov. 7, 1903. Mr. and Mrs. Bibby became the parents of two children: Gwynifred Jane and Mary Edna, both of whom are students at Carroll College, Waukesha, Wis. Mrs. Thomas Bibby died July 14, 1900.

John M. Bibby, who has a highly improved farm of 160 acres in section 20, Gale township, where he is successfully carrying on dairying and stock raising, was born in the locality now known as Glasgow, May 8, 1860, son of John and Mary (McMillan) Bibby. His parents were natives of Scotland, the father coming to the United States in 1853, when 21 years of age, and settling in Maryland, where he was married. Subsequently he and his wife removed to Kentucky and from there to Ohio, after returning to Maryland. They settled in Trempealeau County in 1856, locating nine miles northeast of Galesville. Here John Bibby died in February, 1912. His wife died in September, 1898. John M. Bibby in his boyhood attended the school at Glasgow, this county. He remained at home until he was 22

years of age. He was married Nov. 24, 1884, to Louise Emerson, who was born at French Creek, Trempealeau County, Wis., daughter of Henry and Mary (Gilbertson) Emerson. Her parents were natives of Norway, who came to this country in the early fifties, locating at Lewis Valley, La Crosse County. In 1868 Henry Emerson engaged in farming at North Bend, Jackson County, until his death, March 13, 1911. His wife died May 2, 1917, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. M. Bibby. They had six children, of whom their daughter Louise was the eldest. When he was 22 years old Mr. Bibby began working for his future father-in-law, Mr. Emerson, and was thus engaged for 18 months. Subsequently for two years he was employed in hauling cream to the creamery at Galesville. He then went into the creamery as a butter maker, and was manager of the establishment, now known as the Arctic Springs Creamery, until Jan. 15, 1915, his period of service being little short of 25 years. Subsequently to 1902 his family resided on his present farm, which he had previously purchased. Here he is now engaged in breeding Holstein cattle, milking 18 cows and having 20 head of young Holsteins. He is also a stockholder in the creamery and in the Farmers Co-operative Packing Company at La Crosse. Mr. Bibby was so long in the creamery that, since going back to his land, he says he has had to learn farming over again. He has made some important improvements on his place, one of the most recent being a fine barn, 72 by 40 feet in dimensions. He has also a good residence and other necessary buildings, all in good condition. While residing in Galesville he served on the village board. The family are members of the Presbyterian Church. In politics Mr. Bibby is a Republican. His fraternal affiliations are with the Beavers and Yeomen. Mr. and Mrs. Bibby are the parents of six children: Dwight H., residing at home; Irwin J., who married Ruth Erwin of South Dakota, and for four years was a teacher in the State Agricultural College of Pennsylvania. He is now in the employ of the government, manufacturing cheese from the byproducts of the creamery, such as whey and buttermilk. Harold F., who married Ida Alstrom and is employed in the creamery at Centerville; Joseph W., Mary V. and Mildred L., who are residing at home.

Odell Hanson, a general farmer in sections 26-27, Gale Township, where he has 295 acres of land, was born in this township, March 14, 1881, son of Ole P. and Carrie (Peterson) Hanson. His parents were natives of Norway, the father born in Krageru, March 13, 1843, and the mother in Biri, Oct. 3, 1851. Their marriage took place in this country. Ole P. Hanson came to the United States during the Civil War and settled in Wisconsin. For a number of years he worked in a saw mill near Black River Falls. At the time of his marriage, about 1876, he located on a farm on Hardie's Creek, Gale Township, Trempealeau County, where his son Hans now lives and with whom Mr. and Mrs. Hanson now reside.

Odell Hanson was the fourth born of his parents' eight children. He attended the Grant school in his boyhood and began working out for others at the age of 16 years and was thus occupied for about nine years. For one year he was engaged in hauling cream, after which he farmed for seven years. At the end of that time he bought his present farm, which



MR. AND MRS. L. L. ODELL AND GRANDSON, HARLAN SUMNER ODELL

was known as the old Hardie farm, and on which he raises most of the crops cultivated in this section. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers' Exchange and the La Crosse Packing Company. Nov. 7, 1910, Mr. Hanson was married to Clara Anderson, who was born in Long Coolie, La Crosse County, Wis., daughter of Anton and Agnes (Evenson) Anderson. Her parents, natives of Norway, came to this country in 1880, locating on Beaver Creek, Ettrick Township, this county, where Mr. Anderson engaged in farming and where he still lives. Mr. and Mrs. Hanson have three children: Elmer Oscar, Kelmer Alton and Clinton, all residing at home. The family are members of the Lutheran Church. In politics Mr. Hanson is independent.

John Hunter, who is successfully engaged in farming in section 35, Gale Township, was born on the farm of his parents at Decorah Prairie, which adjoins his present farm, April 4, 1871. John Hunter was educated in the district school at Decorah Prairie. He resided with his parents, assisting on the home farm, until he was about 27 years old and then went to Nebraska, where he engaged in farming and stock raising, remaining four years. He then sold out his interests there and returned to Trempealeau County. In 1908 he purchased his present farm and has since been engaged here in general farming. He has made practically all the improvements on his place; his farm is fertile, giving good yields of the ordinary crops, and his buildings are in good condition. He is also a stockholder in the La Crosse Packing Company. Mr. Hunter was married, Dec. 21, 1898, to Effie Bidwell, who was born in Easton, Adams County, Wis., daughter of Jacob and Julia (Vanhooser) Bidwell. Her father, who was born Nov. 15, 1845, in Easton, Adams County, N. Y., was a soldier in the Civil War, going to the front as a member of Company K, 38th Wisconsin Volunteers. At the end of his military service he settled at Easton, Wis., and engaged in farming until some time before his death, which took place in 1884. His wife died Nov. 16, 1913, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John Hunter, where her last years were spent. They had six children, of whom their daughter Effie was the third born. Mr. and Mrs. Hunter have two children: Maud Arleen, born Oct. 29, 1904, and Edith Margaret, born July 5, 1907, both of whom reside at home. In politics Mr. Hunter is independent. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hunter are members of the Order of Beavers.

Levi L. Odell, a well to do citizen of Galesville, who is now living retired after a long and active career, which included military service in the Civil War, was born in Elizabethtown, Essex County, N. Y., Dec. 18, 1833, son of R. F. and Harriett (Lobdell) Odell. His parents were natives of New York state, the father being a son of Robert Odell, also a native of New York state, whose father, also named Robert, was born in Scotland and after coming to America took part in the Revolutionary War, as a member of the Continental army, which he joined from the colony at Albany, N. Y. Robert Odell, second, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, fought against Great Britain in the War of 1812. R. F. Odell, father of Levi, late in life migrated westward with his family, settling in Black Hawk County, Iowa, where he lived retired until his death. He

and his wife were the parents of six children, of whom Levi L. was the third born. Levi L. Odell attended school for a limited period in Elizabethtown, N. Y. He resided at home until he was 21 years old, working in his father's iron business from the age of 14. On coming of age he began teaching school, receiving a salary of \$16 a month, which was the highest paid in the county. He then went into a forwarding house in Westport, New York, handling expressage and doing similar work for eight months. He then came to Chicago, and, starting Dec. 1, 1854, drove from that city to Green Bay, Wis., passing through Milwaukee. After arriving there he worked in the pineries around Green Bay and in Marinette County until September, 1861, when he enlisted in Company F, 12th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, as a private, being one of 68 men who enlisted the same night. Mr. Odell was elected first lieutenant and for three years had command of the company's drill. He was never wounded or confined to the hospital, and up to the time of the surrender of Vicksburg had never been off duty. Mr. Odell continued his military career until December, 1864, when he was mustered out at Madison, Wis. His brother had purchased a farm for him near Galesville, Trempealeau County, and this he resided on from 1865 to 1889, engaged in agriculture. He was then appointed postmaster of Galesville and moved into the village, serving in the office until President Cleveland's second administration, when that administration going out he was superseded. Four years later, however, he was reappointed and served three terms longer. He has a comfortable home in Galesville, and still owns his farm of 160 acres. He belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic and has been a delegate to the Encampment. In early life Mr. Odell was a Whig, but later became a Republican, which he has since remained. He and his wife are the parents of one child: Harlan B., who is a railroad contractor, doing an extensive business in Ohio. He married Josie Bryant, and they have three children: Harlan W., Aulis L. and Robert E.

Thomas R. Hunter, one of the pioneers of Trempealeau County, who came here more than 60 years ago, was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland, about eight miles from the city of Glasgow, Nov. 26, 1836, son of John and Agnes (Ferguson) Hunter, his parents being natives of the same locality. In 1842 John Hunter came alone to the United States, his family following in 1848. For about a year he operated a mine at Bloomsberg, Pa., then moved to Clinton County, Pa., and from there to Maryland, where he remained about 18 months. In the summer of 1853 he came to Wisconsin, locating in La Crosse County, where he remained about six weeks. He then came to Decorah Prairie, near Galesville, Trempealeau County, which locality was then, however, a part of La Crosse County. In the following year Trempealeau County was organized and John Hunter became the first treasurer of Gale Township. He had obtained land, which he set to work to develop and improve, and was thus engaged when his death occurred in 1864. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, of whom the youngest and the only one now living is Thomas Russell, the subject of this sketch.

Thomas R. Hunter was a lad of 17 years when he accompanied his

parents to Trempealeau County. He assisted his father on the farm until the latter's death and then became its owner, his father leaving it to him by will. Here he has since resided, carrying on general farming. He has 180 acres of highly improved land, all a part of the original homestead, which is now operated by his youngest son Robert. The nearest trading point when he came to this farm was La Crosse. The Indians frequently came to the vicinity, but never molested him. In fact he had some warm friends among them, frequently gave them shelter over night and was thanked by them for his favors. Mr. Hunter was the instigator and prime mover in having the bridge across Black River constructed, on the main Galesville-La Crosse road, this improvement being accomplished in 1895. It is known as "Hunter's bridge," this name being given to it by the La Crosse County board. When a young man living in the state of Maryland, Mr. Hunter was a member of the denomination known as Bible Christians. He has never joined any church in Trempealeau County, but for over 50 years has been connected with the Sunday school at Decorah Prairie. In politics he is independent. He was township chairman two years and was two years a member of the side board. Thomas R. Hunter was married Oct. 31, 1862, to Agnes Grant, who was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland, May 28, 1842. When a child of six years she accompanied her parents to the United States, the family settling on Big Sandy River in Kentucky. After residing there until 1855 or 1856 they came to Wisconsin, traveling by rail to Prairie du Chien, from there by boat to Trempealeau, and by team to Gale Township. Here Mr. Grant bought land and engaged in farming. He died on his homestead about 1871 and his wife about 1877. They had four children, of whom their daughter Agnes was second in order of birth. Thomas Hunter and wife have 11 children: Walter, residing on an adjoining farm, who married Jeanette Oliver of Gale Township and has eight children: Elizabeth, wife of Andrew McCall, a farmer and extensive land owner in Rock Island County, Ill., who has three children; Agnes, residing with her parents; Thomas, a resident of Galesville; John, living on an adjoining farm, who married Effie Bidwell, and has two children; Ellen, wife of Henry Shoffell, a farmer in Nebraska; Ruth, wife of Fred Docken, a farmer and ranchman in Montana; Mae, residing with her parents; Jennie, wife of Talmadge Vicery, a lumber dealer of Sheridan, Wyoming; Isabelle, residing at home, and Robert, who is operating the home farm.

Walter Hermann, a well known farmer in sections 27 and 28, Gale Township, was born in La Crosse County, Wis., July 8, 1884, son of Jacob and Augusta (Yootic) Hermann. The parents were natives of Germany, who came to the United States when children, the family of Jacob Hermann settling at Smith's Cooley in La Crosse County, Wis., where he later engaged in farming. He continued there until 1908, when he retired and took up his residence in the city of La Crosse. He and his wife celebrated their golden wedding there in the fall of 1915. Of their family of nine children their son Walter was the youngest. Walter Hermann when a boy attended district school in Smith's Cooley, La Crosse County. He assisted his father until his marriage, and then located on his present farm in Gale

Township, which consists of 160 acres of highly cultivated land. Here he is engaged in general farming and dairying, also in raising pure-bred Guernsey cattle, his other live stock including hogs and horses. He is also a stockholder in a threshing outfit owned in the vicinity. Mr. Hermann was married, March 24, 1909, to Minnie Beyer, who was born in Smith Cooley, La Crosse County, July 7, 1883, daughter of August and Minnie (Hoffman) Beyer. Her parents were natives of Germany. Mr. Beyer came to the United States at the age of 7 years and mother came at age of 14. They are now retired from farming labor, but still reside on the farm. They had a family of 12 children, their daughter Minnie being the third in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Hermann have one child, Alice Dorothy, a bright girl, born Feb. 3, 1914. The family are members of the Lutheran Church. In politics Mr. Hermann is independent. He has never sought office, but has always taken an interest in good government and cast his vote accordingly. He has always, too, shown a willingness to support any practical movement for the general good of the community. He and his family are well known and respected in this part of the county.

Gilbert Olson Herreid, a pioneer settler in Ettrick Township, now deceased, was born in Hardanger, Norway, June 23, 1836. He was married in his native land to Ingeborg Torgersdatter Twinde, who was born in Vosse Naugen, Norway, March 20, 1832, Mr. Herreid being then engaged in operating a rented farm in that county, near the village of Lodi. In 1863 he and his family started for Trempealeau County, arriving here with one of the first teams ever seen in the county, hitched to a home-made wagon. They settled on the farm now owned by their son Gilbert M., and on which the original log house is still standing. Mr. Herreid at once began clearing the land and was thus engaged when, in 1865, he was drafted to serve in the Civil War. He had only proceeded as far as Madison, however, when the war came to an end and he was allowed to return home. When he first arrived here he had but \$6 in money and was destitute of provisions or supplies, but having an old army musket he made use of it to shoot prairie chickens and other game, on which he and his family chiefly lived for awhile. About a year after his arrival he bought a cow from his brother, but the animal was stolen before he had had a chance to milk it, the thief at the same time taking the halter of one of his horses and putting it on the cow to lead it away with. The cow was never recovered, nor ever afterwards heard of. At that time there were plenty of Indians in this vicinity, and they often came to the cabin begging, but were not unfriendly. Mr. Herreid worked hard and in course of time began to prosper. He increased the size of his farm until he had 360 acres of land in it, and from time to time made improvements in his buildings. That he was an enterprising man may be gathered from the fact that he bought the first steam engine used on any farm on Beaver Creek, with which he did work for others for a number of years. He also kept his eyes open for other opportunities, was a stockholder in the Hegg store, helped to organize the first creamery at Blair and also the Ettrick creamery. He owned stock in the first Norman horse ever brought to Ettrick Township, and assisted in organizing the Farmers' store in Blair, keeping up his varied activities



GILBERT O. HERREID AND FAMILY

until a year before his death, which took place Jan. 29, 1914, when he was in his seventy-eighth year. Although so active in business matters Mr. Herreid would never accept office of any kind. His wife assisted him not only in the household, but also practicing as a midwife throughout all this part of the county, and was so efficient in this profession that she was frequently called to render service not only in Galesville, Whitehall, Centerville, Blair, and other places in this county, but also sometimes in La Crosse. She is still living and makes her home with her son, Gilbert M. Herreid.

Gilbert M. Herreid, a prosperous representative of the agricultural interests of Ettrick Township, was born on his present farm, and in the same house in which he now lives, in section 16 E, May 10, 1872. His parents were Gilbert Olson and Ingeborg Torgersdatter Twinde Herreid, farming people near the village of Lodi, who came to America, and settled in Ettrick Township, this county, in 1863. Gilbert M. had limited educational opportunities, but in his boyhood attended school for awhile in Ettrick Township. Under his father's instruction he acquired a good knowledge of agriculture and began working for his father by the year when he was 21 years old, becoming a partner in the farm when he was 25. Jan. 1, 1906, he purchased the entire farm, which now consists of 160 acres, he having recently sold 40 acres. He is engaged in the breeding of registered Shorthorn cattle and since 1902 has also been breeding Poland-China hogs. Aside from his immediate farming interests Mr. Herreid is a stockholder in the Ettrick Creamery Company, the Co-operative Packing Company of La Crosse, the Farmers' Exchange at Blair, the Ettrick Telephone Company and the Ettrick & Northern Railroad Company.

Oct. 10, 1900, he was married to Ida Gilbertson, who was born at French Creek, Ettrick Township, daughter of Even O. and Maria Antoinetta Gilbertson. The parents, natives of Biri, Norway, came to Ettrick Township at an early date and engaged in farming. Mr. Gilbertson, who was a brother of J. O. Gilbertson, became a prominent citizen of the township, serving as chairman of the township board and a member of the county board and in other local offices. He was also president and secretary of the Scandinavian Insurance Company, a stockholder in the Ettrick Creamery, and as manager of a stock company organized here, bought two fine Clydesdale stallions, the first of the kind brought to Ettrick Township. He also took a prominent part in church work. His death occurred Sept. 26, 1913. His wife, who survives him, is a resident of Centerville, Wisconsin.

Mr. and Mrs. Herreid are the parents of two children: Eugene Guy, born Aug. 18, 1902, who is attending the agricultural college at Onalaska, and Irene Marcella, born May 31, 1905, who is attending school. Mr. Herreid is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the United Lutheran Church, to which his family also belong. In politics he is a Republican, and while never ambitious to hold public office, as a good citizen he has several times consented to serve, and was supervisor for three years and school clerk six years, after which he declined further service. A list of his parents' children, living and deceased, is as follows: Tosten G., born Oct. 31, 1857; Ole, born April 5, 1863; Thomas, born April 27, 1865,

now residing near Galesville; Carl, born July 21, 1868, who died June 8, 1879; Sena R., wife of A. M. Hellekson, born May 31, 1870; Gilbert M., born May 10, 1872; Iver, born April 5, 1874, now a resident of Galesville; and Emma Marthina, born April 7, 1877, who died Jan. 15, 1879.

Thomas Harmon. In reviewing the history of the notable pioneers of Trempealeau County those who have passed away must not be forgotten. Among them was Thomas Harmon, whom the older residents of Ettrick Township still remember as a good neighbor and reliable citizen, as well as the founder of one of the flourishing homesteads in the township. Mr. Harmon was born in County Louth, Ireland, in 1822, and was a young man when he came to the United States, being as yet unmarried. After a long voyage in a sailing vessel, he reached port. Landing at New Orleans his first work was turning a hand corn sheller at \$3.00 a day, but on account of the cholera he removed to Illinois, where he worked in a factory. From there he proceeded to Walworth County, Wis., where, not long after, he was married at Lake Geneva to Julia Rafter, a native of Kilkenny, Ireland. About 1861 he came with his wife and two children, Andy and Katie, to Trempealeau County, making the journey in a covered wagon with ox team. Arriving here he located on land in Ettrick Township, which he owned in partnership with his brother John. Later he homesteaded 80 acres more. On his farm he built a frame shack and later a house of hewed logs, 16 by 24 feet, which was so well and substantially made that it is still occupied by the family. Here Thomas Harmon passed the rest of his life engaged in improving his farm, his death taking place May 3, 1887, when he had reached the age of 66 years. He served some time on the school board, and as a good Catholic helped to build the first church at Ettrick. His wife died March 6, 1904. Their children were: Andy, born, Sept. 14, 1857; Kate, now Mrs. James Kennedy of Morris, Minn.; James, born April 3, 1863; Mary, who is Mrs. S. Thompson and resides at Nome, Alaska; Bridget, wife of Tom Whalen of Ettrick Township, and Julia, who died Dec. 8, 1908. She always remained at home, assisting her mother, and after her mother's death she became housekeeper for the boys until her death. James and Andy are now the proprietors of the old homestead, on which they have made some valuable improvements, among other things erecting a good basement barn, 34 by 60 feet. Like their father, they are devout members of the Catholic Church. Neither have ever married.

Thomas P. Herreid, a farmer of section 14, E. Ettrick Township, is a native of this township, having been born near Hegg, Nov. 26, 1886. His parents, Peter O. and Segried (Larsdatter) Herreid, were both born in Hardanger, Norway, and were married in that country, coming to America while still a young couple. After arriving in Trempealeau County, Wis., they resided with Peter Herreid's brother, K. O., for one year. Peter then bought land in Ettrick Township and began farming, in which occupation he continued for the rest of his life, his death taking place in December, 1911. He had learned the trade of stone mason in his younger days and followed it here at times when work was slack on the farm. He was a member of the United Lutheran Church. His wife, who survived him, still



MR. AND MRS. L. E. HARDIE

resides on the old farm. They were the parents of eight children, of whom Thomas P. was the seventh in order of birth.

Thomas P. Herreid was educated in the district school at Hegg. At the age of 16 years he began working out on farms, and continued to work for others, besides assisting his father, until two years before he married. He then settled on the farm which he and his wife now own and which contains 180 acres of land. Mr. Herreid has added to the improvements and the property is now well supplied with suitable buildings and a good equipment of machinery and implements. It is registered as Meadow Brook Farm and is a good piece of agricultural property. Sept. 10, 1911, Mr. Herreid was married to Ella Amelia Augeness, who was born in Ettrick Township, where she now lives. Her parents were Peter J. and Martha S. (Nelson) Augeness, the former born in Hardanger, Norway, Feb. 28, 1864. Mr. Augeness came to this country two or three years before he was married, locating in Trempealeau County, Wis., and working at first for others. After his marriage he lived on the farm of his wife's father until his early death at the age of 27 years. His wife subsequently continued to reside with her parents until her own death, June 16, 1900. One year previous to that event the family moved from the farm to Ettrick, where the mother died. Mrs. Herreid was the first born of two children, and the only one now living. In her girlhood she attended the district school at Hegg, where her husband was a fellow pupil and a member of the same class, and subsequently her education was continued in the school in Ettrick Village and at Gale College, which latter institution she attended a part of a term only, being obliged to give up her studies on account of the illness of her grandmother. Simon Nelson, her grandfather, was one of the first settlers in Trempealeau County. She was reared in the faith of the Lutheran Synod Church. Mr. and Mrs. Herreid are the parents of one child, Stanley Mirald Palmer, who was born April 29, 1913. The family are members of the Lutheran Synod Church. Mr. Herreid is a Republican in politics, but takes no active part in township affairs, devoting his whole attention to the farm. He is a prosperous citizen and he and his family are well known and respected in this part of Trempealeau County.

La Verd Ernest Hardie, proprietor of a good farm in sections 20 and 29, Gale Township, was born at Mindoro, La Crosse County, Wis., Nov. 2, 1830, son of Andrew and Catherine (Becker) Hardie. The father, Andrew Hardie, who was born in Scotland, came to the United States in 1854, locating first in Maryland. He then came to Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, settling at Glasgow, Gale Township, where he engaged in farming. After residing there for a number of years, he returned to Mindoro, but later coming back to Trempealeau County, he settled in Ettrick Township. Still later he returned to the old farm in Glasgow and lived there until 1912, when he retired and took up his residence in Galesville, where he and his wife are now living.

La Verd E. Hardie was the second-born child in a family of four. He attended school in Ettrick and Glasgow, and also was a student for two years at the State Agricultural College at Madison. He resided on the home farm until 1905, in which year he purchased his present property—

a farm of 157 acres—on which he has made all the improvements now standing, having also brought the land into a high state of cultivation. In addition to general farming, he engaged in dairying, keeping high grade Guernsey cattle, which he breeds from pure-bred bulls. Mr. Hardie is also a stockholder in the Co-operative Packing Company of La Crosse and in the Farmers' Elevator Company of Galesville. He is a member of several fraternal orders, including the Beavers, Yeomen, Odd Fellows and Modern Woodmen of America. He was married June 5, 1907, to Sara F. Daniels, who was born at Plymouth, Pa., daughter of Frederick and Agnes (Noble) Daniels, her father being a native of Pennsylvania and her mother of Scotland. Frederick Daniels was connected with the coal mining business in his native state, and while employed as hoisting engineer was accidentally killed when his daughter Sara was a child of 14 months. His wife, the latter's mother, is still living and resides in Plymouth, Pa. The family stood high in the community in which they lived, Mrs. Daniels being superintendent of the Presbyterian Sunday school. Mr. and Mrs. Hardie have many friends and acquaintances in this part of the county. They are members of the Presbyterian Church, and in politics Mr. Hardie is an independent Republican. He has never sought public office, but has always supported good candidates in the local field and been ready to lend his aid and influence to any movement calculated to advance the general interests of the community.

Christian J. Hogden, who is engaged in farming in Ettrick Township, having two farms of 80 acres each, in sections 26, 27, 15, was born in French Creek Valley, this county, Oct. 8, 1862. His parents were John Anderson and Oliva (Anderson) Hogden, born in Vardar, Norway, the father July 4, 1832, and the mother April 14, 1830. They were married in Norway and came to the United States in 1854, residing for about a year near Holmen, Wis., whence they removed to Trempealeau Valley. Three years later John A. Hogden and his family removed to the farm, where he now lives in section 23, Ettrick Township, having resided here over 60 years. As a pioneer settler of the county he had to endure many hardships in early days, among other things being obliged to carry flour on his back from La Crosse to his home near Blair. The Indians were then numerous, and often came to his cabin begging. By humoring them and treating them in a friendly manner he got along with them without any trouble, and often traded with them for buckskins, blueberries or other wild products. His farm contained 120 acres, to which he later added 100 acres more. He engaged in general farming and stock raising and gradually became prosperous. He was one of the founders of the Lutheran Congregation Church in this valley, and also assisted in organizing the Ettrick Creamery Company. He was also a member of the township board in early days and assisted in organizing the schools and in building the first schoolhouse. Bearing in mind his own early difficulties and trials, he was always glad to extend a helping hand to new settlers, giving them food and shelter and showing them how to build their cabins, break their land and do other work to which many of them had been unaccustomed. During the Civil War he sent a substitute to serve for him, not being able to leave his family.

His wife died April 11, 1909, after many years of happy married life. Their family included eight children, as follows: Andrew, Carolina, John, Anna (deceased), Christian J., Peter, Julia and Ole.

Christian J. Hogden in his boyhood attended school in district No. 1, French Creek Valley, and resided at home until he was 21 years old. After that he worked two winters in the pineries. Being now ready to begin farming for himself, he rented his father's farm and operated it on that basis for three years. At the end of that time he purchased his father-in-law's (Hans Madson) farm. He has since continued to reside here and has prospered. He has spent several thousand dollars in improving the place. The two parts of the estate, each consisting of 80 acres, are separated about a mile and a half from each other. They are provided with good buildings and are fully equipped for all the purposes of modern farming. Mr. Hogden is a stockholder in the Ettrick Creamery and also in the Farmers and Merchants' Bank at Galesville. He was also formerly interested in the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company, in which, however, he has sold out his stock. Mr. Hogden was first married, May 18, 1889, to Oleana Madson, who was born on this farm Oct. 30, 1864, daughter of Hans and Johanas (Olson) Madson. Her parents were natives of Norway and were early settlers in this township, coming here from Vernon County, where they had resided one summer. Both are now deceased. Mrs. Oleana Hogden died Feb. 19, 1899, leaving three children: Josephine, born April 5, 1890, wife of Gust Erickson (her issue, Kilmer, Oleana and Goodwin), a farmer residing one mile north of Ettrick; Hans, born Feb. 5, 1895; Oscar, who is single and lives on the home farm; and Clara Oillie, born June 17, 1897, residing at home. On Dec. 5, 1907, Mr. Hogden married for his second wife Miss Anna Larson, who was born at Hardie's Creek, Gale Township, this county, daughter of Matt and Agnes (Larson) Larson. Her parents, both natives of Norway, came early to Trempealeau County, settling on Hardie's Creek, where the father died, after a career of many years engaged in farming and stock raising. The widow still resides on the farm. They had ten children, of whom their daughter Anna was the third in order of birth. Of Mr. Hogden's second marriage there are no children. The family church is the French Creek Lutheran.

Knudt P. Hallanger. Among the flourishing and well kept farms of Ettrick Township is that of the subject of this sketch, Knudt P. Hallanger, a practical agriculturist, who has achieved prosperity chiefly through his own efforts and is now numbered among the substantial citizens of this township. Like many other successful farmers of the county, Mr. Hallanger is of Norwegian birth, having been born in Handanger, Norway, July 31, 1860, son of Paul and Guri (Johnson) Hallanger, natives of the same country and locality, where Paul Hallanger was born Jan. 9, 1837, and his wife Nov. 2, 1834. On July 5, 1867, the family made their appearance in Beaver Valley, this county, locating on the farm now owned by Knudt P. Hallanger. It was not then a farm, however, but merely a tract of wild land awaiting the plow of the pioneer. With a pair of oxen Mr. Hallanger began the work of cultivation and for years thereafter he was an extremely busy man. The original tract consisted of 80 acres, and for awhile this

was all he owned, but in time he doubled the size of the farm, so that it contained 160 acres at the time of his retirement in 1893. For a number of years he continued to use oxen for his plowing and other farm work, changing to horses as conditions improved and he became more prosperous, the horse being the less hardy animal. On retiring, as above mentioned, he took up his residence in Hegg, but after spending some years there he returned to the farm, where he died Jan. 19, 1913. He took no active part in town affairs, but was a man well known and respected for his industry, intelligence and good neighborly qualities. His wife survived him a little over two years, dying Feb. 2, 1915. They were the parents of eight children, four of whom are now living: Knudt P., who was the eldest; Breta, wife of Errick Sime, a farmer of Ettrick Township; Louisa, wife of John Shoblom, a farmer and ranchman in Montana; and Martin, who resides at Chippewa Falls, Wis.

Knudt P. Hallanger acquired the elements of an English education in the district school of his present neighborhood. Like other farmers' boys he had to make himself useful at an early age and was up in the morning doing chores long before the average city boy crawls reluctantly from bed. The hard work and fresh air did him no harm, however, but strengthened his lungs and his muscles, and at the age of 18 years he began to work in the woods during the winter time, resuming his farm work on the family homestead in the summer, and in this way he was occupied for eleven years. Later he purchased the old homestead, on which he has since resided and which now contains 140 acres of land. Here he carries on general farming very successfully and according to up to date methods, having good barns and all necessary buildings and equipment, and in 1915 he erected a new and handsome modern residence, which is the comfortable home of a large family circle. Though devoting all his business hours to his farm, he is a stockholder in the Ettrick Creamery Company, the Farmers' Exchange of Blair and the Ettrick Telephone Company.

Mr. Hallanger began domestic life on his own account over 25 years ago, when, April 20, 1891, he was united in marriage with Betsy Johnson, who was born in Franklin Township, Jackson County, Wis., daughter of Nels and Jorand (Erickson) Johnson. Her parents were born and married in Hardanger, Norway, and came to America in 1867, settling in the location above mentioned, their dwelling being near the county line dividing Jackson and Trempealeau Counties, so that it was not far from the Hallanger farm. Mrs. Johnson died when her daughter Betsy was a mere babe, her husband surviving her until 1901. Mrs. Hallanger was the youngest member of the family, the other children being: Lesa, wife of Andrew Lee, who resides in Franklin Township, Jackson County; Aleck, also residing there, in a part of the old Johnson home; and Nellie, who is the wife of C. K. Lein, a farmer in Robinson, Kidder County, N. D. Mr. and Mrs. Hallanger have had a family of 13 children: Palmer Nicoli, Joseph Gilbert, Helmer and Christian, who are deceased; Helmer Bertram, residing at home; Cornelia, deceased; Cornelia Martina, Elvin Sigvort, Evelyn Jose, Carl Johan, Bernice Louisa, residing at home, and Edward



MR. AND MRS. KNUT K. HALLANGER

Julius and Esther Juliet, who are deceased. The family are members of the United Lutheran Church. In politics Mr. Hallanger is a Republican. He has served 16 years as a member of the school board, was township assessor five years and was again elected in 1917, and has also served as school clerk and treasurer and as trustee of his church. As a man of varied activities he is energetic and resourceful, using good judgment in business matters and conscientiously performing every piece of work that comes to hand, whether it is for himself or pertaining to the community at large.

Knut K. Hallanger, one of the earliest settlers in Beaver Creek Valley, Ettrick Township, was born in Hardanger, Norway, in June, 1833. He came to the United States in 1854, settling on Koshkanong Prairie, near Stoughton, Dane County, Wis. In 1858 he located in Beaver Creek Valley, Ettrick Township, Trempealeau County, and engaged in farming, taking up government land and acquiring more by purchase. The land he obtained was wild, but he cleared and cultivated it, and after many years of hard labor had developed it into a good farm. It was his residence until 1910, in which year he retired and moved to Galesville, where he is now living in a comfortable residence which he bought at the time he left the farm. As one of the first settlers in Beaver Creek Valley, and a resident of it for more than half a century, Mr. Hallanger witnessed many changes and improvements in the township. For a number of years he served as postmaster at Hegg, being appointed in 1873 by President Grant. He was also for a number of years township assessor and for one term supervisor. A Lutheran in religion, he became one of the founders of the church of that denomination at Hegg, and assisted in building a number of other churches in the county. When he arrived here from Norway he could speak no English, but soon acquired such a good knowledge of the language that he used to act as interpreter for the early Norwegian settlers.

Knut K. Hallanger was married in Wisconsin to Symoa Bgotveit, who also was a native of Hardanger, Norway, and who died Oct. 22, 1906. They had a family of seven children: Alexander, John (first) and John (second), who are deceased; John B., a farmer of Hegg, Ettrick Township; Helland Louis and Carl, both residing in Galesville, and Helena Bertina, who is now Mrs. C. G. Pains, of Ettrick Township.

John B. Hallanger, a well known farmer of Hegg, Ettrick Township, was born in this township, Feb. 5, 1866, son of Knut K. and Symoa (Bgotveit) Hallanger. He acquired a district school education in Ettrick Township and at the age of 18 years began to work out for others at threshing, sawing lumber and whatever he could find to do. He also spent some of his winters cutting timber in the woods, and with his brother operated the homestead farm for a number of years. In 1909 he made a trip to the Pacific coast, for pleasure only, spending the time in sightseeing. The following winter he bought his present farm at Hegg, consisting of 204 acres, in addition to which he has 20 acres of timber land lying six miles farther east. Mr. Hallanger, besides raising various crops, is engaged in dairying, keeping good cows for milking purposes, and is conducting his farm on a profitable basis. He is also a stockholder and director in the Ettrick Lumber Company, a stockholder in the Home Bank at Blair, the

Ettrick Telephone Company and the Farmers' Exchange at Blair. He belongs to the United Lutheran Church at Hegg, and in politics may be termed an independent Republican. He has never married.

George M. and Walter R. Hass, who together are operating a good farm in section 19, Gale Township, are sons of Samuel and Marie (Dieko) Hass, natives of Germany. The father, Samuel Hass, born in Pommern, Germany, Dec. 9, 1844, was the son of a clergyman, and came to this country when 12 years of age, settling in Mormon Coolie, La Crosse County, Wis. where he was reared to manhood. For many years the family lived near the city. In 1874 Mr. Hass was married to Marie Dieko, who was born in Germany, Jan. 9, 1845. He continued to reside in La Crosse County until 1905, in which year he moved with his family to Trempealeau County, settling on the Duncan Wright farm, where they lived and prospered, a happy, thrifty family, until Mr. Hass's death in November, 1910. Mr. Hass was a man of sterling character and was esteemed wherever known. While residing in La Crosse County, he served as assessor for nine years and as supervisor one year. He and his wife had eight children, seven of whom are now living: John and Mary Hass, Mrs. Anderegg and Mrs. Adolph Schilling live in or near La Crosse, George, Walter and Sophia are at home.

George M. Hass was born in Shelby Township, La Crosse County, March 18, 1875, being the third born of his parents' family. He attended district school No. 3 in his native township and the German school in that locality one winter. Until 1911 he resided at home with his parents and then he and his brother, Walter R., purchased the farm on which they now live, and which contains 155 acres of land. They are engaged in general farming and dairying, keeping a number of high grade cattle and various other kinds of stock. Their farm is well equipped with suitable buildings and is kept in excellent condition. The brothers also own a threshing outfit and engage in threshing and silo filling for others, devoting their entire time to agricultural work in its various branches. Their mother resides with them on the farm. The family faith is that of the Lutheran Church.

Walter R. Hass was born Oct. 30, 1887, was educated in the rural schools of La Crosse County, resided at home until 1911, when as above stated he purchased with his brother, George M., their present farm. Sophia was born June 6, 1885, and attended the rural schools of La Crosse County and the La Crosse high school, and for six years was a proficient teacher in the rural school of La Crosse County. She is now keeping house for her brothers and mother.

Ole O. Helstad, a prosperous farmer of Ettrick Township, whose farm of 160 acres is located in section 11, was born in Norway, Jan. 15, 1856, son of Ole Larson and Bertha Simonson. There were 12 children in his parents' family: Christ, Martha, Sam, Lars, Mat, Sena, Bernt and Ole O. growing to maturity and the others dying young. All the members of the family who survived came to the United States, but not all together. Sam was the first to emigrate, and was followed by the parents. Then Bernt and Sena came, and after them Ole O.; then Martha and Mat and lastly Lars. The

parents arrived in 1872, locating in Ettrick Township, Trempealeau County, on the farm now operated by their son Ole, and which contained 160 acres. The land had previously been pre-empted by Ole Halvorson, who had built a small log house on it, but as there was no barn Ole Larson built one of straw. He had little but his hands with which to begin work, and it was two years before he was able to obtain an ox team. Such merchandise as he needed he had to carry on his back from Galesville. The market was at Trempealeau and there was no road, the journey to Trempealeau with the ox team occupying two days. He had to use the jumper for a wagon, as he then had no wheeled vehicle. He succeeded, however, in getting a cow the first year. The rest of Mr. Larson's life was spent on this place, and he died in the old log cabin at the age of 84 years, his wife passing away at the same age. In early days their home was often the scene of religious meetings, the Lutheran congregation, then small, holding their services there. Later Mr. Helstad helped to build the church at French Creek, of which he was a member until his death.

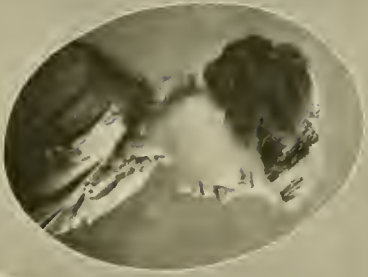
Ole O. Helstad, the direct subject of this sketch, was 18 years old when he came to the United States. For a number of years he assisted his father in clearing and improving the homestead, and finally, in 1881, bought the farm and cared for his parents until their death. The present frame residence was erected by him, also the basement barn, 34 by 64 feet in size, and other buildings. He is engaged in general farming and raises good stock, and his operations have resulted profitably. Like his father, he assisted in building the Lutheran Church, of which he has been a trustee for many years. He also served on the school board nine years as clerk. Mr. Helstad married Kittie Jorgenson, who was born in Norway and accompanied her parents to America at the age of two years. He and his wife have had 12 children: Bernt, who died at the age of 26 years; Nick; Odell, who married Gena Olson and resides on the home farm; Albert; Olof, who married Siverna Redsten of Preston Township; Eiml; John; William; Carl; Gena, who married Christ Redsten of Ettrick Township; Clara, wife of Anton Nelsestuen of Ettrick Township; and Anna, who is the wife of L. O. Belland of Los Angeles, Calif.

Charles Francis Holmes, a pioneer, was born in Norway, Maine, Jan. 25, 1823, and spent his boyhood and young manhood in the New England states. In 1850, leaving his wife at Slaterville, R. I., he came west, looking for a new home. Reaching La Crosse, May 1, 1850, he came directly to Trempealeau Village, then called Reed's Landing, and after looking about for a while, secured a farm in Caledonia Township. In the spring of 1853 he returned to Rhode Island, where his young wife had died, and in the fall of that year came back to Trempealeau County, bringing with him his child Corintha that had been born during his absence, and his father, mother and two sisters. Some time later he married Lucy Atwood, who died in November, 1866, leaving two children: Herman and Arthur A. In 1868, Mr. Holmes sold his farm to his brother-in-law, Royal Atwood of Waupun, Wis., and took up his home with relatives in Trempealeau Village. While living here he was elected sheriff of the county. Late in the fall of 1874, when his term had almost expired, he went to California. The next spring

he came back, and continued to reside in the village until 1878. Then he purchased a farm in Trempealeau Township, where he followed agricultural pursuits until his death, Jan. 25, 1900.

Arthur Atwood Holmes, deputy state game warden and former sheriff of Trempealeau County, was born in Caledonia Township, this county, Feb. 23, 1862, son of Charles Francis and Lucy (Atwood) Holmes, natives respectively of Norway, Maine, and Addison, Vermont. He lost his mother as a boy of four years, and for several years was passed about among various relatives. For a time he lived with an uncle, Royal Atwood, in Waupun, Wis. Then he lived with Amos Whiting, another uncle, at West Prairie, Wis. For one year he was with Dr. Olson Atwood, an uncle living in Trempealeau. When about fourteen he went to Vermont, and lived with Norman Brooks, of the Brooks Edge Tool Company, Brooksville, manufacturers of fine tools. Then he came back to Trempealeau County, and after living in the village a while went on the farm with his father. Until 17 years of age he attended the Trempealeau Village schools, driving back and forth to the farm, or else riding a pony. After completing his schooling he remained on the farm until 1897, and then moved to Trempealeau Village, where he and his family took up their residence in the old home of Judge A. W. Newman, where they still live. After moving to the village, Mr. Holmes still continued to operate the farm for two years. For a time he served as deputy under Sheriff Elmer Immel, and on Jan. 1, 1903, became sheriff, an office he efficiently held for one term, during which time he lived at Whitehall. In the winter of 1905 he moved to Trempealeau. In 1907-08-09 he was a member of the county board. His appointment to his present position as deputy state game warden dates from March 30, 1910. Mr. Holmes has a variety of interests and holds stock in the Citizens' State Bank of Trempealeau, the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company, the Arctic Spring Creamery of Galesville, Wis., and the Trempealeau Lime Products Company, of which last named company he is vice-president. Mr. Holmes was married April 5, 1883, to Nettie E. Booher, daughter of William T. Booher, a general merchant of Trempealeau. This union has been blessed with four children, Cyril Theodore, Lucy, Charles Arthur and Harold Frederick. Cyril Theodore was born May 20, 1884, and was married June 11, 1912, to Zella Case, of Cashton, Minn. Lucy was born Jan. 9, 1887, and teaches in the Trempealeau schools. Charles Arthur was born Feb. 1, 1892, graduated from University of Wisconsin and is now a civil engineer. Harold Frederick was born Aug. 19, 1897, graduated from the University of Wisconsin, and is now a civil engineer.

Albert Halderson, a well known and respected resident of section 1, Caledonia Township, was born at Valders in the northern part of Norway, Nov. 25, 1847, son of John and Gertie (Olson) Halderson. The father was born in the same locality in 1817 and his wife in 1816, their marriage taking place in 1841. While in his native land John Halderson lived under a landlord named Eric Strand and worked a certain number of days in each season—spring, summer, fall and winter—for home privileges on Strand's property. Mr. Strand finally sold out all his interests in Norway and came to America, and by arrangement with Mr. Halderson brought him and his



ALBERT HALDERSON AND FAMILY

family with him. While on the journey between New York and Wisconsin the two men became accidentally separated, but in Dane County, Wis., Mr. Halderson subsequently learned through a cousin, Ole Brown of La Crosse, that Mr. Strand had located in Bostwick Valley, La Crosse County, and so he came on with his family. This was in 1858. To pay his indebtedness to Mr. Strand, Mr. Halderson, who was a carpenter by trade, worked for him in that capacity at intervals, Mr. Strand assisting him and his family when it was necessary until the account was settled between them. The first home of the Halderson family in Wisconsin was a dugout in the side of a hill in Bostwick Valley, and in this they lived for the first year or two. In 1860 Mr. Halderson bought 120 acres of wild land from the government, on which he built a two-room log house, and in 1870 he erected a more substantial and convenient log house, hewn inside and out, also sided and plastered. It was of two stories with basement and contained six rooms, and is today occupied by Knute Halderson, a brother of the subject of this sketch. Mr. Halderson, the father, cleared and developed all the plow land on the 120-acre tract, using oxen for his first team, the money for which he obtained by splitting rails at 75 cents per hundred. To accomplish this he had to walk three and a half miles every morning and back at night, working all day without dinner. Being a powerfully built man, Mr. Halderson was popularly known in the neighborhood as "Big John." In 1881 he sold this farm to his brother Knute, and moved to Coon Valley, Vernon County, Wis., where he bought an unimproved farm of 80 acres, this place being his home until the death of his wife Gertie in 1891. He then sold the farm to his son Peter and spent the rest of his life with his children, his death occurring Dec. 2, 1897, at the home of his daughter, Jane Nelson, near Viroqua, Wis. The children of John and Gertie Halderson were six in number: Jane, born in Norway, who resides in Spokane, Wash.; Albert, whose name appears at the head of this sketch; Ole, born in Norway, April 8, 1853, who now resides in Willamette Valley, Oregon; Knute, born on shipboard while on the trip to America in 1857; Peter, born in Bostwick Valley, La Crosse County, in 1861, who died at La Crosse during the winter of 1915-16, and a daughter, born in Bostwick Valley, who died in infancy. Albert Halderson was brought up on his parents' farm and adopted agriculture for his occupation. He was married in 1868 to Mary Gaarder of Bostwick Valley, La Crosse County, Wis., of which union there was one son, J. O. Halderson, now a furniture dealer in Galesville, Wis. Mrs. Mary Halderson died in August, 1873, at the age of about 26, she having been in Norway in 1847. Mr. Halderson contracted a second marriage with Rachael Larson, who was born in Norway Sept. 22, 1850. She was killed in the summer of 1886 in a runaway accident. Their children are: Melvin of Holmen, La Crosse County, Wis.; Louis of Trempealeau County, Wis.; Elmer and Frank, who reside with their father. Mr. Halderson was married the third time April 24, 1887, to Rosa Caswell. Their children are: Gertrude, resides at home; Raymond, county agent, living at Elkins, W. Va.; Grace, a teacher at Bangor, Wis.; Carrol, a student at Galesville high school. The family church is the Methodist.

E. J. Hankey, who for a number of years was the leading merchant of Trempealeau Village, where he is now living retired, was born in Czarnikow, Province of Posen, Prussia, Germany, Nov. 17, 1844, and there resided until he was 10 years old. When he was 5 years old his father died, and about 1852 his mother married for her second husband a Mr. Maschke. In 1854 the family came to America, landing at Quebec, Canada, from which city they came directly to Wisconsin, locating at Beaver Dam, Dodge County. Here Mr. Maschke found work at his trade of cabinet-maker, and was thus employed there for the rest of his life. When no longer able to work he went to live with his daughter Celia, who was the wife of Charles Owen, a farmer, living near Fox Lake, and there died about 1899, when 80 years of age. This daughter and her husband are still living, Celia being 58 years old. There was another daughter, Minnie, who died about 1892 or 1893, at Beaver Dam, Wis.

E. J. Hankey was the first-born son by his mother's first marriage. He attended common school in Germany from the age of 5 to that of 10 years, and being an apt pupil, was well advanced in the common branches for his years when he came to America. Subsequently he attended school at Beaver Dam, in which city he resided until he was 24 years old. At the age of 17 he began working as clerk for J. H. & D. Newman, who kept a general merchandise store in Beaver Dam, dealing, however, principally in dry goods, and he continued in the employ of this firm until he came to Trempealeau early in 1868. On arriving here he at once formed a partnership with Thomas Veltum, and under the firm name of Hankey & Veltum they started business on Front street, dealing in groceries, crockery and notions. This partnership continued until 1873, when Mr. Hankey sold out to Mr. Veltum. A year later, however, the partnership was renewed and continued until 1878, in which year the subject of this sketch bought out his partner, the latter going to St. James, Minn. Mr. Hankey remained on Front street until 1888, and then moved to a new store he had erected on the west side of Main street, one block north of the river. This was a two-story brick block, with basement, 34 by 70 feet in ground dimensions. It was built by Charles Thomas, of Trempealeau, and was the best and largest block in the village. While on Front street, however, Mr. Hankey had made a removal from his first location, a block east of the Melchoir place, to a double building about half a block further east, so that this was his second removal. When he took possession of his Main street store he enlarged his business, and it continued to grow during the many subsequent years that he was its proprietor. During the winter of 1913-14 Mr. Hankey's health began to decline, and as he no longer felt able to give that close attention to his business which he felt it required, he resolved to retire, and accordingly sold out in January, 1914, to the Trempealeau Mercantile Company, though retaining ownership of the building. Throughout his long commercial career he strove not only for personal success, but also to advance the general interests of the community, taking a leading part in every progressive movement, and it is largely owing to him and to a few other men of like public spirit that Trempealeau is today one of the most prosperous villages of its size in this part of the State. During his

business career Mr. Hankey passed through two serious fires, having to move his stock both times, but sustained no material loss. He adheres to the principles of the Republican party, but was never personally active in politics. As a good citizen, however, he rendered service for a number of years as a member of the board of education, and was its secretary at the time the high school addition was made to the village school.

Mr. Hankey was married, Dec. 16, 1868, to Mary Frances, daughter of Thomas and Caroline McCune, of Beaver Dam, Wis., at which place their wedding occurred. She was born there July 14, 1848, and died at Trempealeau, Wis., March 4, 1900, after a happy married life of over 31 years. After coming to Trempealeau, which they did immediately after their marriage, they boarded for a short time, subsequently beginning housekeeping on East Third street. They had two sons: William T., born Oct. 10, 1869, and Adelbert G., born Feb. 4, 1876. The latter died April 7, 1887. William T. is now engaged in the drug business in Cleveland, Ohio, to which city he went in 1894. He married Nellie Barker, of Cleveland, and has four children: Howard B., Ruth, Helen and William T., Jr.

Mr. Hankey was reared in the Lutheran faith, but is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, which he has served as trustee. He is a member also of Trempealeau Lodge, No. 117, A. F. & A. M., of Trempealeau, having joined the order while living in Beaver Dam. He resides with an adopted daughter, Mrs. J. W. Johnston, who is the wife of John W. Johnston, a pioneer in telephone construction work in western Wisconsin, their marriage taking place June 24, 1901. Mrs. Hankey during her life was very active in church work and benevolent enterprises, and was a woman loved and respected by young and old.

Iver Pederson, founder of Ettrick, merchant, manufacturer, Indian fighter and veteran of the Civil War, was a splendid example of the descendants of the Vikings who fought their way to America, and with no other assistance than their native ability and capacity for hard work established for themselves an enviable position in this new country. He was born in Biri, Norway, March 13, 1842. He was there reared amid rugged conditions, and acquired such education as the parish afforded. In 1859 he came to America and located in Wesiby, Vernon County, this State, where a number of his countrymen had preceded him. Only three years later, in 1862, he responded to Abraham Lincoln's call for troops to defend the Union and enlisted in the now-famous Company K, Twenty-fifth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, in which he served until the close of the war. Immediately after its organization the company was sent to the frontier to defend the white settlers against the Sioux Indians. In 1863 the regiment was sent to Columbus, Ky., and joined the expedition against Vicksburg under command of Gen. Jeremiah Rusk. From Vicksburg the regiment was sent to Jackson, Mo., later returning to Vicksburg, and from there being sent to join Sherman's army in its march to the sea. After the general review at Washington, Veteran Pederson returned to Vernon County. From there, a short time later, he moved to Coon Valley, La Crosse County. It was in 1867 that he began his career in Trempealeau

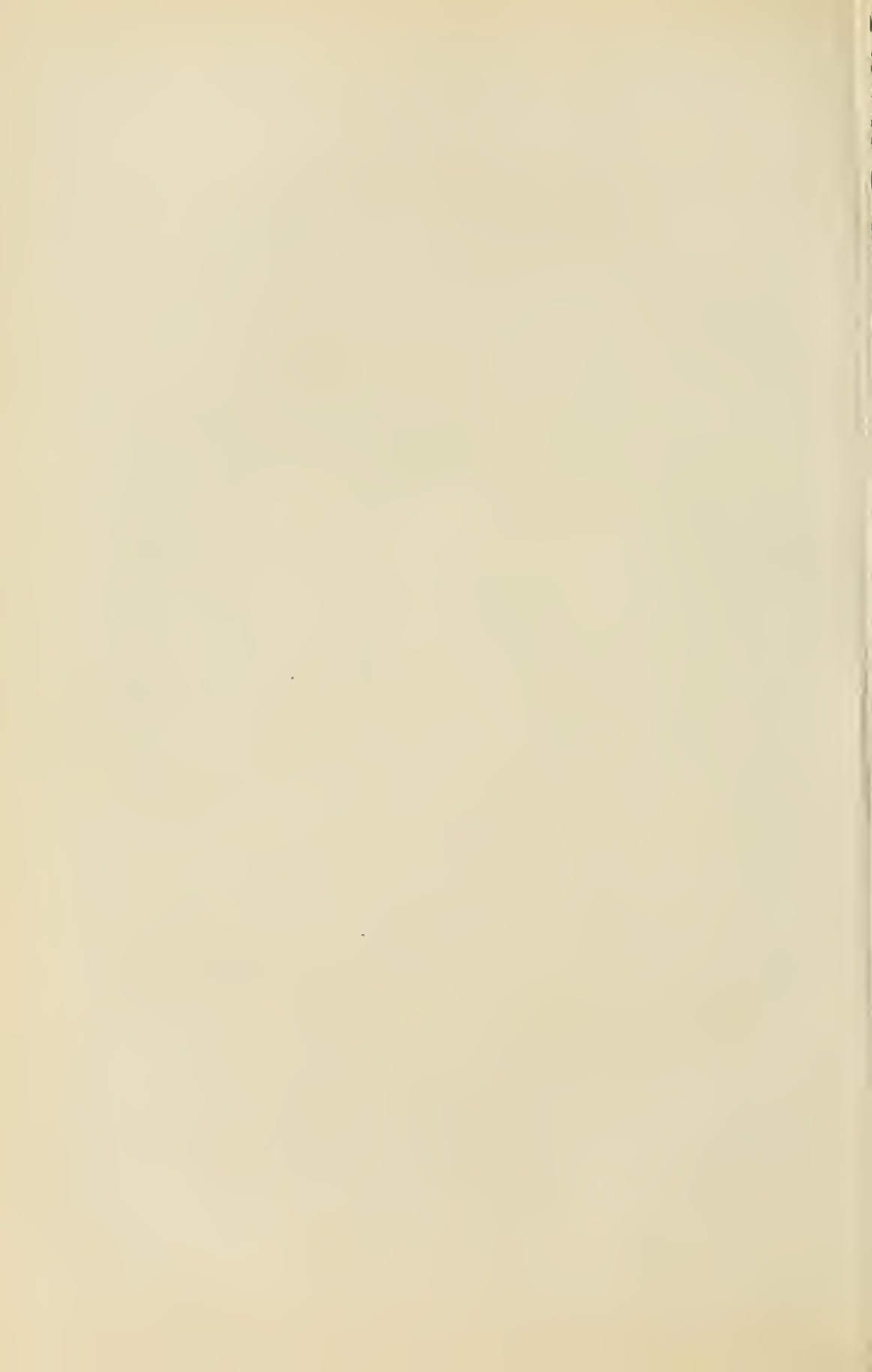
County by establishing a store at Frenchville in company with Ole Skow. Two years later he sold this store to Mrs. Skow and moved to what is now the village of Ettrick. After homesteading a farm, which now includes the village site, he opened a store in 1870 and engaged in the general mercantile business. Later he platted the village and increased its material prosperity by erecting a flouring mill and woolen mill and a creamery. Here he continued to spend the remainder of his life. After a long and useful career, in which he had done much to increase the material prosperity of his village and county, he died Sept. 29, 1914, and was sincerely mourned by a wide circle of friends and associates. Mr. Pederson was married at Ettrick to Mary Nelson, who was born in Biri, Norway, Nov. 15, 1852, and came to this county with her father in 1861. Mrs. Pederson, who proved a loyal helpmate and faithful mother, still resides at the family home at Ettrick. Their union has been brightened with five children. The oldest, Peder, died in infancy. Albert M. is still conducting the store and mill at Ettrick. Emma is the wife of P. M. Benrud, of Frenchville, Ida is the wife of Carl Aaby, who is associated with Albert M. Pederson in the mercantile business. Anna is the wife of Morris Berge, a druggist at Elk Mound, Wis.

Albert M. Pederson, merchant, miller and leading citizen of Ettrick, is a native of the village where he still resides, having first seen the light of day Aug. 27, 1874, in the home of his parents, Iver and Mary (Nelson) Pederson, the pioneers. As a boy he attended the school of his neighborhood, and later was accorded the advantages of a course at Galesville University, now Gale College. Still later he rounded out his education with a year at the Wisconsin State Normal School at River Falls. From his earliest boyhood he assisted his father in his numerous business ventures, and in 1898 became a partner in the business. After the father's death, the estate was incorporated as the Iver Pederson Company. The subject of this sketch is president and manager. This concern, which conducts the store and the flour and grist mill, is in a flourishing condition, and is one of the strong commercial assets of the village. In addition to its holdings in Ettrick, it owns various tracts of valuable land throughout the county, especially in the Ettrick Valley. Mr. Pederson is a public-spirited citizen, and is a stockholder in the Bank of Ettrick, Bank of Galesville and the Wisconsin Telephone Company. He has done valuable service as a member of the school board for twelve years, and has served on numerous committees and delegations. His fraternal association is with the Modern Woodmen of America. He and his family are staunch supporters of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Pederson was married May 17, 1898, to Emelia Evenson, also a native of Ettrick Township, daughter of Bernt and Lena (Ekern) Evenson, also natives of Biri, Norway, who came to America in the winter of 1868 and located in Gale Township, where Mr. Evenson is engaged in farming. Mrs. Evenson died in 1907, and Mr. Evenson now makes his home with his daughter.

Eugene A. Sorenson, dealer in leaf tobacco and inventor of the Victor Piston Ring, is one of the genial, energetic young men of Whitehall, and his work in developing the tobacco industry has been an important feature



EUGENE A. SORENSON AND FAMILY



in the modern agricultural progress of Trempealeau County. He was born in Dane County, Wis., March 16, 1876, second of the six children of John and Ellen (Otteson) Sorenson, was reared on the home farm, and left school at the age of 13 years. Starting out for himself at the age of 22, he worked a little over a year for the Utica Creamery Co., Utica, Wis.; about four years for the Wheeler Prairie Creamery at Stoughton, Wis.; and a little over two years for Jokum Johnson, general store keeper at Utica, Wis. It was in 1905 that he came to Whitehall and for five years was one of the firm of R. Holtan & Co., dealers in and packers of leaf tobacco. In 1910 he engaged in business for himself as buyer and packer, and two years later purchased the warehouse of the Home Tobacco Co. at Whitehall. In November, 1916, the business was incorporated under the name of the Mabbett Leaf Tobacco Co., with a capital of \$30,000 and with W. F. Mabbett as president, E. A. Sorenson as vice-president, and C. W. Birkenmeyer as secretary and treasurer. The company has large warehouses at Whitehall and at Edgerton. Mr. Sorenson is in full charge of the large Whitehall warehouse. This establishment is fully equipped for the best work, employs from 30 to 40 people during the busy season, and has a yearly output of from 200,000 to 500,000 pounds. In addition to his position of honor in the tobacco world, Mr. Sorenson is widely known as the inventor of the Victor Piston Rings, for automobiles, aeroplanes, motorcycles, steam engines, marine motors, compressors, gas engines and pumps. The rings are manufactured by the A. E. White Machine Works, of Eau Claire, Wis. Mr. Sorenson was married Feb. 15, 1900, to Emma Johnson, daughter of Jokum and Aasil (Smithback) Johnson, born June 4, 1879. Mr. and Mrs. Sorenson have two children, Adeline, born Feb. 20, 1904, and Eldora, born Aug. 18, 1908.

Ludwig L. Solsrud, part owner of the Solsrud Mercantile Co. and president of the People's State Bank, both of Whitehall, was born in Christiania, Norway, Sept. 24, 1864, son of John and Anna O. (Halvorsen) Solsrud, the former of whom died in 1900 and the latter in 1872. The subject of this sketch was reared and educated in the old country. He came to America in 1883, locating in Spring Valley, Minn., June 9, of that year. A little over two years later, in December, 1885, he came to Whitehall. For a time he was variously employed. In August, 1900, he entered the store of his uncle, L. L. Solsrud. By attention to business and intelligent effort, he gradually mastered the business, and in 1895 became a partner, the firm at that time taking the name of Solsrud, Kidder & Co. In 1899 Mr. Kidder retired, and the firm became Solsrud & Solsrud, a name which was retained until the present name and organization was adopted in 1901. The building, which is of solid brick, two stories, with basement, is one of the sightly business houses of the village. It was erected in 1895. The firm carries a good stock, and does a large business, its reputation for fair prices, honest dealing and high quality having been deservedly gained through its many years of existence. When the People's State Bank was organized, Mr. Solsrud as one of the leading business men of the city was selected as its president, and in that capacity he has since continued to serve. A thorough believer in the brotherhood of man, Mr. Solsrud has

allied himself with several fraternities. In the Masonic order he is a member of the Blue Lodge, Chapter, Commandery, Consistory and Shrine. In the I. O. O. F. he has passed through all the chairs of the lodge and is a popular member of the Rebekah degree. In the Independent Order of Foresters he is also a valued member. His public work has included efficient work on the village council for eight years. His religious affiliation is with the United Norwegian Lutheran church, in which he has been the treasurer since 1914. Mr. Solsrud was married June 9, 1897, to Lena Larson, who was born in Hale Township, Jan. 21, 1875, daughter of Martin and Marie (Bjorke) Larson, the pioneers, the former of whom makes his home with Mr. and Mrs. Solsrud, and the latter of whom died in 1902. Mr. and Mrs. Solsrud have had five children: Mary (who died in 1909 at the age of 11 years), Louise, Alice, John and Dorothy.

John McKivergin, the efficient superintendent of the Trempealeau County Asylum, is a native of this county, having first seen the light of day in Preston Township, June 18, 1864, a son of James and Ann (Conway) McKivergin. He was reared on the farm, attended the district schools of his neighborhood, and thoroughly learned agricultural pursuits from his parents. After his father's death, he and his brother Thomas took charge of the old homestead. A few years later the two brothers, in connection with their farm work, began buying and shipping live stock, and this business grew to such proportions that in 1903 the subject of this sketch moved to Blair in order to devote his attention exclusively to this line of industry. In 1910, in company with W. E. Kidder, under the firm name of Kidder & McKivergin, he engaged in the hardware business at Galesville for several months, after which he assumed the duties of his present position. Under his administration the institution has undergone many improvements, and he has made it one of the model asylums of Wisconsin. Aside from his present position, Mr. McKivergin has seen considerable public service. For a time he was a member of the board of Preston Township, and for about ten years he was a member of the school board. His business holdings include stock in the Home Bank of Blair. His fraternal affiliation is with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. McKivergin was married Dec. 31, 1902, to Minnie H. Bigham, who was born in Arcadia Sept. 9, 1872, daughter of John and Grace (Gardner) Bigham. Mrs. McKivergin is a lady of many accomplishments and has ably assisted her husband in his splendid work at the asylum. She was educated in the Arcadia High School and the Winona State Normal School, and for some nine years was efficiently engaged as an educator, specializing in primary department work, at Arcadia and Galesville, in this county, and at Wadena, Minn.

James McKivergin, pioneer, was born near Banbridge, in the north of Ireland, in 1818, and came to America as a young man about 1839. After living in the Eastern States for a number of years, he came to Trempealeau County in 1862 and located on section 18, Preston Township, about three miles west of the present village of Blair. There he successfully farmed until his lamented death in 1886. A man of considerable ability, he possessed a strong influence over his fellow citizens, and did good service on the township and school boards. His wife, whose maiden name was



MR. AND MRS. D. D. CHAPPELL

Ann Conway, was born June 20, 1830, and still resides on the old homestead. They were the parents of eight sturdy children.

John Bigham, an early settler, was born in Brewsters, N. Y., and was there reared and educated. In 1855 he was brought to Wisconsin by his parents. For several years he worked as a stationary engineer in some of the pioneer mills of the county, and in 1859 homesteaded a tract of land about one and one-half miles southwest of Arcadia. He served during the Civil War, and after that conflict returned to his farm and devoted his life to agricultural pursuits until his retirement in 1899, when he moved to the village of Arcadia, where he has since resided. He was married Jan. 9, 1868, at Arcadia, to Grace Gardner, who was born in Indiana, Sept. 9, 1850. Their happy union was blessed with five children.

The Trempealeau County Asylum, widely famed as a model institution of its kind, is located in the town of Lincoln about one mile west of the village of Whitehall. Its story is told elsewhere. Buildings were erected in 1899, and the institution opened April 6, 1900. J. A. Johnson, the first superintendent, was succeeded by P. H. Johnson, who in turn was followed on April 1, 1911, by John McKivergin as superintendent, and Mrs. McKivergin as matron. The institution has accommodations for about 130, the average number of patients being about 112.

Darius D. Chappell, a pioneer of Trempealeau County, who for the past 18 years or more has resided in Galesville, was born in Warren County, Pa., Dec. 8, 1833, son of Chubil D. and Mary Ann (Palmeto) Chappell. The father, Shubil, son of a Revolutionary soldier, was a native of Herkimer County, N. Y., and a carpenter and joiner by occupation. With his wife, who was born near New York, he removed to Walworth County, Wis., in 1854, and engaged in contracting and building and also in farming. He remained in that locality until 1862, in which year, with his family, he came to Trempealeau County, locating in Caledonia Township, where the rest of his life was spent.

Darius D. Chappell, who was the eldest of ten children, in his boyhood attended school in Warren, Pa. He resided at home until he was 19 years of age, and then, with but little money, he came West to Wisconsin, locating in Walworth County. After working through the harvest season, he returned home for the rest of the family, and brought them to Walworth County. Here he worked for others and for his father, assisting the latter as carpenter, and in the winter worked in the Eau Claire woods. At the time of his marriage in 1857 he came to Trempealeau County, settling in Caledonia and entering into business as carpenter and builder, in which occupation he continued until the summer of 1862, when, on Aug. 15, he enlisted in Company C, Thirtieth Wisconsin Regiment, as a private. He was appointed first lieutenant and was later promoted to the rank of captain of Company E in the same regiment, and served as such until the close of the war. Though never wounded, he was seized with sickness and confined to his bed for several weeks at Fort Rice, where Bismarck, N. D., now stands. At the close of the war he was mustered out at Louisville, Ky., and returned to Caledonia Township, where he engaged in farming. This occupation he followed without intermission until 1898, when he purchased his

present residence in Galesville and retired from active life. Previous to settling in the village, however, he, accompanied by his wife, took a trip to his old home in Pennsylvania, from which they made trips, visiting the battle grounds of Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Chattanooga, Chickamauga and others, subsequently taking a far western trip to Tacoma, Wash., and California.

Mr. Chappell was married June 21, 1857, to Caroline F. Fowler, who was born in Racine, Wis., before that town was named. Her parents were Benjamin and Martha (Kocher) Fowler, both natives of Pennsylvania, the father born in Harrisburg and the mother in Philadelphia. The former was a farmer, capitalist and real estate dealer who came to Wisconsin in or about 1833, settling on the site of the present city of Racine. Subsequently he sold his last business holdings to the J. I. Case Company and moved to Walworth County, where he died Dec. 26, 1874. His wife died at Hart Prairie, Wis., in 1876. Mr. Fowler was a busy man during his active career and never sought to mix largely in politics, but at different times he held local office. He and his wife had a family of 13 children, of whom Caroline F. was the eleventh in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Chappell have three children: Elmer Elsworth, Ella Swartling (an adopted daughter), and Daniel Earl. Elmer Elsworth, born July 8, 1861, died March 21, 1916, at Lawton, Okla., where he was engaged in business as a contractor and builder. He married Jennie Dunlap and left two children, Carrie E. and Carl D. Ella (Swartling) Chappell is now Mrs. Henry Marsh, of Caledonia Township, and has three children, Glenn, Ray and Ethel. Daniel Earl, born May 29, 1869, resides on the old home farm in Caledonia. He married Nellie Gilbert, and they have two children, Alice Myrl, a teacher at Kewaunee, Wis., and Giles Earl, residing at home. Mr. Chappell is the owner of considerable land in Trempealeau County. He belongs to Charles H. Ford Post, No. 258, G. A. R., of which he has been commander several times, and is a member of the county commission for the soldiers' indigent fund, which he has served as secretary since its organization. He and his wife have many warm friends throughout this part of the county. On the twenty-fifth anniversary of their wedding they were given a surprise party by about 200 of their friends, who presented them with many beautiful and costly gifts, and a similar event took place on their fiftieth anniversary. On the latter occasion Mrs. Chappell was presented with a gold-headed umbrella and Mr. Chappell with a gold-headed cane, a golden clock and other beautiful gifts. In thanking their friends Mr. and Mrs. Chappell said that they might have accumulated more of this world's goods, had they tried to do so, but they doubted if they would have seen so much real happiness and would not exchange the high esteem of their friends for all the gold in Alaska. Mr. Chappell is a Republican in politics and when a resident of Caledonia Township served as town treasurer for a number of years.

Olaus O. Mitskogen is a native of this county, having been born in Lake's Coulie, five miles south of Blair, Jan. 6, 1873, son of Ole O. and Lisa (Hendrickson) Mitskogen. The father, Ole O. Mitskogen, was born in Sweden, in 1822, came to America in 1867, followed by his family in August, 1868, worked as a farm hand one year, homesteaded a farm in Lake's Coulie,

section 2, range 8, township 20 (Preston), and there lived until his death in 1900. The mother, Lisa Hendrickson, was born in Sweden, in 1834, and died in the spring of 1914. Olaus O. Mitskogen was reared on the home farm, and remained with his parents until 1896, when he purchased his present farm of 160 acres in section 34, range 7, township 22 (Preston). Since coming here he has made many improvements, and has developed as good a place as is to be found in the community. His home, a frame structure, two stories high, with eight rooms and a basement, was erected in 1908. The barn, 28 by 56 by 14 feet, with cement floors, and modern equipment, was erected in 1905. The farm is well fenced, and the implements, machinery and tools are of the best. In carrying on general farming, Mr. Mitskogen makes a specialty of raising a good grade of Holstein cattle for beef and dairy purposes. A prominent man in the community, Mr. Mitskogen has served on the township board, and has been a member of the school board since 1910. Since 1906 he has been secretary of the Synod Norwegian Lutheran church (now united). Mr. Mitskogen was married June 8, 1894, to Nellie Haug, who was born in Ettrick Township, Jan. 11, 1874, the daughter of John O. and Nina Haug, and died Jan. 11, 1900. Odin, a child of this union, was born Oct. 15, 1897. Of the other two children, Olava died at the age of 2 years, and Julia at the age of 10 years. On May 4, 1901, Mr. Mitskogen married Amanda Anderson, who was born in Pigeon Township, Aug. 17, 1878, daughter of Halvor and Christian (Benson) Anderson, natives of Norway.

Moses E. Ladd, a well-known and respected resident of Whitehall, retired farmer, former county official, and now engaged in the insurance business, was born in Unity, N. H., July 2, 1843, son of Philander J. and Ruth (Adams) Ladd. Philander J. Ladd was born in New Hampshire, and in 1857 came to Trempealeau County, where he engaged in agriculture until his death in 1896 at the age of 75 years, his wife Ruth, whom he married in his native State, having died in 1836 at the age of 54. Moses E. Ladd was 14 years old when his father brought the family to Wisconsin. He worked as a clerk and bookkeeper at Trempealeau for four years and taught school an equal length of time, in the meanwhile improving his education by attending Gale College. Turning his attention to agriculture, he then engaged in farming in Caledonia Township until 1899. Appointed county treasurer, May 8, 1899, he moved to Whitehall and gave his attention to the duties of that office, in which he served so efficiently that he was elected in 1900 and served an additional term. In 1903 Mr. Ladd bought the insurance agency of Herman L. Ekern, of Whitehall, and has since carried on the business successfully, writing fire, tornado, automobile and accident insurance. For many years Mr. Ladd has given a considerable part of his time to public service. He was a member of the county board in 1896, 1897 and 1898, was township clerk of Caledonia Township for seven years, and clerk of his school board there a similar period. In Trempealeau Township he was township clerk for two years. Since coming to Whitehall he has been village clerk two years. While still farming, he was also one of the organizers of the Galesville Creamery, serving seven years as director. Religiously, he is affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church, holding the

office of trustee and steward. For half a century he has been a member of the Masonic order. It will thus be seen that his life has been one of activity and useful effort in various directions, and in whatever position he has been placed he has shown efficiency and fidelity to his duties. Mr. Ladd was married, March 30, 1870, to Libbie J. Bagley, who was born in Hayfield, Crawford County, Pa., Oct. 26, 1849, daughter of Phineas and Phoebe (Williams) Bagley. Her father was a farmer who came to Trempealeau County in 1856, and died in 1892 at the age of 85 years, after a long and industrious career. Her mother died in 1890. Mrs. Ladd passed away April 22, 1917. An obituary notice said of her:

"Mrs. Ladd may well be called a pioneer of the county. In her girlhood days the life of Trempealeau did not have the comforts and blessings of the life of today. But it had a delightful and wholesome Christian atmosphere, and Miss Bagley early took advantage of this great blessing and took an active part in the church work of the neighborhood. At the age of 25 she joined the Methodist Episcopal church and has been a very faithful member ever since. After moving to Whitehall Mrs. Ladd became an important link in the social, civic and religious life of this village. She has been especially industrious in the temperance cause, church work, Ladies' Aid and in work of the relief corps. In the death of Mrs. Ladd her husband mourns the loss of a loving, devoted wife, and the community suffers the loss of a diligent worker for the higher things of life."

The Central Trading Association, of Whitehall, conducts the "Model" store, and handles general merchandise, shoes, clothing, dry goods, groceries, notions and the like. The store occupies the basement, first floor and part of the second floor of a slightly modern building which the company has remodelled. It is constructed in the shape of an "L," 30 feet wide and 120 feet long, with a rear of 60 feet in width. The company also owns two lots near the store, whereon have been built sheds for the accommodation of teams. The Association was incorporated Sept. 25, 1913, with a capital stock of \$50,000. The first officers were: President, P. H. Johnson; vice-president, D. Wood; secretary, C. P. Larson; treasurer, C. B. Melby; directors, P. H. Johnson, R. S. Cowie, C. P. Larson, C. B. Melby and F. D. Hopkins. Immediately upon organization, the company bought out the general store of Torgerson & Sons, and established its present business.

Peter H. Johnson, president of the board of directors of the Central Trading Association, conducting the "Model" department store at Whitehall, is a man of wide interests and varied experiences. Aside from his position with the Trading Association, he is vice-president of the John O. Melby & Co. Bank, of Whitehall, and a stockholder in the State Bank of Galesville, the Farmers' and Merchants' State Bank, of Stanley, the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company, of Whitehall, and the Farmers' Co-Operative Elevator Company, of Whitehall. He was born in Biri, Norway, April 2, 1862, second of the seven children of Hans and Martha (Halvorsdatter) Johnson. Hans Johnson came to America in 1864, lived in La Crosse County, this State, a year, homesteaded in 1865 a farm in section 5, township 19, range 7, Ettrick, and there farmed until his death in 1896, his good wife dying in 1894. Peter H. Johnson attended the common schools



HENRY A. COX AND FAMILY

and Gale College at Galesville, taught school for a while, and helped his parents with the work of the farm. In 1884 he became grain buyer and bookkeeper for Wilson Davis, the Galesville miller. Ten years later, in 1894, he and J. E. Wilberg, under the firm name of Johnson & Wilberg, opened a hardware store at Ettrick. While still a member of this firm, he was elected county clerk in the fall of 1896, and took office Jan. 1, 1897. He was re-elected, and served until Jan. 1, 1901. March 1, 1901, he was named as superintendent of the Trempealeau County Insane Asylum, at Whitehall, and served in this capacity for ten years. Then he was idle for a while, and then became manager of the Farmers' Elevator Company, at Whitehall, assuming the duties of his present position Sept. 25, 1913. Aside from his business interests, Mr. Johnson is notary public and justice of the peace, and has served as court commissioner since 1914. Mr. Johnson was married June 13, 1891, to Mary O. Heram, born in Norway, Feb. 16, 1862, daughter of Ole C. and Mary (Haakenson) Heram, who brought their family in 1869 to Trempealeau County, where the father still lives, the mother having died in 1914 at the age of 80 years. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have three children, Hughitt, Mae and Miles. Hughitt is a student in the Chicago Dental College. Mae is studying music in the music department of the Lawrence University at Appleton, Wis. Miles is doing well at his studies in the Whitehall High School.

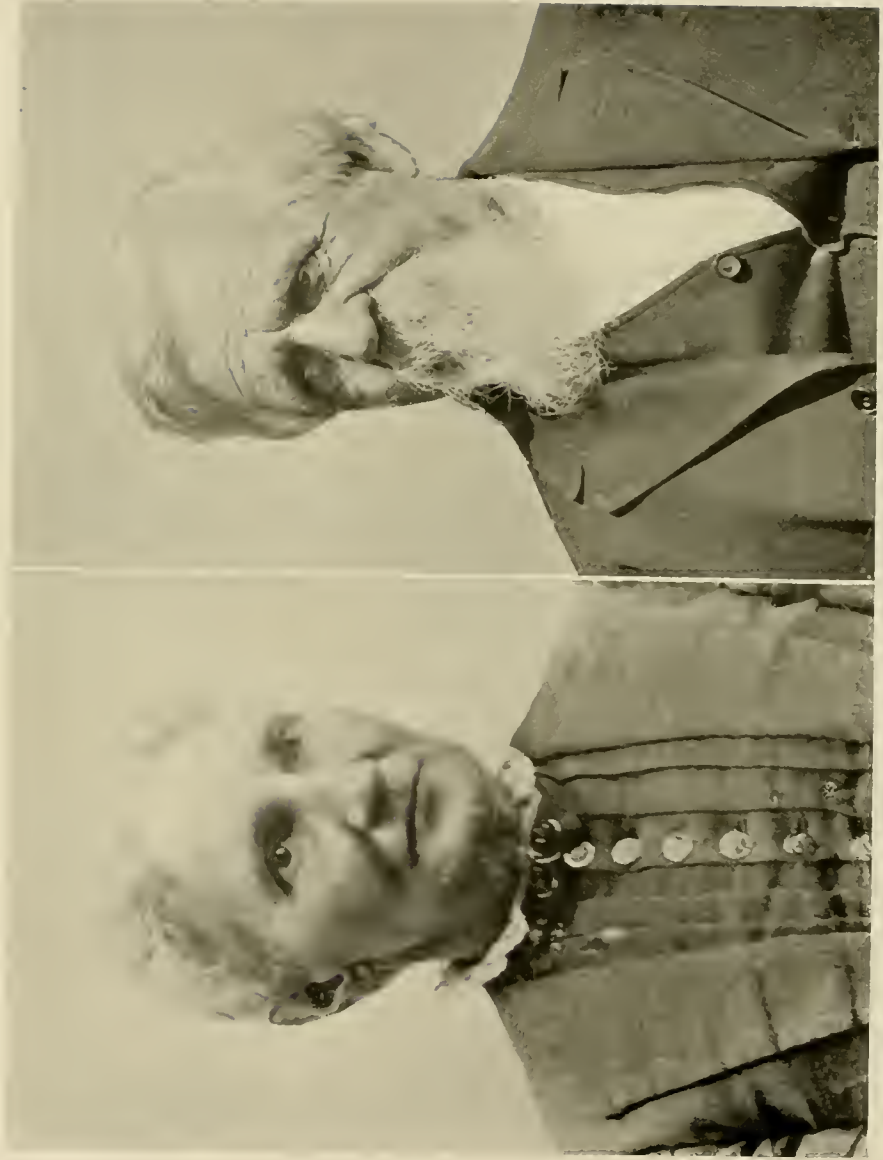
Henry A. Cox, a retired farmer residing on his old farm in section 11, Trempealeau Township, was born at Whitewater, Walworth County, Wis., Dec. 12, 1845, son of Jeffry and Elizabeth (Cox) Cox. His parents were natives of Somersetshire, England, and came to the United States in 1844, locating at Whitewater, Wis., where the mother died about a year after the birth of her son Henry. The father, who was born in 1798, survived his wife many years, dying in 1882 at the advanced age of 84.

Henry A. Cox was educated in the district school at Whitewater, Wis., which he left at the age of 15 years. At the age of 17 he enlisted in Company D, Twenty-eighth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He took part in several battles and his regiment was with the Union troops when they took possession of Little Rock, Ark., but Mr. Cox was in the hospital at that time. After serving three years and two months, he was mustered out at Brownsville, Tex., and returned to his home in Whitewater. In 1866 he came to Trempealeau Township, locating near Centerville, on a farm of 80 acres which he had bought of Hollister Wright, where he remained for five or six years, after which he sold that farm and bought his present home of 120 acres in section 11, on which he built a one and a half story frame house, together with a barn, silo and other necessary buildings. All the land is under the plow. In 1909 Mr. Cox turned over the farm to his son Frank, who now operates it. In the summers he resides on the farm and in the winters he lives with his son Clarence at La Crosse. In politics Mr. Cox has always been a Republican. He formerly served two terms as clerk of School District No. 13. His religious affiliations are with Centerville Methodist Episcopal church, of which he has been an active member for a number of years. He is a man highly respected throughout this part of the county as a reliable citizen and good neighbor. He was united in holy

bonds of matrimony to Jennie Ladd, who proved a loyal wife and loving mother. She passed away Jan. 16, 1895, leaving the following children: George H., born in 1876, who is married and is engaged in farming in Iowa; Frank, born in 1879, who is also married and is operating the home farm, and Clarence, born in 1883, who is married and lives in La Crosse, Wis., where he is engaged in the hardware business.

Thomas P. Huleatt was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, the son of Thomas and Jane (Harden) Huleatt, who brought their family to America in 1850, and after living in Rock Island, Ill., for a year, settled in Pepin County, this State, taking up their home in Bogus Valley. There the parents spent the remainder of their days, having achieved by hard work and frugality a position of influence and importance in the community. Thomas P. Huleatt spent his youth on the home farm, and as he grew to manhood determined to devote his life to farming. As a young man he acquired a good farm, which he successfully conducted for many years. He was well thought of in his neighborhood, and occupied a number of local offices in the county and on the school board. After a long and useful career in Pepin County, he came to Whitehall, in 1899, and here resided until his lamented death in 1906. Mr. Huleatt was married, in 1865, at Pepin, Wis., to Maria A. Clarke, who was born in Pennsylvania, in 1845, and died in 1905. Mr. and Mrs. Huleatt had two children: Clarence F., a merchant of Whitehall, and Eva, the wife of Watson Leach, a carpenter at Zion City, Ill.

Clarence F. Huleatt, secretary and treasurer of the Huleatt Mercantile Co., and a leading merchant of Whitehall, was born in Bogus Valley, near Pepin, Wis., March 30, 1866, son of Thomas P. and Maria A. (Clarke) Huleatt. He was reared on the farm, attended the district schools of Pepin County, and graduated from the River Falls State Normal School, in 1892. Thus prepared, he taught school for several years, part of which time he was principal of the Whitehall schools. In the spring of 1897 he and L. M. Ekern became owners of the hardware and furniture store of Peterson & Ekern, at Whitehall, under the firm name of Huleatt & Ekern. In 1899 Mr. Huleatt bought out his partner's interest, and with his uncle, Samuel Huleatt, established the firm of Huleatt & Huleatt. In 1900 the Huleatt Mercantile Company was incorporated with a capital stock of \$6,000, the officers and owners being: President, Thomas F. Huleatt; treasurer, Samuel H. Huleatt, and secretary, Clarence F. Huleatt. Clarence F. Huleatt is now the secretary and treasurer, and his wife is the president. The firm does a large business in furniture, hardware and appliances, and has a large business in installing heating plants and doing general plumbing work. Mr. Huleatt also conducts a funeral directing department, having taken lectures on underfaking at Milwaukee and St. Paul under the leading embalmers of the country. The building, erected in 1900, occupies a prominent place on Main street, and is of modern construction, 30 by 80 feet. Mr. Huleatt has been a member of the village council for two years. He has passed through the chairs of the local I. O. O. F. Lodge. His religious affiliations are with the Whitehall Methodist Episcopal church, in which he is a trustee. Mr. Huleatt was married Dec. 23, 1896, to Mary E. Shane, of



MR. AND MRS. JOHN H. CROZEN

Modena, county superintendent of schools, Buffalo County, Wis., born March 20, 1864, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (McEldowney) Shane, natives of Ireland.

Peter T. Herreid, a prosperous hardware merchant, of Blair, Wis., was born in Ettrick Township, Trempealeau County, Wis., Oct. 13, 1867. His parents were Thomas O. and Brita (Bue) Herreid. The father was born at Hardanger, Norway, and came to America in 1854, locating in Dane County, Wis., where he remained until 1858. He then came to Trempealeau County and homesteaded a farm in Ettrick Township, which place was his home for the rest of his life. He died March 20, 1898, when 69 years old. His wife died Aug. 14, 1914, at the age of 87. Peter T. Herreid at 16 years of age began work as a carpenter in Pigeon Township and was thus occupied until 1893. In 1895 he bought the hardware store of A. B. Peterson, at Blair, being associated with his brother Thomas, under the firm name of Herreid Brothers. The firm has since continued in business and has built up a good trade. Their building is a one-story frame 24x100 feet. They carry a general line of hardware, operate a tinshop and conduct heating and plumbing departments of their business. Peter T. Herreid has been a member of the village council five years, having served as its president for two years. He has also served on the school board ten years. He is a stockholder in the First National Bank of Blair. His religious affiliations are with the United Norwegian Lutheran church, which he has served as treasurer since about 1900. He also had charge of the building of the church. December 27, 1895, Mr. Herreid was united in marriage with Hanna B. Hanson, of Blair, whose father, Martin Hanson Skyrud, was a pioneer farmer of Trempealeau County. To him and his wife five children have been born: Myron, Berdelle, Leon, Francis and Lyla. Myron is on the flagship *Pennsylvania* in the navy; Berdelle is a proficient teacher; Leon is with the L. C. Hyde & Britton Bankers, at Beloit, Wis.; Francis and Lyla are at home.

John H. Crosen, an elderly resident of Trempealeau Village, one of the surviving veterans of the Civil War, was born in Wheeling, Va., Aug. 22, 1833. His parents were William and Adelaide (Israel) Crosen. The father, born in Virginia about 1790, learned the cooper's trade, which he followed in Wheeling for a number of years, and afterwards in Pittsburgh, Pa. He was of Dutch descent. His wife, Adelaide (Israel) Crosen, was born in Pennsylvania of Scotch descent, and was nearly 90 years of age at the time of her death.

John H. Crosen had but limited educational opportunities in his boyhood, attending the common schools during the winters from the age of 7 to that of 16 years. He remained at home until he was 18 years old, assisting his father in coopering, and then worked out to some extent on farms, though still assisting his father at times. It was his desire to learn the machinist's trade, but could find no one to take him as an apprentice on account of his slight build. Through the influence of an uncle, however, he found an opportunity to learn boot and shoe making, which he started to do at the age of 22 years, and he continued his apprenticeship until he could make any kind of footwear, pegged or sewed. Then he went to Alle-

gheny, Pa., where he entered the employ of James Spratley, a manufacturer and dealer, for whom he worked four years.

In 1856 Mr. Crosen came West to Wisconsin, traveling by rail by way of Chicago to Dubuque, Iowa, and from there by boat up the river to Trempealeau, then known as Montoville, arriving the 13th of November, 1856. Here he went to work as clerk for J. P. Israel, who had come West with him and established a grocery and dry goods business. Israel had bought goods in St. Louis, which were delivered to the Packet Company at Dubuque, Iowa, but as the river was frozen over so as to prevent navigation, they were not delivered at Trempealeau until the spring of 1857. After working for Mr. Israel a few months, Mr. Crosen bought him out. Not long after doing so he discovered that the goods bought in St. Louis had not been paid for, and as he was unable to pay for them, the St. Louis people closed him out. He then opened a boot and shoe shop, there being at this time only three business houses in Trempealeau, and resided at the hotel kept by D. W. Gilfillan. There was plenty of work to be had and he was kept busy in his shop, but business was done largely on credit and there was plenty of "wildcat" money in circulation, sound money being scarce. Mr. Crosen often had as much as \$250 of this more than doubtful currency in his pocket, but couldn't pay a week's board with it. There were scores of banks organized and existing on an unsound financial condition and failures were frequent. These conditions lasted until the Civil War, by which time Mr. Crosen found himself in bad financial condition, and with prospects no better. There was one thing every able-bodied young man could do, however—serve his country; so on June 20, 1861, he enlisted in Company H, Sixth Regiment Volunteer Infantry, better known as the "Iron Brigade." He was mustered in at Madison, Wis., July 17, 1861, with rank of sergeant. Three days later the command arrived in Washington, D. C., and was stationed at Kalorama Heights, D. C., near the capital. Early in the following March they took part in McClelland's advance on Bull Run, subsequently returning to Alexandria, Va., where they were held for the protection of Washington. They, however, cleared the State of the rebels as far down as Fredericksburg, the enemy burning all bridges and shipping. After the bridges had been rebuilt the command crossed the Rappahannock in the night, going to the vicinity of Orange County Courthouse. From there they marched to Spottsylvania Courthouse, and on to Waller's Tavern and Frederickhall Station on the Richmond Railroad. On this raid they destroyed "Stonewall" Jackson's commissary supplies and the station at Frederickhall, together with three miles of the railroad track. Making use of a "ground wire," they telegraphed General Jackson (the message purporting to come from Richmond): "Send troops to protect railroad." Jackson's reply was: "Pope giving me enough to do here; railroad must take care of itself." Having accomplished this work, the command returned to camp at Fredericksburg. The next movement was a feint attack made to deceive the enemy, so that the troops at Fredericksburg could rejoin the main army. This movement was successful, but in making it a New York regiment lost their entire supply train, and sent back a courier with an order demanding horses—everyone that could be picked up. This order was

delivered to Colonel Cutler, of the Wisconsin troops, and was very thoroughly obeyed, the command gathering in a large number of horses. This was one of the biggest infantry raids during the war, and was accomplished by Wisconsin troops. It lasted four days, and as the men had but three days' rations, the last 24 hours they were without food. On their return they were complimented by General Gibbons, who issued to Sergeant Crosen the following orders: "Find two rows of tents at right. Occupy these. Cook and eat to your heart's content. Pay no attention to taps, and I'll send up a present." The present was four buckets of whiskey, of which the last drop was drunk, though there was not an intoxicated man. They then turned in and were just asleep when an order came to Sergeant Crosen to notify the colonel to prepare three days' rations and make an immediate advance to Cedar Mountain, 50 miles distant, to the Rapidan River. Accordingly rest had to be postponed to a future occasion, the troops took up their march and in 48 hours were at Cedar Mountain ready for battle. On this occasion the subject of this sketch was a messmate with Major Charles Ford, they sharing half rations together, as he had none. The battle was a hard contest and the field was so piled with the bodies of men and horses that it could not be passed over. It was suspended by a truce. Two days afterward outriders came in reporting that the Confederate army of different divisions of 40,000 each were "advancing from every direction." The troops were immediately drawn up in line of battle on the Rappahannock River to prevent the rebels from crossing, and they held this position from 4 o'clock p. m. on one day to 10 o'clock a. m. the next. As the enemy did not appear, they took up the line of march back through Culpepper to the Rappahannock railroad station, and then up the river. This four days' march was made from Aug. 20 to 23, 1862, inclusive. Aug. 26 the "Iron Brigade" went to White Sulphur Springs, where they defeated a flank movement of the enemy. They then took up their march for Bull Run, on a report that the Confederates had got around their right. Reaching Gainesville, Aug. 28, 1862, they marched through the town. About a mile beyond the enemy suddenly opened fire on them, the attack being quite unexpected. Quickly forming line, they fought for three hours, the brigade losing 800 killed and wounded. Among the latter was Mr. Crosen, who was shot in the left thigh. Left on the field, he lay there nine days and on the tenth day was taken to Gainesville and laid beside the road to be parolled with others. The second battle of Bull Run took place as he lay on the field between the opposing forces, unable to get away. By the terms of an armistice the wounded were released, the Union wounded being conveyed to Washington, 39 miles distant, in 700 ambulances, holding from two to twenty-five people each. Mr. Crosen remained in the hospital until the spring of 1863 and was then transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps, as being disabled for active service, and he continued as a member of this corps until his discharge, July 13, 1864. He took part in the battle of Fort Stevens, July 8, 1864, and at this time was brevetted first lieutenant of the Second Battalion of Veteran Reserves.

In the fall of 1864 Mr. Crosen returned to Trempealeau and reopened his shop. He was in bad physical condition, but his health slowly improved

and he continued in the shoe business until about 1881. He then engaged in raising small fruits on a five-acre tract adjoining the village, erecting on it a settler's shanty to avoid having to pay rent. Here he lived six years, at the end of which time he took up his abode in his present residence, which he had built, a six-room house, with upright and wing. Mr. Crosen was married, November 15, 1866, to Cornelia F. Melhorn, at Washington, D. C. She was born at Harpers Ferry, Va., April 26, 1836, her father being Francis Melhorn, an old-time Virginian, who was for years an inspector at the Harpers Ferry arsenal, his connection with the arsenal being severed when the war broke out, owing to his sympathy with the South. He then took up his residence in Washington, where he engaged in the meat business, never taking up arms. Immediately after his marriage Mr. Crosen brought his wife to Trempealeau, where she is still living, though in somewhat feeble health, as she is now in her eighty-first year. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Crosen: Luella, who married James B. McManus, of Trempealeau, and died leaving two children; Francis, who is married and engaged in the auto livery business in Trempealeau; Cornelia, wife of Edward Carpenter, a farmer of Hope, N. D., who has six children—four sons and two daughters; William, married, who is a barber in Trempealeau Village; Warren, who was drowned several years ago in the Mississippi River, near Trempealeau, and Harry, who died when young. Mr. Crosen has never been active in politics or held any public office. Religiously he is in accord with the doctrines of the Methodist Episcopal church, though not a member of any church. Still at one time he was a class leader of the Methodist church and has professed Christianity for 32 years, during which time he has been a Bible student. He has been a member of the Masonic order since 1866, being connected with Lodge No. 117, of Trempealeau, of which he was secretary for several years. Although in his eighty-fourth year, he is still strong and fairly vigorous, enjoying good health.

Elmer L. Immell, live stock dealer and automobile agent of Blair, has seen considerable public life. From 1889 to 1893, under President Benjamin H. Harrison, he was postmaster at Blair. From 1901 to 1903 he was sheriff of Trempealeau County. From 1903 to 1908 he was deputy State game warden. Since its organization he has served on the village council all except four years, and during a part of this period he was president of that body. He has also been village treasurer and township treasurer. In all of these positions he has done most excellent work, and has demonstrated his efficiency and ability in whatever line of effort he has been called upon to undertake. He was born in Alma Township, Jackson County, Wis., May 10, 1863, son of Francis M. and Anna (Storley) Immell, and spent his boyhood on the farm, coming to Blair with his parents in 1876. For a number of years he was occupied in drilling wells and installing pumps and windmills. During this period he operated a number of steam threshers. Gradually he became interested in stock buying, in which line he has since continued. In 1910 he purchased the hardware store of A. B. Peterson. In 1913, having sold this establishment, he became treasurer and part owner of the Whitehall Auto Sales Company, of Whitehall, assuming the position of agent at Blair. He has built up a good business and is widely known for his honor-



MR. AND MRS. NATHAN H. CARHART

able dealing. Fraternally, Mr. Immell is connected with the Modern Woodmen and the Beavers. He was married Nov. 19, 1885, to Rose McKivergin, and this union has been blessed with four children: Hugh E., who is in the hardware business in Appleton, Wis.; Russell H., who is at home; Clinton B., who is a student at the La Crosse Normal School, and Ralph M., who is studying law in the University of Wisconsin.

Knut S. Knutson has been one of the leading citizens of the county for many years. As an agriculturist he developed a good farm in the Beaver Creek Valley, as a merchant he assisted in the progress of Blair by building up an important store, and as county, village and school official he has done most efficient service to the community at large. Mr. Knutson is a native of Ulvik, Hardanger, Norway, born Feb. 20, 1856, the son of Urians and Brita (Severson) Knutson. The parents, born, respectively, July 6, 1823, and Dec. 13, 1830, brought the family to America in 1869, and settled on a homestead in the Beaver Creek Valley, in Ettrick Township, where the father died Feb. 15, 1901, and where the mother now makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. O. T. Johnson. As a young man Knut S. Knutson secured a farm in the Beaver Creek Valley, which he owned and operated for a number of years. Having attained success in this line, he determined to seek broader fields of opportunity, and in 1903 moved to Blair, where, with his sons, Julius O. and Edwin B., he purchased the hardware and implement store of Charles Johnson and established the firm of K. S. Knutson & Sons, which was succeeded in 1909 by the son, Julius O. Knutson. The subject of this sketch now devotes his time to looking after his various interests and to public service. As a member of the county board he has the advantage of eight years' experience, and he is regarded as one of the influential men of that body. For twenty years in Ettrick and for three years in Blair he has been a member of the school board. For two years he was on the village council of Blair. His fraternal relations are with the Independent Order of Foresters. His business holdings include stock in the Home State Bank, of Blair, of which he is a director, and in the Minneapolis (Minn.) State Bank of Commerce. Mr. Knutson was married June 8, 1878, to Anna Skaar, who was born in Ettrick Township, Dec. 23, 1858, daughter of O. N. and Engeborg Skaar, the former of whom was born June 27, 1822, and died Oct. 16, 1909, and the latter of whom was born Feb. 10, 1822, and died July 12, 1908. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Knutson has been blessed with four children: Julius O., Edwin B., Irvin N. and Ida. Julius O. is the leading hardware and implement dealer in Blair. Edwin B. organized the State Bank of Commerce at Minneapolis and of this institution he is now cashier. On June 23, 1903, he married Adah Pooler, of Onalaska, Wis. Irvin N. is cashier of the Coon Valley (Wis.) State Bank. He married Minnie Neprud, of Coon Valley, and they have two children, Genevieve and Irvin N., Jr. Ida is the assistant cashier of the Coon Valley State Bank. In addition to his holdings in this county, and in Grant County, N. D., Mr. Knutson and his two sons, Julius O. and Edwin B., own a 240-acre farm in Imperial County, Cal.

Nathan H. Carhart, who owns and operates an ideal farm of 156 acres section 36, township 19, range 10 west (Trempealeau Township), was born at Broome, Schoharie County, N. Y., Nov. 20, 1848. His parents, Isaac D.

and Nancy A. (Bangs) Carhart, were married at Kortright, Delaware County, N. Y., Sept. 14, 1830, which place was their home for a number of years. In the fall of 1855 they came West to Milwaukee, by way of the Great Lakes. From that city they proceeded by train to Fox Lake, Dodge County, Wis., where they lived until 1861, Mr. Carhart renting and working land there. Leaving Dodge County in the year last mentioned, they set out for Fillmore County, Minn., but on reaching Trempealeau County, Wis., they camped one Sunday on the land now owned by Mr. Carhart. The location and surroundings proved so fascinating to him that he went to La Crosse, met the owner, and closed a bargain for 156 acres, all of it being wild land. On this, for a first residence he erected a board shanty, 12 by 12 feet in dimensions, and here he and his wife, and their family, then numbering eight children, lived for some years. His first barn was a shed with hay roof. He later enlarged the shanty, as it was too small a dwelling for so large a family, and it served as a residence until 1869, in which year he built the present house, a two-story with basement, built of lime and sand brick, with hollow walls.

Sept. 2, 1885, Isaac D. Carhart died on the homestead. His wife survived him until May 7, 1889, when she, too, passed away. They were quiet, industrious and worthy people who had worked hard to obtain what few comforts they possessed, and who were held in esteem by their neighbors for their sterling qualities. They are buried in Greenwood Cemetery, which Mr. Carhart had platted on the farm, and of which for many years he was treasurer. He and his wife were active members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Centerville, which he served for many years as treasurer. Their family, in addition to the subject of this sketch, consisted of four sons and five daughters, or five sons and five daughters in all, the other sons being Lewis Henry, John McKendree, Andrew R. and Isaac W., and the daughters Mary L., Delia Elizabeth, Emma Frances, Charlotte Ophelia and Clara Josephine. All but Clara Josephine were born in New York, Clara being born in Dodge County, Wis.

Nathan H. Carhart was trained to farm work at an early age, attending school as he had opportunity, and he has been engaged in agricultural pursuits ever since. His farm is one of the best in this part of the county, 120 acres of the land being under the plow and 36 acres in timber and pasture. Through the farm flows Big Tamarack Creek, furnishing an abundant supply of running spring water all seasons of the year. He is a stockholder in the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company and the Citizens' State Bank, of Trempealeau, Wis., and for years has been president of the Farmers' Trempealeau County Mutual Insurance Company. In politics he is a Republican and for a long time has been more or less active in local government matters, having served many years as supervisor of Trempealeau Township, and for some years as a member of the school board, both as clerk and treasurer. Oct. 24, 1883, Mr. Carhart was married at the home of his bride to Mary Ellen, daughter of Thomas and Mary (Rhodes) Brownsell, of Fond du Lac, Wis., the Rev. John P. Hale officiating. She became the mother of three children: Thomas Brownsell, born Oct. 2, 1884, who is engaged in railroad business at San Antonio, Tex.; Clarence Nathan, born

April 1, 1886, who died Oct. 1, 1886; and Clara Ellen, born Aug. 18, 1888, who is now Mrs. Franklin Dickman, of Pine Island, Minn.

Mr. Carhart was married, secondly, April 12, 1893, to Emma Towner, daughter of John and Margaret Towner, of Caledonia Township, this county, their marriage taking place at his bride's home, and being presided over by the Rev. W. A. Allen, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church. The children of this second marriage were: Mildred, born Jan. 26, 1894, who is a graduate of the high school and the Winona Normal School and is now a teacher, residing at home; Emma, born April 29, 1895, who died Aug. 2, the same year; Nathan Towner, born Dec. 6, 1897, and now residing at home; Lawrence Harvey, born Aug. 1, 1901, who is a high school student living at home, and Carroll Curtis, born Jan. 17, 1903. Mr. Carhart and his wife are members of Centerville Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is a trustee. His children, Mildred, Lawrence and Carroll, are also members of the church, and Mrs. Carhart is active in the Ladies' Aid Society connected with it, and is president of the Harmony Circle of King's Daughters, of West Prairie.

Julius O. Knutson, a leading business man of Blair, was born on the homestead in Ettrick Township, this county, Sept. 2, 1878, son of Knut S. and Anna (Skaar) Knutson. In 1903 he became a member of the firm of K. S. Knutson & Sons, and on Jan. 1, 1909, he purchased the business and has since conducted it under his own name. He carries on a general hardware and implement business. The modern building which houses the establishment, is owned by his father, K. S. Knutson. It is a two-story structure with full basement, 60 by 60 feet, of brick veneer. It is equipped with an elevator and other conveniences. In the spring of 1917 Mr. Knutson erected a modern brick garage 33 by 70 feet adjoining the store building. This he conducts in connection with his other business. Handling a good line of automobiles and accessories, the garage is fully equipped, where auto repairing is done by expert mechanics. Mr. Knutson is a stockholder in the Home Bank of Blair, and in the Western Wisconsin Telephone Co. of Arcadia. With his brother, Edwin B., and his father, K. S., he owns a large farm in Imperial County, Cal. His public work has included service as village clerk for five years and school treasurer five years, being now president of the village council. His fraternal relations are with the Independent Order of Foresters. Mr. Knutson was married, May 23, 1906, to Alice B. Thompson, who was born in Jackson County, Wis., Feb. 20, 1875, daughter of Reier and Brunhild (Haugland) Thompson, of North Dakota. This union has been blessed with three children: Kenneth Ralph, born July 5, 1907, and died Sept. 2, 1907; Kermit Russell, born Aug. 22, 1911; and Blanche Annabel, born March 21, 1916. The family faith is that of the United Norwegian Lutheran church.

Edwin T. Mattison, the present postmaster of Blair, Wis., was born in Preston Township, Trempealeau County, Wis., Feb. 18, 1882. He is a son of Mattis Mattison, a native of Sweden. Edwin T. Mattison was reared on his parents' farm and remained at home until reaching the age of 24 years. He then married and began farming for himself in Preston Township, staying there till June, 1915. On July 1 of that year he assumed his

present duties as postmaster of Blair. He is a stockholder in the First National Bank of Blair, a member of the United Norwegian Church, serving as secretary of the same, and belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Mattison was married, Aug. 4, 1906, to Ida Thompson of Preston Township, a daughter of Ole and Ingeborg (Brekke) Thompson, her father being a native of Sweden and a pioneer farmer of this county, who died June 25, 1916, at the age of 75 years. Her mother still lives on the old farm. Mr. and Mrs. Mattison have been the parents of six children: Magnus, Delbert, Victor, Alvin, Ralph and Esther. Alvin died in December, 1914 at the age of one year and eight months.

Ole Mork, M. D., who for the last eight years has been engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery in Blair, Wis., was born in Thelemarken, Norway, July 14, 1873, a son of John and Anna (Landsverk) Mork. His father and mother are both living in Norway, the former at the age of 70 and the latter at that of 65 years. Ole Mork attended school in his native land and was subsequently graduated from the University of Norway, at Christiania, with the degree of M. D. For six months he was assistant physician at the asylum at Thronclijem. From 1901 he practiced medicine in Ulvvik, Hardanger, and was thus occupied for seven years. In 1908 Dr. Mork came to the United States, and located in Portland, Ore., where he remained several months or until the fall, when he came to Blair. Here he has since been engaged in practice, many of his patients being his own countrymen. He is a member of the county, state and national medical societies, and also belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and the Sons of Norway. Dr. Mork was married Feb. 2, 1900, to Karina Grotevik of Solum, Thelemarken, Norway. Her father, Halvor Grotevik, was a farmer, who died in his native land. Her mother, whose maiden name was Bertha Thorson, still resides in Norway. Dr. and Mrs. Mork have been the parents of nine children: Anna, Kaare, Madli, Hjordis, Bjarne, Martha, Olga, John, who died in 1914 at the age of one year, and Ella.

Smith Molstad. Among those engaged in developing the agricultural resources of Gale township, and whose efforts have met with success, must be taken into prominent consideration the subject of this sketch. Mr. Molstad is a native of Wisconsin, having been born in La Crosse County, July 17, 1867. His parents were Ole and Martha (Peterson) Molstad, both born in Ringsock, Norway, and who were married in that country. Desiring to better their condition and give their children a better prospect in life, they emigrated to the United States, the voyage being made on a sailing vessel, settled in Holland Township, La Crosse County, Wis. Here Ole Molstad acquired a homestead and set at work to till the soil. He was not, however, destined to long life, as he died in 1875, when his son Smith was a boy of eight years. His wife, who was constitutionally more hardy, or more fortunate, survived him about 37 years, passing away at an advanced age in 1912. Their family was large, numbering eleven children, their son Smith being the eighth born. Smith Molstad's schooling was obtained in a district school in Long Coolie, La Crosse County, and his agricultural training on his father's farm in that locality. After he was



MR. AND MRS. JOHN PERKINS AND DAUGHTER

21 years old he worked on other farms for two or three years, and then tried railroad work, at which he continued for about two years. He then married and about this time went to work in a lumber mill at Onalaska, and was thus occupied for four years. Then he took a farm near Onalaska and operated it for a year, after which he changed the scene of his activities to Pine Creek, Minn., being engaged in agriculture there for four years. At the end of that time he purchased a farm near Brownsville, Minn., where the next six years of his life were spent at his old occupation. He then tried farming in Winnishiek County, Iowa, and was there six years, after which he came to his present farm in Gale Township, Trempealeau County, in 1914, which is a good piece of agricultural property of 290 acres, equipped with good modern buildings and everything essential in up-to-date farming. Here he raises the usual crops indigenous to this region and keeps a fair amount of stock. His farm is kept in excellent condition and he is doing a good business as an agriculturist.

Mr. Molstad entered into the bonds of matrimony in October, 1893, choosing as his wife Miss Dorthea Peterson, a native of Norway and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Peterson. Her parents remained in Norway. She came to the United States in 1890 and resided at Onalaska until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Molstad have had seven children: Oscar, Melvin, Selmar, Emma, Lula, Lillie and Paul. Lula and Paul are deceased, the latter dying in infancy. All the others are residing at home. In addition to his farming interests Mr. Molstad is a stockholder in the La Crosse Packing Company and also has some business interests in other enterprises. He and his family are members of the Lutheran Church. In politics he is a Republican. He has, however, served two terms on the school board of his township.

John A. Perkins, who owns and operates a fine farm of 272 acres in section 25, Trempealeau Township, was born at Prairie Du Chien, Wis., Feb. 13, 1850. His parents were Charles and Mary (Farnham) Perkins, the father born in Prairie du Chien, March 25, 1824, and the mother at Rock Island, Ill., October, 1826. They were of French and English descent, Charles Perkins being a farmer by occupation. In the fall of 1850 the family came to Trempealeau County, the father buying 160 acres of wild land in section 35, North Trempealeau Township, but instead of moving onto it at once, they took up their residence in Trempealeau Village, where they remained two years. Then the whole family moved back to Prairie du Chien and spent one year there on a rented farm. In the fall of 1854 they returned to Trempealeau County and moved onto their farm here. As there were no building on the land, the father built a shanty and pole stable. He cleared and broke quite a number of acres and in time erected a good frame house, residing on the place until his death, Nov. 7, 1906. His wife died May 15, 1886, on the homestead, where she was living. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Perkins were as follows: John A., subject of this sketch; Charles, born in Trempealeau Village, May 28, 1851, who was killed while walking on the tracks of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad; Timothy, born June 30, 1853, at Prairie du Chien, who died in infancy; Mary Agnes, born at Prairie du Chien, Aug. 5, 1854, who

is now Mrs. Edward House and lives in Trempealeau Village; Nicholas, born in Trempealeau Township, June 9, 1856, who was a farmer and is now living in Trempealeau Township and is an invalid; Joseph, born in Trempealeau Township, Oct. 10, 1858, who resides at the old home, in section 35; Elizabeth, born in Trempealeau Township April 22, 1861, now living at Cando, N. D.; Victoria, born in Trempealeau Township, Jan. 24, 1864, became the wife of Nason Grover, she died in November, 1916; Solomon Robert, born July 15, 1867, in Trempealeau Township, who is now in Iowa; Ida E., born in Trempealeau Township, Oct. 3, 1869, who is unmarried and resides at Cando, N. D. John A. Perkins when a boy attended district school No. 3, Trempealeau Township, regularly until he was 14 years old, and afterwards during the winters until he was 18. He remained at home until he was 24, but previous to this, in 1871, he purchased 40 acres of wild land in section 25, north, Trempealeau Township, this being the land on which his present residence stands. Oct. 28, 1874, he was married to Victoria, daughter of John and Victoria La Vigue of Cedar Creek, Minn., their marriage being solemnized at the Catholic church in Trempealeau Village by Rev. Fr. Gongal. The young couple at once took up their residence on the farm and began housekeeping. Being poor, they could at first make few improvements, and for some time the house remained in an unfinished state, but Mr. Perkins finally built an upright to it, which gave them more commodious quarters. He had but one horse to begin farming with, but his father loaned him another to make a team, and it was more than two years before he was able to buy a second horse. He made gradual progress, however, and added to his original 40 acres of land from time to time until the farm now contains 272 acres, 100 of which is plowed land, the rest being in pasture and timber. The farm is in a favorable location, lying on the east side of the beautiful Little Tamarac Valley, and is 14 miles from Winona, five from Galesville and seven from Trempealeau. For 36 years Mr. Perkins has marketed butter, the product of his farm, at uniform prices for the year to regular customers. His son William now operates the farm. The present house is an upright, two-story and a half building, with two wings, nicely finished and well furnished. In addition there is a barn with stone basement, having dimensions of 36 by 86 by 20 feet above the basement, the latter having a cement floor. The basement has a capacity of 73 heads of cattle and 12 horses. On the farm there are also corn cribs and granary, with a garage attached, a machine shed, with an extension, a milk house and ice house and engine house, all the buildings being painted and in excellent shape. Mr. Perkins carries on general farming and dairying, and also has a good orchard of 15 acres, the trees all bearing, and the varieties being well selected. He keeps grade Shorthorn cows and Poland-China hogs. Aside from his personal farming interests he is a stockholder in the Farmers' Exchange Elevator of Galesville, and the Farmers' Co-operative Packing Company of La Crosse, Wis. His thorough knowledge of farming in all its branches was acquired from his father, who in 1847 and 1848 was employed by the Government to assist James Reed in instructing the Sioux Indians in the vicinity of Winona in agriculture. Sept. 9, 1913, Mr. Perkins' wife died

on the old homestead after a long illness and was buried in the Catholic cemetery in Trempealeau Village. She had borne her husband two children: Mary Louise and William J. Mary Louise, who was born Oct. 28, 1878, is now Mrs. Stanford Bortz, a resident of Trempealeau Village. William J., born Oct. 24, 1882, is unmarried, and, as before stated, is working the farm for his father. Mr. Perkins is independent in politics and has held no public office. He is a member of the Mystic Circle at Trempealeau Village, having been connected with that organization for the past 16 years. He and his family are members of the Catholic church, attending St. Mary's at Galesville.

Everett McWain. Among those who have helped to develop the soil and promote the agricultural interests of Caledonia Township is the subject of this sketch, who was born near the famed Green Mountains of Vermont, in the town of North Dorset, that state, Dec. 17, 1850, his parents being John W. and Helen (Parker) McWain. The family, including Everett, came to Wisconsin in 1854, locating on a farm in Outagamie County, near Stevensville, in which locality they spent about four years. They then moved onto David Parker's farm (grandfather of Everett McWain), near St. Anthony, now a part of Minneapolis. From there they returned for one winter to Outagamie County, coming to Trempealeau County in March, 1864, and settling on the land on which Everett now resides. The father after a long career as an agriculturist, spent his last years in retirement, dying at the home of his son Bert, in Winona, Minn., at the venerable age of 91. His wife, who was born in Vermont, in April, 1833, died at her own home in Gale Township, near Galesville, Feb. 8, 1904, at the age of 71 years.

Everett McWain was a child of less than four years when he came to Wisconsin. His educational opportunities were not great, but he attended district school until he was 14 years old and learned to read, write and cipher. When 15 he began working for himself at threshing, being associated for 12 years in this branch of farming with Frank Bender, and during the latter part of this period they owned their own machine. In this business Mr. McWain continued until he had reached the age of 45 years, owning his own outfit and using horse-power before the days of steam threshing. He bought his first land on section 6, Caledonia Township, it being a tract of 80 acres, to which he has since added by purchase until he and his two sons now own 240 acres—200 acres in one body, and 40 acres one mile south of his home. On the original farm in section 6, some land was broken when he bought it. He now has 160 acres under the plow and 40 acres in pasture. On the original tract he has built a substantial one-story and a half frame house, consisting of upright and wing; also a good barn, a milk house and a silo of 120 tons capacity, all the buildings being painted and in excellent condition. Mr. McWain is carrying on general farming very successfully and is numbered among the prosperous citizens of his township. He is also a stockholder in the Galesville Creamery.

Sept. 26, 1875, he was married to Johanna, daughter of Thomas and Ellen (Brophy) Roach of Gale Township, this county, and to him and his wife have been born the following children: Ethlyn, born June 17, 1878, who married Ernest Post, and has two living children—Verna and Gladys

May, another child, Della May, being deceased; Roy, born Sept. 28, 1882, who married Beulah Cook, and lives on a farm in Caledonia Township, his children being Gerald, Vilas and Evelyn Lucille; Lloyd, born May 2, 1887, who is unmarried and resides on the home farm; and William, born March 16, 1896, also unmarried and living on the farm. In politics Mr. McWain has always been a Democrat and has given some of his time to assisting in local government matters, having served many terms as a member of the township board, and having also been assessor. As a prosperous farmer and good reliable citizen he is well known in his township and with his family occupies a respected position among its inhabitants.

William Davidson, a prosperous farmer residing in section 36, Gale Township, was born on his father's farm at Decorah Prairie, Jan. 15, 1861, son of John and Mary (Young) Davidson. His parents were both natives of Scotland, the father born at Strathaven, Oct. 24, 1820. John Davidson came to the United States when a young man, locating first in Maryland, where he engaged in mining and other occupations. After awhile he went back to Scotland on a visit, then returned to Maryland with his wife, whom he had married in his native land, where she was born in 1824. In all he made three trips across the ocean. He and his family removed from Maryland to Kentucky, and after residing there awhile came in 1855, or thereabouts, to Trempealeau County, Wis., and took a farm on Decorah Prairie, Gale Township. The rest of his life was spent in the development of this property, which he improved considerable before his retirement from active work. He lived to be over 80 years of age, his death taking place in 1901. His wife Mary passed away in middle life, in 1863. She was the mother of eight children, of whom William was the seventh born.

William Davidson acquired his education in the district school at Decorah Prairie. He learned the science of agriculture from his father, whom he assisted on the home farm until he was 23 years old. In the spring of 1884 he went to Wyoming, and later, in 1885, to western Nebraska, where he homesteaded land and remained until he had fulfilled the requirements of the homestead law and obtained a full title to his property. He was engaged in the stock business there for several years, but finally gave it up and went to South Dakota, still, however, retaining possession of his land for the time. In South Dakota he purchased land in Deuel County, near Revillo, and resided there most of the time for a number of years, going back and forth between his various holdings as occasion required. In 1905 Mr. Davidson purchased his present farm and soon after sold his lands in Nebraska. In 1909 he sold also his Dakota lands and is now confining his attention to his farm of 160 acres in Gale Township, which is a highly improved piece of property, provided with substantial modern buildings and everything necessary for up to date farming. He is also a stockholder in the La Crosse Packing Company, the Independent Harvester Company of Plano, Ill., and the Farmers Elevator Exchange at Galesville. Feb. 25, 1914, Mr. Davidson was united in marriage with Mrs. Anna Johnson, a native of Kansas and daughter of William and Alice (Bonum) Lehmann, who are now residents of Trempealeau County, Mr. Lehmann being a farmer in Trempealeau Township. By a former marriage to Frederick



WILLIAM DAVIDSON AND FAMILY



MR. AND MRS. JOHN C. TOWNER

Johnson Mrs. Davidson is the mother of one child, Harry Johnson, who resides at home. Mr. and Mrs. Davidson have had two children: Wilma, who died at the age of 15 months, and Dorothy Helen, born Feb. 6, 1917. Mr. Davidson is a member of the order of Beavers and of the American Society of Equity. The family are members of the Presbyterian church and he is independent in politics.

William Bartle, an early settler of Trempealeau County, was born in Devonshire, England, Jan. 12, 1823, and came to America as a young man. He was married in Cleveland, Ohio, May 16, 1856, to Ellen Seary, who was born in Inniskillian, Ireland, in May, 1830, and came to America in 1849, locating in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1862 Mr. Bartle and wife, with three children, came to Trempealeau County and settled on a farm in Ettrick Township, where he followed farming until 1876. He then moved to Trempealeau and for the two years following worked at burning lime. In 1878 he received a stroke of paralysis, which rendered him unable to perform heavy labor during the balance of his life. He passed away May 29, 1888. Just seven years to the day his good wife followed him, dying May 29, 1895. They were the parents of nine children, as follows: Sarah, born May 19, 1857, who is now Mrs. George Tibbitts of Keddleston, Canada; Emma, born in June, 1859, who died at the age of eleven years; Ellen, born in November, 1860, who died in 1904; Mary, born in 1863, and now Mrs. Thomas S. Bramwell of La Crosse, Wis.; William, born June 10, 1865, now a resident of Trempealeau; Charlotte, born April 1, 1868, now Mrs. Ed Huttenhow of Trempealeau Village; Margaret, born April 12, 1870, now Mrs. John C. Towner of Trempealeau Township; John, born Nov. 19, 1872, who is living at Keddleston, Canada, and Harriett, who was born Dec. 17, 1874, and died Sept. 1, 1913.

John C. Towner, a successful agriculturist of Trempealeau Township, is a native of this county, having been born in Caledonia Township, Aug. 1, 1869. His parents were John C., Sr., and Margaret (Carleton) Towner, who settled in section 19, Caledonia Township, in 1859. John C. Towner in his boyhood attended district school No. 3, Caledonia Township, until he was 14 years of age, and one or two terms afterwards during the winters. At the age of 17 he began working away from home, but contributed to home expenses until he was 21. April 12, 1893, he was married to Margaret, daughter of William and Ellen (Seary) Bartle. The day after his wedding they moved to Pickwick, Minn., where he had rented a farm. After a year there he came back to Trempealeau Township and for five years thereafter operated a rented farm. In 1900 Mr. Towner bought 110 acres in sections 22 and 23, this township, the land being under plow but destitute of buildings, so to remedy this deficiency he erected that year a two-story frame dwelling, consisting of upright and wing. In October, 1902, his residence was destroyed by fire, but was replaced at once by a seven-room, frame house, of one and a half stories, with upright and wing. In 1910 he built a barn, with a lean-to on the east and south; also a corn crib, machine shed and cream house. A cyclone in 1913 demolished his barn, machine shed and windmill, but he has since replaced the barn and built a tool shed, a granary and a silo, all good substantial buildings. Mr. Towner

has now 105 acres of plow land, with five acres of waste land, one mile out of Trempealeau, and does general farming, keeping a good grade of stock, both cows and hogs, also having sufficient horses for his farm work. He finds a ready market for his produce and is one of the thriving farmers of his township. For 19 years he has been identified with Camp No. 2813, M. W. A., at Trempealeau, and holds the office of camp advisor. He is also manager of the Trempealeau Farmers Shipping Association. He and his wife are the parents of four children: Lloyd E., born Feb. 3, 1894, who is a fireman on the C. & N. W. Railroad; J. Carleton, born Aug. 6, 1896, now a student at the La Crosse State Normal School; Elmer R., born Oct. 5, 1898, who was graduated from the Trempealeau high school in the class of 1917, and is assisting his father; and Hazel Margaret, born Oct. 24, 1901, who is student at the Trempealeau high school. Mr. and Mrs. Towner are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Trempealeau.

Ebert K. Stutlien. Among the choice farms of Preston Township is that known as "Springdale," in section 10, a 234-acre farm belonging to the subject of this sketch, who also owns 160 acres in Welch Coolie, this township. Mr. Stutlien was born in Houston County, Minn., Nov. 23, 1866, son of Arne Knudson Stutlien and wife Mary, whose maiden name was Hellekson. The father, born in Norway in 1832, came to this country in 1854 and resided first in Dane County, Wis., moving from there to Houston County in 1858. Ten years later he and his family settled in Welch Coolie, Preston Township, Trempealeau County, which was his home until his death. His wife still resides in Welch Coolie, being now 76 years old. Ebert K. Stutlien was reared to agricultural pursuits and has been thus engaged since he was old enough to begin industrial life. He has been proprietor of his present farm since 1915, and is conducting it with profitable results. Nov. 25, 1893, he was united in marriage with Ida M. Scow, who was born in Arcadia Township, Aug. 2, 1874. Her parents, Matt O. Scow and Isabel Larson, were both born in Norway, the former in 1832 and the latter in 1834. Mr. Scow died in Arcadia Township, July 7, 1904, and his wife July 21, 1904. Mr. and Mrs. Stutlien are the parents of ten children: Ingwald, assistant bank cashier at Bowman, N. D.; Alfred, Leona, Emil, Palmer, Alma, Lester, Eunice, Florence and Sidney, all but Ingwald living at home.

Stanley Clark French, one of the leading stock farmers of Trempealeau County, and a business man widely known throughout this section, his farm being located in section 29, Gale Township, was born on this farm Oct. 3, 1869. His parents were Henry and Parmelia E. (Clark) French, the father born at Kingsfield, Maine, in 1834. The mother was a native of the same place and was somewhat older than her husband. Henry French was trained to agriculture in his youth, but subsequently worked in a sawmill in Pennsylvania, to which state his parents had removed. He came to Wisconsin in 1856, driving a yoke of oxen from Monticello, Green County, Wis., to Trempealeau County, his father having arrived here in the previous year. The latter bought 400 acres of land from Judge Gale, of which land Henry purchased a part and started to break it up, using his team of oxen for that purpose. His tract consisted of 170 acres adjoining the village limits of Galesville, and here he resided until his death in April,



MR. AND MRS. HENRY FRENCH
STANLEY C. FRENCH AND FAMILY

1898. He became a prominent man in this locality, serving as assessor and chairman of the township board for a number of terms, and also assisted in founding the Bank of Galesville. He served two terms as county treasurer and was serving his third term at the time of his death. His wife survived him some years, dying Jan. 12, 1905. They were the parents of three children: Lunette, now Mrs. D. C. Burns; Clinton H. of Concord, Calif., and Stanley C. Stanley Clark French acquired a good practical education, after attending the Galesville high school, spending one year at Galesville University and one year at Winona Business College. Previous, however, to taking the commercial course, he taught school at Decorah Prairie one year, beginning at the age of 16 years. After leaving the business college he returned to the farm for the summer. Subsequently he was employed in the Bank of Galesville for about eight months and then went to Minneapolis, where he worked the next summer. He next removed to Grand Forks, N. D., where, however, he remained only a short time, returning to Minneapolis, where he passed the next winter. The summer following was spent on the farm, after which he spent a winter at Gale University. When the warm weather again came around, he joined a surveying expedition bound for the Missouri River, leaving Williston, N. D., and going to Bismark in the same state. On the completion of this work he was at home for 18 months. The summer following was that of 1893 and Mr. French obtained a position as guard at the World's Fair held in Chicago, serving until the fair closed. From Chicago he went to Philadelphia, where he spent six months. After this he was superintendent for a brush contractor in the state reformatory at Huntington, Pa., until the following year, when he returned to Galesville and took charge of the homestead. His father dying in the following April, he has since remained here as proprietor of the estate, which now contains 343 acres. In addition to general farming Mr. French makes a specialty of breeding Guernsey cattle and Shropshire sheep, besides hogs, and keeping a large stock of each on hand, making extensive shipments every year. Mr. French is also vice-president of the Bank of Galesville, secretary of the Galesville Farmers Exchange, treasurer of the Trempealeau County Farmers Mutual Insurance Company and a director of the Farmers Packing Company of La Crosse. He is also a stockholder in the Arctic Springs Creamery Company and was its president for ten years, besides having been connected with various other local enterprises, including the Trempealeau County Fair Association, and organizations of wide scope, among which may be mentioned the Wisconsin Fine Stock Breeders' Association, the Shropshire Register Association and the Western Wisconsin Guernsey Breeders' Association. Mr. French has made valuable improvements on his farm, among things having rebuilt the old family dwelling, which he has turned into a fine modern residence, installed with every convenience. The Farmers Exchange, mentioned above, of which Mr. French is secretary, is now doing a business of \$75,000 a year, but his executive ability enables him to attend to his official duties in connection with it, in addition to managing his own large business, which has grown from year to year. His farm is recognized as one of the best stock farms in the county and he is continually adding to its equip-

ment and facilities. Mr. French was married July 27, 1898, to Mollie D. Arnold, daughter of Capt. Alexander A. and Mary J. ((Douglas) Arnold, her father being for many years a prominent citizen of Galesville and Gale Township. Mr. and Mrs. French have been the parents of three children: Henry Clinton, born Jan. 1, 1901; Miriam Helene, born April 12, 1902, and Arnold Stanley, born April 1, 1905. In politics Mr. French is a Republican but has not held office, having preferred so far to devote his time solely to his various business interests.

William K. Towner, owner of a flourishing farm in section 30, Caledonia Township, was born on the farm on which he now lives, Oct. 15, 1874, son of John C. and Margaret (Carleton) Towner. The father was born in Steuben County, N. Y., Aug. 29, 1830, and his wife Jan. 17, 1833, at Big Flat. Mr. and Mrs. Towner came as young people with their parents from New York to Wayne County, Michigan, and in that county were married. In 1859 they came west, settling in Trempealeau County, Wis., taking land in section 19, Caledonia Township. John C. Towner had come to the county a short time previously and selected his land and then returned to Michigan for his family in the winter of 1858-59, the early part of the latter year being the time of their settlement. The farm in section 19 was their residence until the fall of 1864, at which time John C. Towner bought 80 acres of wild land in section 30, Caledonia Township. On this he built a temporary shanty, in which he and his family lived during the winter of 1864-65. In the year last mentioned he erected the present residence, an upright, two-story dwelling of five rooms, to which a few years later a wing was added. After a long career of nearly 40 years as an agriculturist in this township, he died Feb. 2, 1905, at Eau Claire, Wis., his wife having preceded him, passing away Sept. 9, 1902, at West Prairie, Trempealeau County. They are both buried in Trempealeau Cemetery. Their family numbered eight children: Mary, Emma, Elmer, Clara, Milton, Lena, John and William K. With the exception of Mary all the children were born in Caledonia Township.

William K. Towner attended district school No. 3 until 12 years of age and subsequently spent one year in the graded school at Winona, Minn. From the age of 14 to that of 16 he attended winter school at Trempealeau Village, and then laid aside his school books to take up the active duties of life. He had already gained some knowledge of agriculture and remained on the farm with his father, from whom he leased it in 1896, continuing as a renter or lessee until 1900, in which year he bought the property. Feb. 23, 1898, he was united in marriage with Rennie S., daughter of Orlando M. and Laura F. Robinson, the ceremony being performed at the home of his mother and sister in Minneapolis, after which he brought his bride home to Caledonia Township. He is engaged in general farming and dairying, having a herd of grade Holstein cows, and selling his cream to the Galesville Creamery. His swine are of the Poland-China breed. The buildings on his farm are substantial and convenient and include a barn, corn crib, machine shed, hog house and a silo. Aside from his farm duties he is a stockholder in the Galesville Creamery. He has devoted some part of his time to public affairs, having served three years as treasurer

of school district No. 3 and eight years as clerk. As a progressive citizen he is alive to the best interests of the community and is one of those who may be counted upon to support a worthy cause, whether of a moral or material character. Since Jan. 25, 1900, he has been a member of Lotus Court, No. 3346, I. O. O. F., of Trempealeau. Mr. and Mrs. Towner have had three children born to them: Cary W., June 7, 1902, who is a student living at home; Albert R., April 12, 1907, also a student, and Laura Margaret, born May 19, 1913, who died in infancy. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Trempealeau, of which Mr. Towner is a trustee, his wife being a member of the Ladies' Aid Society of that denomination.

Horace N. Tobey, who is successfully engaged in farming and dairying in section 8, Trempealeau Township, was born in Tioga County, Pa., April 17, 1840. He resided in his native place until 1842, when his parents removed to Kalamazoo, Mich. The father, who was a carpenter by trade, worked at his trade there and in Galesburg, in that vicinity, until 1850, in which year he returned to Tioga, Pa., on account of his wife's health. Aug. 16, 1863, Horace N. Tobey, who was now of age, enlisted at Williamsport, Pa., for service in the Civil War. He had an adventurous career as a soldier, taking part in 14 engagements, including the battle of the Wilderness, Cold Harbor, Spottsylvania, and the North Anna, the capture of the Weldon Railroad, Hatches Run, both battles and charge on Petersburg, which were among the bloodiest of the war. He was fortunate, however, in that he was never wounded and never in a hospital, but was discharged from the service in good health at Elmira, N. Y., June 29, 1865, the war being then over. In 1868 he returned to the west with his parents, locating in Trempealeau Township, Trempealeau County, on what is now the Thomas Gibson farm. This property, which was improved, having good buildings, including a house and barn, he bought in company with his brother George, and subsequently they purchased together the A. Dutton farm in section 4, which was an unimproved tract of 80 acres. In 1884 Mr. Tobey and his brother dissolved partnership and Horace in 1885 bought his present homestead of 80 acres in section 8, Trempealeau Township. The place was partially improved, but in 1898 he erected the present residence, and in 1915 built a frame barn, 32 by 52 by 16 feet, and a silo, 12 by 38 feet. He has also improved the farm materially and brought it into a good state of cultivation, and besides general farming and dairying pays special attention to butter making, in all of which branches of farming he has been successful.

Mr. Tobey was married Oct. 28, 1866, to Harriet O. Beach of Tioga County, Pa., and of this union were born three children: Minnie, Sept. 23, 1867, at Tioga, Pa., who died in April, 1868; Raymond, Sept. 15, 1873, at Trempealeau, who married Ada Spalding and resides in Trempealeau Township; and Harriet, December 13, 1877, also at Trempealeau who married Frank Edwards and resides near Jacksonville, Fla. Mrs. Tobey died Dec. 13, 1877. Feb. 16, 1879, Mr. Tobey married for his second wife Lillie A. Merwin of Trempealeau, by whom he has had two children: Hazel, born Sept. 16, 1885, in Trempealeau, who is unmarried and living at home; and

Glenn, born March 5, 1890, at Trempealeau, who is also unmarried, and is manager of his father's farm. Mr. Tobey was reared in the Baptist faith, but is not identified with any church; his wife and daughter, however, are affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics Mr. Tobey is a Republican, but holds no public office. He is highly esteemed as a practical farmer and a good neighbor. For his services in the Civil War he receives a pension. He is a member of Ford Post, G. A. R.

Lars Quammen, a well known and respected citizen of Ettrick Township, was born in Hardanger, Norway, April 26, 1841, and came to America when a lad of 17 years, settling in Dane County, Wis. After working a while for others he became a land owner and farmer, and was there married to Anna Leland, who was born in Voss, Norway, Dec. 13, 1844. In 1875 they came to Trempealeau County, locating on the farm now owned by Edward L. Quammen, where the father and mother are still living, though he has been retired since 1901. During his years of activity he was a prominent citizen of the township and served at various times in local office. On July 1, 1916, Mr. and Mrs. Lars Quammen celebrated their golden wedding. They have been the parents of seven children: James, now deceased; Edward L., the present proprietor of the old homestead; Andrew and Louis, residing in Montana; Caroline, now Mrs. Henry Legreid of Ettrick Township; Albert, who is manager of the Farmers' Exchange at Blair, Wis., and Sena, who is a visiting nurse in Chicago, having formerly been nurse at the Cook County Hospital there.

Edward L. Quammen, proprietor of Elm Grove Farm of 123 acres in section 14, Ettrick Township, was born in Dane County, Wisconsin, Feb. 23, 1869, son of Lars and Anna (Leland) Quammen. He was the second born of his parents' children and was a child of six years when he came with the family to Trempealeau County in 1875. He was educated in the district school and early gained a knowledge of agriculture, helping his father as soon as he became old enough. When 18 years of age he began working in the north woods during the winter, continuing work on the home farm in the summer. In 1901, on his father's retirement, he bought the homestead, which consists of 123 acres of valuable land, and which he is operating as a general stock farm, making a specialty of Short-horn cattle, of which he has about 40 head. He is also a stockholder in the Ettrick Creamery, the Farmers' Exchange at Blair, the Ettrick Telephone Company, the Bank of Ettrick, the Ettrick Lumber Company and the Ettrick & Northern Railroad Company.

June 12, 1901, Mr. Quammen was united in marriage with Emma Rogne, who was born in Jackson County, Wisconsin, daughter of Ole and Eli (Grae) Rogne, both natives of Voss, Norway, who came to Trempealeau County before the Quammens located in Shake Hollow, Jackson County. Mr. Rogne, who was a farmer in Franklin Township, has been dead a number of years, but his wife is still living and resides on the old homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Quammen are the parents of three children: Lloyd Rogne, Alice Evelyn and Clifford Ernest, all of whom are attending school. The family are members of the Lutheran Synod Church. In politics Mr. Quammen is a Republican, but has not been active in local affairs. As a



LARS QUAMMEN AND FAMILY

stock farmer he is doing a prosperous business and is regarded as one of the substantial men of his township.

Joseph C. Stellpflug, a general farmer on 120 acres of land in section 25, Gale Township, was born in this township, Nov. 23, 1870. His parents were John and Sarah (Shonet) Stellpflug. The father, John Stellpflug, who was born in Germany, was a farmer by occupation. He came to the United States in 1853, resided in Milwaukee about seven years, and then, coming to Trempealeau County, located on Decorah Prairie, Gale Township, where he bought land and developed a farm. For a number of years he served as a member of the township board. His death, which took place about 1906, deprived the township of a worthy citizen and a good public official. His wife is still living and resides on the old home farm. Their family was a large one, numbering 14 children. Joseph C. was the third born in his parents' family. In his boyhood he attended the Grant school in Gale Township, where his future wife, Elizabeth Grant, was also a pupil. To her he was married Jan. 8, 1902, having spent the intervening years in working on his parents' farm and acquiring a good knowledge of agriculture. Miss Grant was a daughter of Robert and Jane (Dick) Grant, whose farm is located on Trempealeau Prairie, this county.

At the time of his marriage Joseph C. Stellpflug moved onto his present farm, on which he has since made numerous improvements, so that it is now a good piece of agricultural property, consisting of 120 acres of land, with substantial modern buildings and a full equipment of machinery and tools. Mr. Stellpflug carries on general farming and is also a stockholder in the La Crosse Packing Company, the Farmers' Exchange Elevator Company and the Farmers' Telephone Company. He and his wife have one child, Elizabeth, who was born Nov. 15, 1914. The family are affiliated religiously with the Roman Catholic Church, and he and his wife with the order of Yeomen. He also belongs to the C. O. F. In politics Mr. Stellpflug is independent and has not been active in local government matters, leaving that to others while he has devoted his entire attention to his farm. As the result of his industry he is prospering and he and his family are in comfortable circumstances.

Ole Sesvold, who is engaged in farming in section 30, Gale Township, was born in Sesvold, Norway, near the city of Christiania, March 6, 1865, son of Martin Evenson and Gurena Marthea Swanson, the father being a farmer. The parents, who never came to America, are both now deceased. Ole Sesvold was the second born in a family of eight children. He attended school in his native land and began to contribute to his own support when only 14 years of age as a worker on farms. When he was 22 he came to the United States, locating in Trempealeau County, where he found work on the farm of Ben Dale, and continued at that kind of work, and also as an employee in the brick kiln and lime kiln for 16 years. He then worked one year for the city of Galesville, after which he purchased his present farm of 60 acres on which he is engaged in general farming and stock raising. He has made some valuable improvements on the property. In 1903 he erected his present residence, which is a two-story brick building, constructed of brick, which he himself burned in the Dale brick yards, situated

a mile from his home. He also did the carpenter work himself. The house is a good modern building installed with all necessary equipment and conveniences. Ole Sesvold was married Dec. 26, 1902, to Mary Tronson, a native of the same locality in Norway as himself, and daughter of Andreas Tronson. Her mother died when she was a child of four years. Mr. and Mrs. Sesvold have four children: Minnie, Josephine, Esther and Oscar, all residing at home. Since coming to this country Mr. Sesvold has prospered as the result of industry and thrift, and has visited his old home in Norway a number of times. The family church is the Norwegian Lutheran.

Joshua Rhodes, a pioneer, was born in Yorkshire, England, March 21, 1827, son of Abraham and Elizabeth (Hinkle) Rhodes, also natives of that shire. He was there reared and in the summer of 1840 set out with his parents for America. After a voyage of several weeks aboard a sailing vessel they landed in New York, and found their way to Wisconsin, where they settled in Brighton, Kenosha County, in which place the parents spent the remainder of their lives, the town of Brighton being named in honor of the several Rhodes families that settled there, they bringing the name "Brighton" from England, a town by that name being in Yorkshire, where they migrated from. Joshua Rhodes lived in Kenosha County in 1850, and then went to Marquette County, where he took up a farm with a land warrant presented to him by his father. In 1853 he came to Trempealeau County, and settled in section 12, Caledonia Township, founding the locality which was afterward known as Rhodes' Station. Aside from this tract of 200 acres he secured various other tracts in Caledonia and Trempealeau Townships. At once upon his arrival he started developing the farm in section 12. He first erected a log cabin, 10 by 12, and lived a pioneer's life for a time with William Hanson as a companion. Then for a while, until his marriage in 1855, he lived alone. Bringing his bride to his cabin, he started life with new energy, and as time passed, he developed one of the best places in the community. He was prominent in community, township and county affairs, and he was highly honored by all who knew him. He was a man of broad sympathies, gentle toward the faults of others, but unswerving in the rules he made for his own conduct. Honest, upright, with a wide understanding of human nature, he left his impress on the life of the region in which he lived, and his family will never cease to cherish his memory. His death in Trempealeau Village Oct. 6, 1907, was sincerely mourned. As treasurer and chairman of the township, as clerk of his school district, as master of Burr Oak Grange during its entire existence, as treasurer of the Decorah Farmers' Alliance, and as president of the Trempealeau County Agricultural Society, his services were highly valued. Reared as an Episcopalean, he was a friend of all churches, and contributed liberally to their support. He was ever a faithful attendance upon church services, and required the same attention to duty on the part of his family.

Mr. Rhodes was first married Feb. 1, 1855, to Susan E. Stevens, daughter of Samuel and Lydia Stevens, natives of Vermont, and pioneers of North Bend, Jackson County, Wis. Mrs. Rhodes taught in the Bigelow school, district 2, the first school in Caledonia Township. Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes



MR. AND MRS. JOSHUA RHODES

were the parents of eight children: Mary A., Byron S., Ida J., Henry A., Albert J., William L., Charles W. and Cora N. Mary A. was born Nov. 14, 1857, married Charles Nelson, a native of Indiana. They have one son, Robert. They live on a part of the old home farm. Byron S. was born July 28, 1859, and died Feb. 27, 1879. Ida J. is the widow of John C. Polyblank, and lives in Caledonia Township. Her sketch appears elsewhere in this work. Henry A. was born April 14, 1863, and is now the proprietor of a department store in Tacoma, Wash. He married Birdella Booker of Ottawa, Ill., and they have two children: Vera and Edward, both living. Albert J., born Dec. 31, 1865, is the proprietor of a department store in Seattle, Wash. He married Harriet Williams of that state. William L. was born Oct. 14, 1867, married Claudia Altenberg of Trempealeau, is the proprietor of a five and ten-cent store at Seattle, Wash., and has two children: Florence and William. Charles W. was born April 7, 1871, married Lizzie Van Ingen of Trempealeau Township and is associated with his brother Henry in the department store at Tacoma. He has three children: Glen, Catherine and Kenneth. Cora N. was born Nov. 22, 1873, and died at the age of three years. Mrs. Susan F. (Stevens) Rhodes died Jan. 14, 1890, and in 1893 Mr. Rhodes married Julia Mabie, who survives and resides in Trempealeau Village.

John C. Polyblank, for many years a successful farmer of Caledonia Township, was born in Devonshire, England, July 16, 1855, son of J. C. and Mary (Lakeman) Polyblank. He was reared in England and came to America and Trempealeau County in 1871. About 1877 or 1878 he purchased 176 acres of land in section 36, Caledonia Township, from John Nicholls, who obtained it from the government. To this place he brought his bride in 1881, and here he lived until his lamented death, July 27, 1914. He was an active, vigorous man, and built up a good farm. To the original house he added until it is now a two-story structure with a large wing, and containing twelve comfortable and commodious rooms. The barn is 32 by 50 feet, the machine sheds 20 by 30, the two poultry houses 10 by 12, the milk house 8 by 10, and the ice house 12 by 14. The silo is 40 feet high and 12½ feet in diameter. There is also a swine house, corn crib and other structures. The farm is well fenced and cross fenced. One hundred acres are under the plow, while 76 acres are in timber and hay land. A specialty is made of breeding graded Guernsey cows. Since the death of her husband, Mrs. Polyblank has rented the place, but still continues to reside on it.

John C. Polyblank was married March 21, 1881, to Ida J. Rhodes, born in section 12, Caledonia Township, June 30, 1861, daughter of Joshua and Susan (Stevens) Rhodes. The ceremony was performed in the old home by the Rev. Grafton T. Owen, then pastor of the Congregational church at Trempealeau. Mr. and Mrs. Polyblank have had five daughters: Cora M., Ruth M., Mabel L., Nina D. and Evelyn I. Cora M. was born Dec. 31, 1881, married Frank Bain, who holds a very responsible position in the A. J. Rhodes' department store in Seattle, and has one son, Albert. Ruth M. was born May 16, 1884, and has been a teacher for some twelve years past. She is now living with her mother and teaching in district 3. Mabel L.,

born March 13, 1886, was graduated from the high schools of Trempealeau and Winona, State Normal school, and has been a teacher for some six years. She now teaches at Elmore, Minn. Nina D. was born June 17, 1887, married Asa Gibbs, a farmer of Caledonia Township, and has two children: Ethel and Jack. Ethel I., born May 3, 1899, was graduated from the Trempealeau high school. She is now the wife of Lars Gjeide.

Mrs. Polybank is a lady of many accomplishments. After passing through the district schools, she attended the Trempealeau high school and the Gale College. She has been prominent in the affairs of the Congregational church, has reared her family to that faith, and has taught in the Sunday school for many years.

Mark R. Hewitt, who is engaged in farming and stock raising in section 2, Gale Township, is a man who has had an active and interesting career. He was born at Midway, La Crosse County, June 14, 1879, son of John Charles and Margaret (Stilts) Hewitt. Mark R. was educated in schools at Midway and La Crosse, Wis. At the age of 17 years he began working in a saw mill and lumbering in the woods. In 1898, when he was still under age, the Spanish-American war broke out, and he enlisted, though without his parents' consent, in Company C, Twelfth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, at Winona, Minn., and was stationed at New Ulm and St. Paul about five weeks, going later to Georgia and Tennessee. His service lasted six months and he was then mustered out at New Ulm. During the following winter he worked on the farm, and was then engaged in rafting on the river for about three months, with headquarters at La Crosse. After this he spent some time in harvesting and threshing in North Dakota, the next winter working in the woods of northern Wisconsin. His next employment, during the summer, was log driving on the upper Chippewa River; then lumbering again in the winter at Mountain Iron, 100 miles north of Duluth. Mr. Hewitt then changed the scene of his activities to the Hood River, Oregon, where he spent some time lumbering in the woods at the foot of Mt. Hood. About July 4, 1903, he returned to Trempealeau County, but left soon for North Dakota, where he worked in the harvest fields. In the fall of 1903 he and his brother Charles purchased the old home farm, the winter, however, being spent by him in the lumber woods. The cold weather over, he returned to the farm in Gale Township, where he has since remained, engaged for the most part in agricultural work, with the exception spent in carpentering and three summers in hauling freight between Galesville and Ettrick. He has 160 acres of land highly improved, with modern buildings and every necessary or desirable convenience. The size of his barn is 36 by 80 feet, with 24-foot posts, it too being equipped with all necessary apparatus. Aside from his general farming operations, Mr. Hewitt is engaged in raising pure-bred Chester-White hogs and is a member of the Chester-White Association. He also carries on dairying successfully, and is a stockholder in the Ettrick Creamery and in the Ettrick & Northern Railway. In 1906 he homesteaded land in North Dakota, which he sold a year later. In that same year, in the month of March, he was married to Stella Casey, who was born in Ettrick, Trempealeau County, Wis., daughter of Morris and Helen (Daily) Casey. He

and his wife have one child: Vivian E. They are both members of the Eastern Star lodge, Mr. Hewitt being also a member of the Blue Lodge of Masons at Galesville, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Spanish-War Veterans' Association. In politics he is an independent Republican, his religious affiliations being with the Presbyterian church. He has held some local offices, having served as constable two years and as road superintendent of Gale Township.

Charles F. Hewitt, proprietor of a good farm of 200 acres, 140 acres of which lie in Gale Township, and the balance in Ettrick, his residence being in section 2, Gale township, was born at Nelson, near Alma, Buffalo County, Wis., Feb. 4, 1875, son of John Charles and Margaret (Stilts) Hewitt. Charles F. Hewitt was the third eldest in a family of six children. In his youth he attended district school in La Crosse County, and afterward the Wisconsin Business University at La Crosse. He accompanied his parents to the farm in Gale and Ettrick Townships and has resided on it ever since. In 1901 he took charge of the property and has continued to operate it up to the present time, with the exception of three years, during which time he had it let out to a renter. The land is valuable and produces good crops, and Mr. Hewitt has added from time to time to the improvements, until it now has all necessary buildings. He is also a stockholder in the Ettrick Creamery Company and the Ettrick & Northern Railway Company. Mr. Hewitt was married, April 5, 1899, to Jerusha Casey, who was born in Ettrick Township, daughter of Maurice and Helen (Daily) Casey. His fraternal affiliations are with the Blue Lodge of Masons and the Modern Woodmen of America, Mrs. Hewitt belonging to the Royal Neighbors. He is now State oil inspector.

Charles Adolph Sesvold, who is engaged in farming in section 35, Gale Township, was born near Christiania, Norway, July 15, 1871, son of Martin Evenson and Gurena Marthea Swanson, the parents being farming people. He was educated in his native land and at the age of 18 years came to America, locating in Trempealeau County, where he and his brother Ole settled. Here he entered the employ of Ben Dale of Gale Township, for whom he worked for three and a half years. At the end of that time, having saved some money, he purchased a farm near the Dale homestead and engaged in agriculture for himself. This place was Mr. Sesvold's home until 1915, and on it he made extensive improvements. In August of the year last mentioned he purchased a residence property in Galesville, moving his family to it for the winter in order that his children might have good school advantages. In the spring of 1916 Mr. Sesvold bought his present farm, moving onto it in April and beginning improvements which in time will greatly increase its value. The farm contains 131 acres and Mr. Sesvold is engaged thereon in general farming, of which he has a thorough knowledge. It is his intention that his family shall reside in the village during the winters for the sake of the school and other advantages. Aside from his immediate farming interests he is a stockholder in a company operating a threshing outfit. June 27, 1896, Mr. Sesvold was united in marriage with Ragna Hougstad, a native of Norway, and daughter of Hans and Gunel (Bratsven) Hougstad. He and his wife have eight

children: Herman and Melvin, who are in the employ of Ivan G. Dale; Gustave, Melva, Agnes, Marion, Alfred and Laura residing at home. Mr. Sesvold and family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church. In politics he is a Republican, but has not been active in public affairs, nor taken any part in politics beyond casting his vote.

Parley Stoner, an early resident of the town of Gale, and a veteran of the Civil War, whose death was a loss to the community in which he lived, was born in Hancock County, Illinois, Aug. 25, 1843, son of David and Ann (Dean) Stoner. His parents were both born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, in 1817. The father was a practical farmer, and very successful at his chosen occupation. He with his wife and family came to Wisconsin in 1846, locating at Mineral Point, Iowa County, where he was subsequently engaged in farming until his death in 1895, his wife having died some years before. They had a family of nine children, of whom Parley was the second in order of birth. Parley Stoner in his boyhood attended school at Linden, Iowa County, Wis., and resided at home until he was 19 years of age. Then, in 1861, he enlisted in Company E, Eleventh Wisconsin Volunteers, with which organization he served until the close of the war. He was never wounded, but was confined to the hospital for awhile as the result of a fall. His regiment formed a part of the Army of the West, and with it he participated in some fierce battles. His period of service ended with the close of the war and he then returned home. Sept. 2, 1866, he was married to Elizabeth Ayer, who was born at Mineral Point, Wis., June 26, 1847, daughter of Jonas and Leah (Nutting) Ayer. Her parents were natives of Maine, who came to Wisconsin about 1840, locating at Mineral Point, where Mr. Ayer engaged in farming, in which occupation he continued there until health failed, when he moved to La Crosse County and lived with his children. He died in April, 1879, and his wife in 1893. They had 12 children, of whom their daughter Elizabeth was one of the younger. After his marriage Parley Stoner settled with his wife in La Crosse County, which was his home for 16 years. He followed the river until 1884, being engaged in logging, in which work he became very expert, knowing all the ins and outs of the business, and being familiar with Black River from its sources to its mouth. In 1884 Mr. Stoner purchased the farm in the southern part of Gale Township, which has since been known as the Stoner, or Black River View Farm, and where his wife is now living, and here he settled down to agriculture. This farm, which contains 200 acres, he operated until his death, May 21, 1916. Severe campaigning in the army, followed by exposure on the river, had made him an early victim of rheumatism, and the trouble grew more aggravating with advancing years, until about ten years before his death he became incapacitated for active work. Occasionally he rode to town in his crippled condition and visited old friends, but in his last years he was confined to his home. His sufferings at the last were intensified by a diseased foot, resulting in gangrene. For this an operation was performed at the Lutheran hospital in La Crosse, but his case was hopeless. Mr. and Mrs. Stoner were the parents of nine children: Jessie, wife of John Smith, a railroad engineer residing at Ottumwa, Iowa; Esther, now deceased, who



GEORGE HAMMOND AND FAMILY

was the wife of Edward De Pooler of Minneapolis, also deceased; Clara, now living, who was the second wife of Edward De Pooler; Susannah, unmarried, residing in Trempealeau County; Polly, wife of Bert McQuain of Minneapolis; Charles, baggage master for the Northwestern Railway Company at Galesville; Harley, who is operating the home farm, his mother residing with him, and Clifford, residing in Galesville and in the employ of William Hegge, bridge contractor. Parley Stoner will long be remembered as a man of sterling qualities. In his younger days he was an athlete. He could hold his own with any of the strong men on the river. He was courageous to recklessness and in every way was a friend worth having. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, also of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Grand Army of the Republic. Mrs. Stoner joined the same church before she was 16 years of age and has always remained a faithful member of it.

George Hammond, proprietor of an excellent dairy farm of 176 acres in sections 19 and 20, Gale Township, was born at Barnbydun, Yorkshire, England, Feb. 25, 1856. His parents, George and Mary Ann (Wittels) Hammond, were natives of the same place, the father being a farmer. They came to America in 1858 and after residing in Canada for 18 months came on to Trempealeau County in 1860, locating in Big Tamarac Valley. Here George Hammond, Sr., bought land and in course of time developed a farm, which he later sold, moving to Jackson County. Three years later he returned to Trempealeau County and took a farm in Gale Township, on which, however, he lived only 18 months. He then returned to Little Tamarac Valley, settling on another farm, which was his home until a short time before his death, as the last three months of his life were spent at the home of his son George. He died in October, 1907, and his wife about two years later. His life was devoted to farming and he took no part in public affairs, but was esteemed as a good neighbor and reliable citizen. George Hammond, second, the direct subject of this sketch, was the third born in a family of nine children. His schooling was somewhat limited and was obtained in Galesville and in Melrose, Jackson County. He began to work out on farms at the early age of ten years, living at home a part of the time, and continued to do so for a number of years. At the age of 22, having saved money, he bought land. When 25 he married and later purchased a farm near Ettrick, which he operated for about four years. He then sold it and bought his present place of 176 acres, less than two miles from the city limits of Galesville. On this he has made a number of valuable improvements, having erected modern buildings, including a fine barn, which is one of the best in this locality. He is carrying on a good dairying business and is also engaged in breeding Guernsey cattle successfully, having selected this as his favorite stock.

Nov. 8, 1883, Mr. Hammond was united in marriage with Mary Speier, who was born at Spring Prairie, Wolworth County, Wis., daughter of Jacob and Josephine (Langenohl) Speier. Her parents were natives of Germany, who came to Trempealeau County from Walworth County, having previously resided at Green Bay. On coming here they settled in Gale Township, about four miles from Galesville, and farmed for a number of

years before their death. Mr. and Mrs. Hammond are the parents of seven children: Mary Josephine, wife of George Kells, a contractor and builder residing in Gale Township; Christine G., wife of Ben Deeren, proprietor of a bicycle and motorcycle repair shop in Winona, Minn.; Lois Jeanette, unmarried, and a teacher in Trempealeau County; Lawrence Jacob, who married Nellie Eng and resides on the Hammond farm, assisting his father; Warren Lewis, unmarried, and living at home; and John and Vilas, who died in infancy. Mr. Hammond and his family are affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics he is an independent Republican, but, like his father, has never taken an active part in public affairs, being content with casting his vote.

John Sutcliffe, a well known resident of section 33, Trempealeau Township, was born in the old log house on his father's farm, Feb. 19, 1858, son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Rhodes) Sutcliffe. His parents were both born in England, the father in Halifax, Yorkshire, Aug. 9, 1821. They came to this country single and were married in Marquette County, Wisconsin. Between 1852 and 1854 they came to Trempealeau County, Thomas Sutcliffe buying 160 acres of unimproved land in section 33, Trempealeau Township. As there were no buildings on it, he put up a log house and barn, later building a second log house, hewn inside and out and sheeted inside and out with lumber. It was one and a half stories in height and is still standing, being now used as an ice house. It was in this building that the subject of this sketch was born. In 1866 Thomas Sutcliffe built a square brick house, two stories high and with 10 rooms, which is still standing and is now occupied. He also purchased an additional 80 acres of land adjoining the home farm, making 280 acres in all. He cleared, fenced and developed this farm until he had transformed it into a good piece of agricultural property, and here he died Feb. 19, 1903. He had been a widower for some years previous to his death, his wife having passed away on the home farm. They are both buried in Evergreen Cemetery. Their family was not large, consisting only of five children, one of whom died in infancy. The others, who are living, are: Phoebe Ann and Sarah Jane, both unmarried, and John. Franklin died at the age of 33 years. Phoebe Ann, who is John's senior by four years, resides in Galesville, Wis. Sarah Jane, who is two years younger than John, lived in Winona, Minn., several years, but is now a resident of Plainview, Minn.

John Sutcliffe acquired his education in district school No. 9, Trempealeau Township, which he attended from the age of seven to that of 14, regularly, and afterwards during the winters until he was 20 years old. With the exception of about one year, six months of which he spent in North Dakota and the other six months in Chicago, he has resided all his life on the home farm, of which he became the owner at his father's death, purchasing the interests of the other heirs. When he took possession of it there were 250 acres of the farm under the plow, the balance of 30 acres being in pasture and timber land. After carrying on this farm until February, 1911, the subject of this sketch sold it, except a small tract of four acres, on which stands a comfortable house, which is his present residence. In March, 1917, he bought back 105½ acres of the old farm, which he



GEORGE B. SHONATT AND FAMILY

now operates. This makes him 109½ acres. Here he lives alone, having never married. He is practically retired and is a great lover of the woods and their inhabitants, taking pleasure and recreation in the study of Nature and her works. In politics he is a Republican, but has not held office.

George B. Shonat, a well known farmer residing in section 1, Gale township, was born in Oswego County, New York, Dec. 31, 1844, son of George and Abigail (Like) Shonat. The father was born in Germany Feb. 3, 1810, and came to America when a young man. In his native land he had learned the shoemaker's and carpenter's trades, so was well equipped to succeed in a country where skilled labor was in demand. In New York, however, where he stayed for a while, he at first found the labor market somewhat crowded, and not being able to find remunerative work immediately at either of his trades, he took the first employment he could find, which was in New York City, that of gathering bones for a sugar refinery with a wheelbarrow. Later he worked on a farm for \$7 a month and his board. After some experience in this kind of work he went to Madison County, New York, where also he worked for farmers and continued to do so until he was able to purchase a small farm in the town of Monroe, Oswego County, having previously, however, worked for awhile in Columbia County. After awhile he gave up farming temporarily to become engineer in a sawmill. In 1852 he joined the westward tide of emigration, arriving in Milwaukee July 1 of that year. There he hired two teams to take him and his goods to Waupun, Wis., where on arriving, he rented land and worked for others for two years. Then, in the fall of 1853, he came to Trempealeau County and entered land that now forms a part of Mr. Shonat's present farm, moving onto it in the fall of 1855, November 24. During the intervening years he was engaged in farming in Dodge County, Wisconsin. After beginning farming on his own place he spent his winters in hauling logs and such other work as he could do during the cold season, so kept busy all the year round. This farm was his home for the rest of his life, his death taking place here in 1887. He served as assessor in his township for a number of years and in early days was a member of the school board. His wife survived him about eleven years, dying in 1898. They had two children: George B., subject of this sketch, and Sarah F., who is now the widow of John Stellflug.

George B. Shonat first attended school in his native state of New York, afterwards the district school of Decorah Prairie, this county, and subsequently Gale University, now Gale College. He resided on the home farm until his marriage, which event, occurring Nov. 11, 1863, united him with Nettie Dewar, who was born in Scotland, Jan. 21, 1844, daughter of James and Anna Gordon (Harriss) Dewar. Her parents, who were also natives of Scotland, came to America in 1853, settling first in lower Canada, near Montreal, from which place in a short time they came to the United States and located in Waukesha County, Wisconsin, where Mr. Dewar engaged in agriculture. In 1861 he and his family came to Trempealeau County, locating in Big Tamarac Valley, where the mother died in the spring of that year. James Dewar subsequently left the county and died

finally in St. Louis. His daughter Nettie was engaged in teaching previous to her marriage. A year after that event Mr. Shonat built a house on a recently purchased farm in Gale Township, and he, with his wife and family, resided there for 24 years. He then purchased his present farm, adjoining his old home, and located in section 1. Here he has resided since 1894, having at present 145 acres of land. His farm was formerly much larger, as he has sold 185 acres to his son, W. R. Shonat. He is a stockholder in the La Crosse Packing Company and was one of the first stockholders in the Galesville Creamery at Arctic Springs. In 1889 Mr. Shonat engaged in buying stock and in June, 1892 shipped the first carload of stock bred by himself. Since that time he has been engaged practically all the time in buying for himself or others and dealing in and shipping stock, and has been very successful in these various enterprises. In politics he is a Democrat and is now serving in his ninth year as assessor of Gale Township, having also served on the township board for a number of years and as school clerk for 10 years. He and his wife are the parents of eight children: Warner R., who resides in Galesville; Anna May, wife of Robert S. Cook, residing in La Crosse county; Abbie E., wife of A. D. Burnett, a hardware merchant at Spooner, Wis.; Catherine A., residing at home; N. Blanche, also residing at home, who was also a teacher; Mary Esther, a teacher residing in Spooner, Wis.; Archie, who is a civil engineer in the employ of the Northwestern Railroad Company, and who is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin; and George Martin, who died at the age of 14 months in 1883.

Andrew M. Hellekson. One of the best improved farms in Ettrick Township is that of Andrew M. Hellekson in section 21, a farm of 240 acres, with buildings and equipment indicating even to the casual eye the enterprise and thrift of its owner. Mr. Hellekson is a native of Wisconsin, having been born in the city of Racine, Aug. 21, 1870, son of Ellef and Christe (Nelson) Hellekson. His father was born in Kragerö, Norway, Sept. 21, 1832, his mother being a native of the same place. The latter died when the subject of this sketch was 1 year old, and Ellef Hellekson subsequently married for his second wife Mrs. Johanna Halverson. From the age of 14 years he had followed the occupation of a sailor, before the Civil War on the ocean, during which period he visited most of the maritime countries of the world. He was still a young man when he came to the United States, and here he remained, for some time sailing the Great Lakes. The great city of Chicago, which he visited, attracted him and he made it his home, residing there until about 1887, in which year he made a sudden change in his occupation and manner of life, coming to Trempealeau County, Wis., and settling on the farm now owned by his son Andrew M. On a part of this farm he and his wife are still living, after spending many years in the cultivation of the soil, though now retired.

Andrew M. Hellekson was the youngest of four children. His boyhood was largely spent in the city of Chicago, where he attended the Maplewood school. At the age of 14 years he began industrial life in Chicago, first as a door boy in a furniture store, from which position he was advanced to that of collector for the same firm. He remained with the concern until



A. M. HELLESON AND FAMILY

1887, in which year he came to Trempealeau County with his father, with whom he remained practically all of the time, except for three winters, when he again worked in Chicago. While at home he was practically the manager of the farm from the time he came here, and is now its owner. It consists of 240 acres, 60 acres of which he has cleared. He gives particular attention to raising seeds of barley, rye, corn and oats from selected plants for market purposes and for a number of years he has been engaged successfully in breeding Guernsey cattle, milking 20 cows. Aside from the immediate profits of his farm, he is a stockholder in the Ettrick Creamery, the Bank of Ettrick, the Ettrick & Northern Railroad, the Farmers' Elevator in Blair, of which he was a former director, the La Crosse Packing Company, the Ettrick Lumber Company and the Farmers' Telephone Company, of which he is president. In 1916 Mr. Hellekson built a fine modern residence, both commodious and attractive in appearance and provided with practically all modern facilities and conveniences, and most of the important improvements on the farm, including the neat and substantial buildings, have been put up by him. He has served as county secretary of the American Society of Equity, and was one of the organizers of the society in this county, and is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. In politics independent, he has performed some public service, including two years as supervisor and three years as clerk of the school board. June 27, 1893, Mr. Hellekson was united in marriage with Sena Herreid, daughter of Gilbert and Ingeborg Herreid. He and his wife are the parents of six children: John Andrew, who is official tester at the State Agricultural College at Madison; Ida Josephine, residing at home; Ella Gertrude, who is attending the La Crosse School of Agriculture, at Onalaska; Charles Edgar, Emma Sophia and Lawrence Goodwin, residing at home. Mr. Hellekson and his family are members of Beaver Creek United Lutheran church. Through his own enterprise and industry, coupled with good judgment, he has achieved prosperity and attained an honorable place in the community as one of its substantial and reliable citizens. His children are receiving the advantage of a good education to qualify them to make their own way in life and all promise to be a credit to the family name.

Tosten G. Herreid, who owns and operates Pleasant View Farm of 200 acres in section 17, Ettrick Township, was born in Dane County., Wis., near Stoughton, Oct. 31, 1857, son of Gilbert and Ingaborg Torgersdatter (Twinde) Herreid. His parents were natives of Norway, the father born at Hardanger, Bergenstift, June 23, 1836, and the mother at Vosse Nangen, March 20, 1832. Gilbert Herreid came to the United States in the spring of 1857, locating in Dane County, Wis., where he engaged in farming, and in 1863 came to Trempealeau County, locating in Ettrick Township, where he homesteaded land and improved and developed it into a good farm. There his death took place in December, 1914. His wife is still residing on the homestead. Their family numbered nine children, of whom Tosten G. was the oldest. Tosten G. Herreid acquired his education in the local schools of Ettrick Township. He resided at home until he was 25 years old and then bought land in Ettrick Township, farming that place for 13 years. He then sold it and purchased his present farm, which consists

of 200 acres of valuable land and which he is operating in a general way, raising various crops and breeding Hereford cattle from pure-bred sires. He has greatly improved the property, having erected modern barns and other necessary buildings, and is doing a successful business. Feb. 19, 1880, Mr. Herreid was united in marriage with Ragnhild Bue, who was born in Hardanger, Norway, daughter of Tosten and Anna (Kjarland) Bue, her parents being natives of the same place. Tosten Bue was born March 6, 1820, and his wife in 1824. They came to the United States in 1866, and within one week after landing in this country the wife died. Mr. Bue continued west to Winnesheik County, Iowa, where he remained some years, or until 1873, when he came to Ettrick Township, Trempealeau County, Wis., and homesteaded land on which he resided until his death in 1886. He and his wife had a family of nine children.

Mr. and Mrs. Herreid have been the parents of seven children: Gilbert Theodore, unmarried and now living in one of the more Western States; Anna Emelia, wife of John Instenes, a farmer of Ettrick Township; Carl Alfred (the second born), who died in infancy; Clara Martena, wife of Louis Instenes, a farmer residing at Hegg, this township; Andrew Julius, residing at home; Selmer Imanuel, who died in childhood, and Selma Regina, who graduated at the Galesville High School and is now a teacher in Trempealeau County. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

John H. Schaller is one of the enterprising farmers of Gale Township, where he has resided about eight years, following agriculture and raising stock, and is doing a prosperous business. He was born at Freeburg, Houston County, Minn., Sept. 14, 1866, son of John C. and Katherine (Fetzner) Schaller. Both parents were natives of Germany, the father born at Heidelberg June 30, 1838, and the mother at Oberkronbach, Germany, June 30, 1843. When a lad of 6 years John C. Schaller came to America with his parents, George and Katherine (Margaart) Schaller, who settled in Steubenville, Ohio, just across the Ohio River from Brook County, W. Va., and a few miles above Wheeling, that State. George Schaller was a miller and operated a mill there for a number of years, coming to Minnesota with his family in 1855. In the latter State John C. was reared, and after learning the miller's trade from his father, followed it there until the fall of 1889, when he moved to La Crosse County, Wis., and engaged in the sawmill business. After being thus occupied for some three years, he returned to flour milling, for seven or eight years operating a mill in Mormon Coolie, La Crosse County. He then went to Fairmont, Minn., where he followed the same business for two years. At the end of that time he purchased an interest in the Hartford Milling Company, of Hartford, S. D., where he is still engaged in that business with the same company. His wife died May 30, 1914. They were married April 12, 1863, and celebrated their golden wedding April 12, 1913. The grandparents of our subject, George and Katherine (Margaart) Schaller, celebrated their golden wedding in 1879.

John H. Schaller was the second born in a family of eight children. At the age of 17 years he was employed in the capacity of wheat buyer for the mills in South Dakota, and, not being able to follow the miller's trade,



W. A. SMITH AND FAMILY

continued buying grain until his marriage in 1890. He then entered the service of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway, being employed as fireman for some seven years, running between La Crosse and Milwaukee. At the end of that time, on account of defective hearing, he was obliged to give up railroad work, but found a position as watchman and fireman in the Federal Building at La Crosse, which he held for nine years and two months. He then took a farm on Silver Creek, Trempealeau County, and operated it for three years. For two and a half years following he operated other farms, and then took his present place, where he has 138 acres of good land and is engaged in dairy and stock farming, doing a profitable business, the advantage of which accrues to himself, instead of working for others. In politics, while usually voting the Republican ticket, he exercises the right of independent judgment. He has served for a number of years as clerk of School District No. 6. In religion he is a Catholic.

June 3, 1890, Mr. Schaller was married to Josephine Schwarzhoff, who was born in Highlandville, Minn., daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Pepper) Schwarzhoff. Her father was born in Westphalia, Germany, Oct. 5, 1836, and was a miller and merchant. He came to this country in 1853, settling at Highlandville, where he grew to manhood and was engaged in business for some ten years. He then removed to Burgen, Iowa, where the rest of his life was spent in the milling and mercantile business. His wife, who was born in Kleinraken, Germany, Sept. 5, 1843, is now living in Galesville. They were the parents of four children, of whom Josephine was the youngest. Mr. and Mrs. Schaller are the parents of six children: Alletta Marie, born March 25, 1891, wife of Rainnie Lun, a farmer residing on Silver Creek, Gale Township; Arthur Joseph, born Sept. 1, 1892; Charles Leo, born Sept. 13, 1894; Herman John, born June 29, 1896; George Dewey, born May 15, 1898, and La Verne Alexander, born Aug. 30, 1908, the last five mentioned all residing at home. Mr. Schaller belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and also to the B. of L. F. & E., being the oldest past president of this lodge.

William A. Smith, who is engaged in farming in section 34, Gale Township, was born in Walworth County, Wis., June 26, 1864, son of William and Mary (Wagner) Smith. His parents were born and married in Germany and came to the United States in the early '50s, locating in Walworth County, Wis., where William Smith engaged in farming. Subsequently he and his wife came to Trempealeau County and for the first two years occupied a rented farm. He then homesteaded land three and a half miles north of Galesville and resided on that farm until his death, which took place in the latter '80s. He was of a well-to-do family in Germany, and when a young man had run away from home to enter the German army, in which he served seven years. His wife survived him a number of years, dying in 1911. Their family numbered six children, of whom William A. was the fifth in order of birth. William A. Smith attended school in the George Smith District in Trempealeau County and was reared on his parents' farm, where he worked when only 14 years old. He remained at home and assisted his parents until he was 26, at times working out at teaming and other work in order to keep busy earning something, these

industrial activities being carried on mostly in the neighborhood of Galesville. Being thrifty and economical, he saved money, so that at last he was able to purchase a house in Galesville, where he took up his residence and engaged in the dray and transfer business, being thus occupied until 1914. He then bought his present farm, consisting of 48 acres of valuable land, on which he has made practically all the improvements, and to which he now devotes practically all of his time, though still retaining possession of his property in Galesville. Mr. Smith was married, July 1, 1899, to Bertha Olson, who was born near Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wis., daughter of Targe and Bertha (Olson) Olson. Her parents were natives of Norway, the father born in 1834 and the mother Dec. 29, 1849. They came to the United States when young and unmarried and settled in Trempealeau County, Wis., about seven miles west of Galesville in Big Tamarac Valley, where Targe Olson engaged in farming. He died 1901, but his wife is still living and resides on the old farm. They had a large family, numbering eleven children. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are the parents of one child, Roy Theodore, who was born June 15, 1901. The family are attendants of the Lutheran church. Mr. Smith is a member of the Order of Beavers, while Mrs. Smith is a member of the Royal Neighbors.

Edward Christian Elliason, who is conducting a farm of 300 acres in section 25, Gale Township, was born in Layton, Norway, Jan. 31, 1865, son of Peter and Martha (Christenson) Elliason. His parents, also natives of Norway, came to America in 1869, locating in Lewis Valley, La Crosse County, where Peter Elliason, who was a tanner by trade, engaged in farming, residing there until his death, April 7, 1915. His wife died in June, 1896. Edward C. Elliason, subject of this sketch, was the eldest of five children. He attended school in Farmington Township, La Crosse County, and also had the advantage of some home instruction. Residing at home practically all of the time until his marriage at the age of 22 years, he then worked on a farm for one year, and afterward went to La Crosse, where for three years he was employed at the Wheland Cedar Works. Subsequently he went on a farm near Holman, where he resided five years, at the end of which time he came to the vicinity of Glasgow, Trempealeau County, and in 1908 purchased his present farm of 300 acres, on which he is carrying on general farming. He is also a stockholder in a threshing and shredding outfit, in the Farmers' Exchange at Galesville, the La Crosse Packing Company and the Independent Harvester Company, of Plano, Ill. On Nov. 23, 1887, Mr. Elliason was united in marriage to Katherine Wilson, who was born in La Crosse Valley, La Crosse County, daughter of James and Jeanette (Barkley) Wilson, her parents being natives of Scotland. James Wilson was born Nov. 22, 1817, and his wife in 1832. They were married in their native land and came to La Crosse County, Wis., at an early date, Mr. Wilson taking a homestead, on which he was engaged in farming until his death in 1878; his wife died in 1882. Their family numbered nine children, of whom their daughter Katherine was the second in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Elliason are the parents of three children: Wilson Peter, born June 12, 1889; Malcolm Howard, born Dec. 28, 1893, and Edward Kilmor, born Aug. 16, 1896. Mr. Elliason is a member of the American

Society of Equity, and, with his family, belongs to the Lutheran church. In politics he is independent, but usually votes the Republican ticket.

Bernt O. Evenson, who is engaged in general agriculture on a farm of 154 acres in section 33 E, Gale Township, was born in Ringseger, Norway, Nov. 25, 1864, son of Ole and Mary (Hovey) Evenson, who were natives of the same place. The parents came to America with their family in 1867, locating in Holland Township, La Crosse County, Wis., where the father died about 18 months later. His wife remained in La Crosse County until 1888, buying land in Stevens Township, that county, in 1875. From 1888 to 1895, in which year her death took place, she resided in Trempealeau County with her two sons, Andrew and Bernt O.

The subject of this sketch was the third born of four children. He attended school in Stevens Township, La Crosse County, and began industrial life at the early age of 9 years, being employed by neighboring farmers to herd cows and do other jobs of which he was capable, and in time he became a regular farm hand. When 22 years old he began working on Black River, having charge of a log driving crew. After being thus occupied for two summers he and his brother Andrew bought a farm in Gale Township, which they operated together until the death of their mother. Bernt O. then sold his interest in the property and bought his present farm, which was partly cultivated, and on which he has cleared 35 additional acres. He has also made a number of improvements on the place, his buildings being modern in construction and equipment. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Exchange at Galesville, the Arctic Springs Creamery and the Independent Harvester Company at Plano, Ill., also a stockholder in the Farmers' and Merchants' State Bank at Galesville.

Sept. 26, 1890, Mr. Evenson was united in marriage with Anna Ekern, who was born in Gale Township, this county, daughter of Andrew and Olena (Emonson) Ekern. Her parents were born in Biri, Norway, the father May 19, 1834, and the mother Aug. 8, 1838. Andrew Ekern came to the United States when a young man, settling in Coon Valley, Vernon County, Wis., where he bought land. Later, while yet a single man, he moved to Lewis Valley, Holland Township, La Crosse County, where he engaged in farming and was there married. Coming subsequently to Trempealeau County, he homesteaded land adjoining the farm now owned by his son-in-law, Mr. Evenson. Andrew Ekern developed the farm which is now operated by his son, Gustav Ekern. He was a man of intelligence and force of character and at different times held local office. He died Nov. 18, 1916, and his wife died March 29, 1914. They were the parents of six children, of whom their daughter Anna was the fourth in order of birth. She was educated in the Norwegian parochial school. Mr. and Mrs. Evenson have five children: Odell Augustus, Orville Milford, Arthur Marvin, Emma Augusta and Roy Chester. Mr. Evenson belongs to the Order of Beavers. He has served as treasurer of the school board for six years and for a number of years as road overseer, rendering good service in each capacity. In politics he is independent, with a leaning towards the Republican party. He and his family are members of the Lutheran church at Hardie's Creek. Industrious and enterprising, he is one of those who have the ability to extract

wealth from the soil, and is doing his full part in developing the agricultural resources of his township.

Alfred Edward Emerson, a well-known agriculturist of Gale Township, was born at North Bend, Jackson County, Wis., July 8, 1880, son of Henry and Mary (Gilbertson) Emerson. His parents were natives of Norway, but were married in Wisconsin. Henry Emerson was 12 years old when he accompanied his parents to the United States. They settled in Wisconsin, in which State he grew to manhood. In time he purchased land at North Bend and engaged in farming, which was his occupation for many years. He died on his farm in April, 1911. His wife died May 2, 1917. They had six children, of whom Alfred E. was next to the youngest.

Alfred E. Emerson resided with his parents until he was 26 years old, at which time, a year or two previous to his marriage, he bought his present farm and engaged in agriculture on his own account. He has 220 acres of improved land, with good modern buildings and equipment, practically all the improvements having been made by himself. He carries on general farming very successfully and is now one of the prosperous and substantial citizens of his township. Besides this, he is a stockholder in the La Crosse Packing Company. Mr. Emerson was first married in 1908 to Katie Stellpflug, who was born in Gale Township, a daughter of John and Sarah (Shonat) Stellpflug. She died Nov. 5, 1909, leaving one child, Bernard, who is now attending school.

In March, 1911, Mr. Emerson married for his second wife Abbie Stellpflug, a sister of his first wife. By her he has had two children, Valeria Frances and Flavian John, both of whom are living. Mr. Emerson is a member of the Order of Beavers and of the Foresters, and is a Catholic in religion.

James A. Marsh, one of the up-to-date and thriving farmers of Trempealeau Township, was born at Waukegan, Ill., Jan. 24, 1861, son of John A. and Catherine (Haynes) Marsh. The father was born in the County of Kent, England, in 1835, and came to the United States in 1857 at the age of 22 years. Stopping for a while in Michigan, he went on to Waukegan, Ill., where he remained until 1863. In the year 1860 he met and married Catherine Hayes, of Kenosha, Wis. It was in 1863 that he made his advent in Trempealeau County, making the journey with a wagon and two yoke of oxen, settling on a tract of wild land at Big Tamarac Valley, section 15, Trempealeau Township. There were no buildings on the land, but he remedied that defect as best he could by building a one-room log cabin, which had a blanket in place of a door. This primitive dwelling was the family residence for about two years, or until 1865, when Mr. Marsh erected an eight-room log house, which indeed seemed a palace in comparison with his previous abode, and in this house he resided until his death in 1873. His remains rest in Evergreen Cemetery at Centerville, Wis. His wife still survives him, now residing at Centerville. John A. Marsh cleared and developed the homestead and increased its size by purchasing 200 additional acres. The children in the family were: James A., born in 1861; J. H., born in 1863, now a farmer residing at Centerville, Trempea-



A. J. EKERN AND FAMILY



MR. AND MRS. ANDREW EKERN



MR. AND MRS. LARS M. HANSAASEN



NICHOLAS ENGHAGEN AND FAMILY

leau County; Sumner W., born in 1866, who is now living in Western Canada, and Katherine, born in 1871, who is now Mrs. William McDonah, of Centerville. James A. Marsh acquired his education in the old log school house, which he attended until he was 14 years old. After his father's death the work of the farm devolved upon him more and more as he grew older, until he was bearing the whole responsibility. In 1892 he purchased the homestead from his mother and since then has made numerous improvements on it. In 1906 he erected a fine two-story frame house of 12 rooms, and has also built a large horse and cattle barn, with basement, a sheep barn, a hog house of two stories, with a shop above. He has also a granary and corn crib and a poultry house. Mr. Marsh carries on general farming, keeping a good herd of cattle, hogs and sheep, graded animals. He has added to the size of his farm until it now contains 427 acres, 200 of which are under the plow, the rest being in timber and pasture land. He has also a small orchard. In addition to his farming interests he holds stock in the Farmers' Co-Operative Packing Company, of La Crosse, Wis. A Republican in politics, he has served as member of the town board four terms and has been school director three years. Jan. 31, 1898, Mr. Marsh was married to Agnes, daughter of Michael and Augusta (Collins) Sizons, of Trempealeau Township, their wedding being celebrated at Sacred Heart Church, Pine Creek. Their children, with dates of birth, are: John, Nov. 24, 1899, who resides on the farm with his father; Blanche, 1901; Musey, 1902; James, 1904, who died in November, 1909; Agnes, 1906; Daniel, 1909; Garrett, 1911, and Leone, 1914. Mr. Marsh and his family are Catholics in religion, attending the Church of the Sacred Heart at Pine Creek. Fraternally he has been affiliated with the Yeomen at Centerville since 1906, and with the Mystic Workers, of Centerville, since 1908.

Lars Mikkleson Hansaasen, an early settler in Ettrick Township, where he is now living, was born in Ringsaker, Norway, April 27, 1837. He was married in his native land in September, 1858, and with his wife, Göner, who was born in the same part of Norway in March, 1836, came to the United States in 1862, locating on a farm in Lewis Valley, La Crosse County, Wis. About three years later they removed to Ettrick Township, Trempealeau County, Mr. Hansaasen homesteading a farm on Beaver Creek, where he is still living, after spending half a century in its cultivation and improvement. The farm is now owned by his son-in-law, Alexander J. Ekern, who bought it. Mr. and Mrs. Hansaasen reared six children, their daughter Clara being the wife of Mr. Ekern, above mentioned, and another daughter, Lena, marrying Nicholas Enghagen.

Alexander J. Ekern is a successful agriculturist of Ettrick Township, his flourishing farm of 207 acres being located in sections 7 and 8, south. He was born in Gale Township, this county, July 19, 1863, son of Andrew and Oline (Amundson) Ekern. The parents were both natives of Biri, Norway, the date of the father's birth being May 19, 1834, and that of his wife Aug. 8, 1838. Andrew Ekern came to this country unmarried in 1852, locating on Coon Prairie, Vernon County, Wis. After working for others for awhile he engaged in farming in that locality, from which he removed

later to La Crosse County, where he and his brother Gilbert bought a farm, on which he lived for a few years. In La Crosse County he also married. In 1860 he came with his wife to Trempealeau County and filed on a homestead in Gale Township, which place was his home for the remainder of his life. He made important improvements on his property and did his full share in helping to develop the agricultural resources of the township. His death occurred Dec. 18, 1916. His wife died March 29, 1913. They had a family of nine children, Alexander J. being the first born.

Alexander J. Ekern was educated in the district school at Glasgow, Gale Township, and at the same time was taught farm work, assisting his father out of school hours, and all of the time after he laid aside his school books. At the age of 15 years he was practically self-supporting, and when a little older and stronger worked as a regular farm hand in the summer and at lumbering in the winter. This sort of life continued for about seven years, during which time he saved a part of his wages with a view to future independence. At the end of the period referred to he rented a farm in Gale Township for three years and then moved onto the farm which he now operates, purchasing the property at that time. Since then he has made many improvements in it, erecting new buildings, including barns and granaries, and has added considerably to the acreage of tilled land. His farming operations include dairying, and his prosperity has increased from year to year with the enlargement of his farm and herd. Mr. Ekern is also president of the Ettrick Creamery Company, and a stockholder and one of the incorporators of the Ettrick & Northern Railroad Company, the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company, and the Bank of Ettrick, also a director and president of the Scandinavian Insurance Company, having formerly held the office of vice-president. In politics he is a Republican. Although a busy man, he has devoted a part of his time to town and county affairs, having served as chairman of the township board two years, being at the same time a member of the county board, as supervisor ten years and as clerk of the district school board two years. He was a member of the building committee that erected the new Lutheran church at Hardie's Creek, and has served as trustee of the church, to which he and his family belong. Mr. Ekern was married Nov. 11, 1885, to Clara Larson, who was born in Lewis' Valley, La Crosse County, Wis., daughter of Lars and Göner (Mikkleson) Hansaasen, both natives of Ringsaker, Norway, where they were married. Mrs. Ekern's father was born April 27, 1837, and her mother in March, 1836. After their marriage in September, 1858, they continued to reside in their native land for several years, but about 1862 emigrated to America, locating on a farm in La Crosse County, Wis. From there they removed later to Ettrick Township, Trempealeau County, where Mrs. Ekern's father homesteaded the farm now owned by Mr. Ekern, on which he is still living, being practically retired from active labor. He and his wife reared six children, Clara being the fourth born. Mr. and Mrs. Ekern are the parents of two children: Alfred L. and Gertrude O. Alfred L., who, after attending the local schools, took a course at the State Agricultural College at Madison,

is now operating the home farm. He married Margaret Knutson, who was born at Beaver Creek, this county. Gertrude O., who is unmarried, resides at home.

Lars P. Larson, who is now living retired on his farm of 160 acres in section 11, Ettrick Township, after a long and active career, both as a pioneer and modern farmer, was born in Biri, Norway, Feb. 24, 1847. His parents were Peter and Carrie (Nelson) Larson, the father born Aug. 1, 1820, and the mother Dec. 9, 1819. In 1857 they arrived in the United States with their family and, proceeding westward, settled in Coon Valley, Vernon County, which was their place of residence for four years, or until June, 1861. They then came to Trempealeau County, making the journey partly by boat and partly on foot, bringing with them an ox team. Arriving in Ettrick Township, Peter Larson located on a piece of land in section 11, about half a mile from his present home, the present townships of Ettrick and Gale being then known as Gale. Building a log cabin, Mr. Larson began at once the work of improvement. This work, like that of all the pioneers, was strenuous, but he was already used to hard labor, as for some time after settling in Vernon County he had to get a living for himself and his family by splitting rails at 50 cents a day, boarding himself, and had also swung a cradle all day long for 75 cents a day. Now, in addition to his heavy work on the homestead, he had to carry flour on his back from Lewis' Valley to Hardie's Creek, crossing Black River on a raft logs. His homestead consisted of 160 acres, which he took under the first homestead act. Later he sold this property to his son Lars P., and purchased a farm nearer Ettrick, which was his home for the remainder of his life, his death occurring Aug. 7, 1893. He was a prominent citizen of his township and was active in church work, also taking an interest in everything calculated to benefit the community in which he lived. His first wife, Mrs. Carrie (Nelson) Larson, died April 18, 1870, and he subsequently contracted a second marriage to Aynet Hugelus. Of the first union four children were born and of the second four: Lars P. Larson, who was the eldest son of his parents, attended school in Coon Valley and later in Beaver Valley, there being no school in Ettrick Township when the family first came here. When a boy he had few idle hours, at the age of 11 or 12 years being employed in driving a breaking team of oxen, for which he received 10 cents a day. He resided with his father until about 23 years of age, during that time acquiring an intimate knowledge of farming, especially under pioneer conditions. He was an expert ox teamster and during the early days skidded logs enough to build a village as large as Galesville. At the age of 23 he bought land and became a farmer on his own account. He also engaged in threshing, and drove breaking teams of from three to six oxen on a plow. His trading was done at Trempealeau, where also he sold his produce. There was at that time plenty of game in the vicinity; deer were quite common and prairie chickens might be seen by thousands. Since those days Mr. Larson has made many improvements on his property and has advanced in prosperity with the years that have passed. He was married March 16, 1871, to Grace Elizabeth Smith, who was born in Leeds, England, daughter of George and Alice (Wilford) Smith, natives of the

same city. The family came to the United States in the early '50s, settling in Walworth County, Wis. In 1864 they moved to Beaver Creek Valley, where Mr. Smith engaged in farming and was thus occupied until his death, in or about 1896. His wife died in 1878. Their daughter, Mrs. Larson, was the second born of four children. She died Feb. 5, 1915, after a long and happy married life of nearly 44 years. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Larson were three in number: Alice C., Emma Josephine and George Wilford. Alice C. is now the wife of Lud Emerson, a farmer living at North Bend, Wis. She has six children: James, Allan, Floys, Harold, Lila and Mary. Emma Josephine is the wife of Gustave Fillner, a salesman residing in Madison, Wis., and her children are: Laverne, Alice, Glenn, Layton, Vera and Mildred. George Wilford, the second member of the family, resides on the old homestead, which he is operating, his father being now retired. He married Pauline Emerson, of North Bend, and they have five children: Grace Annadine, Verna Lorena, Stanley George, Leslie Pearl and Robert Milton. Mr. Larson was reared in the faith of the Lutheran church, but the church he now attends is the Presbyterian. He is a staunch Republican politically, but never aspired to political office, though always taking an interest in good government, both National, State and local. As one whose early recollections extend back to pioneer days in this county, he is an authority on most matters connected with those early times and can, when he desires, narrate many interesting stories of the hardships formerly endured, the perils encountered, and also the compensations met with by the men and women who laid the foundations of Trempealeau County's present prosperity—among whom he, himself, was numbered.

Thomas A. Whalen, proprietor of a fine dairy farm of 200 acres in section 32, Ettrick Township, was born on his present farm, Sept. 3, 1866, son of Darby and Ann (Riley) Whalen. Darby Whalen was born in Connaught, Ireland, Jan. 13, 1824, and came to America with his parents in 1833, they being among the early settlers of Ettrick Township, this county. Here in time he became an extensive land owner and farmer, spending his life in cultivation of the soil, raising stock and other farm work. He was a prominent citizen of the township and was at various times called upon to serve in public office, being a member of the township board and school board and also serving as justice of the peace. His death occurred in 1894. His wife, who was born in Fall River, Wis., Jan. 13, 1824, is still living and resides on the farm with her son Thomas. She was the mother of two children, Thomas and Mary, Mary being also a resident of the home farm. Her education in part was obtained at the Winona Normal School, where she made good progress in advanced studies.

Thomas A. Whalen in his boyhood attended District School No. 8 in Ettrick Township, where he completed the education afforded the boy of those days. At an early age he learned the rudiments of farming and assisted his father until the latter's death, becoming its manager a number of years previous to that event. Subsequently becoming the proprietor, he has continued to develop and improve the property until it now ranks as one of the best dairy farms in the township. The buildings are substantial and include a barn, 90 by 34 feet in dimensions, with a 9-foot base-



MRS. IVER P. ENGHAGEN, B. I. ENGHAGEN, IVER P. ENGHAGEN, BABY ENGHAGEN
O. O. ENGEN, MRS. B. I. ENGHAGEN, MRS. O. O. ENGEN

ment and 14-foot stockboards and cement floor. Both the barn and residence are lighted with electricity and the latter with other modern conveniences desirable for a comfortable home. On the farm there is also a first-class silo, with an ample supply of machinery and implements necessary for up-to-date dairy farming. Mr. Whalen is also a stockholder in the Ettrick & Northern Railroad.

Jan. 10, 1906, Mr. Whalen was married to Bridget Harmon, who was born in Ettrick Township, about a mile from the Whalen farm. She attended the district schools, the Galesville High School and completed her studies with a term at the Gale College, after which she became a proficient teacher, teaching four years in Wisconsin and five years in Illinois. Her parents were Thomas and Julia (Rafter) Harmon. Mr. and Mrs. Whalen have one child, Thomas Harold, who was born Feb. 21, 1907. The family are members of the Catholic church. In politics Mr. Whalen is independent. He is now serving as president of the school board and is a man whose interests and sympathies are not confined to the limits of his own family circle, but who is always ready to do his part as a good citizen, and render aid when necessary to promote some worthy cause with the object of bettering the community at large.

Iver P. Enghagen, who was for many years, until his death, Dec. 17, 1914, one of the leading citizens of Ettrick Township, where he was an early settler, was born in Lillehamer, Province of Faaberg, Norway, and came to the United States in 1860 when a young man, unable to speak English. He resided for about two years in La Crosse County, Wis., but subsequently moved to Trempealeau County, where he was married to Ingeborg Jacobson, who was born in Hadeland, Norway. Buying a farm on French Creek, in Ettrick Township, he engaged in agriculture and continued to improve his property for the rest of his life, which came to an end Dec. 17, 1914. He was also interested in other business enterprises. He assisted in organizing the Scandinavian Insurance Company, of which he was cashier until his death; was financially interested in the Ettrick Creamery Company, the Bank of Ettrick, the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of Galesville, and the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company, of which he was a director for a number of years. Mr. Enghagen was also assessor of Ettrick Township for seven or eight years and served on the township board for a number of years. Though he had never gone to school a day in his life, he was a natural mathematician and could figure as rapidly and accurately as any college student. As cashier of the Scandinavian Insurance Company he handled for many years all the money of the company—a large amount annually—and was always correct in his accounts. He also helped to organize the Lutheran church, becoming its treasurer, and at a later period was presented with a fine gold watch as a reward for his faithful services. His wife, who survives him, still resides on the old homestead, now owned by their son, Bernt I. Enghagen. Their family numbered six children, as follows: Peter Julius, now a merchant in Galesville; Amelia, now Mrs. Martin Madson; Nicholas, a farmer in Ettrick Township; Minnie, who is deceased; Bernt I., proprietor of the old home farm, and Josephine, who is now Mrs. Gilbert Hogden.

Bernt I. Enghagen, who is engaged in farming the old Enghagen home in section 27 (west), Ettrick Township, was born on this farm June 27, 1878, son of Iver P. and Ingeborg (Jacobson) Enghagen. In his boyhood he attended school both in Ettrick township and Ettrick Village. From his early youth until reaching the age of 35 years he was associated with his father in the operation of the home farm, and has always resided on it. On his father's death he purchased the property and now has 160 acres of land, which he devotes to general farming. The estate is well improved and shows the results of the care that has been lavished on it for so many years. Mr. Enghagen is also a stockholder in the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company, the Ettrick & Northern Railroad and the Hammer-Eng-hagen Company, Inc. (general merchants), at Galesville, of which his brother, Peter J., is a member. In politics he is a Republican, but not active in public affairs. His religious affiliations are with the Lutheran church at French Creek.

Mr. Enghagen was married Oct. 25, 1913, to Miss Julia Engen, who was born in Arcadia Township, daughter of Ole and Helena (Haakensen) Engen, both natives of Norway, the father born in Ringsaker, Oct. 31, 1841. Ole Engen emigrated to the United States when a young man, in 1868. He worked in La Crosse County, Wis., one summer, and then came to Ettrick Township, Trempealeau County, teaching parochial school for several years, and also being engaged in farming. He was married in this county, June 9, 1871, to Helena Haakensen, who was born in Norway, Jan. 2, 1840, and died Oct. 31, 1911. After being occupied as above mentioned for several years, he moved to Big Tamarac, where he and his family made their home for ten years, and then returned to the farm which is now the home of Nicholas Enghagen, and where he resided from 1883 to 1914. In the latter year he took up his residence with the subject of this sketch, on whose farm he is now living retired. He taught Norwegian school here and was an active officer in the Lutheran church, being secretary of the congregation for 27 years. He and his wife had four children, of whom the only one now surviving is Julia (Mrs. B. I. Enghagen). She acquired her early education in the district school in Ettrick Township and subsequently attended the Ladies' Lutheran Seminary at Red Wing, Minn., being graduated with the class of 1900. Later she taught parochial school for four years near Westby, Vernon County, Wis., and two terms of school in Beaver Creek Valley, Ettrick Township. Mr. and Mrs. Enghagen have one child, Helena Ingeborg, who was born July 2, 1915.

William Willinger, who is engaged in operating a good farm in section 36, Gale Township, was born in Holland, Oct. 10, 1857, son of Abe and Clara (Kuik) Willinger, who also were both natives of Holland, in which country his mother died. In 1882 the father came to the United States, settling in Amsterdam, La Crosse County, Wis., where he died about 1901.

William Willinger was the youngest member of a family of four children. He was educated in Holland and was 31 years of age when he came to this country. For a number of years subsequently he worked for his brothers in La Crosse County, and also for others, and then came to Trempealeau County, renting a farm near Ettrick, where he remained three years.

At the end of that time he bought a farm in Gale Township, above Decorah Prairie, and operated it for five years. He then sold it and purchased a farm in Silver Creek Valley, where he lived and worked for four years. Then, selling that farm, he bought the old John Davidson farm, on which he now resides. The farm contains 80 acres, and in addition to this Mr. Willinger owns 20½ acres of woodland on Black River. He practices general farming and is doing a prosperous business.

In May, 1882, Mr. Willinger was married to Katherine De Groot, a native of Holland, by whom he had four children: Abe and John, both single and residing at home; Clara and Susan, who are both deceased. Mrs. Katherine Willinger died in 1895, and on March 14, 1899, Mr. Willinger married for his second wife Katherine Grassma, who was born in Holland Township, La Crosse County, Wis. Her parents, Bouke and Clara (Tickler) Grassma, were born in Holland and at an early date, now forgotten, came to the United States in a sailing vessel, locating immediately in La Crosse County. There Mr. Grassma worked for various people in different lines of industry, including that of clerk. Later he engaged in farming and also conducted a truck business for a while. He was a veteran of the Civil War. Both he and his wife are now deceased. They had a large family numbering 13 children, of whom their daughter Katherine was the eighth in order of birth. Mr. Willinger and his family attend the Presbyterian church, of which, however, he is not a member. His son John belongs to the Order of Beavers and Yeomen.

Nicholas Enghagen, a farmer in section 34 W., Ettrick Township, was born in French Valley, Ettrick Township, Dec. 2, 1869, son of Iver P. and Ingeborg (Jacobson) Enghagen. In his boyhood he attended the school at French Creek. He resided on his parents' farm until he was 39 years old, assisting in its cultivation. Then purchasing a farm on the South Branch of Beaver Creek, he operated it until about two years ago, when he sold it and bought his present farm of 83 acres, at the mouth of French Creek. Here he carries on general farming and is also a stockholder in the Ettrick Creamery. Sept. 30, 1909, Mr. Enghagen was united in marriage with Lena Larson, who was born on the South Branch of Beaver Creek, in Ettrick Township. Her parents, Lars and Goner (Mikkleson) Hansaasen, were born in Norway and came to the United States in 1862, locating first in Lewis Valley, La Crosse County, where they spent three years. They then came to Trempealeau County, the father taking a farm on Beaver Creek, where he is still living, having spent half a century in its cultivation and improvement. Their daughter Lena was the youngest of the six children they reared and was educated in the district school of Ettrick Township. Mr. and Mrs. Enghagen have one child, Ingrid Genevieve, who was born June 19, 1910. The family are members of the Lutheran church, and in politics Mr. Enghagen is a Republican. Though his farm is not one of the largest in the township, it is well equipped with everything necessary in the way of buildings and machinery and he is doing a profitable business.

Mrs. Thomas D. Wilcox, a widely-known and highly-respected resident of Trempealeau Township, was born at Delhi, Delaware County, N. Y., April 15, 1848, daughter of John and Euphemia (Thompson) Gillies. In the

spring of 1849, while yet a babe, she accompanied her parents to Fond du Lac County, Wis., they settling on a farm near Waupun. John Gillies, who was a miller by trade, divided his time between farming and milling, following the latter occupation in mills at Fairwater and Waupun. In the spring of 1855 Mr. Gillies started with his family for Minnesota, but falling in on the way with some other people who were seeking a good location for settlement, he decided, after talking the matter over with them, to halt on the east side of the Mississippi River, and accordingly stayed in Buffalo County a few days. Not being satisfied with that region after a short stay, he returned south to Trempealeau County, which he had passed through on his way up the river, and settled in section 7, Trempealeau Township, where he bought 160 acres of wild government land. With this to begin with, he started in to develop a good homestead, and from time to time added to his farm until he had in all some 400 acres, part of this property being what is now known as the Wilcox and Jones farm. On this land he built the present residence, which it was his intention to enlarge; but having traded a yoke of oxen for 14,000 feet of lumber, he gave the lumber away at different times to neighbors who wished to build shanties, until he had none left, and, as most of his sons went to the war, he never rebuilt or enlarged the old home. He died Nov. 7, 1908, at the home of his son Richard, in Trempealeau Township. At the time of his death he had been a widower for some ten years, as his wife had passed away Jan. 25, 1898, at the old home in section 7. For many years before her death she had suffered from the affliction of blindness. Her remains now repose with those of her husband in the cemetery at Trempealeau Village.

Their daughter, Mary Gillies, subject of this sketch, was brought up on the parental farm, where she lived until she was 29 years old, assisting in the care of the home, and for a number of years taught in the rural schools of Trempealeau County, and also taught one term in Buffalo County, Wis., and one term in Winona County, Minn. June 14, 1877, she was married there to Thomas D. Wilcox, the ceremony being performed by Elder Owen, pastor of the Trempealeau Congregational church. Her husband at the time of their marriage owned an undivided half of the Thomas Gillies place in section 17, Trempealeau Township, and as a bride she went to this place to begin housekeeping for herself. Mr. Wilcox had fought for the Union in the Civil War and came home with very poor health, but he continued farming operations for many years, dying in Trempealeau Township, April 8, 1908, near the village of Trempealeau. He was buried in the village cemetery. He belonged to the Grand Army of the Republic, but was not a member of any other fraternal societies. In politics he was a Republican, but held no political offices. For many years he was a member of Trempealeau Methodist Episcopal church, which his wife attended with him, although reared a Congregationalist. Their only son and child, Dean G. Wilcox, was born on the Booth place in Trempealeau Township, July 8, 1882, and is now one of the proprietors of the Wilcox and Jones farm, in Trempealeau Township.

Dean G. Wilcox, one of the proprietors of the Wilcox and Jones farm in section 7, Trempealeau Township, was born at Trempealeau Prairie.



J. A. BERG AND FAMILY

Trempealeau County, Wis., July 8, 1882. He was educated in Trempealeau village school, passing through the grades and then taking two years at the high school, at the end of which time he had to give up his studies on account of the illness of his father. He remained with his parents until he was 20 years old, and then went to Oelwein, Iowa, where he obtained employment as shipping clerk in a railway store house of the Chicago & Great Western Railroad. After working there for a while he went to St. Paul and was clerk in the Robinson & Cary office, selling railway supplies. His father's condition becoming worse, he had to return home and take care of the home farm for some time, but on his father's improvement he again entered railway service, becoming time keeper for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. His railroad experience covered in all some three years, but his lot was finally cast as a farmer.

April 3, 1906, Mr. Wilcox was married to Delia, daughter of Griffith and Martha Jones, of Bangor, Wis., the ceremony being performed by the Rev. John E. Jones, a Methodist-Calvinistic pastor. After the marriage he and his wife resided in Bangor for two years, at the end of which time he bought the old homestead formerly owned by his grandfather Gillies, consisting of 120 acres in sections 7 and 8, and at the same time he entered into partnership with Roger Jones, his wife's brother, to operate the farm. This partnership has since continued and he and his brother-in-law are among the thrifty and prosperous young farmers of the county. Besides raising the usual crops, they have successfully experimented with alfalfa for the last five years, and at this writing have four acres which is an excellent stand. They keep 12 head of Guernsey cows, 10 head of young cattle and have 50 head of Duroc-Jersey hogs. Their annual production of butter fat is about 3,000 pounds. Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox have three children: Stanley, born Feb. 8, 1907; Lawrence, born Sept. 11, 1909, and Ruth, born Aug. 19, 1916. Mrs. Wilcox, who was born in Bangor Village, July 16, 1879, was a teacher in the Trempealeau school for three years. Though reared in the faith of the Methodist-Calvinistic church, of which she is a member, she attends the Methodist Episcopal church with her husband and children. Mr. Wilcox is independent in politics and has held no public office. In 1903 he joined Lodge No. 2813, Modern Woodmen of America, and became a Blue Lodge Mason in 1906, being a member of Trempealeau Lodge, No. 117, A. F. & A. M., of Trempealeau.

John A. Berg, a well-known banker and business man of Galesville, was born in La Crosse County, Wis., Nov. 16, 1873. His parents were Benjamin and Petrina (Aas) Holman, both natives of the northern part of Norway, but who were married in Wisconsin. The father came to the United States at an early date, stayed here awhile and then returned to Norway. Later he came again to this country, about 1871, and remained. Both he and his wife died when the subject of this sketch was a mere child and the latter was adopted and reared by a man named Berg, whose surname he has since borne. John A. Berg was educated in a grammar school at Halfway Creek, Wis., and in a business university at La Crosse. When 23 years old he opened a general store in Vernon County, Wis., and carried it on for two years. He then returned to La Crosse County and conducted a

store at Holmen for about nine years. In 1908 he came to Galesville and organized the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank, of which he became cashier. This position he has since retained, having an interest in the bank as stockholder, besides a similar interest in other banks in La Crosse County. He is also interested in the Galesville Building and Realty Company and served as chairman of the building committee in the erection of several different public buildings, including the one above mentioned, of which he is president. He has served as treasurer of the Holmen Milling Company, for several years, also treasurer of the Holmen Creamery for five years, and for four years served as president of the La Crosse County Fair Association. In 1916 he was elected president of the board of trustees of Gale College, succeeding the Hon. K. K. Hagestad in that office, which he still retains. He has been an active member of the board since the college was transferred to the Lutherans, and was its unanimous choice as Mr. Hagestad's successor. As a member of the executive committee he devoted his time unstintedly to the interests of the school. He was at the head of the movement to erect the new dormitory and gymnasium and successfully conducted the campaign for funds for that building, as well as giving the closest attention to the work of construction. Mr. Berg is an extensive land holder in North Dakota, having holdings in Burk and Morton counties, besides having land in Ettrick Township, Trempealeau County, which he rents out to tenants. As an enterprising business man and public-spirited citizen he has been a strong factor for advancement in every community in which he has lived, or with which he has had anything to do, and his aid and influence have greatly aided in their development. In politics he has been a Prohibitionist since he cast his first ballot, and has been a candidate for different offices representing his party. July 7, 1898, Mr. Berg was united in marriage with Matilda Molstad, a native of La Crosse County, Wis., and daughter of Ole and Martha (Hough) Molstad. She has been a faithful worker in the Lutheran church, as well as Mr. Berg. Her parents, who were both born in Norway, settled in Wisconsin many years ago, the father being a farmer. Both are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Berg have one adopted child, Mildred E., who is now a student at St. Olaf College, of Northfield, Minn.

Christian Raichle, who for many years was actively engaged in farming in Gale Township, though now retired, was born in Wittenberg, Germany, Nov. 6, 1840, son of Jacob and Barbara (Koenig) Raichle, natives of the same province, who remained in their native land, not coming to America. He was educated in Germany and was in his twenty-ninth year when, in April, 1869, he came to the United States. Locating at once in Trempealeau County, Wis., he found work on the farm of his brother William, who was already settled in Gale Township, and in whose employ he remained for one season. He then purchased the farm on which he now lives, consisting of 90 acres, and on which he has made all the improvements. Here he still makes his residence, though retired, renting the farm to his nephew. In May, 1871, Mr. Raichle was married to Mary Barbara Schott, who was born in Wittenberg, Germany, daughter of Conrad and Mary Barbara (Stark) Schott, natives of the same province, who died in their native land, which they never left. Mr. and Mrs. Raichle have an adopted daughter,

Josephine, wife of Fred Raichle, who rents and operates the farm. Mr. Raichle is a stockholder in the creamery at Galesville. When a young man he served in the German army and is therefore well able to take an appreciative interest in the momentous events now taking place in Europe.

William Raichle, one of the older residents of Gale Township, of which he was a pioneer settler, was born in Germany in 1831 and came to America in 1854, locating first in the State of New York, where he spent two years engaged in farm work. In 1857 he came to Trempealeau County, Wis., taking a homestead in Gale Township which now forms a part of the farm of his son, William F. Raichle. Here he engaged in farming and stock raising and continued in those occupations until 1906, when he retired. Four years later he sold the homestead to his son, but is still living on it. He served formerly on the school board and in other local offices and since pioneer days has been one of the best known and most respected citizens of the township. He was married in 1869 to Emma Messer, who was born in Germany in 1848 and came to America in 1868, locating in Winona, Minn., whence she removed a year later to Trempealeau County, Wis. They had eight children: Anna, Chris, William F., Freada, Carl, Ella, Emma and Fritz, of whom Freada and Ella are now deceased.

William F. Raichle, who is engaged in operating a stock farm of 200 acres in section 10, Gale Township, is one of the prosperous and representative farmers of this township. He was born on the farm on which he now resides Nov. 2, 1878, his parents being William and Emma (Messer) Raichle, natives of Germany, further mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume. He acquired the elements of knowledge in the district school of his neighborhood and subsequently took a two years' course in the agricultural department of the State University at Madison. Beginning work for his father on the homestead at the age of 18 years, he continued to be thus occupied until 1904, when he took entire charge of the farm and operated it in the same way until 1910, when it became his property by purchase. Since his father bought the original land many years ago the size of the farm has been increased to 200 acres, and the land is now well cultivated. Mr. Raichle makes a specialty of raising pure-bred Guernsey cattle. His buildings are modern and substantial and his business has grown from year to year, his work on the farm keeping him busy so that he has had little time for anything else. He is at present, however, serving as a member of the school board, in politics being a Republican.

Mr. Raichle has led a domestic life for over ten years, having been married, Aug. 22, 1906, to Myrtle Irvine, who was born in Gale Township, daughter of James and Agnes (Dick) Irvine. Mr. and Mrs. Raichle have one child, Margaret Agnes, who was born June 22, 1910. Mr. Raichle, in addition to his farming interests, is president and a stockholder of the Arctic Springs Creamery, and he and his wife both belong to the Order of Beavers. They are in prosperous circumstances and have many friends in this part of the county.

John Raichle, proprietor of a farm of 230 acres in section 17, Gale Township, was born in Wittenberg, Germany, March 23, 1836. His parents, Jacob and Barbara (Koenig) Raichle, were natives of the same province,

the father being a farmer. Neither ever came to the United States. John Raichle was the fifth born in a family of eight children. He attended school in his native land and in 1854, at the age of 18, came to this country, locating first in New York State, where for two years he was employed on farms. In 1856 he came to Galesville, Trempealeau County, Wis., and during his first year here was employed on a farm at Trempealeau Prairie. At the end of that time he took a claim in section 15, Gale Township, where he was engaged in farming for himself until 1862, during which time he made a number of improvements on the property. August 20, that year, he enlisted in Company C, Thirtieth Wisconsin Volunteers, as a private, and served until he was mustered out in September, 1865. He was fortunate in his military career, as he was never wounded or confined in the hospital. About a month after his return home Mr. Raichle went to Missouri and the next four years of his life were spent in that State, working on farms in various places and watching out for any advantageous opportunity. As, however, he saw nothing better than he could find at home, he returned to Trempealeau County and bought the farm where he now lives and which now consists of 230 acres of land. It is still his property, though now operated by his sons. He is a stockholder in the creamery and in the Farmers' Exchange at Galesville. Mr. Raichle was married in December, 1880, to Bertha John, who was born in Schwartzberg, Germany, daughter of Carl and Rosalie (Share) John. The John family came to America in 1872, locating on a farm in Caledonia Township, this county, which was their home for the rest of the parents' lives. They had five children, their daughter Bertha, now Mrs. Raichle, being the first born. Mr. and Mrs. Raichle have three children: Fritz C., who is living on the home farm, and John and Lena, also at home, all being unmarried. Mr. Raichle is a member of the Lutheran church and is an independent Republican in politics. He has never aspired to public office, but served one term as a member of the school board of his district.

John Bohrnstedt, formerly a well-known and esteemed citizen of Galesville, Wis., was born near Stateen, Germany, April 24, 1833. When a youth he accompanied his parents to the United States, the family first settling in Milwaukee. About 1859 they settled on a farm near Trempealeau, this county, and John Bohrnstedt worked for some time on the Ben Healey farm for Mr. Healey, and in that locality, until he was able to purchase land and engage in farming for himself. It was after he had thus made an independent start in life that, in August, 1862, he enlisted in Company C, Thirtieth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, with which regiment he served until he was mustered out in December, 1865. While in the army, he was married, Sept. 10, 1863, to Mary Frohmader, who was born in Syracuse, N. Y., March 9, 1843, daughter of Lawrence and Margaret Frohmader. Her parents were natives of Biron, Germany, in which country they were married, coming to America in the third decade of the Nineteenth Century. After their arrival here they lived for three years in New York, migrating thence to Jefferson, Wis., and from that place to New Lisbon, Juneau County, Wis., where they both died. Mr. Frohmader was a farmer by occupation.



MR. AND MRS. JOHN BOHRNSTEDT



When Mr. Bohrnstedt concluded his military service, his health was somewhat impaired. On returning to Wisconsin he located at New Lisbon, but a short time later with his wife joined the Bohrnstedt family at the old two-mile house on the Trempealeau road. Later they settled on the farm in the town of Trempealeau, which was their home for so many years. Mr. Bohrnstedt continued on this farm until 1902, when he retired and moved to Galesville. In 1908 he bought several lots on Clark street in Galesville and erected a comfortable home, which was one of the best residences in town. Mr. Bohrnstedt was a man of thrift, and whatever he did, he did thoroughly, and his farm, after he had spent a few years on it, was one of the best pieces of agricultural property in the county. He was a stockholder in the Bank of Galesville and at one time was a land owner in North Dakota; this land, however, he disposed of. That he was highly esteemed by a wide acquaintance was evidenced by the multitude that gathered on the occasion of his funeral, to pay tribute to his memory. He died June 4, 1909, and his funeral services were in charge of the Masonic fraternity. He was ex-senior warden and tyler in his lodge and was also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and of the Grand Army of the Republic, in which he had held minor offices. He and his wife were the parents of four children: George Frederick, Henry Lawrence, William Charles and Albert C. George Frederick, who is proprietor of the Arcadia Wagon Shop, married Naomi Rathburn, and has four children: Russell, Gale, Catherine and Lucia. Henry Lawrence married Naomi Langley, and resides on the old homestead. He and his wife have one child, Leo. William Charles, who is a hardware dealer in Arcadia, married Elsie Muir. Albert C., who is a real estate dealer and insurance man in Oregon, married Elizabeth Trestel. He has an adopted daughter, Alberta.

Olof Rindahl. Though most of the original pioneers of Trempealeau County have passed away, their work in the development of the county is being carried under more favorable conditions and with still more prosperous results by the sons and grandsons they have left behind them. One of the prominent members of the second generation in Gale Township is Olof Rindahl, a farmer in section 22 east, who was born in a log house erected by his father in this township, Dec. 8, 1863. The father was Otto Rindahl, who was born in Lillehammer, Norway, in 1818, and who came to the United States in the fifth decade of the last century, locating first in Lewis Valley, La Crosse County, Wis. His wife, born April 28, 1828, was a native of the same district in Norway. After farming a few years in La Crosse County, Otto Rindahl removed to Gale Township, buying the farm on which one of his sons, Mat O. Rindahl, now lives. On this he built a log house and began the work of improvement, continued by him for many years, and that original farm was his home until his death, which occurred in 1902. Though his experiences in early days were hard, like all the pioneers, he in time prospered and was able at a later period to donate land for the site of the Lutheran church at Hardie's Creek, and he also assisted in building the church. To official position in his township or county he never aspired, devoting his time and energies to the care of his homestead and to providing for his family. His wife, whose maiden name

was Oleia, died on June 13, 1909. They had seven children, of whom Olof was the fifth born.

Olof Rindahl acquired the elements in the Glasgow schoolhouse, where many other now prosperous farmers in this township got their education. He was obliged to begin industrial life at an early age, however, for, when only 15 years old he began work in the woods, being attached to a logging camp, and was thus employed for three winters, working on the farm in the summer. At a subsequent period, when old enough to work for himself, he rented a farm, which he operated for three years, at the end of that time buying his present farm, on which he has since resided. It contains 160 acres of valuable land, and the buildings, erected by himself, are neat in appearance and of substantial construction, being also equipped with modern conveniences. Mr. Rindahl is successfully engaged in general farming and is also a stockholder in the Farmers' Exchange at Galesville, the Etrick Telephone Company, and the Farmers' Equity. He was married in October, 1892, to Mattie Huckstadt, who was born on an adjoining farm, daughter of Andrew C. and Helen (Toppan) Huckstadt. Her parents, who were natives of Norway, came at an early date to this region, resided on Black River for a while and then moved to the farm above mentioned, on which both subsequently died, the father in 1894 and the mother some time previously. Their daughter Mattie, who was the eldest of seven children, was educated in the schools of Gale Township. Mr. and Mrs. Rindahl have five children: Alfred, Herman Oscar, Melva Octava, Edwin and Julia, all of whom reside at home. Mr. Rindahl, like his father before him, is a member of the Lutheran church. In politics he is a Republican, but is not active in public affairs, though always taking an interest in whatever concerns the good of the community in which he lives.

Peter V. Becker, who is successfully operating a farm of 173 acres in the vicinity of Galesville, was born at Glasgow, Trempealeau County, Wis., Dec. 29, 1873, son of Philip and Sophia (Bey) Becker. His parents were born near the River Rhine, in Germany, but were married in Wisconsin, Philip Becker coming to the United States in 1846 and locating first in Washington County, Wis., where he settled on a farm with his parents and remained there until he married. He then moved to La Crosse, Wis., and worked as a carpenter in the shipyards, which at that time were one of the industrial enterprises of the place. His first wife died in La Crosse and he subsequently contracted a second marriage. After this he moved to Glasgow and settled on a farm, which was his home until 1902. At that time he went back to La Crosse. A few years later he retired and removed to Trempealeau, this county, residing there a number of years. His last home was at the residence of his daughter at Crystal Valley, where he lived for about two years, when his death occurred. He was a respected citizen and at different times held local office. His wife Sophia survives him and is now living at the home of her daughter in Galesville.

Peter V. Becker was the fourth born child of his father's second marriage, there having been five children by the first. He attended school at Glasgow in his boyhood and afterwards was a student at Gale University one term. His literary education was supplemented by two terms at the State

Agricultural College, at Madison. When he was 24 years old he became manager of the parental farm and continued to live at home until he was 27. Jan. 29, 1901, he was married to Meta Arpke, who was born in Sheboygan County, Wis., daughter of Simon and Fredericka (Martin) Arpke, both parents being natives of Lippe, Germany, who came to America in 1847, locating near Franklin, Wis., where Mr. Arpke was engaged in agriculture until his death. His wife is also now deceased. After his marriage Mr. Becker moved to Sheboygan, near which place he operated a farm for nine years. Then selling the farm, he became associated with the Fruit Box Company, of Sheboygan City, and was engaged in that business for 18 months. At the end of that time he came to Galesville and purchased his present farm of 173 acres, seven acres of which are within the corporation limits. His farm is fully equipped with all necessary buildings and implements, and he has brought the land into a high state of cultivation. He makes a specialty of the dairy business, breeds pure Guernsey cattle, and produces fine seed grains, for which he finds a ready sale. Aside from this, he is a stockholder in the Farmers' Packing Company, of La Crosse, a member of the Wisconsin Live Stock Breeders' Association, of the Wisconsin Experimental Association and the American Society of Equity, and the Alfalfa Order. Mr. and Mrs. Becker have a family of six children: Harvey Lawrence, Leslie Valentine, Alice Lorena, Ezra Philip, Eleanore Meta and Ella Arpke, all residing at home. Mr. Becker is independent in politics, and is a member of the Presbyterian church, with which his family are also affiliated.

John Elland. Among the successful farmers of Preston Township is the subject of this sketch, who as proprietor of Sunnyslope Farm is contributing to the agricultural development of the township while enjoying yearly an increased prosperity. He was born in Gulbrandsdalen, Fron, Norway, Sept. 27, 1845. His father was Elland Everson, a native of Norway, who came with his wife and family to the United States in 1857, settling first in Vernon County, Wis., where he remained four years. At the end of that time he came to Trempealeau County, and after living two years in Trempealeau Coolie, bought the farm on which his son John now resides, and on which he began agricultural operations. A few years later he was unfortunate enough to lose his life by one of those accidents incident to pioneer life, dying in the woods in 1866 while engaged in cutting timber. His wife, whose maiden name was Marit Alme, survived him nearly half a century, dying in 1913 at the age of 91 years. They had six children: John, the subject of this sketch; Thomas, who resides at Black River Falls, and has been engaged in railroad work for the last 20 years; Martha, who married Ole Benrud, of Blair, Wis., and died in 1904; Even, a farmer in Preston Township; Karen, who met an accidental death from burning at the age of 8 years, and Martinus, who died on the voyage to America. Of this family the eldest was John, upon whom, therefore, the chief responsibility fell at the time of his father's death. He was at this time about 21 years old and able to assume charge of the farm, which he managed for his mother until his marriage in June, 1872, to Paulina Paulson, of Chimney Rock Township, a daughter of Paul Berger. He then purchased the farm

and has ever since been its proprietor. Sunnyslope Farm is a good piece of agricultural property, containing 246 acres and lying in sections 22 and 23, Preston Township. The first residence of the family on this land was a log house 10 by 12 feet, which is still standing, having been replaced as a dwelling, however, by a good 10-room frame house of two stories and basement, erected by Mr. Elland in 1895. Among other improvements he has made are a frame barn, 42 by 84 by 18 feet, with basement, and a concrete block silo, 14 by 35 feet. Both house and barn are provided with running water and various modern improvements suitable to each. He and his wife are the parents of seven children: Edward, who is conducting a butcher's shop in Blair; Milan, engaged in farming near Blair; Peter, residing in Blair; Minnie, at home; Nettie, who died July 18, 1917; Hannah, who married Edward Odegaard, of Minneapolis, and Clarence, living on the home farm. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Aside from his original farm, he had 18 acres of slough land which he could not use for years, but now he has it all tilled, and on this land has one of the heaviest crops on the farm.

Anton H. Fremstad, proprietor of Corn and Clover Farm in sections 4 and 9, Pigeon Township, was born in section 4, town 22, range 7 west, just north of his present farm, Aug. 5, 1873, son of Hans A. and Andrena (Nilson) Fremstad. The father was born in Nordland, Norway, in 1838, and came to the United States in 1857, settling in Vernon County, Wis., from which place he came to Trempealeau County in 1871, accompanied by his wife and children then born. He bought a farm in section 4, Pigeon Township, and cultivated it until he sold out to his two sons, Albert H. and Anton H. He still, however, resides on the old homestead. His wife, Andrena, who was born in Norway in 1834, died Oct. 1, 1916. Anton H. Fremstad was the first child born to his parents after they came to Trempealeau County. He worked for his father until the year 1900 and then, with his brother Albert, purchased the homestead, the two brothers operating it in partnership until 1906. They then bought the farm now owned by Anton H. and operated the entire property until the spring of 1915, at which time they dissolved partnership and divided it, Anton taking the farm he now has, and which consists of 120 acres, 40 acres of which lie in section 4 and the remainder in section 9. The buildings on the property include two houses, one of seven rooms, and the new modern home just completed, of 10 rooms. Hot water heat, water system, electric light, bath and all complete. The barn is 32 by 50 by 12 feet, with an 8-foot basement and concrete floors, and a concrete silo, 14 by 30 feet, built in 1912, all the buildings being substantial and in good condition. Mr. Fremstad was vice-president of the Pigeon Grain and Stock Company, and has been its president for the last three years. As one of the responsible citizens of his township, he has devoted some time to public affairs, having served three years as township supervisor, and he is also a trustee of the Norwegian Lutheran Church, to which he and his family belong. His wife, to whom he was united April 11, 1908, was in maidenhood Christine F. Lovlien, and was born in Pigeon Township, Nov. 28, 1885. Her parents were natives of Norway, the father, Frederick Lovlien, who was born in 1840, settling in Pigeon Township, this county,



WILLIAM A. BELL AND FAMILY

in 1872, and residing here engaged in agriculture until his death in 1913. The mother of Mrs. Fremstad, whose maiden name was Goro Bjornstugen, was born in 1850, and is still living on the old homestead with her sons, Andrew and Olof. Mr. and Mrs. Fremstad have been the parents of four children: Herman, born Jan. 22, 1909, who died at birth; Gladys, born Jan. 22, 1911; Harold, born July 20, 1913, and Hulda, born Sept. 22, 1915.

Willis A. Bell, who is successfully engaged in farming and dairying in section 3, Trempealeau Township, was born in Holland, La Crosse County, Wis., March 6, 1860, son of Anson D. and Eliza (Chapman) Bell. The father was born in Guilford, Ohio, April 9, 1818, and the mother at Harrisville, Ohio, Aug. 23, 1820. They were married in Ohio Feb. 2, 1842, and in the same year came West, locating at Geneva, Walworth County, Wis., in which vicinity they began farming. In making the journey overland, they passed through Chicago, which was then a small place. In 1855 Mr. Bell with his family removed to Holland, La Crosse County, where he bought 200 acres of wild land on which there were no buildings. He built a frame house and a small stable and here the family lived until 1863. Then they came to Trempealeau County, renting 80 acres of land in section 2, Trempealeau Township, the property being a part of what is now the O. A. Critzman farm. After residing here until 1865 Anson D. Bell bought 60 acres in section 3, the same township, which land now forms part of the farm of the subject of this sketch. On it at the time stood a three-room log house and a frame barn. This house was the family residence until 1875, which year Mr. Bell built a better one, the later being an upright, story and a half, brick veneer building, which now forms part of his present residence. Later he added a wing of the same material, with ten rooms, a front porch and side porch. In addition to looking after his property, Mr. Bell worked at his trade—that of mason. Anson D. Bell died Dec. 13, 1892, and his wife Jan. 10, 1899, both on the old homestead, and are buried in Evergreen Cemetery. They were people much respected for their sterling qualities, and were among the founders of the Centerville Methodist Episcopal Church. Their family consisted of seven children: LeRoy, Alice M., Sarah E., Harrison B., Ida E., Orville P. and Willis A., whose record in brief is as follows: LeRoy W., born at Geneva, Wis., Aug. 9, 1843, died Feb. 30, 1911, at La Crosse. Alice M., born Nov. 18, 1845, is now Mrs. William Bartholomew, of Galesville, Wis. Sarah E., born Jan. 27, 1847, at Geneva, died Aug. 27, 1863, at Holland, Wis. Harrison B., born March 11, 1849, at Geneva, died Oct. 11, 1863, at Holland, Wis. Ida E., born July 4, 1852, at Geneva, is the wife of William Rich, of Washougal, Wash. Orville P., born Oct. 3, 1855, at Holland, Wis., is a mason residing in Trempealeau Township.

Willis A. Bell in his boyhood attended the district school from the age of 3 to that of 13 years regularly, and afterwards during the winters up to the age of 18 years. At 13 he began working on his parents' farm—the present homestead—and has remained on it up to the present time. He has enlarged the estate somewhat and it now contains a little over 94 acres. Feb. 19, 1896, he was married to Anna F., daughter of Henry and Sophia Bockenbauer, of Trempealeau Township, the ceremony, which took place at the home of W. H. Gibson, being presided over by Rev. Mr. Witherbee.

Mr. Bell is engaged in general farming and dairying, marketing his butter in Galesville. He keeps a herd of grade Shorthorn cattle and a large sty of Poland-China swine. His farm is thoroughly up to date in buildings and equipment, some of the most important improvements having been put in by him. Among these is a large barn, which furnishes stable room for 25 head of cattle and eight horses. Attached to the barn is a granary and buggy shed. There is also a sheep barn attached. There are two silos, with a capacity of 110 tons, and 85 tons. In addition there is a poultry house, a corn crib, a hog house, a combined milk and ice house, and a tank house. All the buildings except the granary and corn crib have cement floors and are neatly painted and kept in first-class condition. Indeed, the whole farm presents a thriving appearance, highly creditable to its proprietor. Like most prosperous and up-to-date farmers, Mr. Bell keeps an automobile. He is a stockholder in the Exchange Elevator Company, of Galesville, Wis. In politics he is a Republican, and has been director of the school board three terms, and clerk of the board two terms. He and his wife have one child, Robert W., who was born Aug. 13, 1903, and resides at home. The family are members of the Centerville Methodist Episcopal church.

Thomas Johnson, who is numbered among the successful agriculturists of Pigeon Township, being proprietor of the Aga Farm of 120 acres in section 27, was born in Telemarken, Norway, Jan. 25, 1867, son of John and Berget (Thompson) Halvorson, the latter dying at his birth. The father, born in Norway in 1825, died in that country in 1889. Thomas Johnson, who was the youngest of nine children, resided in his native land until 1885, and then, following the example of so many of his countrymen, in the hope of bettering his condition, emigrated to the United States, locating in Whitehall, Trempealeau County, Wis. Here he soon found employment and worked out for some five years, or until his marriage, Dec. 11, 1900, to Malinda Aga, who was born Jan. 10, 1864, daughter of Ole Anderson Aga and his wife, Brita Aga. Mr. Johnson then began farming on his present place, which was previously the property of his wife's father, and has since remained here. The residence on the farm is a good frame building. His barn, erected in 1909, is 32 by 66 by 22 feet in dimensions, and the other buildings are neat and substantial and kept in good condition. Mr. Johnson keeps 30 head of cattle, of which he milks 21, and is a stockholder in the Pigeon Grain and Stock Company. For three years he has served as treasurer of the school board of his district and is a man of influence and standing in the community. His wife, who was born Jan. 10, 1864, died March 1, 1903, and Mr. Johnson's household is now presided over by his sister, Mrs. Egil Egilson. The latter has four children: Berget, who married Otto Berg, a farmer of Williston, N. D.; Annie, the wife of John Carlson, of Ulevass, Norway; Margaret, wife of Anton Ustad, of Stoughton, Wis., and Egil, who resides in Blair, this county.

William A. Bright, a well known business man residing in Trempealeau Village, of which he is the present mayor, was born in Caledonia Township, Trempealeau County, Wis., Nov. 22, 1865, son of Robert and Christiana (Campbell) Bright. His early education was obtained in the district school



MR. AND MRS. ROBERT BRIGHT

in his native township, and later he attended school in the village of Trempealeau, to which place his parents had moved in the fall of 1873. For some five or six years he assisted his father in the latter's store and then went into business for himself at North Bend, Jackson County, Wis., opening a general store there. A year and a half later he sold out to Patterson Brothers of North Bend, and came back to Trempealeau Village, where about 1890 or 1891 he opened a grocery store, which he carried on for two years. He then sold out and became traveling salesman for G. W. Marston, a wholesale grocer of La Crosse, Wis. This experience also lasted two years, at the end of which time Mr. Marston went out of business, and Mr. Bright formed a new connection with Ranson Brothers of Albert Lea, wholesale grocers, for whom he traveled three years, in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa. In 1898 Mr. Bright entered the employ of J. J. Hogan of La Crosse, engaged in the same line of business, and has remained with him, traveling in western Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota, the territory adjacent to Trempealeau. He was one of the organizers of the Citizens State Bank of Trempealeau, and is now a director and stockholder in it, being also a stockholder in the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company and the Trempealeau Lime Products Company. Mr. Bright was married, at the home of his bride's parents, Aug. 25, 1886, to Lettie C., daughter of Henry C. Shephard, a farmer living near Blair, Wis. He and his wife began housekeeping in the house in which they now reside. He is also the owner of a house and lot next door, which he rents, and of the Trempealeau Hotel on Main street. He and his wife have two children: Vera M. and Jennie O. Vera M., who was born in Trempealeau, May 22, 1887, was married here, Sept. 29, 1909, to E. B. Elkins, now agent for the Chicago & Northwestern Railway. They reside in Trempealeau and have two sons: Winston Alexander and Arnold, aged six and four years respectively. Jennie O., born in Trempealeau, Jan. 7, 1891, is unmarried, and is a stenographer in the employ of the Sheboygan Falls Machinery Company, of Sheboygan, Wis. Mr. Bright is a stalwart Republican in politics, but has held no political office. His fraternal society affiliations are with Lodge No. 117, A. F. & A. M. of Trempealeau, which he joined in 1890; the Eastern Star Lodge of Trempealeau, of which he and his wife are charter members, and Lodge No. 96, U. C. T., to which he has belonged since 1898. He is also a member of the B. P. O. E., No. 300, of La Crosse. His wife and daughter are active members of the Congregational church of Trempealeau, which he helps to support, though not a member. Mr. Bright is one of the active and enterprising men of his village, of which he has been mayor for the last eight years, and never loses an opportunity to advance its interests. He and his family have a wide acquaintance and are highly esteemed throughout this part of the county.

Robert Bright, a retired farmer now living in Trempealeau Village, was born in Geulph, Ontario, April 8, 1837, son of William and Mary Ann (King) Bright. The parents were both natives of Hampshire, England, the father born May 31, 1798, and the mother October 3, the same year. Married in their native land, they emigrated to Canada in 1836, settling

at Geulph, where William Bright worked at his trade of carpenter until 1843. In that year he brought his family to Wisconsin, settling on a farm near Beloit. The subject of this sketch was at that time six years old and a year later he began his struggle with the "three R's" in the typical log school house of the district. Most of his schooling was acquired in the winters, and his zest for learning was doubtless stimulated by the two-mile walk he had to take in covering the distance from his home to the rural temple of knowledge. This primitive building being unprovided with steam pipes or furnace, the elder boys, in accordance with a time-honored, pioneer custom, were obliged to cut and haul the wood used for fuel, and in this work, after he was ten years old, he had to take a part. After he was old enough to be of use on the farm, however, he attended school only during the winters, and at 16 he had to lay aside his class books to take up the heavier burdens of life. At 17 he was the mainstay of the family, and was the one upon whom his parents chiefly depended during the rest of their lives. In June, 1855, the family came to Trempealeau County, William Bright locating on a tract of 160 acres of school land in section 16, Caledonia Township, near McGilvray's Ferry. This land was without any building that could be used as a residence, so that summer Mr. Bright built a frame house of five rooms, with upright and wings. The subsequent work of the family was similar to that of all pioneer farmers, and was sufficiently arduous to make them all enjoy their nightly rest. In 1859 Robert Bright purchased the farm from his father and began operating it on his own account, his parents residing with him. In November, 1864, occurred another important event of his life, when he took to wife Christiana, daughter of Alexander and Helen (Matthews) Campbell of Guelph, Ontario. Bringing his bride to his parents' home, they resided there for about two years, but in 1866, desiring to establish a separate household, and finding a house for sale in the vicinity, he bought it and moved it onto the farm, he and his wife taking up their residence in it. From time to time he also bought other land until he finally owned 560 acres. Mr. Bright continued his farming operations until the fall of 1873, when, having acquired a competence, he sold half his land and moved to Trempealeau Village with his family, which also included his father and mother. The rest of his land he sold later. In 1891, however, he purchased an improved farm of 160 acres near Black River Falls, which he still owns. In the following year he made a trip to California, but was away but two and a half months. Mr. Bright's present residence is a comfortable brick house on East Third street, where he and his wife are frequently visited by those of their children who live not too far away. His family consists of six in all: William A., Jennie E., Ella May, Ernest A., Frank C. and Eleanor E. William A. was born Nov. 23, 1865, and married Letta Shephard of Blair, Wis. He has two children, Vera and Jennie. Jennie E., born Jan. 22, 1868, is the only one of the family who lives out of the state. She married Almon Holden of South Dakota and now resides in Los Angeles, Calif. Ella May, born March 29, 1872, is the wife of Bert Wakefield of West Salem, Wis., and has two children: Majorie and Robert. Ernest A., born Sept. 25, 1874, married Ella Hoberton of Trempealeau, Wis.,

and has two children: Laura and Ernest, Jr. Frank C., born Aug. 31, 1876, married Metta Miles of Hixon, Wis. He lives on his father's farm near Black River Falls, and has four children: Donald, Marion, Douglas and Majorie. Elmer E., born Aug. 18, 1878, is unmarried and lives with his brother Frank. Mr. Bright's parents have been dead many years. The mother was the first to go, passing away in October, 1875, when 77 years old. The father was 83 when he died, Aug. 21, 1881. There were ten children in their family, including the subject of this sketch—five sons and five daughters, and all except Robert and one of the daughters were born in England. The sons are all living, and there are three of the daughters surviving—two in Wisconsin and one in Sioux City, Iowa. In his youth Robert Bright attended the Methodist Episcopal Church, but after his marriage he and his wife united with the Trempealeau Congregational Church and still maintain their membership. In politics Mr. Bright is a Republican, but has held no public office, except that of postmaster, in which he served in Jackson County, 1896 to 1901, during the time he lived on his farm at Black River Falls. He is now in his 81st year, one of the few survivors of pioneer days in this county, and his memory brings back to his many interesting scenes that the younger generation, accustomed to all the modern conveniences, would find it hard to realize. He can recall the hard physical labor that was necessary to break the new land, the lack of almost every convenience, the frequent scarcity of provisions, the long journey to the mill, and how he once crossed Black River on foot on the ice, hauling a wagon across, and then, laying down planks, went back and led his oxen across (this was Oct. 1, 1855), together with many other incidents of his boyhood and youthful days, when his blood coursed swiftly through his veins and hardships were little minded. Of those of his own age whom he then knew, most have passed away and a new generation has taken up the work which the old hands have laid down. In the success and advancement of his children, and his increasing family of grandchildren and great-grandchildren he takes a keen interest, the more so that one and all give fair promise of doing honor to the family name.

Ole C. Hanson dates his residence in Trempealeau County from 1870, when he was brought to Irvin's Coulie, Lincoln County, by his parents, Hans and Bertha (Nelson) Arneson, who the year previous had brought him from Norway, where he was born Sept. 23, 1853. As a young man he did farm work, and for a while was employed in a sawmill at Eau Claire, Wisconsin. In 1884 he purchased his present place of 80 acres in section 29, Pigeon Township, where he successfully carries on general farming. His financial holdings include stock in the Peoples State Bank of Whitehall, the Pigeon Grain & Stock Company of Whitehall, and the Preston Creamery at Blair. His public work has included service as clerk of the school board since 1904. Since 1890 he has been secretary of the Norwegian Lutheran Church at Whitehall. Mr. Hanson was married, Dec. 30, 1882, to Olena Hanevold, who was born in Toten, Norway, Feb. 22, 1862, daughter of Ole and Andrena Hanevold, who in 1873 came to Fly Creek, in Pigeon Township, and here spent the remainder of their lives, the former dying in 1914 and the latter in 1894. Mr. and Mrs. Hanson have had eleven children, of

whom two died in infancy. Heldor is a farmer in Dunn County, Wisconsin. Adolph is a clerk at Whitehall. Matilda is the wife of Hans Svaie of Church's Ferry, North Dakota. Carl, Lewis, Melvin, Louise and Otto are at home. Emma died March 19, 1917, at the age of eleven years. Hans Arneson, father of Ole C. Hanson, was born in Norway, Oct. 22, 1807, came to America in 1869, lived in Dane County, this state, a year, and then came to this county, where he settled in Irvin's Coulie, in Lincoln Township. In 1884 he sold his place, and took up his home with his son, Hans Arneson, where he died Jan. 6, 1896, his wife, Bertha Nelson, who was born in Norway, Sept. 22, 1813, dying on Dec. 14, 1900.

Henry A. Jacobson, successful merchant of Pigeon Falls, was born at North Branch, Hale Township, this county, Jan. 5, 1878, son of Hans and Olena (Saastad) Jacobson. Hans Jacobson was born in Norway in 1851, came to America in 1867 with his parents, lived two years in Minnesota, later settled at North Branch, in this county, and farmed there until 1898, when he moved to Whitehall, where he died in 1907, his good wife, who was born in 1852, still making her home in that village. Henry A. Jacobson, remained with his parents until 19 years of age, and then went to work as a farm hand. May 1, 1901, he secured employment at Pigeon Falls in the store of Torgerson & Steig. In 1905 this firm became Steig & Steig, and in 1906 Mr. Jacobson purchased a half interest and changed the firm name to Steig & Jacobson. The store and stock were destroyed by fire in 1912, and the present edifice was erected. It is a frame structure, 28 by 42 feet, two stories high and a basement, and is well equipped and stocked for the carrying on of a large mercantile business. Mr. Jacobson has been the sole owner since 1913, and has built up a constantly increasing business. He has the confidence and esteem of the village and country people, and his trade extends for miles around. Mr. Jacobson was married July 10, 1904, to Anna Wold, born June 22, 1885, daughter of Ever and Mary Wold, and this union has been blessed with four children, Hansel, Myrtle, Archie and Irene. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

Edward M. Hagen, proprietor of a farm of 300 acres in section 5, Pigeon Township, known as Hagen's Farm, was born in Biri, Norway, Jan. 12, 1864, son of Mathias Olson and his wife, Annette Thompson. The father died in Norway in June, 1865, and his wife in Norway in 1884. In 1881 Edward M. emigrated to the United States, coming to Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, and locating at Pigeon Falls, where he resided until the spring of 1892, working out and saving his money. Having by that time accumulated a fair sum, he purchased his present farm and has since resided on it, engaged in its development and cultivation, in which he has made great progress. The previous period of 11 years was spent in the employ of P. Ekern, for whom he worked seven years as buttermaker at Pigeon Falls. As a progressive farmer Mr. Hagen has sought to increase the value of his property by making substantial improvements. In 1910 he rebuilt his residence, which is a two-story building of 18 rooms and basement. In 1916 he rebuilt the barn, which measures 44 by 60 by 16 feet with basement, and has an ell, 26 by 50 by 16, with basement, both furnished with



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concrete floors and installed with 40 steel stanchions and litter carrier. The silo, built in the center of the barn, measures 14 by 31 feet. All the buildings are electrically lighted and furnished with running water from a spring, the house having hot and cold water and bathroom. Mr. Hagen plants six acres of his land with tobacco and has a tobacco shed, 26 by 130 feet in size. His herd of Shorthorn cattle numbers 65 head, all high grade animals, of which he milks 25. He also has a flock of 30 sheep and 50 acres of his land is planted in clover. He is a stockholder in the Pigeon Grain & Stock Company, and for six years has served as a director of the school board of his district. May 16, 1891, Mr. Hagen was united in marriage with Jennie Moe of Pigeon Falls, in which place she was born May 4, 1873. Her parents were John and Antoinette (Peterson) Moe, the former of whom, born in Norway, Sept. 17, 1841, came to America in 1869, settling in Pigeon Township, this county. In 1872 he bought the farm on which his son-in-law, Mr. Hagen, now lives, and still resides here. His wife, whom he married at Pigeon Falls Aug. 28, 1872, was born in Norway, March 27, 1846, and is also now living and residing on the Hagen farm. Mr. and Mrs. Hagen have ten children: Aletta, wife of Alfred Nelson, a contractor of Pigeon Falls; Adolph, living at home; Elvina, who graduated from the La Crosse Normal school in 1914 and is now a teacher; Amanda, a student at the Whitehall high school, and Harold, Hilmer, Ansel, Delia, Milfred and Raymond, who are residing at home on the farm.

Marvin T. Babbitt, who operates a 75-acre farm close to Trempealeau Village, and is also the owner of other agricultural property, was born in Colerain, Mass., Nov. 27, 1848. His parents, Adoniram and Sarah (Riddle) Babbitt, were American born and of Scotch, Irish and German ancestry. In 1855 the family came west, Adoniram Babbitt settling on 160 acres of school land near Eyota, Minn., from which place they came to Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, in 1873. Here Mr. Babbitt bought the George Perkins farm of 90 acres in Caledonia Township, now known as the George Hess farm, it being situated about five miles from Trempealeau Village on the Galesville road. On the farm at the time the Babbitts moved onto it there were a clapboarded log house and a log barn, the said house being still standing. Here the family lived for two or three years, at the end of which time Mr. Babbitt moved to West Prairie, Trempealeau Township, taking up 120 acres of wild land on which there was but little timber. On this farm he built a one-story frame house. In 1878 Adoniram Babbitt sold his place and moved to Lincoln County, Minn., where he homesteaded 160 acres of wild prairie land and took up his residence on it. In the meanwhile Marvin T. has grown to man's estate. His education was somewhat limited, but he acquired the elements of knowledge in the district school and learned agriculture and stock raising from his father, whom he assisted on the farm. When the family removed to Lincoln County, he went with them, accompanied by his wife, whom he had recently married, and after arriving in the county he homesteaded 160 acres of land there, also taking a tree claim of 160 acres adjoining. There he resided until 1880, in which year he went to Grant County, S. D., and pre-empted 120 acres of land on what had lately been the Sioux Indian reservation. This land he improved,

building a frame house, 24 by 28 feet, a barn 16 by 34 feet, and a granary of the same size as the barn. In 1884 his health broke down and he rented his Minnesota farm to a tenant and returning to Trempealeau County took up his residence in Trempealeau Village. For five years after settling in the village Mr. Babbitt did little or nothing, but in 1889, tired of inactivity, and his health being improved, he bought the Rudolph place of 44 acres, situated on the edge of the village, and moved to it with his family. Since then he has purchased some adjoining land so that now his farm contains 75 acres. The farm was improved at the time he bought it, there being a three-story house on it, 20 by 34 feet, with stone basement. Mr. Babbitt in 1901 added to the house a frame wing, 14 by 30 feet, and has since erected a tool shed, 16 by 28, and a woodshed, 14 by 20 feet, with shop attached, having also other substantial outbuildings.

January 23, 1878, Mr. Babbitt was married to Helen, daughter of Edward A. and Margaret C. Barnard of Caledonia Township, Trempealeau County, the wedding taking place at the home of the bride's parents. He and his wife have had a family of 12 children: Edward A., Elbert J., Frank T., William H., Grace M., Ella R., Louis M., Ruth C., George R., Harry R., John C. and Virgil A. All of these children are living, except Harry R., who was born May 16, 1898, and died May 22, 1911, at the age of 13 years. William H., born October 7, 1884, is married and resides near Trempealeau Village. Grace M., born December 8, 1889, is unmarried and is a telegraph operator, residing at home. Ella R., born March 20, 1892, follows the same occupation as her sister Grace and also resides at home. Louis M., born Oct. 15, 1893, is a plumber, unmarried, and resides at Seymour, Wis. Ruth C., born Jan. 25, 1896, is unmarried, a high school graduate residing at home. George R., born Jan. 30, 1897, spent two years in the high school and is now engaged as a section hand. John C., born April 9, 1899, also studied two years in the high school. Virgil A., born June 9, 1903, resides at home and is attending school in Trempealeau. Mr. Babbitt is independent in politics, but has not been active politically and has held no public offices. He belongs to Lodge No. 117, A. F. & A. M. of Trempealeau. Though reared a Baptist he belongs to no church, but supports the cause of religion without regard to denominational affiliations. In addition to his property already mentioned, he owns 100 acres one mile north of the village, and 80 acres of "bottom land" four miles southeast in La Crosse County, Wisconsin.

Thomas M. Hagen, who owns and operates Woodland Farm of 240 acres in section 5, Pigeon Township, is one of the thriving agriculturists of this township and one of its best known and respected citizens. He was born in Norway, Dec. 12, 1867, his father being Matt Olson and his mother in maidenhood Annette Thompson. It was on May 17, 1883, that he left his native land for the New World, his journey coming to an end at Whitehall, this county. He soon entered the employ of P. Ekern of Pigeon Falls, for whom he worked for seven years. These were years, not only of industry, but of economy and thrift, as he had no intention of spending his life in working for others. At the end of the period mentioned, having enough money for his purpose, he purchased his present farm, a good piece of

agricultural property, well improved, where he carries on general farming and dairying. The house is a good frame building of two stories and basement. The barn measures 48 by 70 by 14 feet, having stone basement and concrete floors, also 22 steel stanchions. On the farm is also a stave silo, 14 by 32 feet. Mr. Hagen has a herd of 30 cattle, of the Durham and Holstein breeds, of which he milks 25. He was married Dec. 25, 1891, to Paulina Moe of Pigeon Township, who was born at Pigeon Falls, this county, May 8, 1874, daughter of John J. and Antoinette (Peterson) Moe. Mr. and Mrs. Hagen have had ten children, three of whom died in infancy. The others are: Joel, born Jan. 11, 1893; Albert, Feb. 10, 1895, was married June 30, 1917, to Elsie Margaret Evenson; Palmer, Aug. 26, 1896; Edwin, March 15, 1899; Peter, Nov. 18, 1900; Rudolph, Sept. 12, 1904, and Karl, Nov. 30, 1907. In March, 1916, they adopted a girl, Alice, who was born July 21, 1909. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

Paul Ackley. Among the leading agriculturists of Pigeon Township is the subject of this sketch, who is proprietor of two good farms, aggregating 360 acres. Mr. Ackley was born in Gulsbrandsdalen, Norway, Feb. 4, 1860. His father, Franz Anderson Ackley, who was a farmer, died in Norway in 1890 at the age of 75 years. Mr. Ackley's mother, whose maiden name was Karen Harralsdatter, died in the same year as her husband, at the age of 75. Paul Ackley on attaining his majority in 1881 said farewell to his native land and took passage for the United States. Following the example of many of his countrymen who had preceded him, he decided to make his home in the great Northwest, and first located in Swift County, Minn., where for two years he worked out for others. Then going to Eau Claire County, he spent eight years there working in a sawmill and in the woods. The next two years of his life were spent in Tacoma, Wash., after which he returned to Wisconsin and resided in Eau Claire five years, being engaged in the saw mill business. In the fall of 1894 Mr. Ackley began agricultural operations in Pigeon township, buying the property now known as Ackley's farm, and which contains 160 acres, 120 of which are located in the northwest quarter of section 12, and 40 acres in the southeast quarter of section 11. Here Mr. Ackley took up his residence and cultivated the farm until 1910. He then purchased the Tuff farm of 200 acres, 160 acres lying in the southeast quarter of section 12 and the other 40 in the northeast quarter of section 11. On this latter farm he now makes his residence. The houses on both farms are substantial two-story buildings, neat-looking and commodious, and the farms are well improved, all the buildings being kept in good condition. Both are operated profitably by Mr. Ackley, who is an experienced agriculturist and whose energy and perseverance, combined with thrift and good business foresight, have placed him among the substantial and well-to-do citizens of Pigeon Township. He has been treasurer of the school board for 13 years and has always taken a keen interest in all projects for the good of the community in which he lives. Aside from his interest in the two farms mentioned, he is a stockholder in the Pigeon Grain & Stock Company and the Whitehall Hospital. Mr. Ackley was married April 17, 1891, to Maria Tuff, who was born at Haalen, Norway,

July 1, 1861, her father being Ole Tuff and her mother, in maidenhood, Anna Stena Johnson. The father, who was born in Norway, came to America in October, 1861, settling in LaFayette County, Wisconsin, where, however, he lived but a short time, removing to Blair County, where also his residence was brief. Coming from Blair to Trempealeau County, he bought the farm known as the Tuff farm, now owned by Mr. Ackley, and resided on it until it was purchased by Mr. Ackley. Since then he has retired and resides in Blair. His wife Anna died in 1904 at the age of 70 years. Mr. and Mrs. Ackley are the parents of five children: Olaf F., who is a member of the Engineering Corps, now located at Fort Snelling, while Clara, Palmer, Melvin and Selmer reside at home. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church.

Anton Davidson, general farmer and tobacco raiser, owning a farm of 160 acres in section 8, Preston Township, was born in Hedemaarken, Norway, June 24, 1868, son of David and Mary Fagerness. He lost his parents when a mere child, and in 1876, as a boy of eight years, set out alone for far-distant America, to join his brother Louis, who had sent for him. Arriving at Westby, Wis., he was met by his brothers, Louis and Hans, and by his uncle, Christopher Stephanson, and was under their care until sixteen years of age. For a time he was engaged as a member of a construction crew, then worked two years for P. S. Davidson of La Crosse as coachman. Then he entered the employ of Capt. I. H. Moulton of La Crosse, as coachman, a position in which he remained for over twenty years. Desiring, however, to take up agricultural pursuits, he purchased his present farm from Capt. Moulton in 1897 and moved onto it in 1899. There he has since resided. He has a pleasant home and good barns, including a large well-equipped tobacco shed. He successfully farms, raises the usual crops, breeds good stock and makes a specialty of Spanish Comstock tobacco, of which he sets out from five to ten acres each year. Mr. Davidson was married July 10, 1900, to Sophia Hunter, daughter of John and Christina Hunter, who were born and married in Berlin, Germany, and now farm near Hokah, Minn. Mrs. Davidson died Jan. 21, 1909. In the family there are three children: Daisy, Lottie and Clara, one, Milton, having died at the age of three months. Daisy is a student at the La Crosse normal school. The others are at home.

William Trim, a well to do farmer of Trempealeau Township, was born at Dorchester, England (in the village of Kington), July 1, 1840, son of Thomas and Mary (Hanan) Trim. Both his parents were natives of England. Oct. 2, 1858, William left England for America, in company with a sister, Mrs. Edward Ware and her six children, Mrs. Ware's husband having preceded her to this country a year and a half before, settling in Trempealeau, Wis. Landing at New York they went from there to Toronto, Canada, to await transportation to Trempealeau, for which place they left after a short time. The journey was made by train to Dunleith, Ill., and from there to Trempealeau by boat, arriving at 7 o'clock in the morning, Oct. 15, 1858. They found Mr. Ware located at Cal McGilvray's Ferry in Caledonia Township. He had not yet built a house, so they all had to take up their residence in the house of Thomas Ware—a one-roomed log



structure, which furnished poor accommodations for 11 people. Finding the space so crowded, on account of which he was unable to sleep, William Trim went over to Mr. Bright's and slept with Robert Bright. His next task was to look for work, and he found it on the farms at threshing, and otherwise helping the farmers, for which he received 50 cents a day. That fall he husked corn at \$8 a month and board. During the winter of 1858-59 he split rails with Edward Ware in payment for a cow, and also did whatever work he could get in addition. At times he felt discouraged and homesick and would have returned to England, but had not the means. When he could find no other place to sleep he went to the little shanty which Edward Ware had built for his family, where he could always stay over night, though being somewhat crowded in bed, as he had to sleep with two others. In the spring of 1859 Mr. Trim was engaged by Hollister Wright for one year at \$9 a month. He remained with him three years, receiving the second year \$10 and the third year \$13 a month. Mr. Wright was engaged in general farming and dairying, keeping 12 or 13 cows, and young Trim had to make himself generally useful.

In the spring of 1862 a change occurred in his life, which led him into fields of adventure. The Civil War was then raging and Mr. Trim, tired of the drudgery of farming for no more pay than he would receive as a soldier, enlisted at Galesville, Wis., in Company C, Thirtieth Wisconsin Infantry, being mustered in at Madison. The regiment was ordered to Milwaukee at the time of the draft in November, and remained there until the spring of 1863. They were next sent to New Lisbon, Wis., to prevent an anticipated Indian outbreak, a woman having been killed by the savages in that neighborhood. When the danger was over they were ordered back to Madison and from there sent to Camp Washburn. Jan. 1, 1864, the Thirtieth Regiment took up winter quarters on the shore of Lake Michigan, near Milwaukee, where they remained until the following April. Their next move was to St. Louis, Mo., and in that city they stayed ten days, when they broke camp and proceeded up the Missouri River with orders to build Fort Rice, near Bismark (North) Dakota, 15 miles above the mouth of Cannon Ball River. This duty detained them in that neighborhood until October. While there an emigrant train under command of Captain Fisk, and bound for Virginia City, Idaho, was stopped by Indians at the edge of the "Bad Lands," North Dakota, and an expedition was sent out from Fort Rice for its relief, which Mr. Trim accompanied. This expedition took 20 days, the soldiers marching on foot, escorting an ox train. On the way back, 900 strong, they stopped at the Missouri River, where they built flat boats for transportation and floated down the river to St. Joseph, Mo., having, it may be presumed, received government orders, they proceeded by rail to Louisville, Ky., continuing their movement, Dec. 10, 1864, to Bowling Green, that state, where they were placed to guard the railroad bridge from attacks by the Confederates. Jan. 10, 1865, they returned to Louisville, at which place they were stationed until the close of the war, when they returned to Madison, Wis., to be mustered out.

During the war, and while stationed at New Lisbon, Wis., Mr. Trim was married to Martha R., daughter of Richard Robinson of Trempealeau.

at which place their wedding occurred Oct. 25, 1863. Mrs. Trim remained with her parents in Trempealeau during the rest of her husband's absence while in military service. In the fall of 1865 Mr. Trim rented a farm consisting of improved land, which now forms a part of his present homestead. On it stood a small frame shanty and a frame barn for a yoke of oxen, and to this place he brought his wife and they began farming operations and housekeeping. By the spring of 1866 he had put in 40 acres of wheat and 20 of corn, by the aid of his ox team, and was congratulating himself on his future prospects, when the June flood of that year wiped out everything, destroying the crops. However, he had \$1,000 saved up, the result of his labor and the war bounty he had received, so was not destitute. In the fall he moved to a farm in Pine Creek Township, where he remained two years, having better luck, as here he made up his losses. He then made another removal, this time to an 80-acre farm on Trempealeau prairie, three miles from Centerville, southeast. It was improved land and had a log house on it, and here he and his family remained until 1871. He then traded this farm for 120 acres in Little Tamarac, which land was also improved, the residence being a frame building. Here Mr. Trim built a large barn, and increased the size of the farm by purchasing 182 additional acres, so that he now had a 302-acre farm, this he had bought being adjacent to the original purchase. In 1872 he had a big crop of wheat, and while engaged in threshing it a fire broke out and destroyed all his grain—causing him a loss of \$800. He was already in debt \$4,000 for the land he had bought and was paying 10 per cent interest on the money. This loss temporarily discouraged him and he wanted the man from whom he had bought his farm to take back the land and release him from the debt, but he refused to do so. The only thing Mr. Trim could do, therefore, was to continue and hope for better fortune. He had learned dairying in the old country, so now turned his attention to that, buying all the cows he could pay for, and he and his wife set to work again, beginning at the bottom of the ladder. By this time fate seemed tired of pursuing him. The dairy venture was a success, and he had no more misfortune with his crops. Each year saw his debt reduced, until at the end of six years it was all paid off and he owned his farm of 302 acres, besides having a good cow barn which he had been able to erect. This was the position in which he found himself in 1877, from which year he dates the beginning of his prosperity. Now he began to go ahead in the right direction. By the end of the next year he had saved \$1,000, and was able to build a large barn, 96 by 40 by 22 feet, with a cattle barn attached. In the meanwhile he continued in the dairying business and his profits increased from year to year, so that in 1896, when his present farm of 302 acres was put on the market by its then owner he was enabled to purchase it, still retaining the farm he had at Little Tamarac. About this time his son George married and went to live on the Little Tamarac place. Mr. Trim moved onto his present farm in February, 1896, and has since made many improvements on it. He first improved the original residence, but later erected a new frame house, one and a half stories high, with seven rooms, in which he lives, his daughter, Mrs. Nichols, occupying the original building. In addition to this new house he has a

number of good buildings, including a frame barn, a large sheep shed, a corn crib, machine shed, poultry houses and hog houses, all in excellent shape. On the farm are also three wells and two windmills, furnishing a complete water system. Mr. Trim is engaged in both general farming and dairying, keeping grade Durham cows; also several horses and a sty of Poland-China hogs. The soil on his farm consists of black loam, with a clay sub-soil, and is very fertile. It has a beautiful location in the valley. In association with his daughter, Mrs. Nichols, Mr. Trim also owns a farm of 316 acres in Big Tamarac, the property being improved and with good buildings. His wife died Jan. 16, 1916, and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery. Their children were George Alvin, Mary Alice, Jane Agnes and Nettie Eldora. George Alvin, born Aug. 2, 1866, at Big Tamarac, is living on the Little Tamarac farm in Trempealeau Township. He married and has seven children: Mary Alice, born Feb. 22, 1869, at Trempealeau Prairie, married James Nichols, and is living on her father's homestead. She has two children: William and Howard. Jane Agnes, born March 13, 1873, died March 19, 1874. Nettie Eldora, born May 26, 1875, is the wife of Milton Pittinger and is living at Big Tamarac. She has a daughter Martha, who is the wife of Guy Kopp, and has a son, Wayne R.—the great-grandson of the subject of this sketch. Mr. Trim was reared strictly in the faith of the Church of England. He is not active in politics, but has always been interested in good local government. His career has been a strenuous one and his success has been well earned.

Gilbert Baalrud, proprietor of a well equipped photographic studio in Whitehall, Wis., was born in Winona, Minn., May 6, 1893. He is son of Eric and Hannah (Hanson) Baalrud. The father, born in Norway, came to America in 1886, locating in Winona, Minn., where he resided four years, subsequently settling in Pigeon Township, Trempealeau County, Wis. In April, 1915, he moved to Chippewa County, where he is now living at the age of 55 years, and is engaged in farming. By his wife Hannah, who is ten years younger than himself, he has had 11 children, of whom all are living but three. Gilbert Baalrud, who was the eldest child of his parents, remained at home until November, 1914, when he began to learn the trade of photographer. In January, 1916, he bought his present studio from C. J. Van Tassel. It is located in a two-story frame building on Main street and is well equipped with everything necessary for artistic work. Although he has been here but a short time, he has begun to make a reputation for himself and his future prospects are promising. Mr. Baalrud was married May 9, 1917, to Agnes Hansen of Preston Township, this county. He is a member of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church and of the Modern Woodmen of America.

The Augustine Brothers have made Whitehall known throughout the United States with their ferret breeding establishments. They raise thousands of the little animals yearly, and sell them extensively for use in eliminating rats, and for hunting rabbits, mink, muskrats, gophers, squirrels, prairie dogs and skunk. In addition to shipping the ferrets far and wide, they issue a pamphlet which contains a valuable treatise on the care and use of the animal. The ferrets from the Augustine Brothers' place are

unusually strong and hardy, with sound eyes and feet, and with thick fur. They are of three sizes, large, medium and small, and they are of two colors, the white, which are called English, and the brown, which are called Fitch. All the yearlings have been handled until they are tame and gentle, while the younger ones good for hunting rabbits have not been trained so much. The young men have been in business for a number of years; they are thorough masters of their line of industry, and they have testimonials from all over the country testifying as to the excellence of their animals, and the honesty and courtesy of their dealings. The firm consists of Frank and Clarence Augustine. They first started raising ferrets in 1902 and have gradually increased their business until they now carry at one time an average of 1,000 to 1,500 animals. They ship about 1,500 each year. They are also constantly importing animals from other reputable dealers in order to avoid inbreeding.

Joseph Augustine, a veteran of the Civil War, and for many years an honored resident of Lincoln Township, was born in West Virginia, Aug. 7, 1841, son of Jacob F. R. and Justina (Null) Augustine. He was reared in Pennsylvania, and in 1862 tendered his services to the Union government as a carpenter. He served through the great conflict as a bridge builder in the armies of General Sherman and General Thomas. At the close of the hostilities he came to Wisconsin in 1865, and for several years divided his time between Eau Claire, where he was employed as a carpenter, and the pine forests of the state, where he was employed as cook. In 1874 he came to Whitehall, where he followed his trade as a carpenter until 1885, when he purchased a farm in Lincoln Township, town 22, range 28, and moved thereon. When he purchased the tract it was covered with timber. He cleared the land, erected buildings, added to his original purchase, and gradually developed his place until he had a splendid estate of 200 acres located in sections 14, 23 and 24, to which he gave the name of Sunny Hill farm. The home, a frame structure of two stories and a basement, with ten good-sized rooms, was erected in 1898. The barn, a frame structure, 40 by 70 feet, was erected in 1906. A silo, 16 by 40 feet, of cement blocks, was constructed in 1908. One of the features of the place is a valuable orchard of two and a half acres. General farming is conducted on a generous scale, and a specialty is made of a fine herd of grade Holstein cattle. Another interesting feature is the production of honey, some thirty colonies of the finest Italian bees being maintained. The sons, Frank and Clarence, under the name of the Augustine Brothers, have made the place widely known through the breeding of ferrets. Mr. Augustine was married in 1868 to Maria Borea, who was born in 1843. She died in 1870, leaving one child, Fannie, who married D. O. Sweet, a farmer of Whitehall, and died in 1902. March 14, 1874, Mr. Augustine married Francis E. (Mason) Staples. She was born in Litchfield, Conn., March 9, 1846, daughter of Charles S. and Rosetta T. Bissell, natives of Connecticut, and this union was blessed with seven children: Jessie, who died at the age of two years; Ray, who died at the age of one year; Ernest, who died at the age of two years; Bessie, a stenographer at St. Paul; Frank and Clarence, who are at home; and Charles, who died at the age of nine years. By her marriage to



EMILE FRANCAR

W. S. Staples of Kilbourn City, a veteran of Company K, 42nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, Mrs. Augustine has three children: Fred M., a hardware merchant of Little Rock, Kan.; Clifford D., a commercial man of St. Paul, and Marcia, who is a clerk in the pension office at Washington, D. C.

Emile Francar, proprietor of a well equipped drug store in Galesville, was born in Red River, Wis., June 25, 1877, son of Anton and Jennie (Lewis) Francar. The father was a native of Belgium, who on coming to this country settled near Green Bay, Wis., where for thirty years or more he was employed by the cooperage company's plant. He and his wife, who was born in Wallon, Wis., now reside at Green Bay. They had 14 children, of whom Emile was the fifth in order of birth.

Emile Francar was educated in the schools at Green Bay and subsequently took a course in pharmacy, receiving his degree in May, 1898. He resided at home until 1901, when he came to Galesville and associated himself in the drug business with Dr. Edson Rhodes in the Rhodes building. In 1903 he purchased from F. H. Fiedler the Galesville pharmacy, which store he now conducts. This store is one of the Rexall stores. Mr. Francar is one of the successful business men of Galesville. Since coming to this village Mr. Francar has identified himself with the interests of the village and county, taking an active part in different local organizations. He served as trustee on the village board of Galesville, and is at present secretary of the Business Men's Association, and president of the Trempealeau County Fair Association. Mr. Francar was married Nov. 7, 1902, to Clara Langenohl, who was born in Winona, Minn., daughter of Fred and Mary (Webber) Langenohl. Her father, who was a shoe manufacturer, is now deceased. His wife, surviving him, resides in Galesville. Mr. and Mrs. Francar have one child, Genevieve Delphine.

Ole B. Borsheim, president and cashier of "The Home Bank" of Blair, Wis., was born in Mitchell County, Iowa, May 5, 1869, son of Thorkel N. and Brita (Hylden) Borsheim. The father, born in Norway, came to America in 1865, locating in Mitchell County, Iowa, where he engaged in farming and where he died Feb. 6, 1915. He was nearly 81 years old, having been born in April, 1834. His wife Brita still resides on the old farm, having passed her 77th birthday. Ole B. Borsheim was the sixth born of his parents' seven children. After acquiring the elements of knowledge in the local schools, he became clerk in a store at Cresco, Iowa, where he worked four years—from March 3, 1891 to 1895. He then went to Dubuque, where he was employed in the office of John T. Hancock & Sons until September, 1899. At that time he came to Blair and, with H. C. Hjerleid of Decorah, Iowa, started the Home Bank of Blair. Of this institution he was the cashier till July 27, 1912; then president till the fall of 1915, since which time he has been both cashier and president. He is also president of the Trempealeau Valley State Bank of Taylor, Wis., a director of the State Bank of Bowman, N. D., and a director in the Home Lumber Company of Bowman. All these are flourishing concerns conducted by enterprising business men, with whom Mr. Borsheim is pleasantly and profitably associated. Mr. Borsheim has been active in local affairs, having served as vil-

lage treasurer eight years and school clerk three years. He is a member of several fraternal orders, belonging to the Blue Lodge and Chapter in the Masons, having passed all the chairs in the Blue Lodge; the Independent Order of Foresters; the Modern Woodmen of America, and the B. R. F. F. He was married, Feb. 22, 1905, to Delilah Johnson of Anamosa, Iowa, who was born in Kansas, a daughter of R. W. and Sarah (Burwell) Johnson. Her father followed the mercantile business in Anamosa for many years. Her mother died in 1910 at the age of 56. Mr. and Mrs. Borsheim have no children. They are social people and have many friends in Blair and the vicinity.

Ole J. Anderson, proprietor of the Nordingen farm of 240 acres in section 15, town 23, range 7, Hale Township, was born in Biri, Norway, Oct. 9, 1862, son of John and Pernella (Kalverud) Anderson, who came to America in 1885, the former now making his home with his children, and the latter of whom died in 1911. Ole J. Anderson came to America in 1882 and started work on his present farm for Ole Faring, who then owned the place, and who had assisted in paying his passage. In 1896 Mr. Anderson bought 80 acres of his present farm. In 1903 he bought the portion of which his home is located. Here he carries on general farming, and raises a good grade of Holstein cattle and Poland-China swine. Taking, as he does, an interest in public affairs, he has served as treasurer of the school board for the past twelve years. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. Mr. Anderson was married Dec. 27, 1890, to Anna Hanvold, born in Coon Valley, Vernon County, Wis., Oct. 17, 1872, daughter of Andrew and Aganetta Hanvold. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have two children: Adolph, who is at home; and Palma, who was graduated from the Red Wing Seminary, Red Wing, Minn., Class of 1917.

Knut K. Hagestad. One of the most important industries of Trempealeau County is that of stock raising, of which the subject of this sketch was for many years a leading representative. He was born at Ulvic Hardanger, Bergenstift, Norway, June 26, 1846, his parents, Knut and Cathrina (Richolsen) Hagestad, being natives of the same place. The father, who in Norway was a boat builder, emigrated to America with his family in 1854, settling in Columbia County, Wis. There he remained until 1860, in which year he came to Trempealeau County, taking land which now constitutes the farm lately owned by his son, Knut K., and which he cultivated and developed, residing on it until his death, Aug. 22, 1872. He became a man of influence in the community, serving as treasurer of the school board and in other offices. His wife survived him a few years, dying in May, 1875. Their family consisted of four children, Knut being the first in order of birth. Knut K. Hagestad had but limited educational opportunities, attending school in Columbia County, Wis., for a part of three or four terms only. He accompanied his parents to Trempealeau County, being then 14 years old, and resided at home until he was 18. He then returned to the old home in Columbia County and worked for farmers in that vicinity for about 18 months. Returning to this county in the month of January, he spent the next three months lumbering in the woods, after which he worked at grubbing for his father. By this time he

had saved some money and with this he bought two pairs of oxen, and hiring another pair from his father and one from his brother, he engaged in breaking land, among other jobs of this kind turning the first furrow in Lakes Coolie for Lars Jahr, on the farm now owned by H. K. Solberg and John Hogden. After one season at breaking he sold his oxen and engaged in threshing one summer, working in the woods the next fall and winter. From that time until 1872 he followed the carpenter's trade in the summer. In this year his marriage occurred and he then rented his father's farm and operated it on that basis for about a year after his father's death, the estate being as yet unsettled. It subsequently came into his possession and he took up his residence in the original house built of logs, but which was so skillfully constructed by himself that today it appears like a modern dwelling, the logs not being visible. Mr. Hagestad also erected the main part of the present barn, another excellent piece of work, the building measuring 124 by 32 feet, with a nine-foot basement and 16-foot stockboards, the rock used for the foundations being quarried by him. Starting with 160 acres of land, Mr. Hagestad increased the size of the farm to 228 acres of highly improved land, and his buildings and equipment were and are adequate to the fullest demands of modern farming and stock raising. It was to the latter branch of his business that he devoted his chief attention. When he began agricultural work for himself it was with the desire to raise pure-bred cattle, and in the early eighties he commenced with Shorthorns, purchasing two full-blooded sires. About 1886 he decided that breed of cattle was more suited to beef purposes and consequently would not produce the maximum amount of milk, also that he could not breed them as profitably as he desired. He then bought two full-blooded Holstein heifers and a bull and continued with this breed until his herd had become one of pure-blooded Holstein-Friesian cattle exclusively, which experiment he found highly satisfactory. His original stock was obtained at Libertyville, Ill., and while there attending a sale he met Mons Anderson, a merchant of La Crosse, who purchased 12 head, and these, with Mr. Hagestad's three head, were shipped together to La Crosse, Mr. Hagestad taking charge of the car. Upon arriving in La Crosse they paraded their stock through the streets, attracting considerable attention, as these were the first Holstein cattle seen in the county or anywhere in the vicinity. Mr. Hagestad became the owner of about 50 head of these cattle, all fine specimens of the breed. He frequently shipped stock to Texas, Old Mexico and various states of the Union, and in 1903 shipped six head to Japan for breeding purposes. He and his son, Andrew C., for the last 25 years were engaged in breeding pure-blooded Berkshire hogs and S. C. White Leghorn chickens, which he continued to do until his death, April 18, 1917.

Mr. Hagestad was a member and vice-president of the Western Wisconsin's Holstein-Friesian Breeders' Association, and had been a director in the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company from its organization. In addition to the interests mentioned, he was a stockholder in the Ettrick Creamery Company and a stockholder and director in the Home Bank at Blair. Other interests that he had in the Bank of Ettrick he turned over

to his son before his death, and was then living practically retired, the son having taken over the management of the farm. Mr. Hagestad was a Republican in politics and during his long and active career took a more or less prominent part in public affairs, serving on the township board, as chairman of the county board, and as representative to the State Assembly during the session of 1889. On June 3, 1872, Mr. Hagestad was united in marriage with Astri Knutson, who was born in Hallingdahl, Norway, daughter of Andres and Astri (Johnson) Knutson. Her parents, who were natives of the same province, came to America in 1860, locating in Trempealeau County, Wis., on land adjoining the Hagestad farm, where Mr. Knutson followed farming and stock raising. He died June 7, 1891, and his wife May 12, 1895. Mrs. Hagestad was the second born of seven children. In her girlhood she attended school in this county, her attendance, however, being limited to about two months each summer, as her services were needed in the household. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hagestad are as follows: Knut Martimus, who is a professor in the city schools of Santa Cruz, Calif.; Andrew C., residing on the home farm; Albert J., deceased; Kathrina, also deceased, who was the wife of C. L. Grinde, her husband now residing in Blair, Wis.; Esther, deceased, who was the wife of Hans Twesme of Galesville; Cora, deceased; Almina, wife of Ove Vetterhaus, residing in South Dakota; Albert, deceased; Clara, wife of John Fillner of Ettrick; William, a graduate of Gale College and of the State Agricultural School at Madison, who is now a farmer near Camp Douglas, Wis.; Anna, wife of Irving Swenson, a farmer of Ettrick Township; Cora (second), a nurse in the Lutheran Hospital at La Crosse; Hilda, who resides at home, and a child who died in infancy. Mr. Hagestad was a member of the Lutheran church, to which his family also belong. One of the leading men in his line of business in Trempealeau County, he was widely known and highly esteemed. The example he set more than 30 years ago in the breeding of Holstein cattle has since been followed successfully by many other farmers in this region and is now an important branch of the stock raising industry of the county, adding to the sum total of wealth and the general prosperity; and in this way he was a public benefactor. His activities along this and other lines also conduced to his own benefit, and he was recognized as one of the well-to-do and substantial citizens of the community in which he lived. His wife, an estimable lady, who was to him a worthy helpmate, still resides on the old homestead. Mr. Hagestad for many years took a warm interest in Gale College, becoming president of its board of directors at the time it passed into Lutheran hands.

John Erickson, proprietor of a profitable 200-acre farm located partly in Gale and partly in Ettrick Township, his residence being in section 2, Gale Township, was born at Dramen, Norway, Jan. 9, 1873, son of John and Catherine (Amundson) Erickson, both natives of that locality. Mr. Erickson's parents never came to the United States. The father worked in the woods at lumbering until his death, which occurred when the subject of this sketch was only four months old. The mother is still living in Norway. John Erickson was the only child of his parents and when young was adopted by a family named Berg, whom he accompanied to America



A. T. TWESME

when about seven years old. He began working for others at the age of ten, his residence being then in La Crosse, where the Bergs had settled. His usual occupations at this time were herding cows, carrying wood and other easy work, but at the age of 12 he began working for farmers in Lewis Valley, and as he got older and stronger the work became more strenuous, including timber cutting in the north woods and lumber rafting on the river. June 6, 1900, he was married to Rose Dick, who was born at Decorah Prairie, Trempealeau County, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Brant) Dick, her father now residing on a farm near Galesville. For one year after his marriage Mr. Erickson lived with his wife's father in Silver Creek Valley, and at the end of that time took a farm situated not far from his present residence. He was then on the Hewitt farm for five years, after which he purchased his present farm of 200 acres, where he is carrying on general farming and dairying, with profitable results. He is also a stockholder in the Ettrick Creamery Company, the Farmers' Exchange at Galesville and the La Crosse Packing Company, and is counted as one of the substantial and well-to-do citizens of his township. He and his wife are the parents of six children: Alice Elizabeth, Ellen Catherine, Winnie, John Glenn, Ralph William and Donald Victor. At the present time Mr. Erickson is serving in his sixth year as school clerk. In politics he is an independent Republican, while his fraternal affiliations are with the Beavers and Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Erickson's career is a good example of the value of self-help. Practically self-supporting from an early age, he has worked his way up by courage and resolution, coupled with plenty of hard work, to an honorable position in the community, and is able to give his children much better advantages than he himself received. As he is now in the prime of life he may be expected to enjoy the fruits of his labors for many years to come.

Albert T. Twesme, who is engaged in the general practice of law in Galesville, of which village he is the president, was born in Ettrick Township, Trempealeau County, Wis., Aug. 7, 1879, son of Lars and Begga (Tvedt) Twesme. The parents were both born in Norway, the father Oct. 5, 1843, and the mother Nov. 21, 1841. They were married in their native land and soon afterwards came to the United States, settling in Trempealeau County. Lars Twesme homesteaded a farm in Ettrick Township, which he improved and developed, and on which he resided until 1908, when he retired and took up his residence in Galesville. His wife died here in 1914.

Albert T. Twesme was the sixth born in a family of eight children. He acquired his elementary education in the graded school in Ettrick Township and at the age of 15 years was assisting on his father's farm, which he operated for three years, subsequently continuing his education at Gale College. He then went to Madison, where he took one year preparatory work in the Wisconsin Academy and six years in the University of Wisconsin at Madison, taking the course in law. He was graduated Bachelor of Arts in 1906 and from the law department in 1908, and then began the practice of his profession in Galesville, where he has since remained. He has gained a good reputation as a reliable lawyer and is a stockholder in

several business enterprises, besides being the owner of a number of farms, all of which are rented except one. In 1908 Mr. Twesme served as a member of the state assembly; he was elected president of the village of Galesville in 1915-16-17. In politics he is a stalwart Republican.

Mr. Twesme was married, Nov. 4, 1909, to Miss Lulu Burns, who was born in Trempealeau County, daughter of Delbert C. and Lunetta (French) Burns. She is of Scotch-English descent. Her father, who was born in Trempealeau County, and was a farmer in the county for many years, died in 1908. He was a prominent citizen and at various times held local office. His widow is now living in Winona, Minn. Mr. and Mrs. Twesme have one child: Albert Luverne, who was born May 4, 1914. Mr. Twesme keeps up his membership in his college fraternity of Alpha Tau Omega, and is a Chapter Mason and a member of the fraternal orders of the Elks and Beavers.

Nels J. Twesme, who is living practically retired on a small farm in section 15 E, Ettrick Township, was born in Hardanger, Norway, Nov. 7, 1847, son of Jone Larson and Anna (Matson) Larson. His parents, who were natives of the same province in Norway, emigrated to the United States in 1869, but the father died on the voyage and was buried at sea. His wife, with her daughter, continued on to Trempealeau County, Wis., settling on Beaver Creek, Ettrick Township, where she lived many years, passing away in 1905. She and her husband had five children, of whom Nels J. was the fourth born.

Nels J. Twesme was educated in his native land and was only ten years old when he began to earn money by tending goats, subsequently working on farms for six or seven years. He then took to the sea, making coastwise voyages as a sailor for some five years. In 1869 he came to this country, locating on Beaver Creek and for two years thereafter worked as a farm hand. At the end of that time he bought a farm, which was located near his present farm in Ettrick Township and began its cultivation, with the aid of an ox team, using oxen on his farm for many years subsequently. He was unable at first to speak English, but gradually acquired a knowledge of the language by associating with English-speaking people. After spending some 36 or 37 years on that farm, Mr. Twesme sold it to his children and bought his present small farm of 20 acres, where he is keeping a few cows, pigs and chickens, which he can take care of without too much work. This rural life he prefers to living in town, where he would have nothing to do. He is also a stockholder in the Ettrick Creamery and in the Telephone Company.

April 12, 1869, Mr. Twesme was united in marriage with Ranveig Larson, who was born in Hardanger, Norway, daughter of Lars and Ranveig Longesetter Larson, natives of that place, where the father was engaged in farming. Her parents remained in their native land and are now deceased. Mrs. Twesme, who was one of two children born to her parents, was educated in Norway, where also she and her husband were married while he was on a visit to his native land. Mr. and Mrs. Twesme are the parents of five children: John, unmarried and a carpenter by trade, who resides with his parents; Randena, wife of Thomas Halven, residing on a

farm in Jackson County, their home being only two miles from the Twesme residence; Louis, engaged in the real estate business in Chicago, who married Miss Charlotte Kravick of Dane County, Wis.; Edward, who lives on a part of the old farm in Ettrick Township, and Thea, wife of Cornelius Davis. Mr. Twesme and family are members of the Lutheran Synod Church. In politics he is an independent Republican, but has not been active in public affairs.

Christian Amundson was born in Norway May 25, 1862, and has lived in Hale Township since 1869, when he was brought here from Norway by his parents, Amund and Thea (Halvorson) Amundson. He was reared on the Lars Eide farm, and in 1889 purchased a farm of 160 acres located in sections 4, 8 and 9. Later he purchased 40 more, making 200 acres, to which he has since devoted his attention. His present home, a frame structure of ten rooms, with two stories and a basement, was erected in 1900, while in 1915 the barn was rebuilt, 50 by 60 feet, with cement floors, and a frame silo 26 by 14 feet. The herd on the farm consists of grade Holstein cattle. Mr. Amundson was married May 30, 1885, to Caroline Eide, who was born in Norway, April 28, 1866, daughter of John and Ellen (Gurilokken) Eide, and this union has been blessed with twelve children. Almer married Clara Fransen, a farmer of Hale Township. They have two children: Frederick and Luella. Thea married Ellert Kleven, a farmer of Unity Township; one child Evelyn was born. Louise married Ole Gullicksrud, a clerk in the store of Robbe & Myhre, at Strum; one child Leonard was born. Joseph married Myrtle Bradison and farms in Saskatchewan, Canada; they have one son. Clara died at the age of 12 years; Hannah, who was a teacher, is now Mrs. H. George Peterson of Wyoming; William, Tillie, Ludwig, Martin, Leona and Viola are at home.

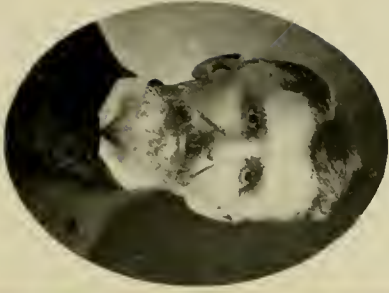
Lars Eide, who is engaged in agricultural operation of a farm of 275 acres in section 4-8, Hale Township, was born in Rumsdale, Norway, April 8, 1869. His parents were John and Ellen (Larson) Eide, both natives of Norway. John Eide, who was born in 1843, came to America with his wife and family in 1882, locating on 160 acres of land, constituting the northeast quarter of section 5, Hale Township, this county, where he followed farming until his death in 1908. His wife, who was born in 1835, died in the spring of 1910. Lars Eide arrived in the United States in 1883 and from that time to 1886 lived on the farm with his father. He then went to Glasgow, Mont., where for three years he was engaged in the cattle business. Then, returning home, he worked out four years for others. Resolving to engage in agriculture on his own account, he rented his present farm from A. Amundson and began operations. In 1890 he bought that part of the farm lying in section 4, and in 1893 purchased the remainder, which is located in section 8, and has since resided here engaged in general farming. He has made a number of improvements on the place, thereby increasing its value and is doing a successful and profitable business. In 1909 Mr. Eide built a good house of 10 rooms, consisting of two stories and basement; and in 1915 he erected a barn and silo, the former measuring 36 by 94 by 16 feet, with a basement 60 feet long, provided with cement floors and 40 steel stanchions. His silo is 12 by 32 feet. His herd

of cattle numbers 40 head, of which he milks 20. For two years he has served as township supervisor. Mr. Eide was married May 22, 1896, to Clara Amundson, who was born on Mr. Eide's present farm May 9, 1873, a daughter of Amund and Thea (Halvorson) Amundson. Her father, who was a pioneer of Bruce Valley, died on this farm in 1912 at the age of 88½ years, his wife having passed away in the spring of 1897 at the age of 62. They were worthy people, who during their long career in this neighborhood had made many friends and were universally respected. Mr. and Mrs. Eide are the parents of five children: Theodore, Emma, Jennie, Arnold and Lillie, all of whom are living at home with their parents. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, of which Mr. Eide was treasurer for three years.

Cullen A. Thomas, proprietor of Evergreen Park Farm, in section 8, Gale Township, was born at Mineral Point, Wis., July 11, 1876, son of Peter and Leah (Ayer) Thomas. The father, who was born in Germany, came to the United States with his parents when a small boy and was reared in southern Wisconsin. In early manhood he was engaged in mining, but later took up farming. In 1881 his family came to Trempealeau County, having previously resided for a year at Onalaska, La Crosse County, and Peter Thomas engaged in farming near Galesville, and continued in that occupation at the same location for a number of years, dying in Galesville in 1914. His wife Leah, who was a native of the state of Maine, died in Galesville in 1909. They had nine children, Cullen A. being the fourth born.

Cullen A. Thomas was educated in Gale Township, attending school first at Decorah Prairie and afterwards at Frenchville. He resided at home with his parents until he was 22 years old, working on the home farm, and then going to Whitehall engaged in the livery business. After being thus occupied for two years he returned to the farm and has since remained on it, it having come into his possession. It contains 80 acres on which he raises the usual crops cultivated in this region, carrying on general farming. He is also a stockholder in the La Crosse Packing Company and in the Independent Harvester Company of Plano, Ill.

Mr. Thomas was married, Feb. 28, 1910, to Nellie Garrett, who was born in Sussex, Wis., Sept. 10, 1885, daughter of Henry and Sarah (Taylor) Garrett. Her father was born at Scott, Sheboygan County, Wis., Nov. 24, 1857, and her mother in Brookfield, Wis., March 22, 1861. The maternal grandmother of Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Richard Taylor, came to Trempealeau County about 1881 and resided in the county until about 1907. She died in Milwaukee, Wis., in 1915. Henry Garrett for a number of years was engaged in operating a creamery and cheese factory in Sussex, and at one time also conducted a meat market at Pewaukee. He moved to Milwaukee in 1891 and worked there at the carpenter's trade. He is now engaged in farming at South Milwaukee, Wis. He and his wife were the parents of four children, of whom Nellie was the third born. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas have a family of four children: Henry Fred, Sarah Ann, Elsie Marie and Oscar Franklin. In politics Mr. Thomas is a Democrat, but so far has taken no part in local government affairs, having been too busy to give much attention to politics.



PETER THOMAS—CULLEN THOMAS AND FAMILY—MRS. PETER THOMAS



Ole Erickson, proprietor of the Rumpel farm of 223 acres, in section 36, township 23 north, range 8 west, Hale Township, was born in Soler, Norway, Oct. 20, 1859. His father, Eric Olson, died in Norway, as did also his mother, whose maiden name was Oleana Thorsonsdatte. In 1884, when in his 25th year, Ole Erickson left his native land for the United States, and on landing in this country proceeded west to Wisconsin, where so many of his countrymen had already settled and were aiding in the development of the great Northwest. Locating in Blair, Trempealeau County, he worked out for others for three years, in the meanwhile saving his money and looking forward to the day when he would be able to start in for himself. As soon as a good opportunity occurred of which he could take advantage he bought a farm in Lincoln Township and was engaged in agricultural operations there until March, 1896. He then sold that farm and purchased the one he now owns, which is a desirable piece of agricultural property and where he is carrying on general farming and stock raising on a profitable basis. In 1910 he built his present residence, a two-story and basement, brick veneer structure of ten rooms, with furnace heat, running water and gasoline lights. He had erected a barn in 1901, which, however, was blown down in 1914 during a violent storm. In the following year the present barn on its site, a structure 36 by 48 by 12 feet in dimensions above concrete basement with cement floors. He has also a good stave silo, 12 by 42 feet in size. Mr. Erickson keeps 25 head of graded Holstein cattle, of which he milks 20; also 50 head of hogs and a large flock of Plymouth Rock chickens. He served as township treasurer two years and has been a director of the school board 15 years. Aside from his immediate farming interests, he is a stockholder in the Pigeon Grain & Stock Company and in the Whitehall Hospital. Oct. 5, 1887, he was married to Annie M. Engen of Whitehall, Wis., who was born in Norway, Sept. 29, 1863, daughter of Martin and Marthia (Anderson) Engen. Her father now lives on the farm with his daughter and son-in-law, and is a widower, his wife having died in 1893 at the age of 53 years. Mr. and Mrs. Erickson have had ten children born to them, of whom two are deceased. The record of the family, given in brief, is as follows: Emma, born Feb. 21, 1889, died Aug. 5, 1890; Hilman, born Jan. 25, 1890, who owns a farm in Pigeon Township; Emma, born March 18, 1891, also at home; Amanda, born Sept. 6, 1894, who is the wife of Ralph Cook, a farmer of Charles City, Iowa, and the mother of one child, Evelyn; Olga, born March 30, 1897, and Ida, born June 18, 1898, both living at home; Carl, also born June 18, 1898, a twin brother of Ida, who died Sept. 1, 1898; Ole M., born Feb. 19, 1902; Carl, born June 16, 1904, and Marvin Ole, born March 20, 1910, all three of whom, being children, live at home with their parents. Religiously the family are affiliated with the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

James McDonah came to Trempealeau County as a boy in 1857, and took his part in the pioneer life of two states, Wisconsin and Minnesota. He was born in Holland, Orleans County, Vermont, April 4, 1843, son of Thomas and Eliza (McMahon) McDonah. Thomas McDonah was born in the North of Ireland, came to America as a young man, served in the War

of 1812, and established his home in Vermont on the banks of Lake Champlain, where he died in 1850. William McDonah, a son of Thomas and a brother of James, came to Trempealeau County in 1854, and located at Centerville on the present site of Winter's store. There he was joined by James and the widowed mother, who made the trip from Vermont to Dubuque, Iowa, by rail, and from there to Monteville, now Trempealeau, by boat, arriving in Centerville Oct. 27, 1857. James had attended school in Vermont, and had worked during the summer season for \$4 a month. In Trempealeau County he attended school in the log schoolhouse in district 9 for a while, and then started work for William Lee, a farmer on Trempealeau prairie, with whom he worked the first three years for \$8 a month. At the age of twenty-one he purchased a horse team and a wagon and engaged for a time in trucking. Then he went to Blue Earth County, Minnesota, and was there married June 4, 1877, to Jennie Adams, daughter of William and Jane Adams of Mankato. The young couple took up their residence in Trempealeau County, where he had previously acquired 80 acres in section 33, and 30 acres in section 3, Trempealeau Township, Blue Earth County, however, still appealed strongly to them, so they sold their Wisconsin holdings, and bought 160 acres in Pleasant Township, in that county. They set at work with a will, erected a home, and broke about 100 acres of land. But the grasshoppers devoured the crops, and then came the blight. Discouraged, Mr. McDonah again came to Trempealeau County and bought 320 acres, four miles from Centerville, on the west side of the Big Tamarac Valley, from Charles Cleveland. Eight years later Mr. McDonah purchased the James Sherman place of 200 acres in Caledonia Township, where he still resides. The place was partly improved, and a small house and a hay shed had been erected. Mr. McDonah set at work with a will, aided by his good wife, and their efforts won for them a well deserved success. The original 200 acres has been increased to 535 acres, the house has been enlarged and improved, a horse and cattle barn has been erected, as well as a hay barn, with other sheds and outbuildings. Here, assisted by his son Elba, who has charge of the place, and by his sons, Arthur and Hugh, he carries on general farming and dairying, keeping a good herd of Durham and Hereford cattle, and selling cream to the Galesville creamery, as well as breeding a good drove of Poland-China swine. For 27 years Mr. McDonah was an extensive buyer and shipper of cattle, and in that line he still continues to a certain extent. At the age of seventy-three he is hale and hearty, capable of doing a better day's work than many a much younger man. The home of Mr. and Mrs. McDonah has been blessed with five sons: Perry, Arthur, Elba, Walter and Hugh. Perry was born Aug. 15, 1881, married an attractive young lady, and was in the prime of his career when stricken with black diphtheria at St. Paul, June 27, 1910. He is buried in Evergreen cemetery at Centerville. Arthur was born Oct. 20, 1883, and lives at home. He owns 200 acres of his father's original farm, one-half a mile southwest of the parental home. Elba was born June 8, 1886, and manages his father's farm. Walter was born Nov. 8, 1888, is married, and operates his brother Arthur's farm. Hugh was born Aug. 12, 1894, and lives at home and helps operate the



MR. AND MRS. A. P. TIBBITTS

farm. The two oldest were born in Dodge Township and the three youngest in Caledonia Township. Mrs. McDonah, who for so many years shared the joys and sorrows of her husband's life, is the second child born in Trempealeau County. Her parents, William and Jane Adams, came to Trempealeau County from Baraboo, Wis., in 1853, with the McGilvray family, and from here moved to Mankato. The good mother of James McDonah, who brought him to this state, died in Centerville, Trempealeau Township in 1875, at the home of her son-in-law, Henry Carter.

Arthur P. Tibbitts, an elderly resident of Galesville, where he is now living retired after a long and active life, which included military service during the Civil War, was born in the state of Maine, Jan. 8, 1840, son of Benjamin and Sarah (Clark) Tibbitts. Both parents were born in the state of Maine, the father being a farmer. They came to Wisconsin in 1846, settling at Hingham, Sheboygan County, where the father died in 1873 and the mother in 1880. They had nine children, of whom three are now living, Arthur P. being the seventh of the family.

Arthur P. Tibbitts attended school in Hingham, Wis., and lived at home until he was 18 years old. He then worked out as a farm hand until he enlisted in Sheboygan County, Oct. 1, 1861, in the First Wisconsin Infantry, Company I, as sergeant. When in the battle of Perrysville, Ky., he was wounded in the throat by a spent shell on Sept. 20, 1863. While engaged in the battle of Chickamauga he was wounded by a solid shot weighing a quarter of a pound, which cut off three ribs from the spine and lodged in the liver. He was taken prisoner that night and laid on the field ten days without medical attention, when he was parolled and taken to the hospital at Chattanooga. There he remained until December, when he was sent north to Murphysboro, Tenn, and two weeks later received a furlough to come home, although he was still a parolled prisoner. He remained home until May 7, 1864, when he was ordered to Camp Chase, Ohio, where he was exchanged, remaining at Camp Chase until about the time of the expiration of his term of enlistment. He took part in the following battles: Perrysville, Stone River, Bailey's Cross Roads, Hoover's Gap, McLaMoor's Cave, Chickamauga, and several minor battles and skirmishes. Then returning home, he engaged in farming, and also for a while worked in a mill at Black River. Going from there to eastern Wisconsin, he resided on a small farm there until 1874, when he came to Galesville, Wis. Here he engaged in business as builder and contractor, and among the various business blocks he erected was the building in which the Bank of Galesville is located. Mr. Tibbitts continued in business as contractor until 1915, when he retired and has since been unemployed, enjoying the fruits of his years of industry. He owns 15 acres of very valuable land adjacent to the main street of Galesville and is a stockholder in the Galesville Implement Company. He belongs fraternally to the Good Templars and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. Tibbitts is a Republican in politics. In the past he has taken part in local government, serving as assessor six years, as a member of the board of education 12 years and as mayor of Galesville one term.

March 8, 1866, Mr. Tibbitts was united in marriage with Margaret

Hardie, who was born in Scotland, daughter of James and Margaret (Bibby) Hardie, natives of Glasgow, Scotland, who came to America in 1852 and located in Maryland. Two years later the Hardies came to Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, where they were the first settlers in what is now known as Hardie's Creek, which took its name from them. Here James Hardie cleared and improved a piece of land which he had purchased two years before. He resided there until 1889, a year after his wife's death, when he took up his residence with his daughter Margaret (Mrs. Tibbitts), with whom he remained until his death in 1908. He was a prominent man in the town for many years, serving as a member of the board of education. Mrs. Margaret Tibbitts was educated in the schools of Glasgow, Scotland, and at Galesville University. She and her husband have one child, James Ernest, who is a proofreader in the War Department at Washington, D. C. He married Ella Chase of DeSota, Wis., and has one child, Gordon Chase, who at 17 years of age was graduated from the McKinley school at Washington, D. C., his adaptability along literary lines being such that he was chosen by the school as editor-in-chief of the school paper, of which he was editor at the time of his graduation.

Henry M. Hanson, who is profitably engaged in operating the Beswick farm of 100 acres in section 17, Preston Township, was born March 6, 1873, son of Martin and Olea (Stutrud) Hanson. The father, whose full name, in accordance with the Norwegian system of family nomenclature, was Martin Hanson Skyrud, was born in Norway, Jan. 10, 1836, and came to America April 27, 1862. He settled on land in section 17, Preston Township, Trempealeau County, Wis., and engaged in agriculture, undergoing all the hardships of pioneer life, but in time developing a good farm. Here he died Sept. 5, 1912. His wife Olea, who was born in Norway, Dec. 30, 1836, died April 4, 1892. They had a family of 13 children: Dorthea, born Nov. 11, 1860, who died July 21, 1862; Henry, born Dec. 5, 1862, who died Dec. 6, 1863; Morris, born April 1, 1864, who is now registrar of deeds of Trempealeau County; Karen Dorthea, born Aug. 30, 1865, who married Albert J. Halvorson, a farmer near Blair, now deceased, and died Dec. 1, 1900; Hannah Berthine, born Feb. 14, 1868, wife of P. T. Herreid, a hardware merchant of Blair; Marie, born Oct. 31, 1869, who died Oct. 31, 1873; Madts, born June 26, 1871, a farmer living near Blair; Marie Olive, born April 2, 1875, who is a trained nurse in Chicago; Clara Thine, born Nov. 1, 1876, who married Joseph Johnson, a railroad employee of Superior, Wis.; Alph Lawrence, born Nov. 21, now proprietor of a general store at Sonora, Minn.; Theodore, born April 5, 1881, now a farmer near Blair, and Tilda Rosiana, born June 23, 1883, who married Joseph Halvorson, a dentist of Galesville, Wis. Henry M. Hanson resided at home and worked for his father on the farm in section 17, Preston Township, until his marriage, Feb. 22, 1903, to Susan E. Beswick, daughter of Chester and Anjenette (Thurston) Beswick. He then took charge of the farm on which he is now living, for his wife's father, and has since operated it successfully. It is well improved and provided with a fine eight-room residence, large barns and other necessary buildings. A sketch of the Beswick family may be found elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. and Mrs. Hanson have an adopted son, Everett Beswick Hanson. One son, Ralph, born Sept. 17, 1906, died same day.

George L. Solberg, one of the leading business men of the village of Blair, where he is proprietor of two stores, was born in Toten, Norway, March 6, 1866. His father was Andrew L. Solberg and his mother in maidenhood Brit J. Hestdahlen. They came to the United States in 1867, Andrew L. Solberg homesteading land in Preston Township in the following year, and there he resided until his death in 1914 at the age of 79 years. His wife died Dec. 26, 1915, at the age of 82. They were members of the Synod Norwegian Lutheran Church. George L. Solberg was an infant about one year old when he accompanied his parents to this country. He attended the local schools and resided with his parents until he was 22 years of age. In 1888 he began industrial life as clerk in the store of the Blair Trading Association and was thus occupied for seven years. Then in company with O. F. Immel he opened a general store in Blair under the firm name of Immel & Solberg and they conducted the business together from 1895 to 1897, in the latter year Mr. Solberg buying out his partner, since which time it has been conducted under the name of G. L. Solberg. In 1911 Mr. Solberg opened another store in Blair, where he handles clothing and men's furnishings. Both his stores are doing a good business and his trade is gradually growing. He is also vice-president of the Home Bank of Blair, and is a member of the society of Sons of Norway.

Mr. Solberg was married Oct. 17, 1895, to Minnie Johnson, who was born in Arcadia Township, April 4, 1873, daughter of Edward and Marie Johnson. Her parents came to America from Norway about 1870, settling in Arcadia Township, this county, where Mr. Johnson engaged in farming. Mr. and Mrs. Solberg have no children. Some of his brothers and sisters, however, are living, the complete list of his parents' family being as follows: Augusta, wife of L. A. Larson, a farmer of Buffalo County; Inge Maria, now Mrs. Otto A. Hogen of Fargo, N. D.; Laura, who died unmarried at the age of 23 years; George L.; Olaf, a farmer in Jackson County; Henry, a farmer on the old homestead in Preston Township; Albert, who was a jeweler in Blair, who died in 1908 at the age of 33 years; Oscar and Adolph, twins, both of whom died at the age of 11 months; Aletta Ovedia, who died at the age of four years and eight months, and Clara, who is the wife of Hellig Olson, a farmer of Preston Township.

Reinhold Sielaff, a retired farmer of section 6, Pigeon Township, was born in Pomerania, Germany, Jan. 3, 1850, son of Paul and Maria (Tietz) Sielaff. Both parents died in Germany, the father in 1873, at the age of 72 years, and the mother in 1853 at the age of 40. Reinhold Sielaff followed a seafaring life from the age of 14 to that of 22 years. In 1872 he came to America, locating in New York City, where he worked four years in a piano factory. While there he was married, Aug. 30, 1874, to Wilhelmina Schwolow, who was born in Germany June 6, 1849, daughter of Ernst Schwolow. After leaving New York Mr. Sielaff came to Wisconsin and homesteaded 160 acres in section 6, Pigeon Township, Trempealeau County, which place has been his home ever since. He and his wife have had ten children: Charles, who is now the owner of the homestead;

Johanna, wife of Fred Welke, a farmer of Eau Claire County; Lena, who married C. F. W. Seiler; Ida, who married Carl Knudtson, a farmer of Hale Township; Bertha, wife of Edward Schroeder, also a farmer of Hale Township; Paul, residing at home; Fred, who is farming in Hale Township; Clara, living at home; Alvina, wife of Paul Schroeder, a farmer of Hale Township, and Hermina, residing at home. Mr. Sielaff is a member of the German Lutheran Church, of which he has been president and trustee for many years. Mrs. Sielaff died September, 1909.

Paul Olson Strum, one of the older members of the farming community in Preston Township, having a farm of 70 acres in section 16, has been engaged in agriculture here for more than half a century. He was born in Osterdalen, Norway, Jan. 7, 1843, son of Ole Olson Strum by his wife Bertha Paulson. The father was born in Norway in 1808 and came to America in 1852, locating in Porter County, Pa., where he lived for six years. He then came west to Wisconsin, settling in La Crosse County, near Onalaska, which place he made his home for five years. After that he removed with his family to Trempealeau County. His death took place at Blair Feb. 8, 1879. His wife Bertha survived him about 15 years, dying in 1894 at the age of 80. Paul Olson Strum came to this country from Norway in 1854, accompanying his brother and sister. He was in his nineteenth year when he enlisted, in September, 1861, in Company L, Eighth Wisconsin Infantry, with which organization he served three years in the Civil War. On May 22, 1863, he was wounded in the right arm while taking part with Grant's army in the Siege of Vicksburg, and in addition to this experience he took part in other actions near Vicksburg, in the battles of Corinth, Jackson, Miss., Memphis and other places. On his return home after the war, in 1865, he bought his present farm, his parents making their residence with him, and here he has since remained, having spent the intervening time, half a century or more, in improving his property. The results of his work are apparent in the well tilled acres and neat and substantial buildings, indicating thrift and prosperity, which attract the attention of the passer-by. Having for many years possessed the full confidence and esteem of his fellow townsmen, Mr. Strum has at different times been called upon to aid in the administration of the town government, and thus served six years as supervisor and ten years as township treasurer. He was also assessor of the village of Blair two years and a member of the village council one year, in these various offices showing good natural ability and sound judgment. During the present year—1917—Mr. Strum will celebrate his golden wedding anniversary, as he was married July 20, 1867, to Serena Olson Tappen, who was born in Soler, Norway, daughter of Ole Olson Tappen and Elizabeth Embretson. He and his wife have had a large family, numbering 13 children, two of whom are now deceased. Their record in brief is as follows: Olaus, born Aug. 18, 1868, who is a farmer in Preston Township, this county; Bert C., born Nov. 10, 1870, who died in 1871; Elizabeth, born Sept. 26, 1872, who married Ole Munson of Winona, Minn.; Olaf, born Aug. 27, 1874, who is now living in Duluth, Minn.; Bertha, born April 15, 1876, who died April 30, 1876; Bart, born Feb. 26, 1878, now living in Comstock, Minn.; Amanda, born Feb. 23, 1881,



MR. AND MRS. PAUL O. STRUM



M. M. SCARSETH AND FAMILY

who married Ted Johnson of Coolidge, N. D.; Selma, born March 15, 1883, wife of Ole Rennung of Blair, Wis.; Edwin, born Oct. 27, 1887, who lives on the home farm; Clara, born March 22, 1890, now assistant postmaster at Blair; Alice, born Feb. 18, 1893, who married Norman Henderson, resides in Henneford, N. D., and has one child, Lillian, born May 19, 1915; Albert, born Dec. 1, 1887, at home; Herman, born Nov. 17, 1895, also living on the home farm. The Strum family are members of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church, of which Mr. Strum has been a trustee for a number of years. Since casting in his lot with this community so many years ago, Mr. Strum has seen many great and beneficial changes in his surroundings. Much or most of the land was then wild and newcomers had to make all their own improvements, breaking the soil with oxen and erecting rude log houses, or rather cabins, in which to live, while their barns and other buildings were of the most primitive description. Such roads as then existed were bad, and at times hardly passable and it was hard to get their crops to market or procure supplies. Many of the early settlers at times went hungry, or subsisted on such game and fish as they might be able to shoot or catch, together with a little cornmeal. Now smiling farms are seen on every hand, with large, substantial barns and handsome residences provided with all modern conveniences, such as the city dweller enjoys. The roads are much improved and more numerous and markets easy of access, except in severe winter weather. Most of the farmers own automobiles and their children are able to attend high school or even college, if they so desire, so that all the conveniences and luxuries of advanced civilization have been brought, so to speak, to the farmer's door. To see all these changes is a privilege that not all of the pioneers enjoyed, Mr. Strum being among the few in this county who have lived to witness them and to participate in their benefits during his declining years.

Marenius M. Scarseth, who up to the time of his death, Aug. 25, 1911, was engaged in operating a farm of 160 acres in sections 21 and 28 E, Gale Township, was born in this township Feb. 5, 1867. His parents were Martinus M. and Kari (Knudson) Scarseth, both natives of Biri, Norway, who were married in Wisconsin. They were early settlers in Gale Township, Mr. Scarseth carrying on a farm on Decorah Prairie. He died July 4, 1910. His wife survived him little over a month, her death taking place Aug. 8, the same year. Marenius M. Scarseth was the second born in a family of four children. In his boyhood he attended the district school at Glasgow, Gale Township, but began industrial life at an early age, beginning to work out on farms when 14 years old. He continued to be thus occupied until his marriage, at which time he purchased the farm which was his home until his death. He was an active, industrious man, highly esteemed by his neighbors and his passing away in middle life was widely regretted. In addition to his farm he owned 27 acres of woodland on the river. Sept. 17, 1891, Mr. Scarseth was united in marriage with Clara Evenson, who was born in Biri, Norway, daughter of Bent and Lena (Ekern) Evenson. He and his wife are the parents of three children: Ella, wife of Elmer Evenson; Alice Lenora and Milton Bernard. Mrs. Scarseth still resides on the homestead. In politics Mr. Scarseth was independent,

and though he gave his chief attention to his farm, he served as school treasurer for a number of years and took an active interest in the progress and development of the community in which he lived. The family are members of the Lutheran church.

Charles M. Scarseth, who is conducting a farm of 144 acres in section 27-34 E, Gale Township, was born on his present farm April 28, 1862, son of Martinus J. and Kari (Knudson) Scarseth. His parents were natives of Biri, Norway; the father came to the United States in 1857 and settled in Gale Township in 1860 at the time of his marriage. Charles M. attended the Glasgow school in this township. When about 16 or 17 years of age he began working for others at intervals, though residing on the home farm. Oct. 6, 1886, he was married to Clara Semb, daughter of Ole O. and Kari (Ekern) Semb, who were natives of Biri, Norway, and came to the United States in 1851, locating in La Crosse County, and later on Hardie's Creek, Trempealeau County, Wis. In the year after his marriage Mr. Scarseth bought his parents' homestead, containing 144 acres of improved land on Black River, on which he is now doing general farming, including stock raising and dairying. His farm is one of the the best equipped in this vicinity, the buildings being thoroughly modern, and his machinery and implements adequate to the demand of scientific farming. He is also a stockholder in the Arctic Springs Creamery and the Western Telephone Company, and for 16 years served as clerk of his school district. Since 1900 he has been secretary of the Ettrick Scandinavia Insurance Company. In politics he is a Republican and has served as supervisor one term. Mr. and Mrs. Scarseth are the parents of five children: Cora Constance, born Oct. 19, 1887, who died Dec. 28, the same year; Octiv Melvin, born Oct. 31, 1888; Cora, May 24, 1890; Laura, March 27, 1892, and Hulda, July 11, 1895, all of whom are residing at home. The family are members of the Lutheran church, of which Mr. Scarseth has served as treasurer for the past 25 years.

Edward E. Quarne, proprietor of the B. J. Smalberg homestead of 193 acres in sections 31 and 32, Preston Township, belongs to that hardy Norwegian race that has done so much to develop the agricultural resources of Trempealeau County. He was born in Honefos, Norway, June 10, 1847, his father being Elling J. Quarne, a shoemaker, who was born in Norway in 1807 and died in 1892, and his mother, in maidenhood Karen Olena Aas, who was born in Norway in 1810 and died in 1880. Edward E. Quarne was reared in his native land and resided there until he had attained his majority. Realizing, however, that his chances for advancement were small if he remained at home, his thought turned to the United States, whither he knew many of his countrymen had already gone and where opportunities were abundant for men of courage and perseverance. His decision made, he sailed for America in 1869, and after landing proceeded to Eau Claire, Wis., where for three years he worked at the carpenter's trade. At the end of that time he resolved to try farming as the best means of gaining an independent livelihood and ultimate prosperity, and so came to the farm on which he now resides, which was then owned by his father-in-law, he having recently married. Here he devoted himself to agriculture for two years and then saw all his labors come to naught



O. M. SCARBETH AND FAMILY

by a pest of chinch bugs, which totally destroyed his crops. Not knowing how long these unwelcome visitors might conclude to stay with him, he resolved to try a new location, and so removed to Grant County, Minnesota, where he bought a farm and operated it until 1891, a period of about 13 years. He then returned to Trempealeau County and bought his original farm here, on which he has since resided, carrying on general farming. Mr. Quarne raises Shorthorn cattle, having about 35 head, graded, of which he milks ten, and also keeps and raises black Minorca chickens. In 1901 he built a good residence—a two-story frame structure with basement and containing eight rooms. His frame barn, 28 by 64 by 16 feet, was erected by him in 1898. As one of the prominent and substantial men of his township, Mr. Quarne has been called on at times to take part in local government affairs, and thus served one year as supervisor and six years on the school board. He also rendered public service while in Grant County, being a member of his township board there for nine years. Aside from his immediate farming interests, he is a stockholder in the Home Bank of Blair and in Preston Creamery at Blair. Feb. 22, 1873, he was united in marriage with Anna B. Johnson of Eau Claire, who was born in Soler, Norway, June 11, 1853. Her parents were B. J. Smalberg and Anna Maria Ingebretsen, who came to America in 1866, Mr. Smalberg homesteading the farm on which his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Quarne, now live, and which was their home until they died, Mr. Smalberg in 1911 at the age of 88 years, and his wife in 1908 at the age of 83. Mr. and Mrs. Quarne have had seven children, of whom the following is a brief record: Caroline Amelia is the wife of Eric Anderson, a farmer of Ettrick Township, this county, and has four children: Ernest Arthur, Alma Orilla, Lloyd Wilfred and Norman Rudolph. Marie Elise married Alfred Andreson and has two children: Evelyn Veda and Lillian Hazel. They reside on the Quarne farm. Peter Julius, who married Anna Jones, is engaged in farming near his parents' homestead. He and his wife have two children: LeRoy Wilfred and Beulah Lavina. Edwin Bernhard, now a farmer in Jackson County, married Effie Skorstad and has four children: Marle Irene Idanna, Lorin Donald, Arnold DeVere and Corine Ardell. The other three children of Mr. and Mrs. Quarne died in infancy. Religious, the family are affiliated with the Norwegian Lutheran Church.

John M. Sagen, proprietor of the Sagen farm of 162 acres in section 27 (range 7, township 23), Pigeon Township, was born in Biri, Norway, Sept. 19, 1853, son of Mathias and Karen (Olson) Sagen, the former of whom died in Norway in 1856, and the latter of whom came to America in 1877 and died in 1897. John M. Sagen came to America in 1872, and after reaching La Crosse County worked in the pine woods and as a river logsman for several years. In 1876 he homesteaded a farm in Sjuggerud Coulie, section 22, Pigeon Township. He improved and developed this place and built up a good farm. In 1903 he sold out and purchased his present place, where he successfully carries on general farming and stock raising, making a specialty of a fine herd of Holstein cattle. His present home was built in 1912. It consists of a brick veneer, two-story structure, with nine rooms and a basement, and equipped with furnace heat, running

water and other conveniences. The barn was built in 1914. It is 36 by 80 by 11½ feet in size, with an addition 12 by 32 feet. The floor is of cement and the equipment is of steel. The stave silo, 12 by 32 feet, was erected in 1915. Among the other buildings may be mentioned the tobacco shed, 26 by 96 by 14 feet. The tools and equipment about the place are well in keeping with these excellent buildings. Mr. Sagen was married in April, 1883, to Amelia Olafsdatter, who was born in Soler, Norway, Sept. 6, 1856, the daughter of Olaf and Ingeborg Olafson, and this union has been blessed with nine children: Inga, Magnus, Olaf, Clara, Millie, Joseph, Emma, Valborg and Oliver. Inga married Joseph Nelson, a farmer of Pigeon Township. Magnus farms in Hale Township. Clara is the wife of Gunder Johnson, secretary of the Wilhelm Oil Company of Minneapolis; Millie married Albert Heapy, a farmer of Calvin, N. D.; Joseph operates a garage at Pigeon Falls; Oliver died at the age of nine years; the others are at home. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran Church. Mr. Sagen is a stockholder in the Whitehall Creamery Company and in the Whitehall Elevator Company. He has been a member of the school board for some six years past.

Alfred N. Sagen, vice-president of the Davis Mill Company of Galesville, was born in this village, March 5, 1877. His parents, Ole N. and Ella T. (Tronson) Sagen, were natives of Norway. Ole N. Sagen was born May 7, 1848, and in 1866, came with his parents to the United States. The family located in the town of Gale, Trempealeau County, and Ole N., who had begun to learn the trade of miller in his native land, in 1869 entered the flouring mill of Wilson Davis at Galesville. In 1878 he became head miller and has held that position until the present date. He is a member of the Norwegian Workmen's Society of Galesville. He is religiously affiliated with the Baptist Church. The children of Ole T. and Ella T. Sagen were Emma J., Alfred N. and Oscar T. In his boyhood Alfred N. Sagen attended the schools of Galesville and subsequently spent one year at Gale College. At the age of 15 he began to work in the Davis mill, but continued to attend school during the winters until he was 18, after which time he worked in the mill regularly all through the year, and has since continued to do so, having never been absent from duty. In 1910 he was elected vice-president of the Davis Mill Company and now holds that position. He is also vice-president of the Sagen-Schuster Mercantile Company of Galesville. Mr. Sagen was married Oct. 30, 1900, to Mabel A. Thompson, who was born in Galesville, Wis., daughter of William and Allie T. (Atwood) Thompson. Her parents were natives of Wisconsin, the father, who was a farmer and stock dealer, being reared in Trempealeau County. Mr. Thompson, who at one time served as president of the village of Galesville, died about 1894, and his wife July 19, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Sagen have one child, Layton Thompson, who was born Sept. 1, 1901. Mr. Sagen is a member of the United Lutheran Church.

Idius B. Scarseth, of section 31 E, Gale Township, is one of the enterprising and successful farmers of this township, where he was born Aug. 24, 1868. His parents were Martinus J. and Kari (Knudson) Scarseth, both natives of Biri, Norway. Martinus J. Scarseth was born March 30, 1836,



IDIUS B. SCARSETH AND FAMILY

and came to the United States in 1857, when 21 years old, being at that time unmarried. He located in Stevens Township, La Crosse County, where he found employment on farms, and also attended school one winter to improve his knowledge of English. There he remained until his marriage in 1860, at which time he came to Gale Township, taking up his residence on the farm where his son, C. M. Scarseth, now resides. In 1888 he moved to the farm now owned by his son Ildius and resided here until his death July 4, 1910. His wife, who was born Jan. 3, 1831, died little more than a month after him, on August 8. At different times Mr. Scarseth held local office, serving, among other things, as census enumerator. He was the first secretary of the Hardie's Creek Lutheran Church, holding that position until his death, and he was also one of the organizers of the church. He also took an active part in educational work, serving on the school board, and was at one time town commissioner. His wife was an expert dressmaker and when she first came to this country located in Chicago, where she worked at her trade. She was a popular member of society in Gale Township. Ildius B. Scarseth was one of four children, being the last born. In his boyhood he attended the Glasgow school, and from the age of 17 to that of 24 worked out for others. A year later he bought his parents' farm, on which he now resides, and which consists of 120 acres of highly improved land. Here he is engaged in general farming and in breeding Holstein cattle and full-blooded Poland-China hogs. His farm is well improved, having substantial buildings and a full equipment of all necessary tools and implements. Mr. Scarseth is a stockholder in the Farmers' Co-operative Packing Company of La Crosse. For 20 years he has been a member of the school board, while his religious affiliations are with the Lutheran church. Sept. 6, 1893, Mr. Scarseth was married to Sena Semb, who was born in Gale Township, this county, daughter of Ole O. and Kari (Ekern) Semb. Her father was born in Biri, Norway, Sept. 17, 1835, and his wife in the same locality, Oct. 12, 1841. They came to the United States in 1851, locating in Stevenstown, La Crosse County, where Mr. Semb found employment on farms. One of his brothers was killed in the Civil War, and his father and another brother went to Minnesota, where ill fortune pursued them also, as both were killed by the Indians. Ole O. Semb also went to Minnesota and lived there for awhile, but later returned to Wisconsin, locating on Hardie's Creek about a year before his father did. Buying land there, he devoted himself to farming, spending the rest of his life on the homestead, his death occurred July 6, 1898. At various times he served the township in local office, being regarded by his neighbors as an intelligent public spirited citizen. His wife survived him a number of years, passing away Jan. 11, 1911. They were the parents of eight children, of whom their daughter Sena (Mrs. Scarseth) was the seventh in order of birth. She was educated in the Glasgow school, where her future husband was fellow pupil. Mr. and Mrs. Scarseth are the parents of seven children: Julia, wife of Alfred Ravnum, a farmer residing at Glasgow, Gale Township; Nora, at home; George Dewey, who attended the La Crosse County School of Agriculture, and is also at home; Edwin Julius, Lester Bernhard, Lloyd Helmer and Clinton Theodore, who were educated in the common schools. Mr. Scarseth

is a great lover of fishing and hunting and has made some of the finest catches ever made in Black River. His wife is a member of the Ladies' Aid Society at Hardie's Creek, being past secretary of the society.

Jens J. Staff, Jr., proprietor of Staff farm of 160 acres in sections 1 and 12, Pigeon Township, was born in Sundfjord, Norway, March 14, 1870, son of Jens J. and Louisa (Berge) Staff, the parents being also Norwegians. Jens J. Staff, who was born Feb. 5, 1838, came to the United States with his family in 1872, locating at Black River Falls, Jackson County, Wis., where he remained until 1882. Then selling out his property there he came to Trempealeau County, and bought the farm on which his son Jens J., Jr., now lives, and where he still resides. His wife, who was born Feb. 13, 1841, died April 30, 1913. Jens J. Staff, Jr., resided with his parents until he was 21 years old, and then, in 1891, began working for the P. Ekern Company of Pigeon Falls. After being in this manner for about six years and four months, he returned to his father's farm and resumed agricultural operations. In 1900 he purchased the property and has since resided on it, being engaged in carrying on general farming, dairying and stock-raising. In 1908 Mr. Staff erected his present residence, a brick veneer structure two stories and basement, eight rooms, equipped with hot water heat and an individual electric light plant. In 1907 he rebuilt the barn, which measures 28 by 72 by 16 feet, with stone basement and cement floors, steel stanchions and individual water cups. The hog house is a frame building with cement floors, 20 by 20 feet in dimensions. Mr. Staff keeps graded Holstein cattle, having a herd of 40 head, of which he milks 20, feeding half a carload for the market each year. He has been successful in his farming operations and the value of his property has continued to increase with the improvements he had made on it. As a substantial and reliable citizen, with a good knowledge of local conditions, he has been called on at times to serve in public office, having been supervisor four years and township assessor since 1912. In 1904 he assumed the duties of school clerk of his district and is still serving in that office. Aside from his immediate farming interests, he owns stock in the Pigeon Grain & Stock Company and the Whitehall Hospital and is a director of the Elevator Company of Whitehall. Mr. Staff was married May 25, 1898, to Lena Kogslein, who was born in Curran Township, Jackson County, Wis., March 16, 1872. Her parents were Nils and Ingeborg (Holen) Kogslein, the father born at Gulbrandsdalen, Norway, Feb. 29, 1829, and the mother born Sept. 15, 1834. They came to America, settling in Jackson County, Wisconsin, in 1866, but are both now deceased, Mr. Kogslein dying July 7, 1909, and his wife March 4, 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Staff have been the parents of seven children: Laura, born Feb. 4, 1899; Joseph, April 10, 1901; Ida, Jan. 3, 1903; Norma, May 29, 1905; Carl, Sept. 12, 1907; Olga, Sept. 29, 1908, and Earl, Oct. 27, 1911. The family are members of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church, of which Mr. Staff is auditor.

Tennes Tenneson, proprietor of Lavold farm of 150 acres in sections 13 and 14, Preston Township, was born near Viroquo, Vernon County, Wis., May 22, 1855. He is a son of Jacob Tenneson Lavold and his wife Johanna, whose maiden name was Nuland. Jacob T. Lavold was born near Flekkef-

jord, Norway, Feb. 28, 1828, and came to the United States in 1852. Coming west by rail as far as Chicago, he drove from that city with an ox team to Vernon County, Wisconsin, where he remained until the fall of 1855. Then, in the fall of that year, he continued his westward journey until he reached Trempealeau County, settling on a farm in section 14, Preston Township, which he had bought in the spring of the same year. Here he devoted himself to agricultural pursuits, spending many years in clearing and improving his farm and finally becoming one of the prosperous citizens of the township. In 1892 he sold the farm and removed to the village of Blair, where he made his home until his death in 1896, at the age of 70 years. His first wife, Johanna, dying in 1876, he afterwards married Grethe Thompson of Blair, who is also now deceased. Tennes Tenneson was given a somewhat better education than the ordinary farmer's boy of his day, as, after attending the public or district school, he became a student in the business college at La Crosse. His industrial education was not neglected, however, for he was well trained by his father in all the different branches of farming, learning how to cultivate the soil, take care of stock and perform other necessary duties. This knowledge he has since put to good use on his own account, beginning when a young man by renting a farm on French Creek, which he cultivated for two years. Not perfectly satisfied with that location, however, in 1880 he bought his present farm, and has since continued on it, having found it a profitable investment. He raises high grade Holstein cattle, having about 30 head, of which he milks 12; also keeping Poland-China hogs, and registered White Leghorn and Rhode Island Red chickens. He is a stockholder in the Preston Creamery at Blair. His farm is well improved, having good buildings, and he is careful to keep it in good condition, its value having greatly increased since he took it in hand. As a substantial citizen, having a landed interest in his township, Mr. Tenneson has consented at various times to aid in local government. Thus he was township treasurer for two years, and for 30 years has served on the school board as clerk or treasurer. He and his family are members of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church. He was married Feb. 29, 1876, to Martha Lindrud of French Creek, this county, who was born in Norway, Oct. 30, 1854. Her father, Andrew I. Lindrud, born in Norway in 1828, emigrated to this country in 1861, settling first in Vernon County, Wisconsin, from which locality he removed in 1864 to French Creek, Ettrick Township, Trempealeau County. This latter place was his home until his death Oct. 30, 1904. His wife, whose maiden name was Gunhild Smedhaugen, died in December, 1915, at the age of 89 years. Mr. and Mrs. Tenneson's family circle has been enlarged by the birth of seven children, namely: Ida, who married Henry Thompson, a farmer of Beach, N. D.; Albert, a farmer residing two miles east of Blair; John, who is farming in Preston Township; Melvin, who conducts a fancy grocery and delicatessen store at St. Paul; Thomas, who lives on the home farm; Tillie, who graduated from Blair high school in 1911, and has been a teacher for three years, and Nora, who lives with her parents.

Frederick John Stellpflug, proprietor of Walnut Grove Stock farm, who for a number of years has been engaged in farming and stock raising

in sections 29 and 32, Gale Township, though recently retired, was born on the same farm Dec. 6, 1866, son of John Alois and Sarah Frances (Shonat) Stellpflug. The father was born in Westphalia, Germany, Sept. 28, 1838, and came to the United States in 1847, locating at Milwaukee, where he resided for about seven years. While there he assisted in building the first railroad to enter that city and also aided in filling the marsh. Later he engaged in farming at West Bend, Washington County. In 1860 he came to Trempealeau County and settled on land in sections 29 and 32, which now constitutes the farm of his son Frederick J., and which land he purchased from the Government. Here he remained until his death June 30, 1907, developing the farm, on which he made most of the improvements. He was a stockholder in the Arctic Springs Creamery, which he helped to organize, and of which he was vice-president and director for many years. In early days he was also a member of the township board. His wife, Sarah Frances, who was born in Oswego County, New York, Sept. 4, 1850, is still living on the home farm. Frederick J. Stellpflug was the eldest of 14 children. He acquired the elements of knowledge in the Grant schoolhouse and has always resided on the family homestead, the management of which came into his hands when he was 25 years old. The estate contains 200 acres of land and is well supplied with good buildings and all necessary equipment. Here Mr. Stellpflug carried on general farming for a number of years, also breeding Holstein cattle. He has lately, however, retired from active farm work and rented the farm, though still residing upon it. Aside from his interests in this connection, he is a stockholder in the Arctic Springs Creamery, of which he is vice-president, a director and stockholder in the Farmers and Merchants Bank, director in the Farmers Elevator Company, and a stockholder in the Independent Harvester Company of Plano, Ill., the La Crosse Packing and the Ettrick Telephone Companies. He is now serving in his twentieth year as clerk of the school board and was township treasurer three years. In politics he is independent. June 19, 1912, Mr. Stellpflug was married to Elizabeth Williamson, who was born in Gale township, near Galesville, Oct. 11, 1891, daughter of Richard Ellis and Christina (Schmidt) Williamson. Her father, who was born in Little Tamarack, this township, in 1864, has always been a farmer and is still in active life, now residing about two and a half miles from Galesville. His wife was born in this township, Nov. 16, 1866. They had five children, of whom their daughter Elizabeth was the eldest. Mr. and Mrs. Stellpflug are the parents of two children: Frederick Joseph, who was born July 2, 1913, and Cecelia Elizabeth, born Sept. 2, 1915. The family are members of the Catholic church. Mr. Stellpflug also belongs to the Foresters, being recording secretary of his lodge, and to the Woodmen's Accident Assurance Company. It is his present intention to continue his residence on the farm.

Andrew Evenson came to Trempealeau County in 1888, located in section 4, Gale Township, and here lived until his death, May 9, 1915. He was born near Christiania, Norway, Aug. 25, 1857, oldest of the four children of Ole and Mary Evenson. The parents came to America about 1857 and located in La Crosse County, this state. After the father's death, the mother moved to another farm in the same county, located on the south side



FRED SCHUMAN AND FAMILY

of the La Crosse River, and there lived until she took up her home with her son, Andrew, until the time of her death. Andrew Evenson attended the schools of his native land and of La Crosse County, and as a youth assisted his mother with the duties of her small farm, remaining under the maternal roof until about a year after his marriage, when he located in Trempealeau County. Here he devoted his life to his farm, his home, his children and his church, taking in his family his deepest joy, and in his church his greatest satisfaction. As a successful farmer he acquired stock in the Arctic Springs Creamery, and was a substantial friend thereof, but aside from this, his outside interests were few. His church support was given to the Synod Lutheran Congregation, in the activities of which he was an efficient and valued worker. Mr. Evenson was married Dec. 3, 1887, to Bertha Johnson, who was born in La Crosse County, Holland Township, daughter of Louis and Mary Johnson, and this union was blessed with eight children: Melva, Ornie Melvin, Elmer Theodore, Lester, Lester Marvin, Edna Marie, Ansel Bernard and Arline Bernice. Melva is the wife of Herbert Hardie, who farms two miles west of Galesville. Ornie Melvin operates the home farm of 200 acres bordering on the Black River. He married Minnie Engen, May 24, 1917. Elmer Theodore married Ella Scarseth, and lives on the Scarseth farm in Gale Township. Lester died in infancy. The other children are at home.

Louis Johnson was born in Norway, came to America in 1858, and took up his residence on a farm near Viroqua, in Vernon County, this state. At the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted in the Sixteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry and did good service for three years. After farming in Vernon County for some forty-seven years he retired and moved to Galesville, in this county, where he now makes his home.

Fred Schuman, a well known land owner and farmer residing in section 18, Caledonia Township, was born near Doering, Germany, Aug. 8, 1853. He is a son of Gottlieb and Johanna Schuman, the former of whom died in Germany when the subject of this sketch was eight years old. The widowed mother, with her four children—the three others being Edward, Louise and Frederecia—came to America about six years later, in November, 1867. They settled at once in Trempealeau County, Wis., where Mrs. Schuman bought 180 acres of land in section 9, Caledonia Township. Eighty acres were already under the plow, and a log house, granary and stable were standing on the farm. About a year after her arrival here, or in 1868, she married Gustaf Keisling, who had accompanied the Schuman family to America. At the age of 16 years Fred Schuman left home to work for himself and was variously employed until 1876. Then, with his brother Edward, he bought the northwest half of the northwest quarter of section 20, Caledonia Township. There were neither buildings nor fences on the land and they lived in a one-room shanty on a rented tract of 40 acres adjoining, beginning farming operations on the 80-acre tract, of which they broke 18 acres the first year. In the fall of 1878 Mr. Schuman and his brother erected a frame house on this tract, it being an upright, one and a half stories high, just covered and enclosed. In this unfinished house they resided for several years. When Mr. Schuman purchased his tract of 80

acres it was on an agreement to pay \$100 down and the rest in monthly instalments. He had only \$75 cash and had great difficulty in raising the other \$25. He and his brother had no team, so they used their mother's the first year, and in the following spring bought one horse, not being able to procure another until a year later—in the spring of 1879. Now having a team of their own, they made good progress and continued in partnership until 1894, by which time they had added to the original 80 acres on section 20, an adjoining tract of 120 acres on section 2 adjoining, also acquiring 240 acres (all improved but 30 acres) in section 18. His farm now consists of 340 acres, as follows: 240 acres in section 18, 84 in section 34 and 20 in section 24, all in Caledonia Township, in addition to which he owns 100 acres in La Crosse County. Mr. Schuman does general farming, keeping a herd of grade Durham cattle and a sty of grade Poland-China hogs. The wing of his present residence consists of a small house of two rooms, which was on the farm when he bought the land, and in which he lived until about 1912, when he built his present two-story, nine-room residence, a frame structure, painted and with modern improvements. Among his other buildings are a barn, with cement basement, used for hogs and cattle; a horse barn, with wing attached; cattle sheds, poultry house, hog house, with cement floors, a brick milk house and a cement block silo. The farm is also well equipped with agricultural machinery and tools. June 23, 1914, a cyclone carried away seven of Mr. Schuman's buildings, all of which, however he has since replaced. He is a stockholder in the Galesville Creamery. Mr. Schuman was married, July 3, 1879, in Trempealeau Village, to Maggie, daughter of Robert and Melissa Bright, of Caledonia Township. Of this union seven children were born: Dollie, April 18, 1880, who died June 5, 1889; Freddie R., Jan. 7, 1882, who died June 7, 1889; Millie J., Sept. 9, 1885, who died June 5, 1889; Harry J., May 5, 1888, who is a farmer residing near the homestead; Glenn, Sept. 7, 1890, now farming on a tract of 120 acres in this vicinity; Mabel A., Aug. 25, 1892, wife of G. Roy Dale of Gale Township, and the mother of one daughter, Ruth; and Ross L., born Feb. 2, 1899, who lives on the home farm. As will be seen from the above record, Mr. Schuman lost three children within two days, which was due to that dread scourge diphtheria. His daughter Mabel graduated from the Galesville high school in 1913 and was a teacher for one year before her marriage. Mr. Schuman was reared in the faith of the Lutheran church and his wife in that of the Baptist, but are not members of either. They are numbered among the prosperous people of the township and are widely known and respected. Mr. Schuman usually votes the Republican ticket, but is not a strong party man or active in politics.

Elizabeth Heald, one of the estimable women of Trempealeau County, has seen pioneer life in two states and four counties. She was born in New York City, Jan. 1, 1854, daughter of Alonzo Morris and Mary (Schuyler) Merwin, and a great-granddaughter, on her mother's side, of Gen. Philip Schuyler, of Revolutionary War fame. In the fall of the year of her birth, the family came westward, and located at Greenbush, Sheboygan County, Wis., where they settled in the woods, and devoted three years to developing a farm. They cut down the trees, cleared up the land, erected

a four-room house, and conducted pioneer farming on a small scale. Then they moved to Dodge County, in the same state where they rented a farm. From there the father, in 1862, went to Nicollet County, in Minnesota, not far from New Ulm, secured a tract of land, erected a cabin, and harvested a quantity of hay. Then he went back to his home, and thus escaped the massacre of August 18 of that year. In June, 1863, the family, consisting of the father, mother and five children, William, George, Elizabeth, Ida and Arvilla, set out for their new home with an ox team. To the parents the long trip entailed many hardships, but the children thoroughly enjoyed it, and met with delight the constantly changing landscape, and the many varied experiences. Upon reaching the claim, it was found that the cabin was almost a ruin and the hay gone, the place having apparently been visited both by the Indians and the fleeing whites during the terrible days of the massacre. The cabin was soon repaired, however, and before long a farm was started. Late in the fall of 1864 the family came back to Wisconsin, and settled on 43 acres at Centerville, in Trempealeau Township, this county. The land had been improved, but no buildings were standing thereon. The father built a frame house, and in this the family continued to live for many years. He died March 10, 1867, and the sons, William and George, assumed the responsibility of supporting the family. The mother lived for many years thereafter, and spent her declining years in Trempealeau Village, where she died Feb. 20, 1909, at over 91 years of age. The daughter, Elizabeth, the subject of this sketch, followed the family fortunes until her marriage. Feb. 7, 1886, she married William E. Heald, who lived on a farm about a half mile from Trempealeau Village. Since his death, Feb. 6, 1916, she has lived in Trempealeau Village with her only daughter, Gertrude Mae. Gertrude Mae Heald was born on the farm near Trempealeau Village, Oct. 26, 1886. After passing through the common schools she was graduated from the Trempealeau high school in June, 1906. Then for three years she taught in the rural schools of the county. In the fall of 1909 she entered the Winona Business College at Winona, and was duly graduated from the stenographic and bookkeeping departments. In 1910 she entered the employ of the Cooper & Graves Lumber Company at Trempealeau as bookkeeper; in 1913 she started work for the Galesville Lumber Company at Galesville; from the fall of 1914 to the fall of 1915 she was at home, and since then she has been with the Trempealeau Mercantile Company at Trempealeau.

Carl T. Carlson, who is successfully engaged in farming in section 19, Gale Township, was born in Esther Getland, Sweden, Nov. 9, 1870, son of Carl John and Johana M. (Flood) Carlson. His parents were born in the same province, the father in 1844, and the mother in 1846. Carl J. Carlson learned the trade of shoemaker in Sweden. He served in the regular army but otherwise followed his trade there until he came to America with his parents' family in 1880, they locating at Galesville. Here he continued at his trade for about seven years longer, at the end of which time he homesteaded the farm where his son Carl T. now lives. This place remained his home until his death, which occurred Nov. 3, 1905. His wife died July 3, 1911. Their children were: Carl T., now on the old homestead; August

M., residing in New York City; Ellen Elizabeth, who died at the age of 24 years in 1898; Oscar Robert of Wild Rose, N. D., who married Stilla Lindberg and has three children, Earl, Oscar and Eugene E., and John M., Marie and Alfred J.

Carl T. Carlson was the eldest of six children. He attended district school in Gale Township and worked out as a farm hand from the time he was 14 years of age, at times also working in the pine woods. His first employment was by Hiram Butman in Gale Township. About 1896 he purchased land in Polk County, of which he later sold a part, but still owns 80 acres of farm land there. Since the death of his parents Mr. Carlson has been a part owner of the old Carlson homestead, his brother, Alfred J., and his sister, Marie W., having an equal share with himself in it. The farm contains 200 acres, some of which is timbered land. It is operated as a stock and dairy farm and about 100 head of sheep are kept. Carl T. Carlson is a stockholder in the La Crosse Packing Company and a member of the Farmers' Shipping Association of Trempealeau County. He is a member of the Lutheran Church and in politics is independent.

Warner R. Shonat, a prominent citizen of Galesville, who until recently was closely identified with the agricultural development of the township, was born at Decorah Prairie, Trempealeau County, Nov. 20, 1869, son of George B. and Jeanette (Dewar) Shonat. His education, acquired chiefly in the district school, was supplemented by student work at Gale College, which he attended two winters. After that he resided on the parental homestead, assisting his father until 1894, when, on March 14, he was married to Mary Cook, who was born near Duplainville, Wis., daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Wilson) Cook. Her father, who was born in Scarborough, England, Nov. 6, 1829, was a merchant by occupation. After coming to America he settled in New York state, whence he came to Waukesha, Wis., at a time when the site of the present large and flourishing city of Milwaukee was but a swamp. After settling in Duplainville he engaged in business there as a merchant and was also postmaster of the village for a number of years, besides serving as justice of the peace. He died there June 20, 1876. His wife survived him many years, her death taking place at Pewaukee, Wis., May 10, 1905. Their daughter Mary was the fourth born in a family of five children, and was educated in the Lisbon school at Pewaukee, Wis. Warner R. Shonat after his marriage took charge of the home farm of his parents, which he purchased in June, 1894. He added to the improvements made on it by his father and developed it into a first-class piece of agricultural property, continuing to operate it until the spring of 1916, when he rented the farm and moved to Galesville. Here he had purchased a fine modern residence, formerly owned by his sister, together with five acres of land adjacent to the Arctic Springs Creamery. He is a stockholder in the La Crosse Packing Company and the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company. His farm consists of 180 acres of highly improved land. Mr. Shonat is a director in the Farmers' Fire Insurance Company of Trempealeau County, and is head officer of the reserve fund of the Order of Beavers, belonging also to the Yeomen. He is a member and elder of the Presbyterian Church and for about 14 years served as clerk of the



MR. AND MRS. W. R. SHONAT

Decorah Prairie school district. In politics he is a Prohibitionist. The family, of which he is a leading representative, has aided largely in the development of the agricultural resources of this part of Trempealeau County.

George Hull Squier of Trempealeau, Wis., whose name is inseparably connected with discoveries regarding the archaeology and geology of the "driftless area" of the upper Mississippi basin, was born in Southhold, Long Island, Oct. 15, 1849, son of the Rev. James and Eliza (Hull) Squier, who brought him to Wisconsin in 1851, to La Crosse County in 1853, and to Trempealeau Village in 1864. In the cultured atmosphere of the home of these good people, George H. was reared and early acquired habits of unselfish labor, strict economy and mental alertness. As a youth he was encouraged by his father in intellectual pursuits, and he early determined to devote his life to geology, archaeology, anthropology and paleology. With this end in view, after passing through the schools of Trempealeau, Galesville, Alton (Ill.) and Beaver Dam (Wis.), he entered Harvard University, where for three years he pursued geological and palaeological studies, in the meantime devoting his summers to field work in Kentucky, Virginia, New York and Maine. Failing health and financial limitations, however, forced him to abandon his university studies, so he returned to Trempealeau and engaged in dairying and poultry raising. In all the years that have passed since then, he has devoted a part of his time to research, investigation and writing along the lines of his favorite branches of science, and his work has caused certain features of this part of Wisconsin to become known to scholars throughout the world. Mr. Squier now lives in partial retirement in the village of Trempealeau. He is a quiet, courteous, scholarly gentleman of the old school, greatly revered in his own community and highly honored throughout the county. His more notable contributions to archaeology include "Certain Archaeological Features of Western Wisconsin" (Wisconsin Archaeologist, IV No. 2); "Archaeological Resources of Western Wisconsin" (Wisconsin Archaeologist, XIII No. 3); "Additional Archaeological Details, Remains of a French Post Near Trempealeau" (Wisconsin Historical Society Proceedings, 1915, pp. 113-117), and "The Geologic and Archaeological Features of Trempealeau County" (History of Trempealeau County, Dr. Pierce and Curtiss-Wedge, Winona, 1917). To geology they include "Erratic Pebbles in the Licking Valley of Kentucky" (Science, 1883, p. 436); "Studies in the Driftless Area of Wisconsin" (Journal of Geology, No. 1, Vol. V, 1897, No. 2, Vol. VI, 1898, No. 3, Vol. VII, 1899); "Peculiar Local Deposits on Bluffs Adjacent to the Mississippi" (Report of Wisconsin Academy of Science, Arts and Letters, Vol. XVI, Part I). In 1880 Mr. Squier was engaged in a geological survey of the Appalachian Mountains in southwestern Virginia for a projected railroad. The survey was to have occupied two years, but the failure of the company cut it short. Both himself and Prof. Shaler, who held the contract, were losers. In 1881 he was making surveys near Eastport, Maine. In 1882 he made a survey of the iron resources of the Licking Valley, Kentucky, for an iron company. He was recommended by Prof. Shaler about this time for a position on the United States Geological Survey. There chanced to be

no vacancy at the time, and suddenly recurring illness caused him to abandon that career. Mr. Squier was married, June 29, 1882, to May Button, daughter of U. S. and Minerva Button, and descended from early New England stock, one of her ancestors being Roger Williams. Mrs. Squier was graduated in 1877 from the Mount Carrol Seminary, located at Mount Carrol, Ill. To Mr. and Mrs. Squier has been born one son, Ulysses Button, who is now engaged in the railroad business in Chicago as traffic expert. He married Clara Belle Linard, Aug. 23, 1910, and has two children.

Rev. James Squier. It is a rather delicate task for a son to undertake to write of a father's life, and I have rather hesitated to attempt more than the barest outlines. Yet he was, I think, identified with the religious work of this part of the state for a longer time than any other, and in the conduct of the work he displayed characteristics which entitled him to a high place among the workers. Although the more strictly pioneer work was part of the history of La Crosse County, he was for nearly thirty-seven years a resident of Trempealeau—longer than in any other single locality. Since both himself, and all those, his contemporaries, who knew of his work, have passed away, I remain, myself, the only source of information concerning his life; and since the substance of the article must be mine, it seems best that I should give it form and be directly responsible for its statements. The subject of this sketch was born in in Hopkinton, St. Lawrence County, N. Y., Sept. 21, 1808. His father had entered the state from Vermont when it was an unbroken forest, and an older sister was the first white child born in the vicinity. The life was, of course, that of the pioneer, and his boyhood training served to give him an intimate knowledge of woodcraft. He was converted in young manhood, and very soon felt himself called to the ministry. One of his first acts, after having settled on his future course, was typical of his life. He had bought and cleared a farm and was expecting to have cared for his parents in their declining years. Knowing that would not be possible under the new plan, he gave the farm to an older brother on condition that he would care for them. His decision made, he entered Madison (now Colgate) University in 1832 and graduated in 1838 (this included two years in theology). In the fall following his graduation he was ordained at Tyringham, Mass., and soon entered on his first pastorate at Sandisfield, Mass. In 1839 he married Eliza Hull, a teacher, and a descendant in the fifth generation of Hannah Dustan of Haverhill, Mass., whose capture by, and escape from the Indians during the "King Phillip" war, formed one of the stirring episodes of early Massachusetts history. (Abigail Hull, mother of Eliza Hull, was a resident of Trempealeau for a number of years, dying in 1882 in her one hundred and first year.) In 1840 he was pastor in Bristol, Conn.; in 1842-6 in Tolland, Conn. In 1846 he had a very serious illness, and when sufficiently recovered went, by advice, to a fishing hamlet (also something of a summer resort), becoming pastor of a little church there. This place, Southold, was on a narrow neck of land near the eastern end of Long Island. The life, much of it on the water, was very beneficial to him. It was here that the writer was born, in October, 1849. In 1850 he was pastor in "Head of



L. S. SANDERS

Mystic," Conn. His illness had, however, left certain permanent effects which rendered it inexpedient that he enter the foreign field, which had up to this time been his purpose, and being possessed in large measure of the missionary spirit, his mind turned toward home missions. His wife's parents, and sister, had already located at Elgin, Ill. Moving west in 1851, he soon located as pastor of the church in East Troy, Walworth County, Wis. It was about this time that the tide of emigration was turning toward the rich region of the La Crosse Valley, and a surprisingly large number of people from Walworth County were among the early settlers of La Crosse County. Among them were several of his friends and neighbors. In the summer of 1853 he visited the region, bought some land of the late George Edwards of La Crosse, a friend and neighbor who had preceded him by a year, and in September moved his family there. At this time a Baptist church had been but recently formed in La Crosse, and soon after one was formed in Sparta, but the extensive region lying between had no church organization, though there were a few scattered Baptists. To this region he undertook to minister. The demands on the Home Mission Society far exceeded their resources and he resolved not to apply to them. For six years he conducted this work without salary. This double burden of work was one that few would be willing to assume. That he was able to carry it alone may be ascribed to the severe school of his boyhood and the wise and devoted co-operation of his wife. The story of these years of work and privation would be well worth writing, but I will not attempt it.

The farm home was about a mile north of the present village of West Salem. The village, however, was not started until a few years later, after the construction of the Milwaukee road. The then village, known as Neshonoe, was on the La Crosse River, adjacent to the mills, from which the electric current used in West Salem is obtained. It is now only a memory. In the fall of 1859 he rented his farm and moved to Lewis Valley (La Crosse County, Mindoro, P. O.), preaching there and at Melrose. In 1863 he became pastor at West Salem. The next year—1864—the Baptist church at Trempealeau was organized, and he, one of those present at the council, was invited to become pastor. He entered upon his duties during the summer, but did not remove his family until fall, our arrival being on Thanksgiving Day. He remained pastor until 1871, when he retired from the pastoral work. It was during his pastorate that the church building was erected, he himself meeting about half the cost. His death occurred in 1901. I think all who knew him intimately recognized his outstanding characteristics: his unswerving devotion to duty, and his unselfishness in his relations to others. He asked but little of the world and gave much. Simple and unaffected in manners, he was nevertheless a man of refined tastes, and of well trained scholarly mind.—(Written by Geo. H. Squier.)

Leland S. Sanders, efficient and popular cashier of the Citizens State Bank of Trempealeau, and a prominent factor in the business and social life of the village wherein he makes his home, was born in Friend, Neb., Feb. 22, 1891, the son of Charles M. and Nellie (Steward) Sanders. He passed through the graded schools of his native place, took a two years' course in the Omaha (Neb.) high school, graduated from the Fairbury

(Neb.) high school, and then attended the Lake Forest College at Lake Forest, Ill. In the meantime he had been considerably interested in banking, having started his connection with the financial interests by becoming a bank messenger at the age of thirteen, working in a bank at Daykin, Neb., evenings, mornings and Saturdays, while attending the graded schools. After leaving the institution at Lake Forest he took a position with the accounting department of the Illinois Central Railroad Company. But finding that railroad accounting was not exactly to his liking, he subsequently secured a position as assistant cashier of the Clarion Savings Bank, at Clarion, Iowa, where he remained until Jan. 1, 1916, when he came to Trempealeau to assume the duties of his present position. Here he has thoroughly identified himself with that modern movement which has brought renewed life to the historic village of Trempealeau, and has become one of that little group of men who are infusing enthusiasm and zest into the plans which have for their object the development of the village as a thriving business center. His work is also establishing the Citizens Bank as one of the leading financial houses of western Wisconsin. Mr. Sanders was married in Clarion, Iowa, June 17, 1914, to June M. Birdsall, daughter of Judge and Mrs. B. P. Birdsall, and to this union has been born one daughter, Ruth Sanders, March 30, 1915.

Judge B. P. Birdsall was born in Weyauwega, Wis., in 1865, and as a young man went to Iowa. He became prominent in law and politics, served in Congress as a representative from the Third Congressional District of Iowa for eight years, and was circuit judge of the Tenth Judicial District of Iowa for ten years.

Charles M. Sanders was born in Waukegan, Ill., Aug. 23, 1861, and married Nellie Steward, who was born in Rockford, Ill., March 26, 1866, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Steward. Charles M. Sanders engaged in the hardware business in Friend, Neb., for 25 years, and is now in the lumber business at Daykin, Neb.

Peter Crogan, a general farmer residing in section 4, Gale Township, was born in County Roscommon, Ireland, Dec. 24, 1845, son of Patrick and Mary (Bropsom) Crogan. His parents were natives of the same county. The father was a farmer, who died in Ireland about 1859, and his wife subsequently came to the United States, settling in New Jersey, where her death took place about 1893. Peter Crogan was the fourth born in a family of 13 children. He attended school in his native land and resided on the home farm until he came to America in 1864. For five years he lived in New Jersey, working for others and then, hearing of opportunities to acquire land in the great Northwest, he came to Trempealeau County, Wisconsin. He did not immediately acquire land, however, but for some years worked in Trempealeau and La Crosse Counties until 1878, at which time he bought his present farm of 160 acres. Here he has since made a number of improvements, having cultivated and developed the land and put up good buildings of substantial and modern construction. Mr. Crogan was married in 1877 to Mary Jane McCormick, who was born in La Crosse County, daughter of Patrick and Mary (Finon) McCormick. Her parents were born in Ireland and came to the United States, being early settlers.

in La Crosse County, where Mr. McCormick engaged in farming. Both are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Crogan are the parents of six children: Joseph, who is a railroad man and resides in Reedsburg, Wis.; Lucy, who was educated in the schools of Trempealeau County and La Crosse, also at the Winona Normal School, and is now a teacher in Ettrick; Peter Benedick, who was drowned April 10, 1916, opposite Winona while automobile riding on a flooded roadway; Winnie, a stenographer at Grafton, N. D.; Clement, who resides with his father, and one who died in infancy. The death of Peter Benedick during the flood of 1916 was a very sad event, his wife and two children perishing with him. It occurred at a spot where several others were drowned the same season. He was at the time operating his father's farm, the latter having retired and taken up his residence in Winona. Owing to this accident Peter Crogan, having no other tenant, returned to the farm, where he has since remained. He and his wife are members of the Catholic church. In politics he is independent.

William Henry Conrad, proprietor of a fine farm of 280 acres, 225 of which is in section 26, Gale Township and the balance across Black River in La Crosse County, was born on this farm Sept. 26, 1886, son of Frank and Allemania (Genske) Conrad. The father, a native of this township, was always a farmer, and moved onto this farm with his parents when about six or seven years of age. When he grew up it came into his possession and he developed it and made many improvements on it. Though not now operating the farm, he resides on it and is still very active. For five years he was a member of the township board, and also served some time as school director. His wife, who was born on shipboard while on the passage from Germany to the United States, is also living. Their only child was the subject of this sketch.

William Henry Conrad was educated in the district school of his neighborhood. He worked for his father until he was 21 years old and then rented the farm and has since operated it on his own account, having done a profitable business. He was married Dec. 18, 1908, to Julia Ravnum, who was born in Gale Township, this county, daughter of Anton and Martha (Gilboe) Ravnum, both of whom were natives of Norway. Her father, who was a farmer, is now deceased, but her mother still resides on the old homestead in Gale Township. Anton Ravnum was born in Biri, Norway, and his wife in Gubrendal, that country, the former coming to this country when a young man and working out in this township until he settled on his own farm, which he developed and improved. He and his wife were married in Hardie's Creek Valley, Trempealeau County. He was a prominent man in the township, both he and his wife being highly esteemed. His death occurred Nov. 6, 1898. Mr. and Mrs. Conrad have been the parents of five children: Laura Irene, Harvey William, Helen Margaret, Hazel Marie and Francis Alfred, Harvey W. and Helen M. being twins. Hazel M. died in infancy, but the others are still living and are residing at home. The family are members of the Lutheran church. Mr. Conrad is independent in politics, voting for the man rather than for the party. He is now serving in his sixth year as clerk of the school board of his district, and he served three years as township treasurer.

Hans Christianson, proprietor of a shoemaking and repairing establishment, and also a dealer in saddlery and harness, in Ettrick, Wis., was born in Ringsaker, Haedmarken, Norway, Oct. 17, 1843, son of Christian Hanson and Roufe (Johnson) Hanson. His parents were natives of the same place or province, where they lived many years, the mother dying in her native land. In 1866 Christian Hanson came to the United States, and locating at North Bend, Jackson County, there engaged in farming, which he carried on industriously up to his later years, his death taking place about 1892.

Hans Christianson was his parents' only child. He had somewhat limited opportunities for attending school, but acquired the rudiments of knowledge, and at the age of 14 years began an apprenticeship to the shoemaker's trade, at which he became an expert workman. In 1868 he followed his father to America, and on arriving here at first settled on a farm at South Beaver Creek, about four miles from Ettrick. Until the fall of 1871 he worked out for others, and then, deciding to return to his trade, he came to Ettrick, and, opening a shop, engaged in shoemaking and repair work, in which business he has since continued, having also added a complete line of harness and saddlery supplies. When Mr. Christianson first came to Ettrick there were only four buildings in the village and he has since witnessed its growth to a flourishing village of 300 people or more. He built his present store about 1905, a substantial building, conveniently located, and giving him plenty of room.

Mr. Christianson was married in November, 1868, to Caroline Olson, who was born in his own native province in Norway, and who came to America at the same time that he did. Her parents, who died in Norway, were Ole Larson and Margaret Gunderson. Mr. and Mrs. Christianson are the parents of nine children: Helena, now Mrs. L. M. Larson, an attorney residing in Regina, Canada, where he is collection man for the International Harvester Company; Ole (deceased), at the time of his death he was interested in a large creamery at Long Prairie, Minn.; Robert (deceased), who was a prominent young lawyer of the county; in the spring of 1914 he was appointed by Governor LaFollette as district attorney of Trempealeau County and in August that year he died, leaving a wife and two children; Martha, now Mrs. Andrew C. Hagestad of Ettrick Township; Clara, wife of Rev. P. A. Hendrickson of Roanwood, Mont.; Melvin (deceased), who was assisting his father in business; Helmer, who is now associated with his father in business at Ettrick; Octavia, a stenographer at Fargo, N. D.; Anna Amelia, a graduate nurse from the Cook County Hospital, Chicago, is now Mrs. E. J. Burke. They reside at LaSalle, Ill., where Mr. Burke is a practicing physician. Mr. Christianson has built up a good trade and is one of the prosperous citizens of the village of Ettrick. He and his family are members of the Lutheran church.

James O. Halderson, president of the Halderson-Plummer Company, Incorporated, of Galesville, of which place he is one of the leading business men, was born in Harmony, Vernon County, Wis., Feb. 18, 1871, son of Albert and Mary (Gaarder) Halderson. He was educated in the common schools of Vernon County and remained at home until he was 20 years



J. O. HALDERSON AND FAMILY

of age, when he became clerk in the furniture store of Joseph Polver at Viroqua, Wis. There he remained for three years, during the last year of which period he had full charge of the business, having mastered it in every detail. In 1894 Mr. Halderson came to Galesville and here established an up-to-date furniture and undertaking business, with Thomas Call as an equal partner, the style of the firm being Halderson & Call. Two years later their establishment was burned out, entailing a complete loss, but, undaunted, Mr. Halderson made a new start, this time alone and on a small scale, his place of business being located in the Dutton building. By hard work and upright dealing he built up a flourishing business, which increased steadily year by year. He now owns a fine store building, complete in every branch of the business, located on the corner of Ridge and Allen streets. This location he purchased from M. B. Parker and son Ervin in 1898. He has just built a tasteful modern residence north of his business block facing on Ridge street. In July, 1915, Mr. Halderson sold a half interest in the business to W. F. Plummer, and it was then incorporated as the Halderson-Plummer Company, with J. O. Halderson, president; Mrs. J. O. Halderson, vice-president; W. F. Plummer, secretary and treasurer. Mr. Halderson is a graduate of the Clark Embalming School of Chicago and of the Williams Embalming School of Oshkosh, Wis., and holds a state certificate as a thoroughly qualified funeral director. As a business man he has gained a reputation for honesty and reliability that is one of his most valuable assets. Aside from their furniture and undertaking departments, the Halderson-Plummer Company deal in pianos, organs, talking machines and other similar goods, keeping articles of standard merit. Mr. Halderson was married June 24, 1896, to Ellen Cook, who was born at Decorah Prairie, this county, July 25, 1870, daughter of David and Agnes (Henderson) Cook. Mrs. Halderson was graduated from the Galesville schools in 1888. For several terms she was a proficient teacher in the rural schools, and for a long period a clerk in the department store of Gilbertson & Myhre at Galesville. Mr. and Mrs. Halderson have two children: James Haskell, born June 2, 1899, who was graduated from Galesville high school in 1917, and Theresa Grace, born March 8, 1902, who is now a student in the high school. Mr. Halderson is a member of Decorah Lodge, A. F. & A. M.; the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Brotherhood of American Yeomen.

Hans F. Claussen, one of the most prominent business men in the southeastern part of Trempealeau County, and a resident of the village of Ettrick, was born in Heide, Germany, Dec. 1, 1865, son of Peter H. and Anna (Messer) Claussen. His parents came to the United States with their family when he was five years old, in 1870, first locating in Chicago, where Peter H. Claussen worked one summer. Desiring better opportunities for advancement than he could find at once in the crowded city, he then came to Trempealeau County, Wis., and located on a farm near Frenchville, which is still known as the Claussen homestead and which is one of the best farms to be found in this part of the county, its development and improvement having been effected by him. There he and his wife are still living, though he is now retired from active work. Of their

eight children, the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth.

Hans F. Claussen was educated in the district school at Frenchville, Gale Township, and at Gale University, now known as Gale College. He resided on his parents' farm until he was 22 years old and then became a clerk in the general store of Gilbertson & Myhre at Galesville, remaining in their employ for three years. At the end of that time, resolving to go into business for himself, he selected Elk Creek, in this county, as a suitable location and there conducted a store for four years. An opportunity then occurred for him to purchase the business of John Gilbertson at Frenchville, and he accordingly did so, improving the store by the erection of new buildings, his store building being 42 by 60 feet, two stories in height, with basement. A house for residence is connected with it. Here Mr. Claussen is doing a good business as general merchant, keeping a large and varied stock of goods to suit both village and country trade and ensuring a gradual increase of patronage by prompt service and honest dealing. This enterprise, however, prosperous though it is, is but one of those with which he is connected. He was one of the founders of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Galesville and its first vice-president. In 1911 he organized the Bank of Ettrick, of which he is at the present time president, devoting to this institution the greater part of his time; and he is besides secretary and treasurer and a director of the Ettrick & Northern Railroad, now building; acting treasurer of the Ettrick Creamery Company and treasurer of the Ettrick Telephone Company, also secretary and treasurer of the Ettrick Lumber Company, organized in 1917. Aside from his interests in these various enterprises he is the owner of real estate in Frenchville and land in Ettrick Township close to the corporation line of Ettrick Village. An independent Republican in politics, Mr. Claussen, while having no political aspirations, has at different times responded when called upon to serve in local office, and thus has served four years as treasurer of Gale Township and a similar length of time as chairman of the township board. He was married in June, 1892, to Anna Olson, who was born in Trempealeau County, daughter of Louis and Mary (Olson) Olson. Her parents, who are now deceased, were early settlers in Trempealeau County, coming here from Coon Valley, La Crosse County, where they lived for a short time. Mr. Olson's occupation was that of farmer, and he and his wife were worthy, reliable people, much respected in their vicinity. They had four children, their daughter Anna, now Mrs. Claussen, being the third born. Mr. and Mrs. Claussen's family circle has been enlarged by the birth of five children: Lucile P., who was educated in the local schools and at Red Wing Seminary and is now assistant cashier in the Bank of Ettrick; Vesta M., Freda M., Peter H. and Ruth M., all of whom are residing at home. The Claussen family are members of the Lutheran church. They stand high in the community as people of sterling character and their circle of friends and acquaintances is a wide one.

James E. Cance. One of the prosperous merchants of the village of Ettrick is James E. Cance, who was born in Ettrick Township, Dec. 22, 1864, son of Robert and Christine (Edmond) Cance. Scotland was the

later served three terms as chairman of the board. At the age of twenty-two he was elected town clerk, a position in which he served for eleven years. In 1894 he was elected county treasurer, and in this capacity did such excellent service that he was re-elected in the fall of 1896. From 1882, the time of its organization, until 1894, he was secretary of the Pigeon Mutual Fire Insurance Company and was one of the important factors in its success. Upon retiring from public office he made his home in Whitehall until his lamented death March 5, 1901. Mr. Larson was married May 28, 1887, to Marie Skorstad, who was born near Vardahl, Christiania, Norway, Aug. 7, 1863, daughter of Christian and Ellen (Brostad) Skorstad, born in 1819 and 1821 respectively, came to America in 1868, and homesteaded a farm in section 27, town 23, range 7, Pigeon Township, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Larson are the parents of three children: Chester Ernest, who was born April 15, 1894, and died April 30, of the same year; Mabel, who was born Aug. 20, 1896, and is now a student in domestic science in the Stout Institute at Menominee, Wis.; and Owen Elmer, who was born April 13, 1899, and is now attending the Whitehall high school. Mr. Larson was one of two children. His brother Lars was born in 1852, married Ellen Johnson in 1876, and has three children: Edwin, a farmer of Jackson County, this state; Emma, the wife of Knut Haugen, a farmer of Jackson County, and Lena, now Mrs. Severson, who lives near Neillsville, Wis. Mrs. Larson is the fifth of six children, the others being: Andrew (deceased), who married Petra Tennseth (deceased), and has one son, Casper; Olive, who married Andrew Rye, a farmer of Taconite, Minn.; Peter of Whitehall; Carrie, who lives with her brother Anton; and Anton, who is a merchant in York, Wisconsin.

Paul Nordhus, one of the enterprising and prosperous farmers of Ettrick Township, is, like many other successful agriculturists of this part of the county, of Norwegian birth, having been born in Hardanger, Norway, Oct. 28, 1859, son of Ole and Ingeborg (Tolafson) Nordhus, his parents being natives of the same locality. The father was a farmer and also postmaster of his town. He and his wife both died in Norway, never coming to this country.

Paul Nordhus, who was the seventh born in a family of nine children, attended school in his native land. At the age of 16 years he became a sailor and followed that vocation until 1882, in which year he came to the United States, locating in Beaver Creek Valley, Trempealeau County, Wis. Here he found employment in a sawmill and was thus occupied for six years. At the end of that time he went west, visiting Spokane, Wash., and other places and working as a stone mason for about 18 months. In the meanwhile he had saved money and now returned to Norway, desiring to see his native place once more. The United States possessed too strong an attraction for him to remain there long, however, and in 1891 he came back to this country and located on his present farm in section 12 East, Ettrick Township, the farm containing 280 acres of valuable land, on which he raises good crops, besides keeping a fair amount of stock. He is also financially interested as a stockholder in the Farmers Exchange of Blair,

the Ettrick Creamery Company, the Ettrick Telephone Company and the Bank of Ettrick. Mr. Nordhus was married Feb. 6, 1894, to Betsey Davidson, who was born in Beaver Creek Valley, Ettrick Township, daughter of Rasmus and Anna (Johnson) Davidson. Her parents were natives of Hardanger, Norway, who came to America about 1875, settling on a farm in Jackson County, just across the line from Trempealeau County, where Mr. Davidson died in 1908. His wife is still residing on the old farm. They were among the earliest settlers in that locality. Mrs. Nordhus, who was the third born of their six children, when a girl attended the Hegg schoolhouse in Ettrick Township, this county. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Nordhus are six in number: Oscar Raymond, who is employed in the office of the St. L. & M. Railroad Company at Minneapolis; Alina Ingeborg, now residing in Minneapolis, and Esther Josephine, Norma Jeanette, Emil James and Basil Philip, who are residing at home. Mr. Nordhus and his family are affiliated by membership with the United Lutheran Church, while his political principles are those of the Republican party. As a successful farmer and loyal citizen he is known and respected throughout this part of the county.

Thomas P. Nelsestuen, a successful farmer of section 34 W., Ettrick Township, was born on the farm on which he now lives, Jan. 8, 1876, son of Peter and Christiana (Hagestuen) Nelsestuen. His parents were natives of Norway. The father was born in Syndreland, that country, Oct. 3, 1838; his wife in Biri, Feb. 6, 1845. About 1860 they came to the United States, settling in Trempealeau County, and soon after on the farm where the subject of this sketch now lives, which Peter Nelsestuen cleared and improved and on which he resided until his death Feb. 6, 1914. His wife now resides in Beaver Creek Valley, Ettrick Township, with her daughter, Mrs. Sever Twesme. They had a family of eight children, of whom Thomas P. was the sixth born. The latter, after acquiring his education in the district school, was a student for awhile at Gale College, and for one year attended public school at Superior, Wis. He resided at home until he was 23 years old and then went to Westby, Vernon County, where he spent the winter. From there he went to North Dakota and then to Canada, locating in the province of Saskatchewan, where he proved up 160 acres of land, residing on it three years. He then went to Ross, N. D., and proved up a claim there, his residence being continued for 18 months. At the end of that time he returned home and bought the old homestead of his parents, consisting of 133½ acres, located at the mouth of French's Creek. Mr. Nelsestuen has added to the improvements on the farm, having put up a good barn and silo and done other work increasing the value of the property. He has disposed of his Canadian and North Dakota holdings, but is a stockholder in the Ettrick & Northern Railroad Company, the Scandinavian Insurance Company and the Ettrick Farmers' Telephone Company.

June 23, 1909, Mr. Nelsestuen was united in marriage with Julia Ofsdahl, who was born in Ettrick Township, daughter of Peter and Ingeborg (Holmen) Ofsdahl, whose parents were Norwegians, her father being born in Biri, Norway, Oct. 27, 1835, and her mother Feb. 1, 1835. Peter Ofsdahl had been previously married. He came to this country before

the Civil War, in which he served as a soldier. His death took place Oct. 10, 1905, his wife surviving him a little over a year, passed away May 13, 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Nelsestuen are members of the Lutheran Church; in politics he is a Republican. The children of Peter Nelsestuen and wife are: Ole of Thief River Falls, Minn.; Tillie, widow of Siver Twesme; Minnie, now Mrs. H. Gangnon of Superior, Wis.; Clara, now Mrs. Lewis Twesme of Superior, Wis.; Peter of South Beaver Creek, Ettrick Township; Thomas P., subject of this sketch, and John and Otto of Minneapolis.

Mathias T. Pederson. Among the foreign born citizens of Trempealeau County the Norwegians take a prominent place for their industry and enterprise and the large measure of success which has accompanied their efforts to establish a home and improve their fortunes in this, the land of their adoption. An excellent type of this class is the subject of this sketch, Mathias T. Pederson, who was born in Rinsager, Norway, Sept. 9, 1864. His parents, Thomas and Mary (Larson) Pederson, natives of the same province, emigrated to the United States with their family in 1873, settling on a farm about three miles and a half from Ettrick, Trempealeau County, Wis., where they remained about 18 months. Thomas Pederson was then about 35 years old, and his wife some six or seven years younger. Following their residence on the farm, Mr. Pederson, the father, engaged in the shoemaking business in Ettrick, taking as a partner Hans Christianson, the firm both manufacturing and repairing boots and shoes. In this work he continued until his death, Jan. 12, 1884 which took place at the Wisconsin House in La Crosse, where he was taking treatment for a physical ailment. His wife died Oct. 15, 1909.

Mathias T. Pederson was the eldest of his parents' nine children. He attended district school in Ettrick Township and when a lad of from 10 to 12 years old began working out during the summers, and continued to do so, living at home in the winter, until he was 20 years of age. His father then died and he subsequently helped his mother to support the family until his own marriage, being then employed with a team in gathering cream for the Ettrick Creamery. He had previously purchased a lot on which he later erected a barn, and not long after that, or about a year after his marriage, he purchased a residence property. After hauling cream for about five years Mr. Pederson engaged in the pump and windmill business in Ettrick, doing contract work and sinking all kinds of wells. This work was interrupted by intervals of service in public office as sheriff, during which time he rented his equipment to his brother and brother-in-law. He served as township treasurer in 1897-98, as under sheriff in 1905-06, and as sheriff in 1907-08, also acting as constable for a number of years until he declined any longer to serve. He has also for a number of years been a member of the board of education, of which body he is at the present time the treasurer. Besides pumps and windmills he deals in gasoline engines, U. S. cream separators and steam and hot water heating plants, doing an extensive and profitable business. Mr. Pederson built his present commodious residence in 1910 and also owns other real estate, both within and without the village limits. He is a stockholder in the Bank of Ettrick and a member of the examining board, a stockholder in



DUNCAN GRANT AND FAMILY

Ettrick Hall, in the Ettrick & Northern Railroad, of which he is vice-president; also a stockholder in the Ettrick Telephone Company and in the Ettrick Lumber Company, of which latter concern he was one of the incorporators. These various interests make large demands on his time, the greater part of which, however, is given to his pump and windmill business.

June 27, 1891, Mr. Pederson was united in marriage with Agnes Erickson, who was born in Biri, Norway, daughter of Evan and Frederica (Olson) Erickson, both natives of the same district in Norway. The Erickson family came to this country in 1871, settling in Ettrick Township, near the Gale Township line, where Mr. Erickson engaged in farming. He is still living there, but is now 83 years old and retired. His wife died on the home farm about 1901 or 1902. Mr. and Mrs. Pederson have a family of eight children: Thomas E., a farmer at Mobridge, S. D.; Fred M., who resides at home and is assisting his father; Myrtle, a teacher in the schools of Trempealeau County; Agnes, who is attending the Galesville high school; Palmer L., a graduate of Galesville high school, class of 1917; Silas Clarence, Thelma L. and Otis K., residing at home. Mr. Pederson and his family are members of the Lutheran Synod Church at Ettrick. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, being banker for his lodge, and is a member of the board of managers of the Beaver lodge. As a good citizen, progressive and public spirited, he has at heart the general interests of the community in which he lives and has taken part in many practical measures for its advancement. He has attained a comfortable position in life through his own energy and business acumen, and is one of the substantial and respected citizens of his village and township.

Duncan Grant, a prosperous agriculturist operating a farm of 274 acres in section 5-32 E, Gale Township, was born on the farm on which he now lives, Feb. 1, 1870, son of Duncan and Elizabeth (Dick) Grant. His parents were natives of Ayrshire, Scotland, the father born March 5, 1837, and the mother about 1847. Duncan Grant, the elder, came to America in 1851, locating first in Kentucky, in which state he resided three or four years, and then came to Trempealeau County, Wis. He was married in Gale Township and settled on the farm now owned by his son and namesake, and engaged in agriculture. Here he resided until 1913, when he took up his residence with his son-in-law, Andrew Cook, of Gale Township, where he is now living. His wife died about 1881. They were the parents of eight children.

Duncan Grant, the second of the name, was the fourth born child in his parents' family. He attended the Grant school in district No. 7, Gale Township, and was at an early age initiated into agricultural work, being set to work as soon as he could handle a team. Before he was of age he took charge of the farm and has since operated it, becoming its owner by purchase when he was 29 years old. He is engaged in general farming and stock raising, and is doing a large and profitable business. He is a stockholder in the Arctic Springs Creamery, the Farmers Exchange Elevator and the La Crosse Packing Company. April 25, 1906, Mr. Grant was married to Henrietta Lowner, a native of Holland and daughter of Martin

and Helen (Bymers) Lowner. Her parents, who were both born in Holland, came to the United States about 1893, locating near Amsterdam, in La Crosse County, where Mr. Lowner found employment on farms, and where he died about 1902. His wife now resides at Council Bay, that county. They had seven children, Henrietta being the fourth in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Grant are the parents of four children: Helen Elizabeth, Russell Vernon, Thomas Glenn and Arvilla May. He belongs to the order of Beavers and in politics is an independent Republican.

Peter J. Pederson, who is the owner of a good dairy farm of 160 acres in section 35 west, Ettrick Township, was born in Coon Valley, Vernon County, Wis., May 11, 1870, son of John and Agnes (Lindahl) Pederson. His parents were among the hardy Norwegian settlers of this county, and were both born in Biri, Norway, the father Feb. 2, 1848, the mother Nov. 12, 1849. The former came to America in 1859, locating in Coon Valley Wisconsin. Early in the Civil War he enlisted in Company K, 25th Wisconsin Regiment, but after serving for awhile was mustered out on account of sickness. On his recovery he re-enlisted as a substitute and served until the end of the war. He then settled in Vernon County, where he bought land and married, residing there until 1875, in which year he removed to Trempealeau County, taking the farm on which his son Peter J. now lives. Here he was engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death Aug. 22, 1914. His wife died No. 12, 1908. Their family consisted of the following children: Martha, wife of Chris Skunberg, residing at French Creek, this county; Peter J., subject of this sketch; Carrie, deceased; a child who died in infancy, and Anton, who is unmarried and resides with his brother Peter.

Peter J. Pederson acquired his education in the district school. He resided at home and when 18 years of age took the management of the farm, operating it until about 1910. Subsequently he bought out the heirs to the estate and now has 160 acres of valuable land, on which he has put on all improvements, and is conducting it as a first class dairy farm. Mr. Pederson is a stockholder in the creamery and in the Ettrick & Northern Railroad. He was married May 27, 1896, to Sena Husman, who was born in Biri, Norway, daughter of Olie and Marit (Forgerson) Husman. Her parents were born in Fauberg, Norway, the father Nov. 23, 1842, and the mother in Ayr, Norway, Sept. 27, 1841. They came to America in 1885 locating in Coon Valley, Vernon County, but in the same year came to Trempealeau County, Mr. Husman farming for many years on French Creek, where he and his wife are now living retired. They celebrated their golden wedding June 15, 1917. They were the parents of eight children, Sena being their fourth born. Mr. and Mrs. Pederson have three children: Joseph, born Dec. 2, 1897; Orrin, born Sept. 6, 1900, and Arthur Miner, born March 6, 1910, all residing at home. The family are members of the Lutheran church. In political matters Mr. Pederson votes independently, judging of issues and men as the occasion arises and not being bound to any party. As a successful farmer and good citizen he is known and respected throughout this part of the county.

John P. Poss, a well known farmer operating 200 acres of land in section 32 E, Gale Township, was born in this township, Dec. 13, 1873, son of



JULIUS O. TAPPEN AND FAMILY

Peter and Barbara (Happel) Poss. Peter Poss was born in Milwaukee, Dec. 25, 1849, and came to Trempealeau County with his parents when a child of three years, they locating on a farm in Gale Township. After growing to manhood he followed farming for himself in this township until 1904, at which time he sold the farm to his sons, and is now living retired at Houston, Minn. His wife, who was born in Germany Dec. 31, 1850, died Aug. 11, 1904. They were the parents of four children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the eldest.

John P. Poss in his boyhood attended the Grant school in Gale Township and resided on a farm adjoining his father's until 1904, in which year, on January 6, he was married to Louise Wohlers. She was born at Brownville, Minn., daughter of Henry and Wilhelmina (Depthner) Wohlers, who were married in La Crosse County. Her parents were born in Germany, the father Aug. 18, 1838, and the mother Aug. 9, 1847. Mr. Wohlers came to the United States about 1868, taking a farm in Houston County, on which he and his wife are still living. They had a large family, numbering 11 children, Mrs. Poss being the sixth in order of birth. At the time of his marriage Mr. Poss began operations of his present farm, where he has since remained, being engaged in general farming, including stock raising. He is a stockholder in the La Crosse Packing Company and in the Independent Harvester Company of Plano, Ill. He and his wife have four children: Pearl Barbara, Le Roy Henry, Gladys Winifred and Anna Elizabeth. Mr. Poss is independent in politics. He has taken no active part in local government and as a good citizen is interested in the advancement of the community in which he lives, and ready to support any practical movement for that purpose.

Nels Pederson, the present postmaster of Galesville, who is also interested in several important business enterprises here, was born in Hedemarken, Norway, Dec. 16, 1850. His parents, Peder Nelson and Martha Halverson, never came to America, but died in their native land, Norway. Nels Pederson was obliged to support himself when he was 13 years of age. For three years he worked on the farm of one of his uncles, and then found employment in a store as clerk, being thus occupied three years. Afterwards he worked nine years in factories devoted to the woodworking industry, two years in Sweden and six years in Germany. From the latter country he came in 1883 to the United States, locating at once in Winona, Minn., where he found work in a wagon factory. He continued in this occupation for nine years, and then, in 1892, became registrar of deeds for Winona county. After serving one term in this office he came to Galesville and engaged in the retail liquor business, remaining in it for 16 years. Since then he has served as village clerk, and in other offices, receiving his appointment as postmaster July 1, 1915. In politics he is a Democrat.

Julius O. Tappen, proprietor of the old Tappen homestead in section 24, Preston Township, was born in Solar, Norway, Oct. 24, 1854, son of Ole O. and Elizabeth (Embretson) Tappen. The father, who was born in Norway in 1816, came to America in the fall of 1857 and resided one year in Vernon County, Wisconsin. He then bought a farm in what is now known as

Tappan Coulie, Preston Township, Trempealeau County, where he lived six years. At the end of that time he purchased the farm on which his son Julius O. now lives, and spent the rest of his life in its cultivation and improvement. His death took place on this farm, Jan. 3, 1905. His wife Elizabeth, who was born in 1815, died in 1910. Their family consisted of the following eight children: Ole Olson, who was killed in Kentucky in the Civil War; Evert Olson, also a soldier in the Civil War, who was killed by a desperado at New Lisbon; Karen, who died in 1857 at the age of 16 years; Olea, who married Gunder Peterson, a farmer of Preston Township, and died in 1911; Serena, wife of Paul Strum, a farmer residing near Blair; Julius O. of Preston Township; Annie, who died at the age of three years, and Alex O., a resident of Springwater, Saskatchewan, Canada. Julius O. Tappen was brought up to farm life and labor and for a number of years when a young man worked on farms in the summer and in the pineries during the winter. In this manner he was occupied until 1884, in which year he purchased the home farm of his parents and has since been engaged in its cultivation. The property contains 100 acres and is well improved. Mr. Tappen is engaged in general farming and dairying, also in breeding Percheron horses, having two good stallions, which latter business he began in 1904. Mr. Tappen was married Nov. 11, 1881, to Mary Olson of Preston Township, who was born in Norway Sept. 22, 1852. Her parents were Ole Nelson, who was born in Greue, Solar, Norway, and Bertha Ericsdatter Vold. They came to America in 1872, settling in Trempealeau Coulie, this county, where the father died in 1888 and the mother in 1896. Mr. and Mrs. Tappen are the parents of eight children: Oscar, residing at home; Bendt, who married Esther Johnson and lives at Springwater, Saskatchewan; Olaus, living at Courtney, N. D.; Elizabeth, wife of Henry Thurston of Courtney, N. D.; Eddie of Alma Center, Wis.; John, residing at home; Alfred of Canada and Morris at home.

Mike Pinorsky, proprietor of a first class meat market in Trempealeau—the only one in the village, was born in Posen, Germany, Nov. 19, 1888, son of Walter and Frances (Grossman) Pinorsky, who were married in Germany. The father was born in Russia and the mother in Posen, Germany. Walter Pinorsky died when the subject of this sketch was but two years old, and his widow subsequently married Martin Borroski. Both her first and second husbands were meat cutters.

Mike Pinorsky learned the meat cutter's trade with his stepfather. In May, 1906, he left his native land for America, and coming directly to Trempealeau county, took up his residence in the home of an uncle, Frank Grossman, his mother's brother. Here he remained, working on his uncle's farm, for one year, during which time he applied himself to learning the English language, which task he accomplished fairly well. He then took a position as cutter in a meat shop in Arcadia, remaining there until the fall of 1911. At that time he came to Trempealeau Village and began work as cutter in a meat market here. In the fall of 1914 he bought the old Graves & Atwood store building on the corner of West Second street and Main street, Trempealeau Village, and fitted it up as a first class market, beginning business for himself. He has since built up a large patronage,

and though he has no competition in the village he keeps the best stock and aims to give perfect satisfaction to his customers. Besides working hard to advance his own prosperity, he takes a keen interest in the general well-being of the community and is always ready to join with his neighbors in promoting any worthy enterprise. He has no relations in this country except a cousin at Arcadia and a step-brother, Anton Pinorsky, who is a farmer at Waumandee, Wis. He was married Jan. 24, 1917, to Hedwig Kupferschmidt, who was born in Germany Feb. 21, 1889, and came to America in 1909.

Abraham Pittenger, a pioneer, was born near Mansfield, in Richland County, Ohio, May 24, 1802, descended from sturdy Pennsylvania-Dutch ancestry. He was reared to farm pursuits and as a young man learned the blacksmith trade, to which two occupations he devoted his time in his native state until 1854. In that year he came west to Wisconsin and located at Onalaska, in La Crosse County. For a while he did various work at his trade, including the installing of the machinery in the historic Nicholas mill at the mouth of the Black River. In 1857 he settled on a homestead on Brice's Prairie, on the Black River, and began its improvement by erecting a seven-room house, consisting of an upright and a wing, a very good house for those days. By pre-empting an adjoining tract, and purchasing other land, he added to his holdings until he owned 420 acres. He sold 120 of this, and of the remainder developed 220 acres, leaving 80 acres in timber. In 1875 he came to Trempealeau County and purchased a farm two miles north of Trempealeau Village. There he lived in peace and contentment until his death Sept. 1, 1888. He will long be remembered for his activity in the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was a class leader and a member of the official board, gave land from his La Crosse County farm for a church and a cemetery, and was liberal in its support. He was also prominent in the affairs of the church at Trempealeau. Mr. Pittenger was married at Mansfield, Ohio, in 1821, to Eleanor Ferguson, who died in 1845, leaving ten children. He was married April 24, 1849, to Lucy Rand Barnes of Mansfield, Ohio, who died March 12, 1906, and to this union were born five children. Three were born in Mansfield, Ohio, Thomas J., July 27, 1850; Joseph Benson, April 18, 1852, and Lucy E., Sept. 3, 1853. Benjamin F. was born Nov. 16, 1855, at Onalaska, Wis; Luther M. was born March 7, 1859, on Brice's Prairie, La Crosse County, Wis. Luther M. is the only one living, the others, except Thomas J., having died in childhood.

Luther Melville Pittenger, newspaperman and real estate agent, was born on a homestead on Brice's Prairie, on the Black River, in La Crosse County, this state, March 7, 1859, son of Abraham and Lucy Rand (Barnes) Pittenger. He was reared in his native county, and there attended school until he was sixteen years of age. Then he was brought to Trempealeau County by his parents, and studied two years in the Trempealeau high school. For many years he devoted his life to farm pursuits. Prominent in public affairs, he was chairman of the election board in his township for a long period, and was a delegate at various times to different Republican committees, also serving on various committees. He helped to organize school district 13, and was an active factor in the building of the new

schoolhouse. In 1907, Mr. Pittenger moved to Trempealeau Village and has since been engaged in his present line of work. His duties take him all over the county, and he has made many friends. He has also largely increased the circulation of the La Crosse Daily Tribune, which he represents as solicitor and collector. His financial holdings include stock in the Citizens State Bank of Trempealeau. His fraternal affiliation is with the Blue Lodge of the Masons. Mr. Pittenger was married Nov. 25, 1880, by the Rev. David Wing, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Trempealeau, to Adaline Harris, born at La Crosse, Nov. 1, 1862, daughter of Peter Harris of Trempealeau. This union has been blessed with five children: Clinton H., Hattie E., Glenna May, Robert Lee and Jennie A. Clinton H. was born Sept. 1, 1881, and is a stationary engineer, living at Trempealeau. He married Edith Hess and has four children: Martha, Wilhelmina, Luther and Virginia. Hattie E. was born May 14, 1883, and married William Crosen, a barber of Trempealeau. Glenna May was born March 7, 1885, and married Lemuel Hare, Jr., who in 1915 purchased the old Pittenger homestead. They have three children: Minerva, Lynn and Edna. Robert Lee, born June 30, 1887, died July 19, 1901, at the age of 14 years; Jennie A. was born April 28, 1892, and is now Mrs. Abner Hess. They live on a farm in Trempealeau County and have two children: Norman and Clyde.

James Saurin Pierson, who for many years has conducted a drug business in Trempealeau Village, and has been successful as a business man, was born in Kingston, Canada, July 25, 1852. His parents were Jacob and Marian (Thompson) Pierson, the father born in Belfast, Ireland, Sept. 10, 1824. Mrs. Jacob Pierson was of Irish parentage, but was born in the southern part of France, in 1821. The subject of this sketch came to Wisconsin with his parents from Port Hope, arriving in Trempealeau, April 20, 1861. The journey was made by train to Dunleith, Ill. (now East Dubuque), and from there by boat to Trempealeau. On arriving in this county Jacob Pierson settled in Caledonia Township, on a farm at McGilvray's Ferry, on Black River, the location being about a mile from the old ferry. He remained on this farm until the spring of 1871 and then moved to the George Miller place, one mile west of Trempealeau, which was a small tract of six acres, to which he added by purchase 165 acres adjoining.

James S. Pierson in his boyhood attended the common schools, and subsequently spent six months at Galesville University, taking as far as he went, what corresponded to a high school course, during the winter of 1867 and the spring of '68. He then spent about a year in logging on the river at Onalaska, but during the winter of 1869-70 attended school in Barnard district, Caledonia. In the spring of 1870 he went back on the river and was engaged in lumbering for about two years, spending the summers on the river and the winters in scaling logs in northern Wisconsin. During the winter of 1873-74 he taught school in Trempealeau County. This summer—1874—he was married in Trempealeau Village, July 9, by the pastor of the M. E. Church, to Clara I. Carleton, daughter of Martin and Sarah (Owen) Carleton of Wayne County, Michigan, and having bought his father's farm, took his wife to live there, the father entering the employ



MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH DALE
MR. AND MRS. G. B. CHRISTOPHERSON—IVAN G. DALE
MR. AND MRS. BENJAMIN DALE

of King & Gray, druggists in Trempealeau Village. He and his wife resided on the farm until about the fall of 1877 and then moved into the village, where Mr. Pierson worked at the carpenter's trade for two or three years. In the meanwhile Jacob Pierson, the father, had become owner of the drug business on Front street, and in 1882 the subject of this sketch bought him out and engaged in the drug business himself, conducting the store on Front street until April 13, 1887, when the business section of Trempealeau was wiped out by fire. Then in July he moved into the Ed Elkins block on Main street, where he has since been located, having built up a prosperous business. He has been a member of the Wisconsin Pharmaceutical Association almost from its organization. Aside from his immediate business interests he is a stockholder in the Citizens State Bank. Succeeding Judge A. W. Newman as president of the school board, Mr. Pierson served in that position for 11 years following, by appointment, and has also served three terms by election. For 30 years he has acted as village treasurer. Otherwise he has held no public office, but in politics is a stalwart Republican. He and his wife have had two children, the elder of whom, Grace, born July 9, 1876, died at the age of five years, Oct. 9, 1881. The other, Charles R., born March 7, 1882, is married and resides at Watertown, S. D., where he is district manager for the American Tobacco Company. He has four children: William Irvin, born March 28, 1904; Hugh, born May 28, 1906; James, born March 3, 1909, and Kathleen, born May 14, 1912. James S. Pierson has been a member of the Masonic order for 35 years, and is a Knight Templar, belonging to the Commandery at La Crosse. For 15 years he has been treasurer of his lodge, No. 117, A. F. & A. M., at Trempealeau, and for three years has served as master. He also belongs to Court Lotus, No. 3346, I. O. O. F. of Trempealeau. He was reared in the faith of the Episcopal church, but since his marriage has affiliated with and supported the Congregational church. Both as a citizen and as one of the leading business men of Trempealeau he is highly respected. He has always had the welfare of the village at heart and has taken a prominent part in every progressive movement calculated to advance its interests.

Ivan George Dale operates the farm owned and developed by his parents. His father, Benjamin Thomas Dale, was born July 29, 1853, on the site of the present city of La Crosse. Five years later this place was sold and the family settled on a farm in the town of Caledonia, and this, in turn, was traded to Elder Wing (thus locally acquiring the name, "The Wing Place"), for a farm located in a valley two miles west of Galesville. Various parcels of land were added to the original farm, and a more convenient building site was chosen.

Benjamin, familiarly called Ben, attended public school, Galesville University, and completed a course at the La Crosse Business College. His marriage to Elizabeth Marianne Hougstad took place April 23, 1884, and their home was established on land adjoining that of his father. Two children were born to them: Ivan George, born July 20, 1886, and Addie Albina, Feb. 6, 1888. Her husband, Gerhard B. Christophersen, formerly of Pigeon Falls, this county, is employed as a claim manager by the Twohy-Eimon Mercantile Company, wholesale grocers, Superior, Wis. Mr. Dale bought

land adjoining his original farm, finally possessing 280 acres. Former owners had conducted a lime stone quarry and lime kiln, abundant quantities of material being found in the hills. Ben continued and extended these industries, later adding brick making, the farm including deep beds of clay suitable for the soft-mud brick variety. Lime and brick kilns required wood for fuel, so 100 acres of timber land was purchased in the low lands of Black River. Mr. Dale was ably assisted by his noble wife in the management of his extensive business. Finally their health broke under the strain of constant toil and the place was sold April 1, 1901, the family removing to Trempealeau, where the children continued their work in the grade schools. When Gale College was taken over by the Norwegian Lutherans in 1901 Ben Dale was made treasurer, continuing in that office until his death, April 4, 1902. He never aspired to public office, though he took a warm interest in all things pertaining to the welfare of the community. His social life, through preference, was confined to home and church. His family sold out in Trempealeau soon after his death, and returned to Galesville, purchasing a small home near Gale College, which school both children attended. Ivan at the age of eighteen operated a part of the Gale College farm. He became manager of the old homestead upon its return into the hands of the family in 1908. Ivan conducted the stone quarry in addition to the farm, discontinuing the lime and brick business. He became sole owner of the place in 1912, later closing the quarries, as the farm with its many substantial buildings required his whole time. His mother resides with him.

Svend H. Dale, a well known and respected resident of Galesville, formerly engaged in farming, but now otherwise occupied, was born in Bergenstift, Norway, May 5, 1857, son of Hendrick Swenson by his wife Jorond Knutson. His parents, both natives of Norway, came to the United States in 1867, locating in Ettrick Township, Beaver Creek Valley. Mr. Swenson, who had been a sailor, here engaged in farming. He continued to reside in Ettrick Township until his death, which took place Jan. 12, 1896; his wife died in September, 1897. They were the parents of eight children, of whom Svend H. was the eldest. The latter changed his name to Dale for the sake of convenience.

Svend H. Dale was ten years old when he accompanied his parents to this country. He completed his schooling in Beaver Creek Valley and remained at home until he was 24 years old. He then bought land on Beaver Creek and engaged in farming there until 1913, when he turned over the farm to his sons to operate it for him and removed to his present location, which is a tract of 230 acres adjoining the city limits of Galesville. Here he has erected a modern brick residence situated on a high bluff overlooking the business part of the city. His farm on Beaver Creek, known as the Dale farm, contains 200 acres. Mr. Dale has personally retired from general farming, but is engaged in the stock business and has served as manager of the Farmers' Shipping Association of Galesville. He is a Republican in politics and served as clerk of the school district at Beaver Creek for about 15 years. Mr. Dale was married June 7, 1882, to Catherine Herreid, who was born in Beaver Creek Valley, Gale Township,



MR. AND MRS. ARCHELAUS GROVER

daughter of Nels O. and Thone (Kittleson) Herreid. The parents were Norwegians, the father born in Hardanger and the mother in Telemarken, the latter coming to this country during the cholera epidemic. Her husband, Nels O. Herreid, came the same year and they were married in Wisconsin. He had been a miner but after coming to this county engaged in farming. Both died in Beaver Creek, Mr. Herreid being accidentally killed in 1902. His wife died in 1908. Their daughter Catherine was the youngest of five children. Mr. and Mrs. Dale have been the parents of nine children: Helmer N., who died at the age of three years; Josephine Tonettie, now Mrs. Louis Instenes, a jeweler at Blair, Wis., they have two children: Stanley Leroy and Ardyce Catherine; Helmer N., second, who resides on a part of Mr. Dale's Galesburg farm, and who married Blanche Rehfus of Minneapolis; they have one child, Earline Wilhelmina; Sanford C., a farmer and mail carrier, residing at home; Hilda, also residing at home; Gilford Roy, residing on the old Gale farm, who married Mabel Schuman of Caledonia Township; they have one child, Ruth Alvira; Normal Clarence, who is a printer on the Galesville Republican; Francis, who died in infancy, and Alice Eunice, who lives at home. Mr. and Mrs. Dale are members of the United Lutheran Church and of the order of Beavers.

Archelaus Grover, one of the notable pioneers of Trempealeau Village, and the first sheriff of Trempealeau County, came to the West from New England, having been born in Bethel, Maine, Nov. 19, 1832. When an infant he accompanied his parents to Chemung County, New York, they settling at a place known locally as Martin's Hill. When he was 14 the family moved to Waupun, Wis., where the subject of this sketch resided until 1849. In that year, though only 17 years of age, he left home and walked to La Crosse, Wis., then only a trading post, where he assisted in building the first frame house, the only other white man in the place being a man named Nathan Merrick. Young Grover stayed at La Crosse but a short time, going from there to Brownsville, Iowa, where he learned raft piloting from a certain William Richmand. In the same year—1849—he returned to Wisconsin and located in Trempealeau Village, which then consisted of a few houses occupied mostly by half-breed hunters and trappers with several small farmers. Here Mr. Grover engaged in buying furs from the Indians, which occupation he followed for several years. Later he assisted in the survey of northern Wisconsin. On April 13, 1855, he purchased land from the government in sections 26 and 27, Trempealeau Township. He now set to work to develop a farm, buying adjoining land from time to time until he owned 328 acres in one farm, also considerable other land. On this place he resided until 1885, at which time he removed into Trempealeau Village, which was his subsequent home until his death, Oct. 2, 1912, by accident. Nearly 80 years old, and somewhat hard of hearing, he was walking home from Winona on the Burlington Railway tracks, when he was struck by a train about two miles west of Trempealeau Village, his body being found the next morning. Mr. Grover was a man of kindly, just and generous character, though resolute, and was greatly beloved by practically all who knew him. In 1872 he joined the Baptist church of Trempealeau, of which he was a member at the time of his death. He was married in Trempealeau

Village, July 8, 1855, to Esther Elizabeth Brandenburg, a daughter of Alpheus M. and Catherine Brandenburg of Dayton, Ohio, near which place she was born April 25, 1837, coming to Trempealeau Village with her parents and the rest of their family in 1853. She survives her husband and is still living in Trempealeau Village, being now about 80 years of age. They had nine children, four sons and five daughters. Five of the children died in infancy. One daughter, Riza, was married to John Edward Powell of La Crosse, June 26, 1896, and died in that city Feb. 5, 1904. The children living are: S. D. Grover of Galesville, Wis.; John, residing in Trempealeau Village, and Cora Kate, now Mrs. Benjamin Irvine, a resident of Everett, Wash. Mrs. Grover is a faithful member of the Baptist church, and is a lady highly respected in the community.

William H. Dick, one of the leading and most progressive farmers in Gale Township and a large land owner, is a native of the township, having been born at Decorah Prairie, April 21, 1864. He is a son of William and Rosana (Neil) Dick, natives of Scotland, who were married in that country and came to the United States about 1846, first settling in Maryland. There for a few years Mr. Dick, the elder, was engaged in mining. It was not long, however, before he heard of better opportunities in the great Northwest, and soon after he was found among the pioneers of Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, taking land in section 36, Gale Township, which now constitutes the farm of his son, William H. He became an extensive land owner and for a number of years was actively engaged in the stock business. His death occurred in 1907. His wife, who survives him, is now living with her son John in Gale Township.

William H. Dick was the youngest member of his parents' family, which numbered eight children. He acquired the elements of knowledge in the district school at Decorah Prairie and learned agriculture on the home farm under his father. When he was 21 years old he became the owner of the farm, consisting of 248 acres of land, and has since been engaged in general farming. He has made some valuable improvements on the place, the more substantial buildings having been erected by him. In addition to this place he owns 200 acres in Black River bottoms and 60 acres of timberland. He keeps a large amount of stock and his business is steadily growing. Mr. Dick is also a stockholder in the La Crosse Packing Company, the Galesville Creamery, the Independent Harvester Company of Plano, Ill., and the farmers' Warehouse Elevator at Galesville. In politics he is a Republican, but has taken no active part in local government. Feb. 22, 1888, Mr. Dick was united in marriage with Alice Brown, who was born at Decorah Prairie, Trempealeau County, daughter of George and Ellen (Irvine) Brown. Her father was born in Vermont April 23, 1831, and her mother in Scotland, Aug. 8, 1840, their marriage taking place in America. George Brown came when a lad of 14 years to Wisconsin. He was a pioneer of Gale Township and did his share in developing its agricultural resources, breaking in and improving a considerable quantity of land during his active career. His death took place in 1902. His wife is still living and resides with her son and daughter half a mile east of her daughter Mrs. Dick, the three children mentioned constituting their entire

family. Mr. and Mrs. Dick's family also consists of three children: Lester William, who married Laura Agnes Stellpflug, and is a farmer in Gale Township, having one child, Armond Leo; Rose Ellen and Hazel Leila, who reside at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Dick both belong to the two fraternal orders of Beavers and Yeomen, and Mr. Dick also to the Red Men. They are among the most prosperous residents in this part of the country and have a wide acquaintance.

Ole T. Johnson, who is engaged in operating a stock and dairy farm in section 10 E, Ettrick Township, was born in Telemarken, Norway, Dec. 1, 1854. His parents, Torger and Bergetal Johnson, were natives of the same province. In 1860 they set out for America, but on the voyage over the mother died and was buried at sea. The father with his motherless children on landing in this country came west as far as Dane County, Wisconsin, but resided there only a short time, removing to Coon Valley, Vernon County, and one season later to Trempealeau County. Here he homesteaded 140 acres in section 14, Ettrick Township, also buying an additional 50 acres. After making that farm his home for a number of years, he contracted a second marriage and moved to another farm in the neighborhood. This latter farm he later sold to his daughter, Rosa, with whom he resided also for a number of years, or practically until the end of his life. He died in January, 1898, while on a visit to his son Ole T. He was a quiet, industrious man, respected by his neighbors and confined his attention to his farm, taking no part in public affairs. By his first wife he had four children, Ole T. being the second born. Ole T. Johnson was six years old when he was deprived of a mother's care, and at the same time found himself in a new world and amid strange surroundings, but like most young children he soon began to feel at home and it was not long before he picked up an elementary knowledge of the English tongue. He attended the Hegg school-house, and when a mere lad began to make himself useful on the farm, working for his father for a number of years. Before he was 18, however, he began working in the woods during the winter season and continued to do so for six or seven years. Then, thinking it time to start life on his own account, he purchased his present farm of 179 acres, consisting of well improved land, with good substantial buildings, on which he carries on general farming, making a specialty, however, of breeding Shorthorn cattle, and keeping from 30 to 35 on hand constantly. He is also engaged in dairying and is a stockholder in the Ettrick Creamery Company, the La Crosse Packing Company, the Farmers Exchange of Blair and the Ettrick Telephone Company. Mr. Johnson assumed the responsibilities of married life in his twenty-second year, on Sept. 1, 1876, when he was united to Catherine Knudtson, daughter of Uriason and Bretta (Severson) Knudtson. Both she and her parents were born in Hardanger, Norway, the father July 6, 1823, and the mother Dec. 13, 1830. The family came to the United States in 1869, locating on the farm on which Mr. Johnson now resides and where Mr. Knudtson lived until his death, Feb. 15, 1901. His wife is still living and resides on the Johnson farm with her daughter and son-in-law. Mrs. Johnson was the second born of nine children. She only attended an English school for two weeks, being a pupil

for that length of time at the Hegg school. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are the parents of two children: Theodore Irvin, born March 19, 1891, and Bertha Theolena, born June 4, 1895, who was married April 29, 1917, to Helmer Sexie. They reside with his father, Lars Sexie. The family are members of the United Lutheran Church. Mr. Johnson usually supports the Republican party, but is not active in politics. As an energetic, prosperous citizen he commands the respect of his neighbors.

John S. Johnson, who is engaged in operating a valuable farm of 120 acres in section 21, Gale Township, was born in Norway, Feb. 11, 1868, son of Simon and Agnet (Smenstuen) Johnson. The parents, both natives of Norway, emigrated to America in 1871, locating in Gale Township, this county, on a farm from which they subsequently moved to the one now owned by their son, John S., with whom the father now resides. He is now advanced in years and a widower, his wife having passed away on this farm in 1900. They had a family of nine children, of whom, however, the subject of this sketch is the only one now living. John S. Johnson has always resided on the old family homestead. For many years he was associated with his father in its operation and later became its owner. He carries on general farming successfully, his land being valuable and his buildings and equipment of good style and quality. He was educated in the school at South Beaver Creek and later in that of the Glasgow district, Gale Township, and has in these later years served one term as a director of the school board. Religiously he is affiliated with the Lutheran church and in politics is independent. As a farmer and loyal citizen he has established a good record and has a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. Mr. Johnson has never married.

Simon Jegi, a pioneer, was born in Switzerland, in 1832, and was there reared. His father, a stone worker, was killed in the quarries when Simon was still a boy, and it became necessary for him to eke out the family income by herding cattle in the Alps and doing such other duties as fell to his lot. At the age of 20 years he came to America and secured employment as a farm hand in Sauk County, Wisconsin. By hard work and frugality he managed to save enough money to make the first payment on a farm. Accordingly he secured a place in Buffalo County. Shortly afterward he came over the line into Trempealeau County and purchased a farm near Arcadia. There he successfully conducted general farming for many years. His latter days were spent in retirement in the village of Arcadia. His widow, who was born in Switzerland, and was brought to this country as a child of 12 years, still makes her home in Arcadia. Mr. and Mrs. Jegi were the parents of four children: John I., George F., Mary and Henry A. John I., now deceased, was a man of considerable distinction. He was reared on the farm, attended school in Arcadia, taught for a while, and received his B. A. and M. A. degrees from the University of Chicago. The remainder of his life was spent as professor of physiology and psychology in the Milwaukee Normal School. In this connection he was also a frequent lecturer in the Milwaukee Medical College. George F. was graduated from the Northwestern College at Naperville, Ill., with the degree of B. A., but ill health forced his return to Trempealeau County, and he died near Gales-



MR. AND MRS. ROBERT GRANT.

ville. Mary is the wife of Jacob Hotz, who farms on the old fair grounds at Arcadia. Henry A. is a prominent physician and practices at Galesville.

Henry A. Jegi, physician and prominent citizen, conducting an extensive practice at Galesville, was born in Arcadia, Wis., April 16, 1873, son of Simon and Agnes (Dascher) Jegi. As a boy he applied himself to his studies with great diligence, and at the age of 16 years became a teacher. From that time he was self-supporting, working his way by teaching and doing other work. For a time he attended the River Falls Normal School. In 1896 he was graduated from the medical department of the University of Illinois. For one year he perfected his knowledge by practice with leading physicians in Winona, Arcadia and Fountain City, after which, in 1897, he located in Galesville, where he has since continued in practice. His standing in his profession is shown by the fact that he is local surgeon for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, but subject to calls outside of his immediate vicinity, also a member of the American Medical Association, the Wisconsin State Medical Society and the Seventh Congressional District Medical Society, as well as of the State Medical Council. He was the first secretary of the Trempealeau, Jackson and Buffalo Counties Medical Society. For many years he has done excellent work for local sanitation as a member of the Board of Health. A man of thorough education and wide reading himself, he has taken a deep interest in the training of the younger generation, and is doing active service on the Trempealeau County Board of Education, of which he was the first president. For fifteen years he has been president of the local Board of Education. In the Masonic order he is affiliated with the Blue Lodge and the Chapter; he is a member of the Beavers and the Modern Woodmen, and examining physician of the Foresters and Mystic Workers. His financial holdings include business and residence property in Galesville, and stock in the Bank of Galesville. Dr. Jegi was married Nov. 23, 1898, to Alice Brown, born in Canada, daughter of Mathews and Mary Brown, who came to the United States when their daughter was a mere child, and located near Rochester, Minn., where both died of typhoid fever in a single week. Dr. and Mrs. Jegi have two children: Henry A. and Charlotte Mae.

Robert Grant, a retired farmer now living in Gale Township, Wisconsin, where he is well known and respected, was born near Glasgow, Scotland, Aug. 11, 1845. His parents were Thomas and Elizabeth (Gibb) Grant, who were natives of the same locality. The father in early life was a coal miner. In 1851 he came to this country with his family, locating at Peach Orchard, Lawrence County, Ky., on the Big Sandy River. There he resided for three or four years at the end of which time he moved to Ohio. A year later he made another removal, this time to West Columbia, W. Va., where he spent six or eight months. He then came to Trempealeau County, locating on the farm where his son Robert now lives, and here he was engaged in agriculture until his death in 1869. He and his family were among the earliest settlers in this locality. The mother survived her husband 20 years, passing away in 1889.

Robert Grant was the third born in a family of four children. In his boyhood he attended the Grant school in the seventh district, which was

named for the family, his attendance, however, being short. He resided with his parents until he was 21 years old, at which time he went to Rock Island, Ill., where he engaged in mining, being thus occupied, however, for but a short time, and at intervals spending the summers on the home farm. He thus continued until his marriage, at which time he bought a part of his present farm. Later he became full owner of the homestead and engaged in general farming, from time to time making necessary improvements, most of those now standing having been put up by him. About 1912 Mr. Grant turned over the farm to his son-in-law, but still resides on it. He is a stockholder in the Arctic Springs Creamery Company, the Farmers Exchange Elevator and the Independent Harvester Company of Plano, Ill.

Nov. 3, 1868, Mr. Grant was married to Jane Dick, who was born in Scotland, daughter of William and Rosana (Neil) Dick, her parents coming to the United States in 1846. He and his wife have seven children: Thomas, who is a farmer, single, and resides with his parents; Rose Ann, widow of Louis Bornitz, residing in Winona, Minn., who has three children: Laura Marie, Robert LeRoy and Arvilla May; Elizabeth Margaret, wife of Joseph Stelpflug; William D.; Mae Hazel, wife of William Byrne, a farmer, who has three children: Maud Eleanor, Edna Mae and Rose Bernice; Maud Eleanor, now deceased, who was the wife of Alexander Schwartzhoff of Gale Township, and William, who died in infancy.

William D. Grant of Gale Township was born at Decorah Prairie, Gale Township, April 4, 1876, son of Robert and Jane (Dick) Grant. He was educated in the Grant school on Decorah Prairie, and resided at home until his marriage in February, 1902, to Matilda Larson. She was born at Hardie's Creek Valley, Gale Township, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mat Larson, her parents being natives of Norway, who were early settlers in Trempealeau County, Mr. Larson being a farmer. He died about 1902; his wife, Mrs. Grant's mother, is still living and resides at Hardie's Creek, of which place she is a well known and respected resident. Her husband also was well known and esteemed for his industry and good neighborly qualities. At the time of his marriage Mr. Grant rented the farm on which he now lives, which contains 238 acres and which is a part of the old Grant estate and which he now owns. He carries on general farming and is doing a successful business. Mr. and Mrs. Grant have two children: William Guy, born Nov. 9, 1908, and Gladys Marie, born in 1910.

Peter J. Uhl, a retired farmer now residing in Galesville, where he is largely interested in several important industries, is a native son of the township, the date of his nativity being Nov. 28, 1864. His parents were Peter and Abbie Uhl, both born in Germany. Both also came to the United States before marriage, accompanying their respective parents. The Uhls first settled in Milwaukee, Wis., but came to Trempealeau County with the pioneers, and Mr. Uhl spent the rest of his life here, being engaged in agriculture. He served for some time on the school board and was a useful and industrious citizen, widely respected. His wife is now living in Galesville.

Peter J. Uhl was the fourth born in a family of nine children. He attended school in Crystal Valley and afterward was a student at Gale

University. Reared on the home farm, on which he lived until his marriage, he acquired a good knowledge of agriculture. When 24 years of age he purchased a farm from his father, continuing to live on his parents' homestead for about two years longer. Oct. 9, 1890, he was married to Sophia Becker, who was born in La Crosse, Wis., daughter of Phillip and Sophia Becker. Her father was born in Germany in 1830 and her mother in Alsace, France, in 1843. Phillip Becker in early life was a carpenter and butcher. He came to the United States with his parents' family when 16 years old, locating in Washington County, Wisconsin. Later the family moved to La Crosse, where, after residing on a farm for some years, he engaged in carpenter work, afterward taking up his other trade of butcher for a short time. He then took a farm near Glasgow, Trempealeau County, and was engaged in agriculture there for a period of about 40 years, when he sold out and retired. His death took place 11 years after, in 1913. During his active career he held a number of local offices. He and his wife were the parents of six children, of whom Sophia was the eldest.

After his marriage Peter J. Uhl moved onto the farm in Gale township, which he had bought two years previously from his father, and which contained 320 acres. Here he lived until 1913, when he sold the property and moved to Galesville, where he has since lived retired from active work. As a farmer he was enterprising and successful, making money at the business, so that he is now well to do. He is one of the largest stockholders in the Galesville Realty & Improvement Company, a stockholder in the Farmers & Merchants Bank and in the Arctic Springs Creamery, and he also holds the maximum amount of stock permitted in the Farmers Elevator Company, the Farmers Co-operative Company and the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company. In politics he is a Republican. He has never sought to be active in governmental affairs, but for some time rendered good service on the school board of Gale Township. He attends the Presbyterian church, although not a member. His fraternal affiliations are with the order of Beavers, while his wife is an active member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. They are the parents of two children: Elsie Adelle and Forest Gladson.

Philip Uhl, a well known and respected resident of Galesville, where he is now living retired after an active career as an agriculturist, was born on the farm in Gale Township, which afterwards became his property, June 9, 1870. His parents were Peter and Abbie Uhl, further mention of whom may be found in the biography of Peter Uhl, elsewhere published in this volume. The subject of this sketch acquired the elements of knowledge in the district school of his neighborhood and afterward became a student of Gale University, now Gale College. In his youth he worked on the home farm, taking charge of it when 22 years old, and when 25 he became its owner. Later, however, he moved to another farm in Gale Township, on which he lived for five years, cultivating and improving it. He then sold it and returned to the old homestead, where he continued at farming until September, 1916, when he retired and took up his residence in Galesville, in order that his children might have better school advantages. Mr. Uhl still owns 480 acres of land, which it is his intention to rent out to others.

He is a stockholder in the creamery at Galesville, in the La Crosse Packing Company, the Farmers Exchange, the Independent Harvester Company of Plano, Ill., and the Northwestern Telephone Company. In politics he is practically independent, though with Republican proclivities, and rendered good service for many years as a member of the Board of Education, serving in his uncle's stead when only 18 years of age; he also served four years on the township board, of which for awhile he was chairman. Mr. Uhl was married, July 1, 1896, to Sadie Hoyt, who was born at Decorah Prairie, daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Gordon) Hoyt. Her parents were natives of the state of New Hampshire, the father being a farmer. They came to Trempealeau County at an early date, Mr. Hoyt homesteading land on Decorah Prairie, where he was engaged in farming until his death in 1902. He served as township assessor for a number of years and also did good work as a member of the school board, taking a warm interest in the cause of education. His wife died Dec. 24, 1904. Of their six children Mrs. Uhl was the youngest. The home life of Mr. and Mrs. Uhl has been enlarged and brightened by the birth of four children: Allan Philip, now a student at the State University at Madison; Arthur Hoyt, who is in his fourth year at Galesville high school; Anna Lucile, also attending the high school, and Isabelle Rose. Mr. Uhl is just completing a fine new residence, modern in every way.

Andres Knutson, an early settler, was born in Halingdahl, Norway, and was there reared. As a young man he married Astri Johnson, and the two decided to cast their future lot in America. Accordingly in 1860 they came to this county, and located in Ettrick Township, a mile from the present family home. He homesteaded a farm and successfully carried on general farming until his death June 7, 1891. His good wife survived him several years, passing away May 12, 1895. In the family there were seven children: Margit (deceased); Astri, the widow of K. K. Hagestad; Karine (deceased), Johanna (deceased), Knut of Ettrick Township, John A. of Ettrick, and Margit, now Mrs. S. S. Knutson of Ettrick Township.

John A. Knutson, town chairman and a prosperous farmer in section 17, Ettrick Township, was born in this township Oct. 19, 1872, sixth child of Andres and Astri (Johnson) Knutson. He acquired his education in the district school of Ettrick Township, and resided at home until he was 21 years of age, assisting his father and acquiring a knowledge of agriculture. At the time of his marriage, June 23, 1894, to Anna M. Hagestad, he bought his present farm, which contains 158 acres of excellent land. On this property he has made practically all the improvements, and his farm is now equipped with substantial modern buildings. Mr. Knutson has other financial interests aside from his farm, being a stockholder in the Ettrick Creamery Company, the Ettrick Telephone Company, the Farmers Exchange at Blair and the Ettrick & Northern Railroad. His wife, Mrs. Anna M. (Hagestad) Knutson, was born in Ettrick Township, this county, daughter of Ole and Martha (Gunderson) Hagestad, who were natives of Norway. Her father died when she was a babe one year old. Mr. and Mrs. Knutson have been the parents of eight children: Margaret Amanda, wife of Alfred Ekern; Omar, deceased; Alma Ovidia, deceased; Newman Sylvester and



FRED W. GRAVES

Ernest William, residing at home; Grunild Irene, who is deceased; Orrin Alexander, residing at home, and Lillian Marie, deceased. Mr. Knutson is affiliated by membership with the Yeomen and the Modern Woodmen of America. In politics he is an independent Republican. He has served on the township board a number of years and is its present chairman, rendering efficient service and supporting all practical measures for the betterment of the community in which he lives. He and his family are members of the United Lutheran Church.

Oscar Ystenes, who is engaged in general farming and stock raising in section 11 East, Ettrick Township, was born in Beaver Creek Valley, this township, July 31, 1886, son of Nels and Elizabeth (Instenes) Ystenes. The parents were natives of Hardanger, Norway, the father born Dec. 4, 1851, the mother, Aug. 16, 1861. The former came to the United States when a young man, settling on Beaver Creek, this county. He first found work driving a team for the Iver Pederson Company of Ettrick, but afterwards began farming where his son Oscar is now located, and which he made his home for many years, or until the fall of 1915, at which time he retired from active labor and took up his residence in the village of Hegg, where he is now living. His farm consisted of 120 acres of valuable land, which he had greatly improved and highly cultivated. He and his wife were the parents of six children: Emma, who resides on the farm with her brother; Clara, deceased; Oscar, the present proprietor of the farm; Selmar and Nicholia, both residents of this state, and Cornelius, who lives with his parents.

Oscar Ystenes in his boyhood acquired the elements of an English education in the school at Hegg. He was trained to agricultural work and for two summers worked away from home. In 1908 he began farming the homestead as its manager, and so continued until 1914, in which year he bought the property. The farm is well equipped with modern buildings and all necessary implements and machinery, and he is working it with profitable results. Mr. Ystenes is also a stockholder in the Ettrick Telephone Company. His religious affiliations are with the United Lutheran Church, while in politics he is independent.

Fred Warren Graves, secretary and manager of the Cooper & Graves Lumber Company, Trempealeau, dealers in lumber, building material, posts, wire fencing, feed, grain, flour and other supplies, is one of the progressive business men of the village, and has developed an important industry. He was born near Granite Falls, Chippewa County, Minn., Sept. 13, 1873, son of Warren A. and Sarah (Metcalf) Graves, now living in Trempealeau. He passed through the country schools and spent three years in the Granite Falls high school. As a young man he was variously employed. In 1893 he went to Salt Lake City, Utah, and was employed there for about two years by Nolton & Graves, paper hangers and decorators. Since 1895 he has lived continuously in Trempealeau Village. In the fall of that year he entered the employ of his father in a general store, and two years later was received into partnership, the firm name becoming W. A. Graves & Son. Selling his interest in this establishment in the fall of 1906 to E. L. Atwood, he purchased a warehouse in Trempealeau, and became a grain dealer,

buying, storing and shipping on a large scale. While thus engaged he was impressed with the opportunities for a good lumber yard, in combination with the grain business, so he organized the Cooper & Graves Lumber Company. This company was incorporated Feb. 18, 1907, with a capital of \$25,000, and with W. E. Cooper as president, F. W. Graves as secretary and manager, Linnie U. Cooper as vice-president, and E. W. Graves as treasurer. This company absorbed the business of F. W. Graves at the time of organization, and that of William Merwin in May of the same year, and has since been without competition. Mr. Graves, in addition to his holdings in this concern, has a pleasant home on West Second street, which he bought in the spring of 1900, and renovated and remodeled it so that he was enabled to move in that fall. He is a stockholder in the Citizens State Bank. An enthusiastic booster, he is a thorough believer in the future of the village, and is always ready to do his share for every worthy project. His fraternal relations are with Modern Woodmen. He has been a member of the Congregational church since he was a youth of fifteen years. His wife and two children are also members of that church, his son having joined at the age of 14 years. Mr. Graves was married Sept. 1, 1898, to Edna May Utter, daughter of Charles and Elizabeth Utter of Trempealeau Village. Mr. and Mrs. Graves have two children: Clyde Warren, born Sept. 7, 1899, and Elizabeth May, Jan. 28, 1904.

Tobias Olson, a resident of Galesville until his death, July 7, 1913, was engaged for a number of years in agricultural pursuits in Trempealeau County, and was a citizen well known and respected. He was born in Søndreland, Norway, March 7, 1836, son of Tosten and Marit Olson, who were natives of the same place. Coming to Coon Valley, Vernon County, Wis., with his family, Tosten Olson worked as a farm hand for a short time. He then moved to French Creek, Trempealeau County, and was engaged in farming there until his death. His wife also died on that farm. Their family numbered five children, of whom Tobias was the youngest. Tobias Olson attended school in Søndreland, Norway, until he was nine years old. He was then sent successively to Denmark and Germany to learn the languages and also the tailor's trade, at which he worked in Denmark about seven years. In 1861 he came to the United States with his parents. Remaining with them for a year subsequently, he then went to La Crosse, where he worked at tailoring, and also opened a general store, being engaged in business there for a number of years. Then selling out his business he moved to Frenchville, Gale Township, and engaged in the mercantile business for many years. He then rented his store and moved to La Crosse, where he remained one year, then returned to Gale Township, where he devoted the next 12 years of his life to agriculture. The rest of his life was spent retired in Galesville, his death, however, occurring at the Lutheran Hospital in La Crosse, following an operation. He was a member of the Synod Lutheran Church. A Republican in politics, at various times he held local office and was postmaster for a number of terms in Frenchville. July 21, 1894, Tobias Olson was married to Nettie Linnerud, who was born at French Creek, Wis., daughter of Andrew and Gunnild (Nilson) Linnerud. Her parents were born in Søndreland, Norway, the mother Sept. 3, 1825.

Andrew Linnerud, who was a farmer, came to Coon Valley, Wis., with Mr. Olson's father in 1861, and worked for others on farms for about a year. He then purchased land on French Creek and was there engaged in agriculture till three years before his death, when his health became impaired. He died at Frenchville Oct. 30, 1903. His wife, who survived him, died at the home of her son, John, Dec. 8, 1915. Their daughter Nettie, who was born July 20, 1864, was the fourth born of six children. Mr. and Mrs. Tobias Olson had one child, Oscar Albert, who was born in Frenchville, Wis., Jan. 21, 1896. He graduated from the Frenchville grammar school, and from the Galesville high school in the class of 1915 and is now attending the University of Wisconsin. Mrs. Olson has recently sold the home farm and has a comfortable modern home in Galesville.

Andrew P. Ofsdahl, who is now living practically retired in the village of Ettrick, after a successful career as an agriculturist, was born in French Creek Valley, Ettrick Township, Trempealeau County, Wis., Aug. 2, 1870. His parents, Peter O. and Martha (Nelsestuen) Ofsdahl, were both natives of Norway. In 1858 Peter O. Ofsdahl came to the United States, a single man, and located at Westby, Vernon County, Wis., where he found employment. Being an ambitious man, he was not satisfied to work long for others, but after awhile made his way to Trempealeau County, where he bought land and became a farmer. The Civil War coming on, he enlisted as a private in Company B, in 1861, and went to the front to fight in defense of the American Union. Receiving a gunshot wound at the battle of Stone River, Dec. 31, 1862, he was confined for some time to the Nashville hospital and was subsequently discharged on account of physical disability at Louisville, Ky., April 4, 1863. He thereupon returned to Trempealeau County and resumed residence on his farm in Ettrick Township, which he set to work to cultivate and improve, and where, after a long and successful career as a farmer, he died Oct. 10, 1906. His marriage to Martha Nelsestuen took place in Trempealeau County, but after living a few years together she died when her son Andrew P. was but eight weeks old. Their family numbered in all seven children. Andrew P. Ofsdahl, after attending school in Ettrick Township, became a student at Galesville University, now known as Gale College, and still later attended the La Crosse Business College. At the age of 19 he began farming independently on French Creek, buying a farm there which he still owns, consisting of 100 acres, which was purchased from his uncle. Later he increased its size by buying 60 additional acres. At a subsequent period he began specializing in Holstein cattle, in which industry he is still engaged and in which he has been very successful, having bred many fine animals. His arduous labors terminated in 1913, when he gave up the hard work of the farm and took up his residence in the village. He is treasurer of the Ettrick Scandinavian Fire Insurance Company, a stockholder in the Ettrick Creamery, to which he devotes much of his time, also in the Ettrick & Northern Railroad and in the Ettrick Lumber Company, besides being a director in the Bank of Ettrick. He is also secretary of the creamery company, having held that position nearly ten years, and is serving in his third year as trustee of the County Asylum at Whitehall, besides having served five years as chairman of the township board. In

politics he is a Republican, his religious affiliations being with the Lutheran church. Mr. Ofsdahl was married in 1889 to Laura Larson, who was born in French Creek Valley, daughter of Lars Dafinsrud and Bertha (Johnson) Dafinsrud. Mrs. Ofsdahl's father died before she was born and her mother four years later, so that she has no recollection even of her mother. She was educated in the district schools of Trempealeau County. Mr. and Mrs. Ofsdahl have five children: Loraine, who resides at Fessenden, N. D., where he holds the position of cashier in a business house; Blanche Mabel, employed by the Pederson Mercantile Company of Ettrick; Arthur L., Agnes L. and Esther Magdalena.

John Oppengaard, proprietor of a blacksmith and repair shop, and also a dealer in plows in Ettrick Village, is, like so many of the enterprising citizens of this part of Trempealeau County, a native of Norway, his birth having taken place in Fauberg, in the northern part of that country, May 14, 1877. His parents were Christ Johnson and Carrie Amundson Johnson, who were born in Biri, Norway, the father being a farmer and blacksmith. They died in their native land, Christ Johnson in 1910 and his wife in 1886. John Oppengaard was the younger of two children born to his parents. He attended school in Norway and afterwards served an apprenticeship to the blacksmith's trade at Lillehammer, being thus occupied for four years. Subsequently until 1901 he worked as a journeyman in Christiania, and then, desirous of advancing his fortunes, took passage for the United States, coming direct to Galesville. Here he found employment in the blacksmith shop of Sever Johnson, for whom he worked until the fall of the same year. The next three winters were spent in Ettrick, where he followed his trade. Having now saved some money, he went back to Norway, where he was married, Aug. 7, 1904, to Anneta Christenson, who was born in Lier, Norway, daughter of Christ Gulickson and Gunild Anderson, both natives of Lier, now deceased. Her father was a sailor many years and also for some time a watchman on a railroad bridge. He died in 1893 and his wife in 1905. In the latter year Mr. Oppengaard returned to America with his wife. On arriving here he engaged in business in Ettrick for one year as blacksmith, after which he established himself at his present location. His shop is 24 by 50 feet in ground dimensions and is well equipped with a stock of gas engines, trip hammers and various kinds of machinery, being adapted to repair work of all kinds. He also engages in horseshoeing and sells the Gale plow, having built up a good trade in the various departments of his business. In 1906 he purchased a lot in Ettrick, on which in the following year he erected his present residence, a good, substantial building, and in addition to this he owns other property in the village. The Ettrick & Northern Railroad also numbers him among its stockholders. He is a member of the board of directors of the Norwegian school at Ettrick, and in politics is a Republican. He and his wife are the parents of two children: Kalbyärn and Garta Amelia Josephina. The family are members of the Lutheran church, while Mr. Oppengaard's lodge affiliations are with the Order of Beavers.

Warren A. Graves, a highly respected citizen of Trempealeau, now living retired, was born at Walpole, N. H., Oct. 16, 1841, son of Aaron M. and

Abigail (Sanderson) Graves. The parents, who were natives and farmers of New Hampshire, are both now deceased. Warren A. acquired his education in the "little red schoolhouse" in the State of his birth, and there grew to manhood, remaining on the farm until 20 years of age. On starting out in life for himself he accepted a position as attendant at the Concord, N. H., Insane Asylum, and was thus occupied for two years. He then went to Boston, Mass., and was there employed in the New England Glass Factory. He also delivered express in Brookline, a suburb of Boston, driving from Boston. In 1864 he returned to New Hampshire and accepted a position as superintendent of the West Mooreland Poor Farm, at West Mooreland, N. H. In 1866 he migrated west to Trempealeau County, Wis., and for one year was engaged in farming in Dodge Township. He then removed to Winona County, Minn., and purchased a farm in Wiscoy Township. Four years later he sold that farm and removed to Chippewa County, Minn., taking a government homestead of 160 acres, which he cultivated and developed, erecting buildings, and becoming one of the leading farmers of the county. He served as county commissioner of Chippewa County for three years and for a long time did the assessing of the unorganized townships of the county, being appointed to do this work by the county commissioners. After his township (Stoneham) was organized, he became chairman of the town board and also held other offices. From 1882 until 1894 he lived in Granite Falls and was salesman for agricultural implements. In 1894 he moved with his family to Trempealeau Village and purchased a store building, putting in a line of general merchandise, with J. C. Utter as an equal partner, the firm name being Utter & Graves. In 1895 Mr. Graves purchased the Utter interest and conducted the business alone for one year. His next partner was his son, Fred W., who purchased a half interest, and the firm became W. A. Graves & Son. This partnership continued for seven years, when Fred W. sold out his interests to E. L. Atwood and the firm became Graves & Atwood, which it remained until 1913. The Atwood interest was then purchased by C. H. Growt and for one year the firm was Graves & Growt. In January, 1914, Mr. Graves sold out and the stock was removed to the Trempealeau Mercantile's building, of which Mr. Growt is manager. Mr. Graves then retired and later disposed of his building. On coming to Trempealeau he purchased his present home, where he has since continued to live.

Mr. Graves served as a member of the board of education in Granite Falls and is now a member of the Trempealeau Village Council. Mr. Graves was married at East Cambridge, Mass., Feb. 20, 1864, to Sarah Metcalf, who was born Sept. 9, 1843, who in all their married life has proved a faithful wife and loving mother. To them have been born five children: Lester H., Idella, Fred W., Mabel and Cora. Lester H., born Jan. 3, 1868, and died at Salt Lake City, Utah, Oct. 21, 1895. Idella, born Dec. 19, 1870, who for eight years taught in the high school at Trempealeau, subsequently graduated from the Chicago Dental College, and is now a dentist at Cleveland, Ohio, where she has been located for the past seven years, and in her work stands in high repute. Fred W. was born Sept. 13, 1873. Mabel, born Dec. 11, 1874, is now Mrs. Fred C. Ford, of Trempealeau, was before

her marriage for eight years a proficient teacher. She has six children: Lester, a student at the State University at Madison; Ruth, Lyle and Lynn (twins), Fred C., Jr., and Charles. Cora, born Nov. 23, 1883, was graduated from the Trempealeau High School and the Winona State Normal School, subsequently entered the State School for Deaf and Dumb at Milwaukee, from which she was graduated, and was retained there to teach for three years. She married Wallace Hannaman, then principal of the Durkee School at Kenosha. He later accepted a position at the State University at Madison, and there Cora died in June, 1914, leaving no children. Mr. Graves is deacon in the Congregational church at Trempealeau and chairman of its board of trustees. He is a stockholder in the Citizens' State Bank, also president of the Trempealeau Cemetery Association, and a member of Trempealeau Lodge, No. 117, A. F. & A. M. Both Mr. and Mrs. Graves are members of the Congregational church, of which Mrs. Graves is a member of the Ways and Means Society. Both Mr. and Mrs. Graves are interested in church work and are liberal supporters to that benevolent cause.

Frank A. Kellman, who is conducting at Galesville one of the most complete hardware stores in Trempealeau County, and also carrying on a good business in plumbing, gas fitting and the installation of heating apparatus, was born at Barras, Sweden, April 24, 1869, son of John and Anna C. Kellman. His parents came to the United States with their family in the year of his birth, settling in Galesville, Wis., where they are still living, the father having been engaged in the jewelry business for many years. Frank A. attended school in Galesville when a boy. At the age of 17 he entered the hardware store of Aaron Oribbs, in this village, where he learned the tinner's trade and the hardware business in general, and continued with this employer for about eight years. He then engaged in the hardware business for himself, opening a store in the building now occupied by the Galesville postoffice. After remaining at that location for seven years, he moved to the corner on which the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank now stands. There he carried on business for ten years, by the end of which time his trade had so increased that he had to find more commodious quarters, and so moved into his present building. Here he occupies two floors, 40 by 60 feet, but owing to the continued growth of his business is so crowded that he has hardly any room for display. He carries a large stock of shelf and heavy hardware, occupying the space from floor to ceiling, and also has a number of outside warehouses. In his plumbing, gas fitting and heating department he employs several highly skilled workmen. Mr. Kellman has also been secretary of the Davis Mill Company since its organization, and is a director in the Bank of Galesville and in the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company. Mr. Kellman was married in October, 1892, to Lizzie Belle Thompson, who was born in Trempealeau County, Wis., daughter of William B. and Allie (Atwood) Thompson, who are both now deceased. Her father, who was born in the State of New York and was engaged in farming and stock raising most of his life, was also a stockholder in the Bank of Galesville. For many years he was a large land owner in the county and also had extensive property interests in Galesville, being one of the most

prominent citizens of the village. Mr. and Mrs. Kellman have three children: Vilas A., who is associated with his father in business; Forest T. and Norris J., residing at home.

J. Alfred Kellman, who for many years has been established in the jewelry business in Galesville, and is one of the leading citizens of the village, was born in Sweden, Oct. 16, 1865, son of John and Anna C. Kellman. The father was born in Sweden, April 24, 1831, and learned the jeweler's trade. Coming to the United States in 1869, he settled in Trempealeau County the same year, locating a jewelry store in Trempealeau, where he remained for four years. He then established himself in the same business in Galesville, of which place he has since been a resident. Although now advanced in years, he is still hale and hearty, as, also, is Mrs. Kellman, who has reached the advanced age of 83 years. They were the parents of four children: Charles A., John A., Frank A. and Solomon L. (deceased).

J. Alfred Kellman was educated in the Galesville graded school and at Gale College. He learned the jewelry business from his father, with whom he has been associated since he was 15 years old, and who, it may be said, was the first jeweler in Galesville. For a place of the size of Galesville he has a remarkably well-stocked store and does a good business in watch cleaning and repairing. He has also been manager and treasurer of the Galesville Improvement Company since its organization in 1892. A Republican in politics, he has served on the village board for a number of years, has been town and village treasurer and is at present serving as assessor of Galesville. He owns both business and residence property in Galesville. Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Kellman was married in June, 1897, to Julia Ziegler, daughter of John and Barbara (Raichel) Ziegler, both she and her parents being natives of Germany. The Ziegler family came to the United States many years ago, locating immediately in Galesville, Wis., where Mr. Ziegler followed his trade of blacksmith and machinist. Some time after coming here he went to Pittsburgh, Pa., where he remained for a year, after which he returned to Galesville. About 1896 he retired and moved to La Crosse, where he and his wife subsequently died. Mr. and Mrs. J. Alfred Kellman are the parents of two children: Arleen Thelma and John Morton, who reside with their parents.

George Rall, one of the leading business men of Galesville, Wis., where he is engaged in manufacturing, also dealing in automobiles, was born in Dettingen, Wurtemberg, Germany, Oct. 10, 1849. His parents, George and Sophia (Kuehlbrei) Rall, were also born in Germany, the father in Dettingen and the mother in Bissingen. They came to the United States in 1852, locating in Erie County, N. Y. After residing there for five years, during which time Mr. Rall worked for others, they came to Trempealeau County, Wis., and settled in Gale Township. There, in the spring of 1857, he engaged in farming, and was thus occupied until 1895, when he retired and moved to Galesville, where he died in 1901. He had long survived his wife, who passed away in 1874.

George Rall, the younger, began his school attendance in New York State, and continued it after coming to Trempealeau County in District No.

7. He resided on the homestead, assisting his father until about 1880, when he engaged in farming for himself on the home place. In 1895 he came to Galesville and founded the George Rall Manufacturing Company, building his present mill, and engaging in planing and general woodwork manufacture, adding a feed mill to his other enterprises in 1897. His two sons, William A. and Louis A., have been associated with him from the beginning. In 1910 he took up the automobile business and at present is handling the Studebaker car only. Mr. Rall was married May 26, 1872, to Katherine Frasch, who was born in Bissingen, Germany, Jan. 22, 1853. He and his wife have four children: William A., Sophia Barbara, George M. and Louis A. William A., who was born Dec. 1, 1872, is associated in business with his father. He married Lena Spors, and has four children: Glenn W., Gladys M., Edson G. and Gerald L. Sophia Barbara, born Dec. 15, 1873, is residing at home. George M., born Feb. 24, 1876, also resides at home. Louis A., born Dec. 22, 1883, is associated with his father in business. He married Anna Kienzle, of Galesville, and has two children: Kathryn L. and Lloyd L. The family are members of the German Lutheran church.

John Grover, owner of the old Grover homestead in section 26, Trempealeau Township, but now living practically retired in Trempealeau Village, was born on the Grover farm, Dec. 23, 1867, a son of Archelaus and Esther E. (Brandenburg) Grover. He was educated in the district school, which he attended during the winters only, after he was 11 or 12 years old, his services at other times being needed on the farm. When he was 15 his school days were ended and he gave his whole time to assisting his father. About two years later, the father having retired in 1885, he entered into a partnership with his brother, S. D. Grover, and they operated the farm together for two years and a half. The partnership was then dissolved, and for two years and a half more John lived on the homestead as a bachelor. Sept. 10, 1890, he married Anna Irvine, daughter of B. A. and Hannah (Ballis) Irvine, of Stillwater, Minn. Mr. Grover continued to carry on farming operations until March, 1914, at which time he took up his residence in the village. In 1901 he engaged in the breeding and selling of registered Shorthorn cattle, shipping them to many States and as far west as Montana. This business is now taken care of by his two sons, Harry and Albert, who live on the homestead. On this farm is the largest apple-bearing orchard in Trempealeau County, containing 17 acres and 1,800 trees. Mr. Grover is one of the directors of the Galesville Elevator Exchange, and has been a stockholder in it since its organization in 1909. In politics he is a Republican, and though he has held no county offices, he has served on the school board of District No. 3, Trempealeau Township, and was one of the township supervisors one year. He and his wife have been the parents of eight children: Harry Irvine, Amy Maria, Myrtle Evelyn, Albert, Howard A., Elizabeth E., Ethel and Gertrude, whose record in brief is as follows: Harry Irvine, born Nov. 9, 1891, and now residing on the old Grover farm, married Flora Larson, daughter of Hans Larson, of Galesville, Wis., the marriage taking place March 15, 1914. He has one child, Wayne Merle, now 19 months old. Amy Maria, born June 16, 1893, is unmarried and resides at home. Myrtle Evelyn, born July 7, 1895, is unmarried and for

three years has been engaged in teaching country schools. Albert, born March 24, 1897, who works in partnership with his brother Harry, is unmarried. Howard Anderson, born Sept. 27, 1899, resides at home and is attending high school. Elizabeth Esther, born Nov. 10, 1902, died on the old homestead, Sept. 15, 1904. Ethel, born April 10, 1904, is attending school. Gertrude, born July 3, 1906, also attends school.

Lincoln S. Keith, a well-known and respected citizen, residing on the outskirts of Galesville, where he is engaged in cattle and horse raising, and who has also been closely connected with the educational interests of the county, was born in Winslow, Me., Oct. 29, 1860, son of Richard H. and Jane D. (Hiscock) Keith. His parents were natives of the same place, the father born March 1, 1820, the mother March 8, 1826. The former, who was a carpenter by trade, in 1863 enlisted in the Third Maine Battery of Artillery and fought for the Union until the close of the Civil War. Although never wounded, he suffered from illness, which caused blindness of one eye. On being mustered out he returned to his native State, where he resided until 1891, when he and his wife went to the Pacific coast, locating at Puyallup, near Seattle, Wash., where they resided until Mr. Keith's death, Nov. 12, 1897. His wife died April 26, 1900.

Lincoln S. Keith was the seventh-born in a family of nine children. In his youth he attended school in Waterville, Me., and in Fairfield, that State, becoming a proficient teacher. When 20 years old he came West, almost directly to Trempealeau County, and in the following year, 1882, became principal of the schools at Osseo, this county, beginning his duties in the spring and continuing them for the two following years. For one year subsequently he was school principal at Independence, later occupying the same position six years at Whitehall, six years at Galesville and one year at Blair. By this time he had become well known and had made so good a record that he was elected county superintendent of schools and held that office for six years and a half. In 1893 Mr. Keith purchased 90 acres of land just outside the city limits of Galesville, where he is now engaged in breeding thoroughbred Jersey cattle and high-grade coach horses. On account of an injury he is not able to do heavy farm work, but for some years has held the position of rural mail carrier. Aug. 16, 1887, Mr. Keith was united in marriage with Cora A. Cain, who was born in Clinton, Me., daughter of Moses R. and Ruth L. (Richardson) Cain, both natives of the same town, and the father a farmer by occupation. Her parents remained in the East and are now both deceased. Mrs. Keith, herself, has also passed away, her death occurring Jan. 21, 1916. She had been the mother of four children: Winifred Maud, Ruth Alice, Helen L. and Donald C. Winifred Maud, who was graduated from the University of Wisconsin, had charge of vocational training in the Normal School at Aberdeen, S. D., holding that position for two years. She is now instructor of methods at LaCrosse Normal School. Ruth Alice, who was graduated from the Valparaiso University in music, and in science and letters from the Wisconsin University, and was formerly assistant supervisor in the city schools of Madison, and supervisor at DeForest, is now engaged during the summer months in Chatauqua circuit work for the University of Wisconsin, and is also superintendent

of music in the La Crosse city schools. Helen M., who graduated from the Galesville High School, is now a student in the La Crosse Normal School. Donald C. is a student in the Galesville High School and resides at home. Mr. Keith is independent in politics, but has always taken an interest in good local government. His fraternal society affiliations are with the Beavers and the Modern Woodmen of America.

Philip G. Kribs, who is engaged in farming and dairying on a good 80-acre farm in section 15, Trempealeau Township, was born in Elgin, Ill., Dec. 1, 1859. His parents were Paul and Sarah (Van Buren) Kribs, the father a native of Guelph, Canada, and the mother of Pennsylvania. They were married in Guelph, and went from Canada to Elgin, Ill., at an early day, residing in the latter place until 1865, when they came to Trempealeau County, Wis., locating on what is now the Theodore Schmidt farm in section 3-W, Trempealeau Township. This was an 80-acre tract of partially improved land, with a log house and barn. By additional purchases Mr. Kribs enlarged the farm to 160 acres, 40 acres of his new purchase lying across the road east. Here Paul Kribs resided until his death, December 3, 1877, his wife surviving him and living with her son Philip, who carried on the farm. Their children were: David, Ludwig, Mary, Jane, Aaron, Henry, Sarah, Paul, Philip G. and one that died in infancy. Those now living in addition to the subject of this sketch are: Ludwig, who resides in Alta, Canada; Paul, living in Aberdeen, S. D.; Sarah, who resides at Grants Pass, Ore., and Mary, residing in Medford, Ore. Philip G. Kribs acquired his education in the district school, which he attended until the age of 16 years, and then spent two winters at the La Cross Business University and one winter at Gale College, Galesville, Wis. Dec. 4, 1884, he was married at the home of his bride's parents, by the Rev. J. Irwin Smith, a Presbyterian minister, to Ella, daughter of William J. and Eliza Suttie, of Caledonia Township, Trempealeau County, and after marriage took his wife to his father's old home in section 3, Trempealeau Township. He was at that time working his father's farm, on which he lived until March, 1886. He then changed his occupation by going into the grocery business in Galesville, Wis., and was thus occupied until March, 1888. He then sold out in Galesville and went into the same business in Midway, La Crosse County, Wis., and while there was appointed postmaster. Remaining in Midway until the spring of 1890, he then made up his mind to go back to farming, and accordingly purchased 80 acres of improved land in section 15, Trempealeau Township, which constitutes his home farm. On it, however, he made a number of improvements. The original buildings were poor, but in 1904 he remodeled the house, which is now a good two-story frame dwelling of eight rooms. He has also erected a number of other buildings, including a new frame barn, a granary, milk house, corn crib, poultry house and a garage. As a farmer and dairyman he is doing a profitable business, having a herd of graded cows and a good sty of Poland-China hogs, together with a sufficient number of horses for the farm work and a good equipment of tools and machinery. He and his wife have four children: Grace S., Harry W., Paul W. and Mary E. Grace S., who was born in Galesville, Wis., April 21, 1887, is the wife of George Sagen, assistant cashier of the Merchants' Bank

at Galesville, Wis. Harry W., born at Midway, Wis., July 10, 1889, is unmarried and resides at home with his father. He owns 40 acres in section 15 and 40 acres in section 22, improved land, which he farms in connection with the home place. Paul W., born in Trempealeau Township Feb. 12, 1892, is unmarried and lives on the home farm. Mary E., born in Trempealeau Township Oct. 19, 1902, lives at home and is attending the Galesville High School. In politics Mr. Kribs is a Democrat, but is not active politically beyond casting his vote. Since 1897 he has been a member of Liberty Peak Camp, No. 2813, M. W. A., having passed all the chairs. He and his wife and daughter Grace are affiliated with the Centerville Methodist Episcopal church.

Ludwig O. Goplin. Among the farmers of Gale Township who are recognized as successful men in their branch of industry is the subject of this sketch, whose farm of 220 acres is situated in sections 3, 14, 23 and 24, town 23 north, range 7 west. Here Mr. Goplin was born Jan. 27, 1883, son of Olaus E. and Mathia (Benrud) Goplin, the homestead having been in the family since the time of the grandfather, who settled on it in 1869. Olaus E. Goplin, who was born in Norway in 1861, purchased 80 acres of the farm and lived on it many years, dying in December, 1901. He added to his land until the farm comprised 220 acres. His wife, also a native of Norway, survived him about a year and four months, passing away in April, 1903. Ludwig O. Goplin worked on the old home farm for his parents from his boyhood until his father's death, and afterwards for his mother until she, too, died. He then rented the farm from the heirs for five years, buying it in April, 1915. Here he is carrying on general farming and dairying, keeping graded Durham and Holstein cattle, of which he has 35 head, milking 20. The residence on the farm is a good two-story and basement frame house of 10 rooms. A man of progressive nature, in 1902 Mr. Goplin built a round barn, 64 feet in diameter, and 26 feet to the eaves, and in 1915 he erected a stave silo, 14 by 34 feet. He is a stockholder in the Pigeon Grain and Stock Company and also in the Whitehall Hospital. Since 1913 he has served as treasurer of the school board. His religious affiliations are with the United Norwegian Lutheran church, of Pigeon Falls, of which he is a member, and of which his father was secretary from the time of its organization until his death. Dec. 10, 1910, Mr. Goplin was united in marriage with Ruth Mortenson, of Whitehall, Wis., who was born in Pigeon Township, this county, Sept. 15, 1887. Her father, Hans H. Mortenson, who was born near Hammerfest, Norway, Sept. 15, 1836, is now residing in Whitehall. Her mother was born in Norway, Jan. 11, 1847, and is now living in Whitehall. Mr. and Mrs. Goplin have two children: Margaret Alverne, born Oct. 15, 1911, and Obert Harvey, born Oct. 27, 1913.

Sigvald N. Hegge, cashier of the People's State Bank, of Whitehall, has had an important part in the upbuilding of that institution, and is one of the energetic young men of the village. A native of this county, and descended from a pioneer family, he had considerable experience in business before assuming the duties of his present position, and his well-merited success is built upon a firm foundation. He was born in Pigeon Township,

May 18, 1887, the son of Nels F. and Lena (Nelson) Hegge, and there grew to manhood, receiving his early education in the district school of his neighborhood, and in the graded schools of Whitehall. In 1905 he graduated from the Wisconsin Business University at La Crosse, and soon thereafter became interested in the lumber business. Entering the employ of the St. Anthony & Dakota Elevator Co., he first took charge of their lumber yard at Hatton, N. D., and so thoroughly demonstrated his ability there, that he was employed for the next few years in opening and establishing yards at various points in western North Dakota and eastern Montana. Sept. 29, 1913, he returned to his native county to become assistant cashier of the People's State Bank, of Whitehall. Jan. 1, 1914, he was promoted to his present position. Fraternally Mr. Hegge is a former secretary of the local Masonic lodge, and past Noble Grand of the local Odd Fellows' lodge. He is also connected with other clubs and organizations. Mr. Hegge was married Dec. 29, 1915, to Emelia Bensen, of Whitehall, who was born in that village Aug. 13, 1888, daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth (Frederickson) Bensen, the former of whom is a mail carrier and the latter of whom died in 1911. Before her marriage, Mrs. Hegge was a teacher in the kindergarten department of the Whitehall public schools. Mr. and Mrs. Hegge have one child, Harriet Elizabeth, born Oct. 8, 1916.

Nels F. Hegge, a pioneer, from whom is named Hegge Valley, in Pigeon Township, was born at Biri, Norway, came to America as a young man, lived in La Crosse for a while, came to Trempealeau County in 1872, lived in Pigeon Township until 1900, and then moved to Whitehall, where he died in 1912 at the age of 73 years. His widow, Lena Nelson, still makes her home in that village. She and her husband have been actively affiliated with the United Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Hegge was a strong Democrat in politics and had considerable influence in local affairs.

David R. Dissmore, well known to the inhabitants of Pigeon Township as proprietor of the old Dissmore homestead, consisting of 200 acres in section 8, was born in Viroqua, Wis., Sept. 16, 1863, son of George P. and Mary E. (Rogers) Dissmore. His father was one of the well-known and respected citizens of the township, of which he was a resident for many years. Born in Marblehead, Mass., in 1835, George P. Dissmore, while still a young man, emigrated to the great Northwest. He was married in Mauston, Juneau County, Wis., in 1859, to Mary E. Rogers, who was born in 1841, and for some time he resided in Vernon County, coming to Trempealeau County in 1863. In the spring of the following year he homesteaded the farm on which his son David now resides, and here he made his home until 1895. As a minister affiliated with the Baptist denomination, he served the church at Whitehall for several years, and also preached three years in Polk County and two years in Barron County. He died at Whitehall in 1908, his wife passing away in 1914 at Whitehall. They were the parents of a family numbering 14 children, of whom four are now deceased. The record of the living is as follows: Mary, wife of Forest Van Sickle, a retired farmer of Ryder, N. D.; Lyvenia, wife of James Maloney, a farmer of Hale Township, Trempealeau County; David R., of Pigeon Township; Jessie, wife of Archie Wood, a contractor of Whitehall; Sarah, now Mrs. Ole



REV. AND MRS. GEORGE DISSMORE
DAVID R. DISSMORE AND FAMILY



OLE C. SKUMLIEN AND FAMILY

Knosberg, her husband being a farmer and gardener of Barron, Wis.; Emma, wife of Louis Dowd, a farmer of Weston, Ore.; Martha, wife of Gottlieb Nogossek, a farmer of Hale Township, this county; George, who is farming in Oregon; Ruth, now Mrs. Fred Wallace, of Osceola, Wis., and Rheuamy, wife of Oscar J. Olson, of Saginaw, Ore.

David R. Dissmore was reared on his parents' farm in section 8, Pigeon Township, and in the year 1900 became its manager. It became his property by purchase in 1914 and as owner he is continuing the work of improvement which he began as manager. Besides general farming, he is a considerable producer of honey, keeping 130 colonies of Italian bees. In these enterprises he has achieved success and now takes rank among the prosperous citizens of his township. He was married, May 18, 1892, to Alice Breed, of old Whitehall, daughter of Calvin and Anna (Crane) Breed, her parents being now residents of Whitehall. He and his wife are the parents of eight children: Elbert, Clinton, Sidney, Reuben, Lily, Florence, George and Lulu. The family are affiliated religiously with the Baptist church.

Andrew K. Skumlien, who in former days was an active and successful farmer of Pigeon Township, was born in Vardal, Norway, in 1833. Coming to the United States in 1876, at the age of 43 years, he settled in Trempealeau County, Wis., working the first summer on the farm of Olaus Knutson in Moe Couley. He then bought 160 acres of land in section 28, it being the southwest quarter of town 23 north, range 7 west, Pigeon Township, the locality being known as Fuller Cooley. This farm was purchased from the estate of Peter Anderson, who homesteaded it. Here Andrew K. Skumlien spent the rest of his life, which lasted but ten years longer, his death taking place June 6, 1886. He was an industrious man, working hard to improve his property, and was well liked and respected by his neighbors. He was married in his native land, in 1860, to Anna Olson, who was born in Norway, Dec. 24, 1830, and who now lives with her children on the old homestead. There were eight children in their family: Ole C., who owns the old farm in company with his brother Anton; Anton, above mentioned; Mary, who married Ludwig Thompson, a farmer, of Saskatchewan, Canada; Carl, a farmer of Pigeon Township; Anna, who is the wife of L. C. Olson, who was a farmer in section 34, Pigeon Township; Maren, wife of Albert Kaas, a farmer of Jackson County, Wis.; Tillie, wife of Bent Myren, a farmer of Pigeon Township, and one that died in infancy.

Ole C. Skumlien, who, with his brother Anton, owns and operates the old Skumlien farm in section 28, Pigeon Township, was born in Vardahl, Norway, July 25, 1861, son of Andrew K. and Anna (Olson) Skumlien. After residing in his native land until he was 14 years of age, in 1875 he accompanied his grandparents, Knute and Anna (Thorson) Skumlien, to the United States, they taking up their residence on the farm of Olaus Knutson, a relation, who lived in Moe Couley, Pigeon Township. There the grandparents spent the rest of their lives. Andrew K. Skumlien came to the county in 1876 and worked that summer on Mr. Knutson's farm, the family being thus united. He soon, however, purchased a farm of his own, consisting of 160 acres in section 28, Pigeon Township, the exact location being

defined as the southwest quarter of town 23 north, range 7 west, and here he resided until his death, June 6, 1886. Ole C. Skumlien was reared on his father's farm and trained to agricultural pursuits, which he has since followed on the old homestead, he and his brother Anton buying it in 1899. Since it came into their possession they have made a number of improvements on it, including the erection of new buildings. In 1903 they built a barn, 34 by 64 by 18 feet, with an 8-foot basement, cement floors and running water, and lighted by acetylene lights. A house was built in 1912, and is a cement block building 32 by 38 feet, two stories and basement, and containing 10 rooms. It is installed with hot water heat, acetylene lights, hot and cold running water, bath and toilet, and is a fine and attractive residence. Mr. Skumlien has served as township supervisor six years and as school clerk 15 years. He is also a stockholder in the Pigeon Grain and Stock Company, the People's State Bank at Whitehall and the Whitehall Hospital. April 6, 1901, Mr. Skumlien was united in marriage with Clara Larson, of Fitch Cooley, where she was born Jan. 6, 1884. Her parents were Anton and Gertrude (Blegen) Larson, who have resided in Fitch Cooley since 1875, the former being now 75 and the latter 67 years old. They came to America from Norway, the mother in 1877, the father in 1866, and were married in this country, he locating first in Coon Valley, Vernon County, Wis. Mr. and Mrs. Ole C. Skumlien are the parents of seven children, born as follows: George Arthur, March 20, 1903; Oscar Clarence, Sept. 10, 1905; Laura Amanda, Jan. 29, 1907; Carl Albert, Nov. 11, 1908; Agnes Mabel, April 14, 1911; Inga Thealine, April 18, 1913, and Jennie Matilda, March 9, 1915. Mr. Skumlien and his family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

Anton Vold, D. D. S., of Whitehall, Wis., was born in Hale Township, Trempealeau County, Wis., Feb. 20, 1879, son of John J. and Martha (Anderson) Vold. The father, born in Norway, came to America in 1872 and settled in Trempealeau County, where he followed farming and blacksmithing for some years, was a merchant in Whitehall, but is now retired. His wife is also living, both of them having reached the age of 70 years. Anton Vold was graduated from the Whitehall High School in 1899. He then applied himself to the study of dentistry and was graduated from the Chicago College of Dental Surgery in 1902. July 1 the same year he located in Whitehall, where he has fine offices in the Model Building. Since beginning his professional labors here he has built up a good practice and gained a reputation for skilled dentistry which extends throughout the northern part of the county. As a citizen interested in good local government, he has served on the village board for three years, supporting the cause of progress and efficiency. He retains his membership in the college fraternity of Psi Omega, has advanced in the Masonic order as far as the Commandery, being a Knight Templar, and belongs also to the Modern Woodmen of America. Dr. Vold was married, Feb. 4, 1909, to Verne F. Ingalls, of Whitehall, whose father, John M. Ingalls, who came to Trempealeau County in 1856, is a farmer and agent for the Standard Oil Company. Mrs. Ingalls was in maidenhood Carrie Gage. Dr. and Mrs. Vold have had three children, the second-born of whom died at birth. The others, Evangeline

O., was born Oct. 27, 1909, and is now a bright girl of 7 years, and Anton J., born May 4, 1917.

Axel K. Olsen, M. D., of Ettrick, Wis., was born in Stavanger, Norway, Sept. 16, 1865, son of Peter and Bertha Elisabeth (Olsen) Olsen. The father, who was a ship carpenter, died of yellow fever in South America, in 1873, his wife dying in Norway a few years later. He came to the United States in 1886, at the age of 21 years. He attended the high school and college in Norway and in the year 1885 he passed the examen artium (B. A.) at the University of Christiania, Norway. He went to Vermilion, S. D., where he became a student at the State University, taking his degree of Master of Arts in the Class of 1890. He commenced his medical studies at Northwestern Medical College, in Chicago, 1892-93, attended the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1893-94, passed the Illinois State Board examination in 1895. In the winter of 1895-96 Dr. Olsen was interne in the Lutheran Hospital at Chicago, and in the following summer began practice in Westby, taking charge of the practice of Dr. J. Schreiner. In the fall he returned to Chicago and entered Rush Medical College, where he took his degree in medicine in 1897. He now located in Baldwin, Wis., but after three months there came to Ettrick, where there was then no physician, and here he has since resided, having built up a good practice in the village and the surrounding territory. His neat and commodious residence in Ettrick was erected by him in 1915. At the present time he holds the position of health officer. Dr. Olsen was first married in the fall of 1897 to Sarah Brager, who was born in Norway, in which country her father gained his living as a timber expert. He died there and his widow came to the United States, locating in Blanchardville, where she subsequently died. Mrs. Sarah Olson was killed in a runaway accident in 1899, leaving one child, Esther, who died at the age of 8 years. May 29, 1901, the Doctor married Miss Inger Brager, who was a sister of his first wife, and was also born in Norway, being about 10 years of age when she came to America. The children of this second marriage are three in number: Axel K., Jr., Erna Brager and Borge Halyard. Dr. Olsen is a member of the County, State and American Medical Associations. He attends the Lutheran church. He is a well-known and popular citizen, and with his family moves in the best society in this part of the county.

Anton P. Brohelden, who is engaged in farming 160 acres of land in sections 24-25, Ettrick Township, with prosperous results, was born in Sunderland, Norway, Oct. 25, 1871, son of Andrew Peterson and Bertha Svenson, his wife, both natives of the same district, and neither of whom ever came to America. Anton P. emigrated to this country in 1892 and after arriving in Trempealeau County, found employment with Christ Brenengen, of Abraham's Cooley, for whom he worked two years, afterwards working two years for Chris Skunberg and later for others. About 1899 he bought his present farm, which is a good piece of agricultural property and where he is carrying on general farming successfully, being also a stockholder in the Ettrick Creamery. Mr. Brohelden was married at French Creek, in 1899, to Anna Brenengen, who was born in Norway, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nils Brenengen, her family being one well known

in this part of the county. He and his wife have four children: Sanford Amandus, Esther Alvena, Bernice Lenora and Stella Lillian. The family are members of the Lutheran church.

George Amoth, proprietor of a well-improved farm of 135 acres in Ettrick Township, near the village of Ettrick, was born in a log house in this locality, May 29, 1873, son of Gilbert and Helen (Haldvorsdatter) Amoth. The parents were natives of Norway, in which country they were married, and a few years later, about 1867, came with their two eldest children to the United States. After a long voyage across the Atlantic in a sailing vessel they landed at an eastern port, and came directly to Ettrick Township, Trempealeau County, Wis., which locality they had been informed was favorable for settlement. Having little knowledge, however, of what he would have to do, Gilbert Amoth was practically unprovided with necessaries for making a start in the wilderness, and at first had scarcely anything but his bare hands with which to begin work. In spite of this handicap, he managed to erect a log house and as soon as possible procured an ox team, with which he began the work of pioneer farming. A number of years later, after he had made good progress in developing his farm, he increased its size by the purchase of 40 additional acres, and here he resided until he retired and moved to Ettrick about six years before his death, which occurred March 17, 1916. He was a member of the Lutheran church and a respected member of the community in which he had cast his lot. His wife died on the farm about 1908. They had a family numbering 11 children. George Amoth worked on the home farm until he had reached the age of 18 years, at which time he began working out on other farms, and also for a while hauled cream to the creamery at Ettrick. At the age of 26 years he was married to Julia Johnson, daughter of Hans and Martha Johnson, of Ettrick. He then rented a farm in section 20, working it for three years, at the end of which time he bought his present farm near the village, where he raises various crops, and also more or less stock, including Shorthorn cattle, Poland-China hogs, a good grade of horses and full-blooded Black Monarch chickens. Since taking this place he has erected on it a good silo, machine shed and chicken coop. His barn is 100 by 28 feet in size. Mr. Amoth takes an interest in all local enterprises, giving active support to the creamery in particular. He has been successful as a farmer and he and his wife are prominent and esteemed residents of the community in which they live. They have two children: Hazel Marie and Guy Hubert.

Ole Tomter, proprietor of the Tomter Dairy Farm of 158 acres in sections 27 and 28, town 23, range 7, Pigeon Township, was born on the farm where he still lives, Nov. 11, 1877, son of John L. and Martha (Olsdatter Rolieie) Tomter. John L. Tomter died Dec. 24, 1915, and Mrs. Tomter resides with her son Ole. He was reared on the home place, attended the district schools, and learned farming from his father. In July, 1903, he and his brother Anton rented the farm, and three years later they purchased it. In 1909 he acquired his brother Anton's interest, and has since continued as the sole owner. On this place he conducts general farming operations, making a specialty of grade Holstein cattle. His home is a



JOHN L. TOMTER AND FAMILY
OLE TOMTER AND FAMILY

pleasant frame structure of 12 rooms. Like the other buildings on the farm, it is lighted with acetylene gas. The barn, 50 by 62 by 31 feet, was erected in 1915. It has cement floors, steel stanchions and other modern features. The silo, constructed in 1916, is of glazed blocks. The other buildings are also in keeping with these sightly structures. Mr. Tomter is a prominent man in the community and has been on the town board since 1914 and on the school board since 1915. He is a stockholder in the Pigeon Grain & Stock Company and in the Whitehall Hospital. His fraternal relations are with the S. A. F. His religious faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church, of which he is efficiently serving as treasurer. Mr. Tomter was married Oct. 27, 1906, to Hilda Maria Skoyen, who was born in Hale Township, Jan. 15, 1886, daughter of Hans and Martha Skoyen, early settlers. Mr. and Mrs. Tomter have four children: Hensel Joseph, born Aug. 8, 1907; Lester, born March 28, 1910; Lawrence Raymond, born July 19, 1912; and Sylvia Amanda, born April 8, 1916.

James C. Beirne, a well-known agriculturist in section 31, east, Ettrick Township, where he has a farm of 120 acres, is a native of Wisconsin, having been born at St. Mary's Ridge, La Crosse County, March 25, 1855. His parents were Thomas and Catherine Beirne, both natives of Ireland. Thomas Beirne came to the United States when a mere lad, residing for some years in Albany, N. Y., where he began industrial life. In later years, after attaining maturity, he came to Wisconsin, locating at Watertown, in the vicinity of which place he bought land and became a farmer. From there he removed to La Crosse, and subsequently, about 1857, to Galesville, here continuing his farming operations. After residing in Galesville for two years he bought land in what is now the northern part of Ettrick Township, on which he built a small house and started to develop a homestead. He improved about 160 acres of land and resided there until 1898, when he moved to Ettrick, where he subsequently died. His wife is also deceased. They had a family of nine children. James C. Beirne was the fourth-born child of his parents. He acquired the elements of knowledge in a primitive log schoolhouse in Ettrick Township and remained at home assisting his parents until he was 30 years old, having the practical management of the farm at an early age. About 1886 he purchased his present farm, which he has since lived on and improved. Mr. Beirne was married May 10, 1897, to Ellen Cleary, daughter of John and Ellen Cleary. Mrs. Beirne, who was one of seven children, being the sixth-born, was educated in the schools of Crawford County. Mr. and Mrs. Beirne have two children: Vincent, born Oct. 21, 1898, and Mildred, born Aug. 28, 1902. The family are members of the Catholic church. Mr. Beirne is independent in politics. He is an industrious and substantial citizen.

Charles L. Brenengan, who is profitably operating a farm of 120 acres in sections 8 and 6, Gale Township, was born on this farm, Jan. 29, 1869, son of Christian and Mary (Jorde) Brenengan. Both parents were natives of Norway, the mother born in Berie. Christian Brenengan came to this country in 1862, locating near Stoddard, in Vernon County. He was employed by others at threshing and other labor until he came to the farm now owned by his son Charles, which he developed and improved. This was

not his only property, as he owned altogether 370 acres. Besides carrying on general farming, he dealt in stock for a number of years. About 1905 he retired from the farm and went to Galesville, where he is now living. For a number of years during his active period he was a member of the school board. Their family consisted of three children, of whom Charles L. was the first-born. The others were: Alfred J., who resides on the old home farm, and Elma Stella, wife of Alex Toppen, residing on an adjoining farm. In September, 1896, Mr. Brenengan was married to Julia Skundberg, who was born on French Creek, Trempealeau County, daughter of Andrew and Bertha Skundberg. He and his wife have one child, Katheryn Margaret, who is now attending school. Mr. Brenengan is a member of the Order of Scandinavian Workmen, a beneficial insurance society of Oshkosh, Wis. He has always resided on the parental homestead, which he purchased in 1900 from his father, and is engaged in general farming, including dairying and stock raising, being also a stockholder in the Galesville Creamery. His education, besides the usual district school course, included two years in the La Crosse High School, and he has since increased his general knowledge by reading and acquaintance with the practical things of life. In politics he is independent, as a rule voting for the man rather than for the party, and though interested in good government, he has not been politically active, either in town or county affairs. As a reliable citizen and good neighbor he commands general respect.

Stark Butman, one of the oldest living citizens of Trempealeau County, having resided continuously for 60 years in Gale Township, was born in Huron County (now Erie County), Ohio, March 28, 1832. He was educated and grew to manhood in his native State. In 1852 he came West to La Crosse County, Wis., where he located 160 acres of land, returning to Ohio that same year. In 1853 he and his brother Hiram came to La Crosse County and settled on this land, which was situated near Stevenstown. In 1857 he exchanged 80 acres of his land for 40 acres of land on this side of Black River, in Gale Township, Trempealeau County, and there he laid the foundations for his future prosperity, building a house, with the proper accompaniment of outbuildings, and breaking and developing his land. Later he acquired other land by purchase and by homesteading until he owned at one time several hundred acres, becoming one of the leading and representative men of Trempealeau County. He has followed diversified farming all his life, and has given away and sold land to his children, at the present time having only 160 acres in his own name. For about 28 years Mr. Butman served as postmaster at Decorah Prairie, the office being in his own home, and for his services he received the large recompense of 1 per cent of the cancellations. He has also rendered efficient service in various town offices. In 1855 Mr. Butman was married at La Crosse, Wis., to Mary Jane Lynn, who was born in New York State, July 22, 1836. After 56 years of wedded life, she passed away, March 19, 1911, sincerely mourned. Mr. and Mrs. Butman were the parents of 10 children, whose record in brief is as follows: Eugene S., born Oct. 4, 1856, was married Jan. 22, 1882, to Lizzie Stellpflug, and they reside at Pipestone, Minn. Emma J., born Nov.



MR. AND MRS. STARK BUTMAN

3, 1858, was married, July, 1885, to David Lonie, and they now reside at Pullman, Wash. Eva I., born Aug. 11, 1861, was married Feb. 17, 1884, to Ally Bartlett, and they reside at Alexandria, Minn. Erie H., born May 28, 1863, married, May 15, 1904, Charles E. Potter. Nancy M., born May 8, 1865, was married Oct. 20, 1883, to Clinton V. Lovell. Nettie L., born March 17, 1867, on May 4, 1888, became the wife of W. E. McKown. She died May 25, 1897. Ernest H., born Aug. 31, 1873, was married March 15, 1899, to Lizzie M. Burt, and they reside in Gale Township. An infant daughter, born May 9, 1876, died May 14, 1876. Frank M., born Feb. 25, 1880, was married Nov. 12, 1906, to Janet M. Smith. They reside in Gale Township. Since her mother's death Mary Edna McKown has always lived with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Butman, and since her grandmother's death in 1911 has been the sole housekeeper for her grandfather. Mr. Butman, although over 85 years old, is still hale and hearty and in full possession of all his faculties, enjoying an opportunity to relate the many hardships and trials incident to pioneer life, and above all, proud to boast that he has 27 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

George Christiansen, M. D., a popular physician of Galesville, was born in La Crosse, Wis., May 14, 1886, son of Peter and Anna (Iverson) Christiansen. The father was born in Norway, Aug. 7, 1844, and came to the United States when about 18 or 20 years of age, locating in La Crosse, Wis., where he worked for some time in a store. Subsequently he engaged in rafting on the river between St. Louis and New Orleans and continued in this occupation until the Southern Minnesota Railroad was built, when he found work on it at building telegraph lines. Later he became inspector of a telegraph line, holding this position for a number of years. His next employment was in the Kline dry goods store in La Crosse, and he remained there until he was appointed substitute mail carrier in that city, later becoming a member of the regular force. In 1911 he ceased industrial activity and is now living retired in La Crosse. His father died October 22, 1916. His wife Anna, who was born in Milwaukee, Wis., in 1860, died Feb. 6, 1900. Their family numbered four children, of whom George is the third in order of birth.

George Christiansen acquired the main part of his literary education in the grammar school at La Crosse. Then, after two years of preparatory medical work in Milwaukee, he entered Northwestern University Medical School, at Chicago, where he was graduated M. D. in 1911, after a four years' course. Returning to La Crosse, he became resident physician to the Lutheran Hospital there, which position he held for three years. He then went to Holman, Wis., where he practiced for about 18 months, at the end of which time he came to Galesville as successor to Dr. G. H. Laurence in general medical practice. Though here but a short time, Dr. Christiansen has already made a favorable impression on the community, and, being thoroughly well qualified in his profession, has the best prospects of a successful career as long as he chooses to remain here. He is a member of the County, State and American Medical Associations. His other society affiliations are with the Masonic Lodge, No. 177, of Galesville, the Elks' Lodge, No. 300, and the Phi Chi Medical Fraternity. In politics he is a

Republican. The Doctor was married, May 25, 1917, to Miss Dena Edna Myhre, of Galesville.

N. E. Dale, buttermaker for the Preston Creamery Company, of Blair, was born in Pigeon Township, Trempealeau County, July 12, 1878, son of Benedict Olson and Guina Halvorslein. The father and mother came to America as young people, and after the father's death, the mother married Louis A. Larson, of Pigeon Falls, now residing at Onalaska, Wis. The subject of this sketch was reared by his grandparents, Nels and Christina (Gunderson) Halvorslein, in Curran Township, Jackson County. As a youth he was employed at farm work, and for some three years, while attending school in Minneapolis, he was engaged as a coachman. In 1901 he began his career as a buttermaker by working in the York Creamery, in Jackson County. But desiring to further perfect himself in the art, he entered the Dairy School of the University of Wisconsin, in 1902, and was duly graduated. Then, after two years' experience at Flint, Mich., he returned to Jackson County, and worked at the creamery in Irving Township for seven years. He has occupied his present position since July 1, 1911. He is thoroughly competent and efficient, and his work is highly valued by the stockholders of the company. Mr. Dale was married at Hixton, Wis., June 20, 1904, to Edith May Dimond, of Flint, Mich., who was born in Otisville, Mich., May 10, 1886, daughter of Eugene and Eva Dimond. Mr. and Mrs. Dale have seven children: Gladys, Evelyn, Glenn, Maurice, Merlin, Marjorie and Byron.

Theodore M. Hanson, who is aiding in developing the agricultural resources of Preston Township, as proprietor of Clear Mound Farm, consisting of 100 acres in section 20, was born on this farm, April 5, 1881. His parents were Martin Hanson Skyrud and Olea Stutterud, a memoir of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Theodore M. Hanson resided at home with his parents and worked on the home farm until 1908. Then at the age of 27 years he became a general merchant, opening a store at Waldorf, Minn., which he conducted until 1912. He then sold out and returned to the Hanson homestead. Here he is successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits, dairying and stock raising, his farm being well improved, having fertile soil, capable of producing all the crops indigenous to this region, and his buildings substantial, convenient and supplied with all necessary equipment. Besides operating this farm, Mr. Hanson is secretary of the Blair Elevator Company and a stockholder in the Home Bank of Blair. Though not politically active, he is alive to the general interests of the community in which he lives and ever ready to support any good, practical measure for its advancement. Mr. Hanson was married Sept. 7, 1904, to Helen Grinde, of Beaver Creek Valley, Trempealeau County, where she was born Jan. 15, 1883, daughter of Lars L. and Helga (Hilleboe) Grinde. Her father was born in Norway in 1847 and came to the United States with his parents in 1856, they settling in Preston Township. Mr. Grinde became a very prominent citizen in the county, serving as county treasurer four years and as a member of the State legislature two years. He was also at different times a member of the township and county boards. His wife Helga was born in 1850 and died in 1885.

Mr. and Mrs. Hanson have had six children born to them: Lucile Theodora, born June 23, 1907, who died April 16, 1908; Martin Grinde, born Oct. 10, 1909; Sylvia Helen, born Aug. 16, 1911; Dorothy Lucile, born Feb. 23, 1914; Mildred Louise, born Sept. 30, 1915, and George Anthony, born July 12, 1917.

Sanford J. Johnson, who holds the responsible position of buttermaker with the Ettrick Creamery, was born three miles northeast of Ettrick Village, Aug. 27, 1881, son of John T. and Julia (Johnson) Johnson. His parents were natives of Norway, the father born in Ulwig and the mother in Hollingdahl, but their marriage took place in Trempealeau County. John T. Johnson came to the United States when 20 years old, at that time being unable to speak English. Settling in Trempealeau County, he bought land and engaged in farming, in which occupation he continued until his death in 1906, his farm being located in section 20, range 7. He served as township assessor for a number of terms and was agent for the Ettrick Scandinavian Mutual Fire Insurance Company from the time of its organization until his death, and also served on the school board, in these various positions proving himself a man of keen intelligence and sound business judgment. His wife survived him only about nine months. They had a large family numbering 12 children, of whom Sanford J. was the sixth in order of birth.

Sanford J. Johnson was educated in the district school in Ettrick Township and afterwards took a course in the dairy department of the State Agricultural College at Madison. He resided at home until he was 20 years of age and then worked eight months in a creamery at Hegge, this township. At the end of that time he entered the employ of the Ettrick Creamery as buttermaker, and has since remained with the company in that capacity, having established a good and satisfactory record. In addition to this employment, he also operates an 80-acre farm near Ettrick and is a dealer in wagons, buggies, carriages and other vehicles. He is a stockholder in the Ettrick & Northern Railroad Company and in the Ettrick Lumber Company, organized in January, 1917. Dec. 19, 1906, Mr. Johnson was united in marriage with Clara M. Brorold, who was born in Ettrick Village, daughter of Erick and Anna (Olson) Brorold. Her parents were natives of Ulwick, Norway, Erick Brorold coming to the United States with his parents when a young man. They located about two miles northeast of Ettrick on a farm, where he resided until his marriage. He then entered the employ of the Iver Pederson Mercantile Company as clerk and continued with them for 22 years. Appointed postmaster, he served in that position 17 years until his death, which took place May 7, 1914. His reliable character and good citizenship was recognized by his election to several positions of responsibility and trust, and his record includes service as township treasurer, clerk and chairman of the township board, also a fifteen years' membership on the school board. He also held office in the United Norwegian Lutheran church as treasurer, trustee or otherwise for a number of years. His wife is still living and resides in Ettrick. They were the parents of three children, Clara M. being the second-born. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have one child, Lillian Genevieve, who is attending school. Mr. Johnson belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and to the Beavers, of which latter order his

wife is also a member. She is now postmistress of Ettrick, having been appointed under civil service rules. The family faith is that of the United Lutheran church, and in politics Mr. Johnson is a Republican.

Madts M. Skyrud, proprietor of Hillcrest Farm of 100 acres in section 20, Preston Township, was born in this section of Preston Township June 26, 1871. Madts M. resided at home until reaching the age of 21 years. He then worked out for two years and at the end of that time bought his present farm—in January, 1901—from his father. After operating it until 1908, he rented it out to a tenant and went to Colorado, near Limon, where he farmed until the fall of 1913, subsequently returning to his farm in Preston Township. Here he has since remained, cultivating the land and improving the property generally. Among other improvements, in 1903 he built a good, three-story frame house of nine rooms and basement, equipped with furnace heat and other conveniences, and in the following year, 1904, he erected a frame barn 34 by 68 by 16 feet, with basement and concrete floors. He keeps a herd of graded Shorthorn cattle, of which he milks 18. As one of the responsible citizens of his township, he has been called upon to serve in public office, having been township treasurer and a member of the township board. Jan. 1, 1903, Mr. Skyrud was married to Louisa Johnson, of Blair, who was born in Jackson County, Wis., April 13, 1877. Her parents were Johannes (Johnson Tytegraff) and Caroline Johnson, the former being a native of Norway, who came to America when a boy and resided most of his life in Jackson County, dying in 1883 at the age of 50 years. His wife Caroline died in 1892 at the age of 46. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Skyrud: Alden Clement, Oct. 24, 1903; Milton LeRoy, Feb. 21, 1904; Kenneth Johannes, June 12, 1907; Elsie Irene, Oct. 24, 1909, and Orene Margaret, March 28, 1914. The family are members of the United Norwegian Lutheran church, Mr. Skyrud also belonging to the Independent Order of Foresters.

Gilbert Mikkelson has lived in this county for over 45 years, and on his present farm in Hale Township for over forty years. He was born in Biri, Norway, Jan. 2, 1834, the son of Mikkell and Annie Mikkelson. In that country he was reared and there he was married March 26, 1859, to Annie Huskelhus. They came to America and located in Mindora, in La Crosse County, where they lived about a year. About 1870 they came to this county, and three or four years later secured 260 acres in sections 15 and 21, township 23, range 7 (Hale), where they developed a good farm. There the wife died in 1908. Of the children in the family there is now living but one, Ben, born at Mindora, Oct. 2, 1869, and is married. He was reared on the home place, educated in the common schools, and has become a substantial man in the community. He has been supervisor for three years and school clerk for nine years. His financial holdings include stock in the Pigeon Grain and Stock Company and in the Whitehall Hospital. The family faith is that of the United Norwegian Lutheran church. The father is still living.

David C. Tucker, whose fertile farm of 160 acres lies in sections 23 and 26, Gale Township, was born at New Anan, Nova Scotia, April 14, 1853. His parents, Alexander and Eunice (Wartman) Tucker, were both natives



MR. AND MRS. GILBERT MIKKELSON



of Nova Scotia, the place of their nativity being in the vicinity of Truro. The father was a farmer and carpenter by occupation. He located at North Bend, Jackson County, with his family, in 1874, and resided there for a number of years. For awhile he worked for others, but later took a farm and engaged in agriculture. He finally went to Grafton, N. D., where he died about 1910. His wife died in 1908. David C. Tucker is the oldest of five living children of his parents. He was educated at New Anan, N. S., and began industrial life when 17 years of age, working for others a part of his time, but also helping his parents at intervals for five or six years. When 26 years old he began farming at Grafton, N. D., taking a homestead there. After operating that farm for about seven years he returned to Wisconsin and for eleven winters worked in the woods cutting timber. He then came to his present farm, which he has since cultivated and improved, having recently built a fine barn, 100 by 36 feet, with 16-foot studding. He is a stockholder in the North Bend Milling Company and in the La Crosse Packing Company. Mr. Tucker was first married, April 7, 1879, to Margaret Bibby, who was born in Maryland, daughter of Richard and Mary (Faulds) Bibby. Of this union there were the following children born: William, deceased; Richard A., residing at home with his father; Alexander R., who died in California in April, 1916; Mrs. May Waller, who lives on an adjoining farm; Eunice, wife of Ray Cram, and Florence, David W. and George R., who reside at home. The mother of these children died July 20, 1904, and on June 5, 1915, Mr. Tucker married for his second wife Mrs. Rebecca Chase, a native of Nova Scotia, and widow of Frank Chase, who was a farmer in Jackson County, Wis. Of this second marriage there are no children. Mr. Tucker is practically independent in politics, with leanings toward the Prohibition party. He has served as a member of the board of education for a number of years and is now a director on the board. His religious affiliations are with the Presbyterian church at North Bend, of which he is an elder.

Thomas Hunter, a prosperous citizen of Galesville, where he is engaged in the hardware business, was born at Decorah Prairie, on his parents' farm, Nov. 15, 1868, son of Thomas Russell and Agnes (Grant) Hunter; a memoir of whom may be found on another page of this volume. Of their 11 children he was the fourth in order of birth. In his boyhood he attended district school at Decorah Prairie and when 15 years old began working in the woods for Michals & Co., of Onalaska, Wis. After being thus employed for the winter, in the following spring he worked on the river as a log driver. He remained at this occupation for seven years and for the next five years was employed on steamboats on the Mississippi River. Then going to Chase County, Neb., where he was engaged in farming until June, 1894, when he returned to Galesville, Wis. After residing at home for one season, or more, he was married, Jan. 19, 1897, to Blanche Cram, who was born in Galesville, Wis., daughter of Almon E. and Isabelle (Gunderson) Cram, of Gale Township. In 1903 he returned to Nebraska and for one year was engaged in cattle ranching. Then selling his ranch, he drove a span of mules to Minneapolis and worked there for a sugar factory a short time. Returning again to Galesville, he bought a farm near the village and operated it two years, at

the end of which time he sold it to John Dick and opened his present hardware store in Galesville. He carries a full line of shelf and heavy hardware and his trade is constantly increasing. He also operates a threshing machine and clover puller each season and owns property in the village of Galesville. His fraternal affiliations are with the Beavers and Red Men, and he is also a member of the Galesville Fire Department. Mr. Hunter's wife died Dec. 18, 1914, leaving five children: Rose Almon, Russell, Bruce Raymond, Thomas Russell and Marion, all of whom are residing at home. In politics Mr. Hunter is a Socialist, but has taken no active part in local government. He is an enterprising and industrious citizen, successful in business, and has a wide circle of friends in this part of the county.

Milo Albert Jones, who is engaged in agricultural operations on a farm of 126 acres in sections 25 and 36, Gale Township, was born on this farm March 22, 1870, son of John H. Jones, who was a well known and respected farmer of this community, the father born Feb. 29, 1824, and the mother June 12, 1833. Milo Jones in his boyhood attended the Glasgow school in Gale Township. He has always resided on the homestead his parents settled on, and when 19 years of age became its manager, operating it as such until 1900, at which time he purchased the property. He carries on general farming and stock raising, keeping cattle, hogs and other stock. He is also financially interested in the Farmers' Exchange at Galesville. Mr. Jones is independent in politics, with Republican proclivities, and attends the Presbyterian church. He is unmarried. As a farmer he has been successful, and though not an office holder, he is recognized as a good, reliable citizen, interested in the welfare of the community in which he resides.

Charles F. York, a prosperous farmer residing on a farm of 160 acres in section 26, town 23 north, range 8 west, Hale township, was born on this farm, which he now owns, Nov. 14, 1874, son of Abel and Susan (Pierce) York. The father, born in New York State, April 10, 1827, migrated to Wisconsin, residing for some 20 years in the vicinity of Whitewater. In 1868 he purchased the farm now owned by his son Charles and resided on it subsequently until his death, Nov. 11, 1912. He had been a widower for eight years, as his wife Susan, who was born in New York State in 1836, died on the homestead Sept. 11, 1904. They were the parents of two children: James, who is a carpenter at Black River Falls, Wis., and Charles F. Charles F. York, who in his youth had received a thorough training in agriculture, operated his father's farm on shares from 1895 to 1912, the year of his father's death, at which time he purchased the property, and has since continued farming on it, with remunerative results. He was married, Nov. 10, 1897, to Alice G. Heath, of Hale Township, who was born at Arcadia, Wis., in 1875, and who died Oct. 22, 1899. She was the daughter of Barney and Adella (Briggs) Heath, farming people of Hale Township, and at her death left one child, Iva Alice, who was born Aug. 4, 1898. April 26, 1903, Mr. York married for his second wife Jennie Dean, a school teacher by occupation, who was born in Chimney Rock Township, this county, May 17, 1880. Her parents, Barney and Delia (Hess) Dean, are well known farmers of Hale Township. Mr. and Mrs. York are well known and popular members of the community, having a wide circle of friends in this part of the county.



MR. AND MRS. ABEL YORK
CHARLES F. YORK AND FAMILY

Herbert Duxbury, proprietor of Valley Belle Farm of 173 acres in sections 8 and 17, Preston Township, was born near Hixton, Jackson County, Wis., Aug. 5, 1861. He is a son of Joseph and Sarah Ann (Ashworth) Duxbury, the former of whom was born at Hyde, Cheshire, England, in 1835, son of James and Jane Duxbury. James, who was a weaver by occupation, died in England, and about 1854 his widow, with the other members of the family, came to the United States, locating at Lonsdale, R. I., where she died, and where her son Joseph, father of the subject of this sketch, worked at the weaver's trade, which he had learned in England. In 1855 Joseph joined the tide of westward emigration, coming to Fond du Lac County, Wis., where he remained for about a year. He then went from there to Hixton, Jackson County, this State, but soon returned to Lonsdale, R. I., where he was married in 1858 to Sarah Ann Ashworth. In 1865 he located on a farm near Hixton, Jackson County, Wis., and was engaged in farming there for 35 years, or until 1900. Then removing to Blair, Trempealeau County, he engaged in the livery business there, being thus occupied for three years. In 1904 he retired to Alva Center, where he now lives with his wife. Herbert Duxbury resided at home until the age of 26 years, and gave all his earnings to his father. He learned agriculture on his father's farm and was manager of the Hugh Price farms in Price County, Wis., from 1887 to 1891. He then bought a farm in Garden Valley Township, Jackson County, operating it until 1902, at which time he purchased his present farm in Preston Township, Trempealeau County. Here he is engaged in general agricultural work, breeding graded Brown Swiss cattle, Berkshire hogs and White Orpington chickens, doing a successful business. June 1, 1888, Mr. Duxbury was united in marriage with Julia Grunlien of Northfield Township, Jackson County. She died March 30, 1901, at the age of 36 years, leaving four children: Mrs. Mary Dilworth of Campbell, Minn.; Lyle, now a barber at Blair; Glen and Robert, who reside with their father, and one that died in infancy. Mr. Duxbury married for his second wife, June 28, 1903, Mrs. Dorthea Frederickson, widow of Mathias Frederickson, a farmer of Jackson County. She was born in Norway, June 14, 1864, her family name being Shanke. By her first husband Mrs. Duxbury had eight children: Alice, who died at the age of nine years; Milton, who died at the age of one year; Christian, who resides on the farm with his mother; Reidar, now a student in the State Agricultural College; Milton (second), employed in the C. J. Gibson furniture store at Blair, Wis.; Oscar, who is learning the business of railroad agent at Blair; Gudfreid, who married Lester Sly, a farmer of Jackson County, and Helen, who lives with her mother. By her marriage with Mr. Duxbury three children have been born: Arthur and Harold, who are living on the farm with their parents, and one that died at birth. Mr. Duxbury was elected assessor of the town of Preston in 1916 and re-elected in 1917.

Frank A. Uhl, proprietor of Spring Glenn farm, located in section 36, Gale Township, is one of the leading stockmen in this part of Trempealeau County, his farm being one of the largest and best equipped. He was born here July 26, 1871, son of George and Christina (Harth) Uhl. The father was a native of Germany, born near Frankfort on the Rhine, Oct. 6, 1833.

He came to the United States when 17 years old and for three years resided in the vicinity of Milwaukee. Later he came to Trempealeau County and in 1853 settled on the farm now owned by his son, Frank A., which had been homesteaded by his father, Michael Uhl. Both the grandfather and father of the subject of this sketch died on the farm, as did also the grandmother, Mrs. Michael Uhl. The mother of Frank A., who was born near Milwaukee, Wis., July 2, 1844, is still living, being now a resident of Galesville. When the family first settled here there were no improvements whatever on the place. Michael Uhl homesteaded 160 acres and started the improvements, which were continued by his son and successor George Uhl, who added to the size of the farm until it contained 400 acres. The latter gave his whole attention to this work, taking no part in public affairs. He and his wife had five children, Frank A. being the third born. Frank A. Uhl acquired his education in district school No. 4, Gale Township, and learned agriculture on his home farm under his father's tuition. When he was 21 years old he became manager of the farm, it coming into his possession four years later on the death of his father. Since then he has cleared more of the land and added to the improvements, enlarging the buildings, or erecting new ones, as circumstances required. The farm still contains 400 acres and is a fine piece of agricultural property. Mr. Uhl makes a specialty of breeding Hereford cattle and Percheron horses, of the former keeping about 60 head and of the latter 12. He is also a stockholder in the Arctic Springs Creamery Company and in the Independent Harvester Company of Plano, Ill. His fraternal affiliations include membership in the Beavers, Yeomen and Red Men. May 25, 1898, Mr. Uhl was united in marriage with Sophia O'Neill, who was born in Gale Township, about one mile from the Uhl farm, daughter of James and Mary (Coleman) O'Neill. Her father was born in Ireland in 1812 and her mother in Belfast, Maine, in 1835, they being married near Milwaukee, Wis. Mr. O'Neill came to Trempealeau County about a year before the Uhls, taking a homestead of 160 acres, where he farmed and raised stock until his death. Their daughter, Sophia, who was the eighth born in a family of ten children, was in girlhood a schoolmate of her future husband. Mr. and Mrs. Uhl have one child, Helen Grace, who is now attending the high school at Galesville. Mr. Uhl is a Republican in politics and has served six years as a member of the school board. He and his family attend the Catholic church.

Ole F. Lovlien. One of the best-improved farms of Pigeon Township is that known as Pine Grove Stock Farm, of which Ole F. Lovlien is the proprietor. Mr. Lovlien is a native of this township, having been born on his parents' farm in the southwest quarter of section 33, April 23, 1873. His father, Fred Lovlien, was born in Norway in 1840, and married Guri Nilson. They came to this country and for a number of years made their home on the farm above mentioned, in section 33, where Fred Lovlien died in 1913. His wife is still living on the homestead. Ole F. Lovlien was reared on his parents' farm, on which he resided until reaching the age of 23 years. Then deciding to start in for himself, he purchased his present farm and has since been actively engaged in its cultivation and improvement. It contains 120 acres, two "forties" lying in section 28 and one "forty" in section



MR. AND MRS. FRED O. LOVLIEN AND CHILDREN



OLE F. LOVLIEH AND FAMILY

27, town 23 north, range 7 west. In the work of improving this farm Mr. Lovlien has been highly successful, and his barn and houses are, in particular, excellent buildings. The former, erected in 1905, measures 34 by 64 by 16 feet, with basement, and an addition 22 by 20 feet. The house was built in 1913, and is a brick veneer structure, two stories and basement, containing eight rooms, with oak finish and maple floors downstairs and finished in fir upstairs. It is installed with hot water heat, with hot and cold running water, bath and toilet, and is located in Fuller Cooley in a nice grove of pines, whence it derives its name of "Pine Grove" stock farm. On a hill near the house is a cistern, 10 by 11 feet in diameter, which is filled by a windmill. Mr. Lovlien is a stockholder in the Pigeon Grain and Stock Company and the Whitehall Hospital. For nine years he has been a director of the school board of his district. He was married to Lena Lindberg, who was born in Norway Aug. 11, 1879, daughter of Martin and Johanna (Tosaktil) Lindberg. Her father, born in Norway, April 1, 1847, came to this country in 1883, locating at the head of Fly Creek, on the north side of Preston Township, where he resided until he was killed at Ingram, Wis., Feb. 20, 1906. He had homesteaded his farm and for 18 winters worked in the woods. His wife Johanna, who was born in Norway in 1854, is still living at Fly Creek. Mr. and Mrs. Lovlien have had four children: Oswald, who died when only 6 days old; Mabel, born Sept. 27, 1901, who died July 13, 1915; Oscar, born April 9, 1908, and Gerhard, born Nov. 29, 1911. The family are members of the United Norwegian Lutheran church.

William A. Wyman, manager of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Galesville, was born in Groton Township, Tompkins County, N. Y., Sept. 3, 1852. His parents were Allan R. and Esther (Stron) Wyman, the latter born in the State of New York, Sept. 3, 1831. Allan R. Wyman, who was 5 years older than his wife, was a native of the State of Maine. In 1856 he came to Galesville, Wis., with his family and subsequently became one of the prominent men of the village and the vicinity. He was connected with a machinery business here for a number of years and also carried on farming. A man of unusual energy and determination, he made a strong impress on the community, being a leader or strong supporter of all worthy public enterprises, besides helping to promote the industrial resources of the village. For a long period he was chairman of the village board and township clerk and treasurer; he was for 13 years and up to the time of his death in 1880 county clerk of Trempealeau County, and for a number of years he was treasurer of Gale University.

William A. Wyman was the younger of his parents' two children, and is the only survivor. In his youth he attended school in Galesville, then was a student at Gale College, and later spent a year at La Crosse Business College. When only 16 years old he was given charge of his father's farm and when 24 took a homestead near Madison, S. D., where he resided three years. He soon after went to Baldwin, Wis., in which place also he remained three years, having charge of a sawmill and lumber yard. For the next seven years he was a resident of Amherst, S. D., holding the position of wheat buyer for a large elevator company. The scene of his next industrial efforts was Austin, Minn., where he spent three years. Five

years were subsequently spent in Winnebago, Minn., three as grain buyer for the Peary Elevator Company and two for the Winnebago Milling Company, and while living there he bought grain in Canada for some four years. He then had charge of a Farmers' Elevator in Grenada for 18 months, after which he came to Galesville as manager of the Farmers' Elevator Company. Mr. Wyman has spent the greater part of his life as a grain buyer and thoroughly understands the business. He has never held local office, but in politics is an independent Republican. Mr. Wyman was married Dec. 29, 1880, to Julia Pace, who was born at Beaver Dam, Wis., daughter of William and Lavina (Castle) Pace. Her father, who was born in England, there learned the trade of miller. Coming to the United States, he followed his trade in New York and later at Beaver Dam, Wis., where he lived for a number of years. Thence he went to Oakland, Minn., where he engaged in the milling business. About 1858 he opened the first mill at Austin, Minn., and continued in business there until he was too old to work. Both he and his wife died in Minnesota. They had a family of five children, of whom their daughter Julia was the youngest and is one of the two survivors, the other being Mrs. J. R. Ogden, of Black River Falls. Mr. and Mrs. Wyman have two children: Myrtle G. and Allan W. Myrtle G. is the wife of Thomas Loft and resides in Winnebago, Minn. She has two children: Allan Thomas and Irwin. Allan W. Wyman, who is single, is a resident of Blue Earth, Minn., where he has charge of the grocery department in a general mercantile store. William A. Wyman has been a member of the Masonic order since he was 24 years old and is now a member of Decorah Lodge No. 77. In this he follows the footsteps of his father, who was Master of the Masonic Lodge for a number of years, besides being a member of the Orders of Odd Fellows, Good Templars and the Grange, of Patrons of Husbandry. The latter's wife is living, and resides with her son, the subject of this sketch.

Mattinus J. Skogstad, who is engaged in agriculture on a farm of 185 acres in section 12, Preston Township, was born in Norway, Jan. 20, 1861, son of John B. and Gurie (Peterson) Skogstad. The father was born in Norway May 28, 1827, and emigrated to the United States in 1864, settling in Dane County, Wis., where he remained until 1869. He then homesteaded a farm at Lake's Cooley, in Preston Township, Trempealeau County, where he resided until his death in January, 1913. His wife died in 1904 at the age of 72. Mattinus J. Skogstad was reared on his parents' farm, which he operated for a number of years, afterward farming nine years in Albion Township. Then, in 1906, he bought his present farm, which is a well-improved piece of property, and has since been successfully engaged in its cultivation. Mr. Skogstad was married Feb. 1, 1891, to Josephine Scow, of Arcadia Township, daughter of Matt and Ingeborg Scow, her father being one of the pioneer farmers of that township. Mr. and Mrs. Skogstad are the parents of six children: Margaret, who graduated from the Blair High School in 1912 and later from the La Crosse Business College, and has been a teacher for two years; Maurice and Bennie, residing at home; Laura, who graduated from Arcadia High School in 1916 and is now a teacher, and Irwin and John Lloyd, residing with their parents.



LUDWIG C. OLSON AND FAMILY

Lemuel H. Waller, a resident of Gale Township, who is operating a farm of 235 acres in section 24, was born at Glasgow, this township, June 24, 1870. His father was Hans Waller, and his mother's name before marriage was Martha Maria Braatsvein. Both parents were born in Norway, the father on March 16, 1841, and the mother on June 8, 1831. They were married in Norway, Hans Waller coming first to the United States in 1868, and his wife coming in the following year. They settled in Hardie's Creek Valley, but resided there only a short time, moving to the farm on which their son Lemuel now lives, where Hans Waller died in 1899. His wife died Dec. 21, 1914. They were among the pioneer settlers of their neighborhood. Lemuel H. Walker was the seventh born in a family of eight children. He acquired his elementary education in the school at Glasgow, Gale Township, and afterward attended two winter terms at Gale College. Remaining on the homestead, he followed agriculture, assisting his father until the latter's death, when he became the owner of the property. Here he is engaged in general farming, including dairying and stock raising, and is doing a profitable business. He is a stockholder in the Arctic Springs Creamery, the North Bend Creamery, the Independent Harvester Company, of Plano, Ill., and the Farmers' Elevator Company at Galesville. Mr. Waller has always been a member of the Lutheran church of Hardie's Creek and is much interested in church work. He has served as trustee for the congregation for six years and has been appointed to serve on different committees. In politics he is a Republican. Mr. Waller was married Feb. 24, 1904, to Mary Alice Tucker, daughter of David C. and Margaret (Bibby) Tucker, of Gale Township. He and his wife have six children: Goodwin Edward, Roy Orvald, Sanford Milton, Alice Emeline, Martha Helen and Victoria Maria, all residing at home.

Ludwig C. Olson, who was actively connected with the farming industry of Pigeon Township, as proprietor of Maple Dale Stock Farm, in section 34, town 23 north, range 7 west, was born in Ulensager, Norway, Oct. 24, 1858. His father was Christopher Olson, who was born in Norway in 1829 and who came to the United States in 1870, settling in Dane County, Wis. In 1873 Christopher located in Trempealeau County, homesteading the farm owned and operated by his son Ludwig until the latter's death. He obtained it by buying the relinquishment of the widow of Hans Harralsrud. Here he spent many years in improving the property, tilling the land and erecting buildings, and here he died at an advanced age in January, 1916. His first wife, mother of Ludwig, whose maiden name was Inga Marie Larson, was born in Norway in 1824. She died many years before her husband, passing away in May, 1874. In January of the following year Christopher Olson married for his second wife Mrs. Karen Harralsrud, widow of Hans Harralsrud, from whom he had obtained his farm. She is now living near Whitehall. Ludwig C. Olson at an early age became acquainted with all the various duties of farm life. At the age of 18 he began working out for others and was thus occupied until 1888. He then bought a farm—then containing 160 acres—from his father, he and his brother, Ole C. Harralsrud dividing it between them. In its present condition it is a well-improved piece of property, having a good house and barns. Mr. Olson bred Holstein

cattle, having a herd of about 50 graded animals. He purchased a home in Pigeon Falls, to which he moved in the fall of 1916. He died Jan. 2, 1917. He was married in 1895 to Anna Skumlien, of Fuller Cooley, Pigeon Township, who was born in Vaardahl, Norway, Aug. 5, 1870, daughter of Andrew and Anna (Olson) Skumlien. Her father, a native of Norway, came to America in 1876 with his wife and children, settling in Fuller Cooley, where he bought a farm on which he resided until his death, June 9, 1882. His wife, who was born in Norway in 1848, is still residing on the homestead. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Olson: Agnes Mabel, born Oct. 15, 1895, who married Thoroald Fremstad Oct. 21, 1916; Christine Alette, born Sept. 13, 1897; Lila Anna, born Nov. 9, 1901, who married Benone Foss, July 8, 1916, who is working on the farm of Mrs. Olson; Hazel Othilde, born Nov. 9, 1901, and Olger Clarence, born Dec. 22, 1904. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

Roy E. James, secretary and manager of the Galesville Lumber Company, was born in Alexandria, S. D., March 4, 1883, son of C. P. and Ella (Stebbins) James. C. P. James, the father, was born in the State of New York and was a farmer the greater part of his life. In 1881 he went West to South Dakota, where he resided operating a farm until 1898. He then removed to Michigan, was there two years, and next moved to Monroe, Wis., where he stayed a year. From Monroe he went to Wausau, Wis., in which city he is now residing, operating a large plant for the manufacture of potash. His wife, a native of Pennsylvania, is also living. Roy E. James was the eldest son of his parents' four children. He acquired his education in the public schools in South Dakota, Michigan and Monroe, Wis., and in a business college at Wausau, Wis. At the age of 18 years he was employed as a stenographer in the office of a sawmill at Schofield, Wis., remaining there about five years, after which he was employed two and a half years in a lumber office at Dunbar, Wis. He then went to Wausau, Wis., and for a while was connected with a firm in the same line of business there, but subsequently became sales manager for a large sawmilling concern, with which he remained about 18 months. He next became connected with the W. E. Cooper Lumber Company, of Milwaukee, and has since remained with this concern, of which the Galesville Lumber Company is a branch. He was appointed to his present position as secretary and manager in October, 1912. He is a stockholder in the company and also owns property in Galesville. Aug. 21, 1907, Mr. James was united in marriage with Ida Berger, who was born near Sturgeon Bay, Door County, Wis., daughter of William and Emma (Howard) Berger. The father at different times followed the trades of house painter and cooper and was also engaged in farming. He is now practically retired and resides in Wausau, Wis., where he owns a large ginseng garden and truck farm. Mr. and Mrs. James have two children: Mary Elizabeth and Frank Berger. Mr. James is Master in the local Blue Lodge of Masons, a trustee of the Modern Woodmen of America. He attends the Presbyterian church, but is not a member. In politics he is independent.

Frank J. Hartman, now residing in La Crosse, Wis., is a native son of Trempealeau County, having been born in Arcadia Township, March 7, 1865.

son of Henry and Augusta (Sheldon) Hartman. The father was born in Ohio, March 16, 1839, and came West with his parents in 1856, making the journey by train to Dubuque, Iowa, and from there by boat to Fountain City, Wis., and from Fountain City to "Bishop Settlement," now Arcadia, by ox team. His father, John P. Hartman, homesteaded 160 acres near Arcadia Village. It was wild land with no buildings on it, and the family had a hard time to procure the necessities of life, being often obliged to haul supplies from Fountain City on a hand sled. Mr. Hartman, grandfather of the subject of this sketch, worked with his sons, Philip and Henry, for the father of John Gavney, to earn foodstuffs. Henry Hartman was 17 years of age when he came to Trempealeau County, and he had to make himself useful on the farm and help his parents in various ways. In 1864, when 25 years old, he was married in Iowa to Augusta Sheldon, who was born in Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County, N. Y., March 8, 1840, a daughter of Benjamin Sheldon. It was not until 1869, however, that Henry Hartman began farming for himself; in the meanwhile he lived on the parents' farm, except for his trip to Iowa, where he obtained his bride. When he started in for himself he bought 160 acres of land in Wickham Valley, between Arcadia and Independence, and here he remained for 14 years, engaged in developing his farm, transforming it in time into a good piece of agricultural property. In 1883 he rented the farm to Wilber Wickham and moved to East Arcadia, where he and his family lived for 10 years. Selling the above-mentioned farm in 1892, he bought one near Alma Center in the following year, which he lived on and worked for ten years. He then sold this farm and retired to a home that he built in Alma Center, where he and his wife resided till 1914, in which year they sold the residence and moved to Spokane, Wash., where they are now living with their son Howard. Their children were: Myrtle, born May 31, 1866, who was married in 1889 to Claud Higbee and is now residing with her husband at Whitepine, Mont.; Cora, born Feb. 13, 1868, who died unmarried at Alma Center, June 13, 1913; Howard, born May 2, 1873, now living in Spokane, Wash., where he is engaged in railroading; Bert, born March 7, 1881, who is a druggist at Eleva, Wis., and Frank J., of La Crosse. All the children were born in Trempealeau County. Frank J. Hartman in his youth attended the common schools and the Arcadia High School, from which he was graduated in 1887, subsequently teaching one winter in Sieger district, Trempealeau County. In the year of his graduation he entered the employ of the Holway Lumber Company, of North La Crosse, and remained with them as time keeper and clerk for three and a half years, being in the mill during the summers and in the woods during the winters. From October, 1890, to April, 1898, he held the position of hardware clerk with the W. P. Massuere Company. On July 4, 1892, the day on which the wagon bridge across the Mississippi River at Winona was dedicated, Mr. Hartman was married in that city to Cora A., daughter of John and Nancy (Frey) Danuser, of Fountain City, the Rev. Mr. Higbee, pastor of the Baptist church, officiating. They began house-keeping in Arcadia Village, where they lived until 1898, in which year Mr. Hartman went to Eleva and engaged in the hardware business, being thus occupied until 1913. He and his family then moved to Onalaska, where his

son Cecil was attending the high school. In the following year, 1914, he moved to La Crosse and entered the employ of the Tausch Hardware Company, with which concern he is still connected. He and his wife have had three children, of whom two daughters died in infancy. The son, Cecil, was born in Arcadia, Aug. 5, 1895, and after passing through the graded school of Eleva, attended the Onalaska High School. Mr. Hartman is not active in politics, but votes the Republican ticket. He is a prosperous business man and has not lost his interest in his old home in Trempealeau County.

Iver A. Berg, garage owner at Blair, Trempealeau County, Wis., was born in Preston Township, this county, Aug. 24, 1886, son of Arne I. and Eli (Arneson) Berg. He attended the district schools, was reared to farm pursuits by his father, and remained at home until February, 1916, when he engaged in his present business. His garage occupies a suitable two-story building, 44 by 72 feet, on the corner of Broadway and Dover streets. He has a well-equipped plant, including a machine shop, with a steam vulcanizer and tools suitable for all kinds of repairing. A full line of supplies are always on hand. He has the agency for the Studebaker cars and does livery work at reasonable prices. He was married, July 29, 1916, to Emma Briggs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Briggs.

Joachim Schmidt, a pioneer of Gale Township, Trempealeau County, now deceased, was born in Mecklenberg-Schwerin, Germany, in 1827, and was there educated and reared to manhood. There also he was married to Sophia Engel, who was born in the same province in 1825. Seeking a wider field of opportunity, with better prospects of success, in November, 1866, they said good-bye to their native land and came to the United States, locating in Gale Township, this county. In March, 1868, Mr. Schmidt took a homestead in section 19, and he and his wife set to work at once to improve the land and better their condition; a task involving persevering industry continued through a long period of years, but which was finally accomplished. Mr. Schmidt's honesty and activity were supplemented by the energy and womanly qualities of his wife, and they won the esteem of the neighbors, which they retained to the end of their lives. Mr. Schmidt died on the homestead in 1896, his wife surviving him until 1907, when she, too, passed away. They were the parents of three children: Joachim J., who after living on the home farm for nearly 50 years is now retired and residing in Galesville; Sophia, now the wife of Christ Kroger, a prominent farmer of Tipton, Iowa, and Henry who is a representative agriculturist of Geneva, Nebraska.

Joachim J. Schmidt, now living retired in the city of Galesville, was born in Mecklenberg-Schwerin, Germany, Dec. 1, 1865, son of Joachim and Sophia (Engel) Schmidt. In 1866 he was brought to America by his parents, who located at once in Trempealeau County. He was educated in the district schools and was reared to agricultural pursuits, remaining on the home farm and working for and with his father until his marriage in 1889, at which time he became proprietor and manager of the homestead. To him are due some of the most modern improvements on it, including a good and substantial set of buildings, with all subsidiary equipment. His operations included general farming and stock raising, which he carried



MR. AND MRS. JOACHIM SCHMIDT, SR.
JOACHIM SCHMIDT, JR., AND FAMILY



on with satisfactory results, becoming one of the leading and substantial agriculturists of Trempealeau County. His business interests also identify him as a stockholder in the Arctic Springs Creamery at Galesville. In the spring of 1917, after living for nearly 50 successive years on the old homestead, he sold out and retired to Galesville, where he and his wife are now living, surrounded by the comforts gained by years of hard labor on the farm. Their farm was beautifully located in section 19, Gale Township, and consisted of 230 acres. Mr. Schmidt was married, April 17, 1889, to Sophia Wangelin, who was born near Princeton, Ill., Jan. 11, 1870, daughter of John and Wilhelmina (Schmidt) Wangelin, her parents being natives of Mecklenberg, Germany. John Wangelin came to the United States in 1863, locating in Illinois. In 1868 Wilhelmina Schmidt came, and they were married in Illinois in 1869. Three years later, in 1872, Mr. Wangelin moved to Nebraska, taking a homestead in Fillmore County, where he engaged in general farming, becoming a representative and influential citizen. He died there in 1910, and his wife now resides in Geneva, Neb. Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt became the parents of two children: Emma, born in 1890, who died in infancy, and Bertha W., born in 1892, who is living at home with her parents. The family are attendants of the Presbyterian church. In politics Mr. Schmidt is an independent Republican.

Fred Hagen, who is aiding in developing the agricultural resources of Gale Township on his farm of 104 acres in section 5, was born at Lillehammer, Norway, July 11, 1870, son of Simon and Ingeborg Hagen. The father was a mechanic and neither he nor his wife ever left their native land. Both are now deceased. Fred Hagen was the fifth born in a family of six children. He attended school in Norway and began regular industrial life at the age of 17 years. In 1893 he joined the tide of westward emigration and, landing in the United States, proceeded to Iowa, where he worked as a farmer in Ward County for about three years. He then spent a winter in Trempealeau County, Wis., but at the time did not settle here permanently, going instead to Dodge County, Minn., where he worked as a farm hand for about seven years. Then returning to Trempealeau County, he rented a farm in Gale Township, having previously rented one for three years in Minnesota, and went to farming for himself here. Eight years later, having saved money, he bought his present farm of 104 acres, on which he has since been engaged in general farming and stock raising. His property is well improved and he is enjoying a well-earned prosperity, being also a stockholder in the Farmers' Telephone Company. Mr. Hagen was married, Oct. 10, 1902, to Clara Dahl, who was born in Gale Township, daughter of Gustave and Len Dahl. Her parents, both now living in this township, are natives of Norway, the father being a retired farmer. Mrs. Hagen died Oct. 26, 1911, leaving three children: Stanley, born Sept. 14, 1903; Lester, born July 20, 1905, and Norman, born Nov. 8, 1908. The family are members of the Lutheran church at French Creek, and in politics Mr. Hagen is a Republican. When he first came to this country he was entirely ignorant of the English language, but acquired it quickly, considering his opportunities, and has since carved his way to a position of comparative prosperity, with good prospects for the future.

Johanas N. Brenengen, who is engaged in farming a tract of 40 acres in section 33 west, Ettrick Township, was born near Christiania, Norway, July 12, 1864, son of Nels C. and Nettie (Johnson) Brenengen. The family came to Trempealeau County in June, 1880, locating in Gale Township and in Ettrick Township. Nels C. Brenengen worked for awhile at the carpenter's trade, which he had learned in his native land. Afterwards he engaged in farming and was thus occupied for the most part until his death in October, 1904. His wife survived him only ten days. They had a family of seven children. Johanas N. Brenengen attended school in Norway and also the Smith school in Gale Township, being 13 years of age when he came to this country. He began industrial life as a farm hand in Abraham's Cooley, Trempealeau County, and worked for others until 20 years of age. For ten years longer he resided with his father on the homestead, and then, when 30 years old, bought the farm, which then contained 160 acres, of which he has since sold 120 acres. He carries on general farming and is a stockholder in the Ettrick Telephone Company. June 14, 1902, Mr. Brenengen was married to Anna Nelson, who was born in Preston Township, Trempealeau County, Wis., at Plumb Creek Cooley, daughter of Knut Field and Mattie (Learing) Field. Her parents, born in Biri, Norway, came to America about 1884, locating in Preston Township, this county, where her father at first worked out for others, but afterwards bought a farm in that township, on which he still resides. He and his wife had nine children, of whom their daughter Anna was the fifth in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Brenengen have a family of two children: Clarence Norman, born Feb. 1, 1906, and Alfred Meier, born June 25, 1910. The family are members of the Lutheran church. Mr. Brenengen is an independent voter and is not politically active, preferring to devote his attention to his private business. He is in good circumstances and is counted among the reliable citizens of his neighborhood.

Olaf M. Myhre, of the firm of Berg & Myhre, garage owners of Blair, was born in Preston Township, this county, June 7, 1882, son of Ole H. and Caroline (Berg) Myhre, natives of Norway, the former of whom died in 1908, and the latter of whom now lives in Northfield, Wis. He attended the district schools, was reared to farm pursuits, and remained at home until 1912. Then he farmed for himself in Ettrick Township. In February, 1916, he engaged in his present business. He is an energetic and public spirited man, and is building up a successful business. Mr. Myhre was married Nov. 18, 1912, to Mabel Mow of Preston Township, and they have three children: Verna, Erwin and Edna.

Rev. Christian Brandt Bestul, pastor of several Lutheran congregations in Trempealeau County, and a member of the official board of Gale College, was born near Morrisville, Wis., Nov. 13, 1870. His parents were John E. and Ingeborg (Brandt) Bestul, both natives of Norway, the father born in Telemarken in 1828, and the mother in Valdres in 1826. They were married in Wisconsin in 1855, John E. Bestul coming to the United States in 1844, in which year came also his father, Ellef J. Bestul. Later John located in the Rock River settlement near Milwaukee, the father also locating in that vicinity, and was there for several years engaged in farming.



REV. AND MRS. CHRISTIAN B. BESTUL

In 1853 John T. Bestul, father of Ellef J. and great-grandfather of the subject of this memoir, came to America. He was then an aged man of 90 years and died in the same year. In 1860 John E. Bestul removed to Columbia County, Wisconsin, and there continued his agricultural operations until his death, which occurred in 1878, when the subject of this sketch was eight years old. His widow, after living there a year longer, removed with her family to Shawano County, Wisconsin, which place was her home for six years. The last thirty-seven years of her life she lived with her children in this and adjoining states. She died May 20, 1917, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Rev. E. Berrum, Holmen, Wis.

Christian Brandt Bestul was the youngest and the only boy of his parents' eight children. He attended school at Wittenberg, Wis., and subsequently became a student at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, being graduated from that institution with the class in 1893. His theological education was obtained at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., where he spent three years, finishing there in 1896. After graduating in theology he became pastor of a Lutheran church at Marshfield, Wis., where he remained one year. His next charge was at Viroqua, as assistant to the president of the Eastern District of the Norwegian Synod, and covered a period of four years. In 1901 he became pastor of the Lutheran congregation at French Creek, Trempealeau County, and has since held that position, also serving the congregations at Hardie's Creek, South Branch of Beaver Creek, Tamarac and Fagerness. There are 130 families in the French Creek congregation, and in that of Hardie's Creek, which is the smallest, 44 families. Since the transfer of Gale College to the Lutherans, Mr. Bestul has served as secretary of the board and assisted in establishing the college on a Lutheran basis. He was secretary of the Church Extension Board nine years and for a similar period of time was a member of the Board of Home Missions. His whole time is devoted to church and educational work, in which he has shown an ability that has made him a power for good in his denomination. On June 27, 1900, Mr. Bestul was united in marriage with Harriet Halvorsen, who was born at Westby, Vernon County, Wis., daughter of Halvor and Marie (Olson) Halvorsen. Her parents were both born in Norway, the father in Stavanger in 1845, and the mother in Christiania in 1846. Married in their native land in 1871, they came to the United States in the following year, locating at Westby, Wis., where Mr. Halvorsen became pastor of the Lutheran Synod Church, a position which he still retains. The entire period of his residence in this country has been spent in church work. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Halvorsen consisted of eight children, of whom Harriet was the fourth in order of birth. She was educated at the Ladies' Lutheran Seminary at Red Wing, Minn., and the high school at Viroqua, Wis., and is a lady of culture and refinement and an able assistant to her husband in parish work. Mr. and Mrs. Bestul are the parents of eight children: Marie Ingeborg, Harold Brandt, Valborg Elizabeth, Erling Johan, Harriet Ragna, Christian Wilhelm, Signe Emelie and Anna Matilda. The family residence is in section 27, Ettrick Township.

Sever Instenes, who was for many years a well known and successful farmer of Ettrick Township, was born in Hardanger, Norway, Oct. 23,

1848, son of Johanes and Anna (Brovald) Instenes. Johanes and his family came from Norway in 1861, and first located in Dane County, Wisconsin, where he remained one year. As he was born March 20, 1824, he was then a man of about 37 years, and in the prime of life. Coming from Dane to Trempealeau County, he settled on a farm in Ettrick Township, where nearly 20 years later his wife Anna died, on Jan. 7, 1882. There he continued to reside for 28 years longer, or until his death, which occurred March 21, 1910. He was a sturdy pioneer farmer, who accepted conditions as he found them and did his share in developing the agricultural resources of his township. Sever Instenes was a youth of 14 years when he came to this country. He was reared on the home farm, acquiring a good knowledge of agriculture from practical experience, and following it when young under pioneer conditions. In time he succeeded to the possession of the farm which his father had homesteaded, and which he still further improved, operating it successfully until his death, Jan. 14, 1906. On Oct. 22, 1872, he was united in marriage at Roche a Cri, Adams County, Wis., to Anna Instenes, who was born in Hardanger, Norway, Nov. 26, 1854. She is still living on the old farm, making her home with her son John S., who is its present owner. Sever and Anna Instenes were the parents of three children: Anna, John S. and Lewis O. Anna, who was born Nov. 13, 1873, was married June 4, 1898, to Albert Saed, a resident of Ettrick Township, this county, and has two children: Althord Sullivan, born June 29, 1904, and Adella (Corinthia), born July 23, 1906. John S., born June 20, 1876, is now, as previously mentioned, operating the old homestead. Lewis O., born Nov. 25, 1880, is a jeweler, residing in Blair.

John S. Instenes, who is successfully operating the old Instenes farm of 200 acres in Ettrick Township, was born on this farm June 20, 1876, son of Sever and Anna (Instenes) Instenes. In his boyhood he attended the Beach school in Ettrick Township. Brought up on the home farm, he assisted his father in its operation, but at intervals was away from home, working elsewhere. On his father's death in 1906 he came into possession of the farm, on which he has made a number of valuable improvements, and now has very good buildings, including a nice modern residence. Besides carrying on general farming on a profitable basis, he is interested financially as a stockholder in the Ettrick Creamery, the Ettrick Telephone Company and the Farmers Exchange of Blair. On May 28, 1908, Mr. Instenes was united in marriage with Anna Herreid, daughter of Tosten G. and Ragnhild (Bue) Herreid, prosperous farming people of section 17, Ettrick Township. He and his wife are the parents of two children: Evelyn Jeanette, born Aug. 29, 1912, and Spencer Thomas, born Jan. 2, 1916. They have also an adopted daughter, Clara Olive, born May 11, 1906, who is attending school. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church. Mr. Instenes is independent in politics. He is a member of the order of Beavers, and is an enterprising agriculturist, widely known and respected.

Lewis O. Instenes, who is prosperously engaged in the jewelry business in Blair, Trempealeau County, is a native of this county, having been born in Ettrick Township, Nov. 25, 1880, son of Sever and Anna (Instenes)

Instenes. He was educated in the district schools and spent his early life on his parents' farm. Graduating from the Minneapolis School of Watchmaking in 1905, he acquired experience by working in various shops until he came to Blair in 1907. Here he bought out the jewelry stock of Ed. Bersing and established his present business. He handles a general line of jewelry, does expert watch repairing, and also deals in clocks, silverware, Edison phonographs and similar goods. He has built up a good trade and won the confidence of his patrons by honest dealing and courteous attention to their wants. Thus established on a firm basis, his future prospects are as favorable as his present prosperity is gratifying. Mr. Instenes was married Oct. 5, 1910, to Nettie Dale, who was born in Ettrick Township, Jan. 12, 1885, daughter of Sam and Catherine (Herreid) Dale. Her father, a native of Norway, was a pioneer of Ettrick Township, and is now carrying on business as a stock buyer in Galesville. Mr. and Mrs. Instenes have two children: Stanley LeRoy, born Sept. 2, 1911, and Ardyce Catherine, born March 22, 1916.

John W. Nash, proprietor of a good farm in section 1, Trempealeau Township, was born in Du Page County, Illinois, Jan. 13, 1851, son of Isaac and Anna Nash. The parents were natives of New York state, the father born at New Lisbon, Otsego County, Feb. 18, 1810, and the mother in Hartford, May 21, 1811. They were married in Hanover, Chautauqua County, N. Y., Nov. 25, 1832. In 1837 they came west and from that time until 1854 resided at different times in various sections of Illinois. In May, 1854, Isaac Nash came to Wisconsin and in September of that year brought his family from Illinois with an ox team, locating in section 1, Trempealeau County, where he bought 100 acres of timbered government land, on which there were no buildings. For a residence he erected a single-room log house, which the family of eight occupied, the subject of this sketch being then between three and four years of age. Mr. Nash began the work of clearing his farm at once, but at first made slow progress, as he was poor and had to work out for means to support his family. The log house was occupied for 12 years, and then, in 1866, Mr. Nash sold the farm and bought another of 120 acres just north of West Prairie schoolhouse. This land was partially improved, there being a small clearing, together with a frame house and stable. Here Isaac Nash resided until 1871, in which year, in the spring, he sold out and went to Nebraska, where he and his wife spent the rest of their lives. Mrs. Nash was the first to pass away, her death taking place Feb. 14, 1882, and his, Nov. 30, 1883. Joel W. Nash, who accompanied his parents to Nebraska, remained in that state till March, 1884, and then came back to Wisconsin. After his return he resided in La Crosse until July, 1885, and then rented a farm in Trempealeau Township, which he operated until 1887. He then removed to the "Bell Farm" in section 3, this township. In the winter of 1888 he purchased 40 acres of improved land in section 1 E, which place is his present home. There was a frame house on the farm, in which he lived until 1915, when he erected a comfortable cottage in the same yard, his son Gustave and family moving into the older building, and he taking up his residence in the cottage. In 1904 he built a good frame barn, 32 by 60 feet, and has also put up a

granary, 14 by 20, a machine shed, 16 by 30, and a poultry house, 12 by 14 feet. Mr. Nash was married, June 23, 1884, at the home of his bride's parents, by the Rev. Mr. Ivert, Evangelical pastor, to Lydia, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Staublein of Buffalo County, Wis. He and his wife have one child, the son Gustave above mentioned, who was born at Centerville, Wis., Jan. 30, 1886, and who is now operating the home farm. Gustave married Ida Myer of Winona, Minn., and they have one child, Myrtle. Mr. Nash and his son carry on general farming, having 60 acres under the plow and 60 in pasture land. They keep from 12 to 15 grade cows and as many graded hogs, and have an ample equipment of tools, machinery, teams and whatever is necessary to the successful operation of a modern farm. Mr. Nash is a Republican in politics, but has not served in public office. He and his wife are members of Centerville M. E. Church, Mrs. Nash belonging to the King's Daughters.

Walter D. Young, proprietor of Decorah Valley Stock Farm, located in section 33, town 19, range 8, just outside the city limits of Galesville, formerly known as the Sterns homestead, was born in the town of Melrose, Jackson County, Wis., Aug. 22, 1863. He lived at the old home until 1891, when he was married to Miss Belle Baird, and they moved to their present home. Mr. Young is of German parentage. His grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Young, came to this country from Saxony Meiningen, Germany, in 1847. There were six children besides the parents when they came to America. They settled at Bloomfield, Walworth County, Wis., and took up farming, which was their occupation in Germany. They crossed the ocean in a sailing vessel, which took 41 days. They did not purchase any land until they emigrated to Burr Oak, La Crosse County, Wis. At this time the six children—three sons and three daughters—were grown to manhood and womanhood, and all emigrated with their parents overland with oxen, driving their cattle with them, and loading all other belongings on the wagons drawn by four oxen each. It took them 14 days to make the trip. Yust D. Young, father of Walter D. Young, was born in Germany in 1837 and died at Melrose, Jackson County, Wis., March 14, 1897. He was the eldest son of Morris Young and a pioneer in this part of the country. After helping his parents hew out a home in the new country, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Williams, and in 1862 they started to build a home in the town of Melrose, Jackson County, Wis. Taking 80 acres of land as nature gave it, they transformed it into a successful and prosperous farm home of 240 acres by additional purchases. Mr. Yust D. Young was a progressive farmer in his day. He was one of the first to adopt diversified farming and rotation of crops, and also owned one of the first twine binders, which was considered extravagant in those days, as it cost \$265. Game being plentiful, it was his custom to kill a couple of deer each fall for his winter meat. He very seldom had to go more than a mile to get them. There were from four to twenty in a drove. Bear meat was also indulged in. He was a respected citizen and served his county in local affairs. His wife Elizabeth was born in Saxe Meiningen, Germany, Nov. 13, 1836. She came to America at the age of twenty, was married to Yust D. Young in 1862; she died Nov. 17, 1910. She was the mother of three children living:



MORRIS HANSON

Walter D. Young, Milton M. Young and Libbie S. Petterson. She was a kind and good mother, always willing and ready to sacrifice herself for the good of others and did her work nobly in building of a new country. Belle E. Baird, wife of Walter D. Young, was born Jan. 16, 1861, She is of Scottish parentage. Her father, John Baird, was born in Glasgow, Scotland, Sept. 27, 1830. He came to America in 1852, locating in Pennsylvania, where he worked in the mines. Later he moved to Big Sandy, Kentucky, where he was married to Miss Elizabeth Willson. In 1857 they moved to North Bend, Jackson County, Wis., and took up farming as their occupation, which Mr. Baird followed until several years before his death on May 1, 1910. He knew much of the trials of the early pioneer. Having followed mining until he was 27 years old, he had many difficulties to contend with in his new chosen field—farming. As a pioneer he was equal to the occasion. He acquired a nice farm, which he sold to his youngest son, John Baird, at his death. He was an honored citizen, one of the charter members of the Presbyterian church at North Bend. He was noted for his musical talent and led the singing in church for years before either organ or choir were installed. Mrs. Elizabeth Baird was born in Scotland April 6, 1833, and came to America with her parents in 1841. She was the mother of six children and is still living at this writing, Sept. 1, 1917. She and her brother Willie Willson, six years her senior, have the distinction of being two of the old pioneers still living. She was a kind and loving mother and knows much of the early pioneer life. Walter D. Young and wife moved onto their present farm in the spring of 1891. The farm was badly run down. The soil had been depleted of its fertility by continuous cropping for over 30 years. The buildings were badly dilapidated, as it had been occupied by renters for most of that time. Mr. Young began at once to build up the soil by rotation of crops, including clover, feeding the same to stock, and also fattening sheep for the spring market, which practice he still continues. This farm is now considered one of the best in the town of Gale and the buildings are all modern, having been erected in recent years. Mr. Young has always taken a prominent part in church, school and local town matters, having held offices in the various organizations, but devoting his entire time in working hours to the management of his farm. He and his wife have five children: Roy D., Alvin W., Ralph E., Vilas D. and Hazel E. All have graduated from the Galesville high school but Hazel, who expects to graduate in 1920.

Morris Hanson, register of deeds of Trempealeau County, was born at Blair, this county, April 1, 1864, son of Martin and Olia (Stuterud) Hanson, natives of Norway. The father, born at Soler, Norway, came to America in 1862, settling in Blair, where he became a highly respected citizen, being a member and trustee of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church. He died Sept. 5, 1912, at the age of 77 years. His wife, to whom he was married in Norway, died in 1896 at the age of 53. They had a large family of 13 children, of whom nine are now living. Morris Hanson, who was the third born child in the family, remained at home until 1887, and then began to work out. He attended business college at La Crosse one year, and in 1890 found employment in a general store in Blair, remain-

ing with the firm seven years. He then became a partner in the firm of Halvorson, Hanson & Co., general merchants of Blair, and was thus occupied until 1910. In the fall of 1912, having by this time become widely known and respected, he was elected to the office of registrar of deeds, and was re-elected in the fall of 1914. He has devoted a considerable part of his time to the public service, as he was a member of the village council of Blair for 10 years, being president one year, and was clerk of the Blair school board four years. Aside from his present occupation he is a stockholder in the Home Bank of Blair. Mr. Hanson was married Sept. 9, 1891, to Lena Halvorson, who was born in Blair, Wis., May 9, 1866, daughter of Nels and Turi (Newland) Halvorson. The father, who was a farmer, was a native of Norway, came to America in 1855 and took a homestead about two miles east of Blair. He died in 1912 at the age of 78 years. His wife died in 1913 at the age of 72. Mr. and Mrs. Hanson have five children: Verna, a graduate of Stevens Point normal school, who is now a teacher in the sixth grade at Waterloo, Iowa; Edna, also a graduate of Stevens Point normal school, and a teacher in domestic science at Mukwanogo, Wis.; Mendez, assistant cashier in Trempealeau Valley State Bank at Taylor, Jackson County, Wis.; Dagna and Donald, residing at home. Mr. Hanson belongs to the Independent Order of Foresters, and he and his family are members of the United Lutheran Church.

Gilbert S. Rice, manager of the Auto Sales Co. of Whitehall, has developed that institution into one of the most important industries in the village. Efficient in his chosen line, affable of manner, and keenly interested in public affairs, he has taken his place as one of the public spirited citizens of the county, and his influence has ever been used in behalf of progress and betterment. He is a native of this county, born on Trempealeau Prairie, Jan. 11, 1872. His father, Tracy E. Rice, was born in New York state, came to Trempealeau County in the early days, and here married Ellen G. Hanson; he died many years ago, and his widow, who married Christian Everson, now lives in Lincoln Township. The subject of this sketch was educated in the schools of Whitehall, and devoted his early life to farm pursuits. Since boyhood, however, he has been interested in machinery, and in 1895 the opportunity came to enter his chosen line by embarking in the implement business at Whitehall. With the development of the automobile industry he saw a still wider opportunity, and late in 1910 organized the Auto Sales Co. For a time he was president and manager, but as the business grew he retired from the presidency to devote all his time to the active management. Busy as he has been with his life work, he has found time for public service, and has given general satisfaction at different times as village president, village clerk and village treasurer. His business holdings include stock in the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Independence. Mr. Rice was married May 30, 1895, to Ida O. Wold, born in this county, a daughter of Ole O. and Kari (Bang) Wold, both now deceased. Their happy home has been blessed with six children: Tracy O., born May 18, 1896; Kathryn I., born April 14, 1898; Elsie V., born July 10, 1900; Evelyn M., born Jan. 13, 1904; Donald O., born April 14, 1906, and Marion, born March 12, 1914.



GILBERT S. RICE AND FAMILY



A. W. ANDERSON

The Auto Sales Co. is one of the most important business concerns in Whitehall. The company occupies its own sightly building, located in a commanding position, and has an extensive trade not only in Whitehall and Blair, but also throughout a wide territory in the rural districts. The building is two stories in height, with a full basement, equipped with an elevator, and all the latest appliances for auto repairing. In the basement are stored the oils, gasoline, tires and heavy equipment. The first floor is devoted to the salesrooms and offices. The top floor is used for repairing and for carrying the stock. The concern employs an expert staff of mechanics, headed by the manager, Gilbert S. Rice. A full line of accessories is carried. The company does a large business in Ford automobiles, and is constantly demonstrating and selling these machines. The Auto Sales Co. was organized Dec. 15, 1910, by Gilbert S. Rice, with a capital of \$6,000, Mr. Rice being the president and manager and Charles B. Melby the secretary and treasurer. The present officers are: President, F. D. Hopkins; secretary, F. A. George; treasurer, E. L. Immell; manager, Gilbert S. Rice.

Andrew W. Anderson resides on section 26, town of Lincoln, where he settled in 1870, when but little improvement had been made there. Mr. Anderson was born in 1836. In 1848 his father, Gilbert Anderson, emigrated to the United States with his family, except the subject of this sketch, who came six years later. The family settled in the town of Blue Mound in Dane County, Wis. The family made their home there until the year 1870, when they came to Trempealeau County. Here the parents lived till death. In 1854 Mr. Andrew W. Anderson, who was the only one of the family who had remained in Norway, came to this country. He went to Dane County, where the family was living. There he remained until 1859. At this time the gold excitement at Pike's Peak was at its height, and Mr. Anderson with many others decided to go to that place. He numbered one of a party of five young men who started from Dane County, and all reached Denver in safety. He continued in Denver engaged in work till the spring of 1863, when in company of five, though not the company who had gone with him to Denver, started with team and wagon for Virginia City, Nevada, but on reaching that place decided to continue to San Francisco, which they reached in safety after a long and eventful journey. He stayed there until spring of 1864, and then he went to Boise City, Idaho, where he stayed a short time, when the excitement occurred regarding the Alder Creek Mines in Montana, when he left there and went to what is now Helena, Mont. There he remained until 1870, when he returned. Going from Helena to Fort Benton, he descended the Missouri River on a steamer to Sioux City, when he crossed the state of Iowa, and thus returned home. Soon after his return to Dane County he came here and brought his father's family with him. The subject of this sketch is the oldest son, and the oldest but one of his father's family. Mr. Anderson bought his farm of Elder Aldrich. He has 160 acres. He was married in 1870 to Julia Evenson, native of Norway. They have an adopted daughter, Clara Solberg. She is now Mrs. Gustav Thompson of Donaldson, Minn. She has two children: George T. and Marie A. One daughter,

Lena Maria, born in 1871, died at age of ten months. Mr. Anderson is one of the representative men of his town. He has a pleasant home, etc. He has had much experience with the world. His trip to the Pacific coast in the early days, before the railroad had crossed the continent, was fraught with events and incidents of much interest. In his political affiliations Mr. Anderson, as is the entire family, is a Republican, and is a warm advocate of the principles of that party. Mr. Anderson is numbered among the progressive and public-spirited citizens of Trempealeau County.

Ever B. Anderson, who is operating a good farm of 160 acres in Lincoln Township, was born in Dane County, Wisconsin, Oct. 30, 1863, son of Bennett and Ellen (Everson) Anderson, and grandson of Gilbert and Ingeborg (Fladegaard) Anderson. Like all boys of the early days he grew up on the parental farm and acquired his education at the district schoolhouse. Remaining at home until 24 years of age, he then engaged in farming for himself in Lincoln Township, near Independence, and there followed agricultural operations until 1904. Selling his farm that year he moved to his present one, which he still operates. This farm was owned and operated for many years by A. W. Anderson (an uncle of Ever B.), or until his death, Sept. 10, 1902. Mr. Anderson's farm is well improved and bespeaks thrift and good judgment of its owner. His stock is of the Durham grade breed, numbering about 35 head. Mr. Anderson is a man of good judgment and ability and the family are highly respected in the county. Mr. Anderson was married Dec. 15, 1890, to Carrie Evenson, then of Arcadia Township. She was born in Dane County, Wisconsin, July 5, 1866, daughter of Peter and Maria Evenson, early settlers of Trempealeau County. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have seven children: Ellen M., born Oct. 22, 1891, is now Mrs. George A. Anderson. She and her husband reside on a farm in Long Lake Township, Washburn County, Wis. They have one child, Hans A. Palma B., born Dec. 2, 1893; Gerald A., born Oct. 2, 1896; Ina E., born Oct. 28, 1898; Clark E., born May 6, 1901; Robert W., born March 13, 1903, and Ruth L., born May 2, 1908, are all residing at home. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

Bennett Anderson, deceased, one of the early settlers of Trempealeau County, was born in Valdres, Norway. In 1868 he brought his family to Trempealeau County from Dane County and established himself as a farmer in Arcadia Township, being one of the earliest settlers in that neighborhood. He labored early and late and under these conditions prospered. He became one of the representative farmers of Trempealeau County, remaining on his farm until his death, Feb. 15, 1902. He was married to Ellen Everson, who still survives and resides on the old homestead in Arcadia Township. They had a family of nine children, as follows: Inger Maria, who became Mrs. H. O. Wold and the mother of one child, Oscar B. Wold (she passed away in 1893); Gabriel, who died at the age of seven years; Ever B. and C. H., farmers in Lincoln Township; Sarah A., who died at the age of ten years; Gabriel, second, residing on the old homestead in Arcadia Township, who married Julia Nelson and has four children: Bennett O., Irene E., Carrie M. and Goodwin J.; Carrie, who died in 1914; Edward, a resident of the state of Washington, and Polly A., wife of Henry Amundson,

who resides in Ostrander, Minn., and has three children: Sidney B., Cyril W. and Madeline M.

Gilbert Anderson and his good wife, Ingeborg Fladegaard, natives of Norway, were among the early people of that hardy race who have done so much to better the agricultural conditions of America, coming to the American land at a very early date. On reaching this country they found their means exhausted when they had got as far west as Milwaukee, but undaunted they set out with an ox team, proceeding to Dane County, where they settled. The elder members of the family, including Gilbert's aged mother, about 80 years, had walked the entire distance. They were ambitious God-fearing people, being representative and prosperous. Both are now deceased. They were the parents of Ever B. and Charles H. Anderson, who are representative farmers of Lincoln Township, this county.

Peter Evenson, deceased, was born in Norway and was there educated and grew to manhood. He was married in Norway to Maria Dahl. In 1854 they sailed for America, settling that same year in Dane County, Wisconsin, near Blue Mounds, where they resided until 1870. They then came to Trempealeau County, where they became representative and influential farmers. The wife Maria passed away on the farm, July 12, 1893. Mr. Evenson then made his home with his daughter, Mrs. E. B. Anderson, until his lamented death, Aug. 2, 1901. They were the parents of nine children, of whom but two, Julia and Carrie, are now living. Julia is the widow of A. W. Anderson and resides with the E. B. Anderson family on the old farm now owned by E. B. Anderson, and of which her lamented husband was for many years owner and operator. Carrie is now Mrs. E. B. Anderson. The other children: Even, Erik, Mathias, Edward, Edward (2d), Mary and Carrie, all of whom died in infancy.

Eugene J. Kidder., who for a number of years has served as clerk of the Circuit Court for Trempealeau County, was born in Sauk County, Wisconsin, Feb. 13, 1859, son of Pomeroy and Lucy (Scott) Kidder. About 1862, when the subject of this sketch was a small boy, his father died, as the result of an accident while engaged in rafting lumber down the Trempealeau River, their home at that time was Sechlerville, Jackson County, Wis. In the spring of 1863 they moved to Trempealeau County, where they have since resided. The mother subsequently married Oscar F. Harlow, a wagon maker of Whitehall. By the first marriage there were three children: Ada A. Kidder (deceased), Eugene J. Kidder and W. S. Kidder (deceased), of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth. The only child of the second marriage was William E. Harlow, who is now engaged in the automobile business in Whitehall, Wis. Eugene J. Kidder while a young man learned the barber's trade, and subsequently went into business for himself in Whitehall, where he has owned and operated a shop for many years. In the fall of 1904 he was elected clerk of the Circuit Court for Trempealeau County, and has since served in that position by successive re-elections. He was formerly township treasurer for the Town of Lincoln one year, and served on the village council of Whitehall for a number of years. His knowledge of local affairs is extensive and he has always been found arrayed on the side of progress and

efficiency. He is a charter member of Whitehall Lodge No. 271, F. & A. M., and served as master of the lodge for two years, and is also a member of Whitehall Lodge No. 2549, M. W. of A. Mr. Kidder was married Feb. 4, 1884, to Christina Harris of Pigeon Township, a native of Perthshire, Scotland, and daughter of David and Mary Harris, who came to the United States from that country in 1877. Both her parents died in 1912 at Groton, S. D. Mr. and Mrs. Kidder have three children: John L. Kidder, who now resides at Timber Valley, Wash., and who is now engaged in the lumber business, and Gladys and Mary, residing at home.

Peter C. Peterson has a well improved place called "Lozenge Farm," located in Fly Creek Valley, and consisting of 158 acres in the northeast quarter of section 29, Pigeon Township, where he has lived since its purchase Nov. 15, 1901. He has a comfortable home and suitable barns, and successfully carries on general farming, making a specialty of raising high grade Holstein cattle. His public service has included membership on the school board since 1913. His church affiliation is with the Norwegian Lutheran Church, of which he is a trustee. Mr. Peterson was born in Madison, Wis., April 29, 1867, and remained at home until locating on his present farm. He was married April 29, 1894, to Christina Eidsvoog, who was born in Norway, May 9, 1868, and came to America in 1890, her father, Peter Eidsvoog, dying in Norway in 1893, and her mother, Cecelia Nelson, in the same year. The children in the Peterson family are four: Nettie, born Jan. 9, 1895, who was graduated from Gale College and the Winona Business College, and is now a bookkeeper for Jones-Kroeger & Co. of Winona, Minn.; Cora, born Jan. 27, 1899, who was graduated from the Whitehall high school in the class of 1917, and is now teaching at Lidgerwood, N. D.; Tilmer, born April 25, 1904, and Palmer, born March 23, 1911. The two youngest are living at home. The parents of Peter C. Peterson were Christian Peterson and Toro Olson Nordness. The father was born in Norway, May 10, 1837, came to America in 1857, and worked as a clerk in Madison, Wis., until August, 1868, when he came to Trempealeau County, and settled in section 16, Lincoln Township, where he died June 29, 1917. He was a veteran of the Civil War, having served a year in Company F, 45th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. The mother was born in Norway, Jan. 23, 1844, and died Jan. 22, 1916.

Andrew J. Ringlien, proprietor of the Ringlien Farm of 240 acres in sections 5 and 6, Pigeon Township, was born in Sundreland, Norway, April 29, 1857, son of John and Mary (Nilson) Ringlien. He resided in his native land until about 26 years old, and then, in 1883, came to the United States in search of better opportunities for self-advancement than he had there. Locating in Pigeon Township, this county, he obtained employment and also attended school in order chiefly to acquire a knowledge of the English language, in which he made good progress. For three years he worked for P. Ekern, carefully saving his earnings, or as much of them as possible, with the view of achieving industrial independence. This purpose he accomplished in 1890 when he bought his present farm and began working for himself. Since that time he has made considerable progress and is now one of the prosperous citizens of his township, a fact conspicuously mani-

festated by the fine brick house he erected in 1914, a two-story building with basement, containing ten rooms and installed with furnace heat and other conveniences. His barn, 30 by 60 by 18 feet, with basement and concrete floors, is also a good and substantial structure, and the other buildings on the farm are well kept and of neat appearance. Mr. Ringlien keeps graded Durham cattle, having a herd of 40 head, of which he milks 20. He is also a stockholder in the elevator and creamery at Whitehall. His religious affiliations are with the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, of which he has been trustee and auditor for ten years. For the past six years he has been a member of the Norwegian school board. Mr. Ringlien was united in marriage, April 4, 1890, with Helen Knutson, daughter of Olaus and Nicolena (Netten) Knutson. She died in September, 1909, leaving eight children: John Olger, Nettie Melvina, Arthur Maurice, Arnold Norman, Axel William, Herman Calbjorn, Menick Cornelius and Erling Conrad, who reside at home with their father.

David Wood, a retired farmer residing in Whitehall, Wis., was born in Cattaraugus County, New York, Feb. 10, 1840, son of Alva and Amanda (Porter) Wood. Alva Wood was born near Utica, N. Y., in 1810, and in 1848 came to Dane County, Wisconsin, where he farmed until 1856. He then purchased government land in sections 21, 25, 26 and 11, Lincoln Township, later going to live with his son David on his farm in section 17, where he died in 1883. His wife Amanda, who was born in Utica, N. Y., died in 1853 at the age of 58. David Wood was the fourth born in a family of ten children. He remained at home until his marriage, March 17, 1863, to Mary Parsons of Whitehall. Her parents were Lincoln and Maria (Sherwood) Parsons, the former of whom died at Marshall, Wis. In the year of his marriage Mr. Wood began farming in section 17, Lincoln Township, where he remained until 1872. He then removed to another farm in the southeast quarter of section 15, which he operated until March, 1913, at which time he retired and took up his residence in Whitehall. Some time previous to this he had built a warehouse in Whitehall and bought and shipped grain for many years, also baling and shipping hay (1874). Mr. Wood is a director in the John O. Melby & Co. Bank and a stockholder in the General Trading Company of Whitehall. He served as chairman of the township board for 25 years and was on the building committee of the county asylum. While on the county board he had charge of some bridge building in Lincoln Township. In politics he is a Prohibitionist. Mr. and Mrs. Wood are the parents of five children: Archie E., James L., Sarah, Alta and Ralph W. Archie E., born in 1864, is engaged in contracting and building in Whitehall. He married Jessie M. Dissmore and has four living children: Elmer, Ernest Y., Elsie M. and Chester. James L., born in 1867, is a carpenter living at Whitehall. He married H. Olive Tull. Sarah, born in 1870, died in 1877. Alta, born in 1875, died in 1877. Ralph W., born in 1879, is a farmer on the old homestead in Lincoln Township. He married Martha Johnson and has two children: Harold and Helen.

William J. Webb, who is conducting a successful lumber business in Whitehall, was born in Dane County, Wisconsin, July 7, 1859, son of William and Adelaide J. (Warner) Webb. The father, who was born in

Vermont in 1808. was a contractor and builder by occupation, and during his residence in Dane County helped to build the state capitol. In 1874 he came to Trempealeau County and settled on a farm two miles north of Whitehall, where he died in 1876. His wife, who was born in 1835, is now living in Whitehall. William J. Webb was educated in the public schools of Black Earth, and in 1889 engaged in the hardware business in Whitehall. He was thus occupied until 1891, in which year he bought the lumber yard of T. H. Earle here and has since been proprietor of the business. He is also a stockholder and director in the concern of John O. Melby & Co., the Bank of Whitehall and a stockholder in the Peoples State Bank of Whitehall. Fraternally he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. June 1, 1886, Mr. Webb was united in marriage with Ella N. Lake, daughter of Thomas and Mary J. (Carpenter) Lake. Her father was a pioneer of Preston Township, where for a number of years he was engaged in farming. Mr. and Mrs. Webb have one child, Archie, who was born May 7, 1888. He was graduated at Brown University in the class of 1907, and subsequently engaged in the bond and investment business with Councilman & Co., of 112 W. Adams street, Chicago. He has been very successful in business.

Paudor K. Risberg, county clerk, educator and prominent citizen, was born north of Christiania, Norway, at Risberget, parish of Vaaler, Feb. 15, 1866, son of Knut and Martha (Anderson) Risberg, both of whom died in Norway in 1893. Paudor K. Risberg was reared in his native parish, and in 1883, as a youth of seventeen, set out by himself to join his brother Carl and his sister Agnetha (now Mrs. John Matson) in Chimney Rock Township, this county. Upon arriving here the courageous and ambitious boy secured employment where he could work for his board while he attended school. His first winter in this country he attended the Chimney Rock district school. Later he alternated work with attending school, laboring as a farm hand, lumberjack, river man and railroader in order to get money to pay his board and tuition. In the winter of 1884-1885 he attended the graded schools of Eau Claire. After a summer's work on the Canadian Pacific Railroad in British Columbia he took a two years' teachers' course at the Wittenberg (Wis.) normal school. In 1892, after teaching school one year, he took a special teachers' course in the Northern Indiana University at Valparaiso. After preparing himself for the profession of teaching he was engaged as principal of the Chimney Rock graded school for nine years. In 1903 Mr. Risberg purchased a farm of 90 acres in section 14, Chimney Rock Township. There he farmed until Jan. 1, 1909, when he assumed the duties of his present position, to which he had been elected the previous fall. He has since then been successively re-elected. In addition to this service, Mr. Risberg has been chairman of Chimney Rock town four years, clerk five years and treasurer one year. For four years he has been clerk of the school board in Whitehall. The United Norwegian Lutheran Church has found in him a valued member. Since 1890 he has been superintendent of the Sunday school, and in the same time he has been leader of the church choir. He has also served on various committees and boards. His financial holdings include stock in the Peoples State Bank, of which he was a director for a time. Mr. Risberg was mar-



PAUDOR K. RISBERG AND FAMILY

ried Sept. 2, 1893, to Agnethe Larson, born in Chimney Rock Town, Feb. 15, 1871. His wife is a daughter of Eric and Olivia (Omestad) Larson, who came to this country in 1866. Mrs. Risberg's mother died in 1906 and her father in 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Risberg have eight children: Arthur, Walter, Alice, Clifford, Ethel, Harvey, Louise and Pearl. Walter, who is his father's deputy, is married to Dora L. Brandon of Whitehall, and Arthur, who is a restaurant keeper in Whitehall, is married to Stella Kloety of Arcadia.

Henry C. Shephard, Jr., a retired farmer now residing with his son, Ray D., on the latter's farm in section 12, Preston Township, was born in Prescott, Canada, near Montreal, Sept. 30, 1835. He is a son of Henry C. Shephard, Sr., who was born in England and was there married to Jane Collins. In 1839 the elder Henry came to America with his family and located in Wisconsin, living, for awhile at Milwaukee and also for some time at Waukesha. Later he removed to Jefferson County, Wisconsin, where he followed the trade of brick mason, and also carried on farming until his death. His wife Jane died June 30, 1911. Henry C. Shephard, Jr., resided at home until 1855. He then came to Black River Falls, Wis., and on August 10, that year, began working in the pineries and on the river. In this work he continued until he had spent 36 winters in the woods and taken part in 21 spring drives. In 1856 he entered the farm on which he now resides with his son and which has been his home many years. This farm formerly contained 400 acres, but has since been divided among Mr. Shephard's sons. Here he cut his first grain with a cradle and threshed it with a flail. It is now finely improved, the land being well tilled and the buildings substantial and adequate. In 1884 Mr. Shephard began breeding Holstein cattle and continued to do so as long as he was farming. He has served in the offices of school clerk and supervisor. Sept. 20, 1861, Mr. Shephard was united in marriage with Phylena Sterling of Jackson County, Wisconsin, who was born in Maine in 1840, daughter of C. I. and Abigail Sterling. He and his wife have had ten children: Lettie, who married William Bright of Trempealeau, Wis.; Nellie, wife of F. D. Hopkins of Whitehall; Guy, who is engaged in farming a part of the old homestead; Ray, who owns and operates the old homestead; Frank, who died at the age of 37 years, leaving a widow, Libby Bidgood Shephard, and five children, she being now a resident of Mellen, Wis.; Margaret, wife of Edward Gilbert, president of the State Bank of Foreston, Minn.; Harry and Henry, twins, the former of whom died at the age of four days and the latter at that of two years; Mabel, who died at the age of 21 years, and Sadie, who married George Bohlen, a barber of Dickinson, N. D. Ray married Thina Gilbert, June 26, 1896, and has had two children: Ralph, born Aug. 16, 1904, and a daughter, who died in infancy. Mrs. Henry C. Shephard died June 30, 1912.

Amund G. Tjoflat, a contracting carpenter residing in Ettrick, Wis., where he is conducting a good business, was born in Hardanger, Bergen Stift, Norway, Jan. 30, 1870, son of Guttorm and Herborg (Djonne) Tjoflat. The parents were natives of the same locality, Bergen, a famous old seaport, being the nearest large city. The father, who was a sailor most of his life, died in his native land in January, 1912, but his wife is still living

in Norway. Neither of them ever came to America. Amund G. Tjoflat was the second born of eight children. He attended school in Norway, and at the age of 16 years began working as a farm hand. Two years later he commenced an apprenticeship to the carpenter's trade, at which he worked for three years in his native land. In 1891 he set out for the United States and on arriving in this country continued west to Jackson County, Wisconsin, locating near the Trempealeau County line. He was at this time unable to speak English, but for five months attended an English school in Ettrick, where he learned the rudiments of the language and later increased his knowledge through association with English speaking people. Soon after arriving here he began working at his trade in Ettrick and continued to do so as a journeyman until 1899, in which year he engaged in contract work, and has been thus occupied up to the present time, his contracts having been for work in Ettrick and the vicinity. In 1906 he built his present residence in Ettrick. Besides owning good property in the village, he is a stockholder in the Ettrick Lumber Company, Ettrick Farmers Telephone Company and the Ettrick & Northern Railroad, and is recognized as one of the enterprising and prosperous business men of the village—a position gained through his own unaided efforts. June 2, 1898, Mr. Tjoflat was united in marriage with Elenora Torkelson, who was born in Jackson County, Wisconsin, daughter of Haldor and Breta (Grinde) Torkelson, the parents being natives of Norway. Mr. and Mrs. Tjoflat are the parents of six children: Gerold B., Berglot H., Oliver E., Esther V., Howard L. and Joseph Kenneth, all of whom are residing at home. Mr. Tjoflat belongs to the order of Beavers, being trustee of his lodge. His political principles are in the main those of the Republican party. He and his family are members of the Lutheran Synod Church.

Amos Jacobsen, for nearly twenty years proprietor of the Coral City Flouring Mills, has been connected with the milling business since early boyhood, as were his father and grandfather before him. He was born in Schleswig, now a part of Germany, Nov. 23, 1849, son of Hans and Dorothy (Hansen) Jacobsen, the former of whom died in 1896 and the latter in 1900. He learned the milling business from his father, and worked for several years in the mills of his native country. In 1870, however, he determined to seek the broader opportunities of America, and accordingly came to this country and resumed his occupation as a miller, working first at Dexter, Mich., then in various places in Iowa and Wisconsin, and finally in St. Paul. Then he rented a mill at Lansing, Iowa, next he bought a mill near Desota, Wis., still later he built a mill at Washburn, N. D., and subsequently he rented a mill at Mishamwoka, near Durand, Wis. June 1, 1898, he secured the Coral City mill, in Pigeon Township, this county, built by Silas Wright in 1862, destroyed by flood in 1874 and rebuilt in 1876. This mill he remodelled and improved, and has since continued to operate it. It is a frame building, located on Pigeon Creek, nearly three miles north-east of Whitehall. It is operated by waterpower, and is equipped with five double sets of rolls, and two sets of old French stone buhrs. The capacity is about 50 barrels, and the product includes wheat flour and rye, and all kinds of cereals and feeds, both merchant and custom work being done.



MR. AND MRS. AMUND AMUNDSEN—MR. AND MRS. JOHN EIDE
PAUL EIDE AND FAMILY

Mr. Jacobsen was married at St. Paul Nov. 19, 1877, to Nancy Rapp, who was born in Jefferson County, New York, Aug. 11, 1849, and came to St. Paul with her mother. This union has been blessed with two sons, Fred P. and John A., both born in Lansing, Iowa, and both now employed in their father's mill. Fred P. was born July 26, 1879, was married April 21, 1909, to Edna V. Olson of Blair, born at Blair May 3, 1886, and has six children: Dorothy, Edith, Harold, John, Fred and Elenore. John A. was born Feb. 18, 1881, and was married Jan. 1, 1908, to Augusta Reinhard, born in Germany May 12, 1884. Mrs. Nancy (Rapp) Jacobsen died Dec. 28, 1910, and on May 2, 1914, Mr. Jacobsen married, secondly, Mrs. Letacia (Stevens) Wright. She has one daughter, Mary Stevens, now 15 years old.

Paul Eide, a well known and prosperous farmer of Hale Township, was born in Romsdal, Norway, Jan. 1, 1859, son of John and Ellen (Larson) Eide. His parents were both natives of Norway, the father born in 1843 and the mother in 1835. They came to America with their family in 1882, settling in Hale Township, this county, on 160 acres of land in section 5, where they lived 15 years. They then took a farm in section 4, where John Eide died in 1908; his wife died in the spring of 1910. Paul Eide, who accompanied his parents to the United States, settled on his present farm with his parents in 1884 and has since resided on it, having purchased the property in 1890. It contains 300 acres or more and is located in sections 4 and 5, township 23 north, range 8 west, Hale Township. The house, a two-story frame structure, was rebuilt in 1903. It contains 10 rooms and is a substantial and commodious dwelling. In 1911 Mr. Eide built a barn, 40 by 70 by 16 feet in dimensions above stone basement, with cement floor and steel stanchions. In the same year he put up a stave silo, 12 by 30 feet. His herd of graded Durham cattle numbers 35 head, of which he milks 20. For three years he has served as a member of the school board of his district. Mr. Eide was married in November, 1890, to Millie Amundson, who was born in section 8, Hale Township, this county, June 27, 1870, daughter of Amund and Thea (Halvorson) Amundson. Mr. and Mrs. Eide have been the parents of nine children: Thea, born April 9, 1891; John, Dec. 25, 1892; Arthur, Aug. 21, 1895; Elvina, Jan. 2, 1898; Palmer, Aug. 1, 1900; Magnus, Feb. 14, 1903 (died Feb. 23, 1903); Mabel, Nov. 23, 1904; Ruth, Aug. 26, 1907, and Millard, July 16, 1910. All the living children are residing at home. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, of which Mr. Eide is a trustee.

Peter Nelson, who settled in Pigeon Creek Valley, Pigeon Township, in 1875, and in the course of his 30 years' residence there became one of the leading citizens of the township, was born in Hidemaker, Norway, April 30, 1844, son of Nels Peterson. The father, who was governor and manager of a farm, lived and died in Norway. Peter Nelson was the fourth born in a family of eight children. In his native land he attended school and learned the carpenter's trade. On April 3, 1866, he was married to Jom Olson and on the 14th of the same month they left home for the United States, the journey thus being practically a honeymoon trip. After a voyage of six weeks and two days in a sailing vessel, they landed at Quebec, Canada, and from there made their way to La Crosse, Wisconsin, arriving

June 24. One fall and winter were spent in Louis Valley, and subsequently Mr. Peterson worked nine years at lumbering on Black River, being a part of the time in the camp. His wife had died in 1867 and for his second wife he subsequently married Bertha Johnson. In 1875 Peter Nelson went to Pigeon Creek Valley, Trempealeau County, and bought a partly improved farm of 160 acres. There he lived for 30 years, during which time he bought more land until he had 240 acres, most of which he cleared and improved, erecting good buildings. For 30 years also he served on the township board, and for a number of years was justice of the peace and school clerk. Then selling his farm, he came to Whitehall, where he has since made his home. Here he bought out the Farmers Trading Association and started an implement company, of which he was the active manager until the spring of 1917, when he sold out his shares, and since then has been retired from industrial life. In addition to the above mentioned activities he was president of the first creamery in his locality and was its manager for two years, directing all its operations. At the present time he is a shareholder in the Peoples State Bank of Whitehall, and is a prosperous and highly respected citizen, who has made a success in life through industry and perseverance. He has had ten children, three of whom were carried off by that formerly much dreaded scourge diphtheria. The living are Joseph, Isaac, Oscar, Nels, Alla and Laulia. He and his family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church.

Joseph P. Nelson, proprietor of Silver Brook Stock Farm of 160 acres, in section 30, Pigeon Township, is a native of Trempealeau County, having been born in Fitch Coulie, this township, April 10, 1882. His parents were Peter and Bertha (Jensen) Nelson, natives of Norway, now living retired at Whitehall. Mr. Nelson passed his youthful days up to the age of 15 in Fitch Coulie, and was trained to agricultural pursuits on his parents' farm. When he had reached that age the parents with their family moved onto the farm in section 30, and Joseph was associated with his father in its operation until 1908, in which year he purchased it, and it has since remained his property and place of residence. Mr. Nelson keeps graded Durham cattle, milking 16, and also raises Poland-China hogs and Black Minorca chickens. His farm is well improved and is conducted on a profitable basis. On April 7, 1906, he was married to Ingeborg T. Sogen, daughter of John and Amelia (Rud) Sogen, her parents being farmers residing near Pigeon Falls. He and his wife have five children: Esther, Palmer, Ervin, Harold and Ernest. Mr. Nelson has been a director of the school board since 1915. He and his family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

William G. Hyslop, proprietor of the Blair Flour Mills, has been one of the most prominent mill and creamery men in this part of the state. He was born at Osseo, in this county, Feb. 26, 1864, the son of Ebenezer and Anna (Gillespie) Hyslop. Ebenezer Hyslop, a retired carpenter, now living in Osseo, at the age of 88 years, was born in Scotland, came to America in 1850, lived two years in New York City, and four years in Richland County, Wisconsin, and in 1859 came to Osseo, this county, where he has since resided, his wife, whom he married in 1850, having died in 1899,



THOMAS HOGAN AND FAMILY

at the age of 69 years. William G. Hyslop was reared in Osseo, and there received his education. For 25 years he devoted his time to the creamery business, having at one period no less than five establishments under his management. He learned his trade at Osseo; he was manager of the creameries at Ettrick and Blair; he built the creamery at Alma Center, and he purchased the creameries at Melrose and Neillsville. In 1901 he bought his present mill, and operated it in connection with his management of the Blair creamery. In 1909 he rented the mill and took up farming at Bowman, N. D. In February, 1916, he again resumed charge of the mill. A prominent man in the community, he has been on the village council for many terms, ten years of which he was its president. He also served one year as a member of the county board of supervisors. His fraternal associations are with the Masonic order, the Modern Woodmen and the Beavers. Mr. Hyslop was married Oct. 22, 1887, to Ella Quinn, born in Ettrick, April 26, 1864, daughter of James and Susan Quinn, the former of whom died in 1912 at the age of 91, and the latter in 1899 at the age of 69 years. Mr. and Mrs. Hyslop have five children: Clayton, Orton, Leland, Faye and Virda, the three last mentioned residing at home. Clayton and Orton were graduated from the Northwestern Medical School, then performed interne service in Mercy Hospital, Chicago, and are both now practicing physicians, located in that city.

Thomas Hogan, proprietor of the Thomas Hogan & Son Lumber Company at Blair, was born in Kvitised, Telemarken, Norway, March 18, 1854, son of Knudt Tollefson and Gunhild Tvedt, the former of whom died in 1863 and the latter in 1862. The original family name was Hougen. Knudt Tollefson was a lieutenant in the standing army of Norway. The first of the family to come to America was Gunder (brother of Thomas), who reached this country in 1878. He was joined two years later by Thomas, at Humbird, Wis. For a time Thomas Hogan worked in the lumber yard there, then he secured employment in a sawmill four miles southeast of Hatfield. So faithfully did he perform his duties there that after the first year he was placed in charge of the shipping. In 1886, with Simon Lein, he opened a lumber yard at Blair, under the firm name of Hogan & Lein. Owing to ill health, Mr. Lein sold out to Mr. Hogan, and the firm became the Hogan Lumber & Stock Company. From 1898 until Jan. 1, 1917, the business was conducted under Mr. Hogan's name as an individual. Jan. 1, 1917, the firm became Thomas Hogan & Son. Mr. Hogan deals in all kinds of lumber and building material, and has built up a good business, the success of which has been due to his fairness and business integrity. Mr. Hogan enjoys an excellent standing in the community and has served on the village council for eight years. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America. He was married Jan. 28, 1885, to Anna Olive Lynnes, who was born in Edsvald, Norway, daughter of Andrew and Johanna Lynnes, the former of whom now lives with the Hogan family. Mr. and Mrs. Hogan have had six children: Louisa, Jennie, Clifford, Agnes, Gena and Arthur. Louisa lives at home. Jennie died at the age of 17 years; Clifford at the age of 24 years, and Agnes at the age of 15 years. Gena married Tosten Thompson, and they have two children, Truman and Ruth.

Arthur married Mabel Johnstad and resides at Blair, where he is associated in business with his father in the firm of Thomas Hogan & Son. Mr. Hogan and family are affiliated religiously with the Lutheran church.

Hans Holtan was born in Vik, Sogn, Norway, Jan. 9, 1834, son of Anfin and Gjertrud Holtan. The mother died in the old country, and in 1846 the father, with his second wife Turi and his children, came to America, settling in Pleasant Springs Township, Dane County, where the father and stepmother spent the remainder of their days, the former dying Sept. 1, 1872, and the latter about 1865. Hans Holtan was reared to farm pursuits, and with the exception of a few years from 1906 to 1910, when he lived at Stoughton, Wis., remained on the home farm until his death, Jan. 1, 1911. In 1858 Hans Holtan was married to Raandi Lunde, who was born in Laurdal, Telemarken, Norway, Sept. 30, 1833, and came to America with her parents, Austin and Jorond Lunde, in 1851. Austin Lunde died in 1884, and his wife in 1857. Mrs. Hans Holtan died Jan. 23, 1906, having been the mother of the following children: Anfin and Austin, who are farmers in Dane County, Wisconsin; John, a tobacco dealer in Stoughton, Wis., of which city he was formerly mayor for three terms; Gertrude, wife of Louis Severson, also a tobacco dealer of Stoughton; George, a farmer in Dane County; Ole, a tobacco dealer in Stoughton; Andrew, who is farming in Dane County; Josie, wife of Albert Asleson, a farmer of Dane County, and Richard H. of Whitehall, Wis.

Richard H. Holtan, dealer in leaf tobacco at Whitehall, Wis., was born in Dane County, this state, Aug. 11, 1876, son of Hans and Randi (Lunde) Holtan. He resided at home with his parents until his marriage, Oct. 28, 1897, when he engaged in farming for himself until 1902. He then moved to Stoughton, engaging in the tobacco business under the style of Richard Holtan & Co. After carrying on the business there until 1905 he moved to Whitehall, establishing himself here August 28. In 1914 the concern was incorporated with a capital stock of \$45,000, taking the name of the Holtan Leaf Tobacco Company, with John Holtan, president; R. H. Holtan, secretary, and O. H. Holtan, treasurer. The concern has two offices, one at Whitehall and the other at Stoughton, with warehouses at Stoughton. R. H. Holtan is also vice-president of the People's State Bank of Whitehall. He has served four years as a member of the village council and was its president three years. Fraternally he is a member of the Beavers and Odd Fellows, in which latter order he has passed all the chairs. Mr. Holtan was married Oct. 28, 1897, to Betsey Johnson of Utica, Dane County, who was born Nov. 24, 1876, daughter of Jokum and Aasil (Smithback) Johnson. This union has been blessed with two children: Herbert, born Oct. 7, 1898, and Rollin A., born Dec. 7, 1902. Jokum Johnson, farmer and merchant, now residing at Stoughton, Wis., was born in Nummedal, Norway, in 1853, and came to America in 1871, settling in Dane County, Wisconsin, where he engaged in farming. In 1894 he became a merchant at Utica, in the same county, and in 1910 retired and moved to his present home. He married Aasil Smithback, who died March 24, 1909, at the age of 59 years. They were the parents of six children: Oscar, residing in the township of Christiania, Dane County, Wis.; Betsey (Mrs. R. H. Holtan); Aline, who



MR. AND MRS. RICHARD H. HOLTAN AND SONS

died at the age of two years; Emma (Mrs. Sorensen); Nellie of Utica, Dane County, who married E. Adolph Johnson, and Olga, now Mrs. B. Logan of Christiania, Dane County.

Ole G. Herreid, who is engaged in operating a valuable farm of 155 acres in section 16 E., Ettrick Township, was born in Dane County, Wisconsin, near Lodi, April 5, 1863, son of Gilbert Olson and Ingeborg (Torgersdatter) Herreid. A memoir of his parents may be found in the sketch of his brother, Gilbert M. Herreid. Mr. Herreid acquired his education in the local schools, his parents having settled in Trempealeau County in the year of his birth, and was brought up on the home farm. At the age of 18 years he began working in the woods in the winter time, but continued to make his home with his parents until he was 27, at which time he purchased his present farm from his father. Besides carrying on general agricultural operations on his own farm, he has operated a threshing outfit for the last 37 years. Since taking possession of his present homestead, he has made many improvements on it, his barn being a substantial structure, 32 by 70 feet, with 16-foot stockboards and cement floors, equipped in modern style. Mr. Herreid is a stockholder in the Ettrick Creamery Company and also operates a cream route, which takes two or three days of his time each week. Since he began farming on his own account he has made steady progress and is now one of the prosperous citizens of his township. He has served on the school board for nine years and in politics is independent. Oct. 9, 1891, Mr. Herreid was united in marriage with Mattie Paine, who was born at Medalia, Minn., daughter of William G. and Julia (Dale) Paine. Her father was born in Wrentham, Mass., of Scotch-Irish stock, and in early life was a sailor, going to sea on his uncle's whaling vessel at the age of 14 years. After five years spent in this adventurous employment, the Civil War having broken out, he enlisted in the Eighth Rhode Island Artillery and served three years. On the conclusion of his term of service he engaged in the hotel business at St. Cloud, Minn., having come west with a military company under the command of General Sibley, which company disbanded at St. Cloud. Later he engaged in business at Madelia, Minn., where after a residence of seven years, he died. His wife, who was born in Norway, is now residing with her daughter in Ettrick Township. By her marriage with Mr. Paine she had three children, and after his death she became the wife of Ed Johnson, who subsequently died in this township. Of this latter union two children were born. Mr. and Mrs. Herreid have 10 children: Emma, Willa, Gordon, Carl, Lea, Rachel, Blanche and Bernice (twins), Grace and Richard. Mr. Herreid belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, and he and his family are members of the United Lutheran Church.

Theodore A. Breitenfield, proprietor of a blacksmith establishment and planing mill at Blair, was born in Portland Township, Monroe County, this state, May 2, 1890, youngest of the eight children of William and Annie (Oswald) Breitenfield, the former of whom still lives in that township, and the latter of whom died in 1906, at the age of 58 years. Theodore A. remained at home until nineteen years of age. It was then that he started in the blacksmith trade. After a year at Lyndon Station in Juneau County,

and eight months at Mauston, in the same county, he rented a shop near his old home for a year. Subsequently he rented a shop at Augusta, in Eau Claire County, for nine months. June 10, 1914, he rented his present place. Here he does all kinds of blacksmith work, horseshoeing and wagon work. The establishment is well equipped with drill press, trip-hammer and other conveniences, and turns out some excellent work. In connection with it is operated the planing mill, which does sawing, turning, planing and other woodwork. As already mentioned, Mr. Breitenfeld comes of a large family. Albert, the oldest, and Barbara, the fifth, now Mrs. Even Everson, a widow, live in La Crosse. The others, all of whom live on farms in Monroe County, are: Clara, wife of Albert Erickson; Herman; Emma, wife of Thomas Jones; Laura, wife of Carl Moody, and Otto.

Frank Wood, agent in Galesville, Wis., for the Standard Oil Company, was born in Bangor, Wis., Jan. 14, 1874, son of David and Mary (Morgan) Wood. The father, who was born in Wales, Feb. 14, 1840, was a farmer for many years and now lives retired in Bangor. His wife Mary, mother of the subject of this sketch, was born near Waukesha, Wis., in 1846, and died July 1, 1911. Frank Wood was the elder of two children. His early education was acquired in the country schools and was supplemented to some extent by a three months' attendance at high school. He resided at home until he was 25 years old and then engaged in farming in LaCrosse County, following that occupation for six years. He then sold out and went into the transfer business in Galesville. In 1912 he entered the employ of the Standard Oil Company, but still continued in the transfer business until 1916, when he gave it up and has since devoted his whole attention to the Standard Oil Company's business. Mr. Wood was married Oct. 25, 1899, to Grace Phillips, who was born in West Salem, Wis., daughter of Hollister and Marian (Gage) Phillips. Her parents, who are now living retired in Galesville, were born in eastern states. The father, Hollister Phillips, was a farmer in early life at West Salem, Wis. He served in the Civil War with a Wisconsin regiment and was promoted to the rank of captain of his company. Later he served a term as sheriff of LaCrosse County. He and his wife had seven children, of whom their daughter Grace was the third in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Wood are the parents of one child, Dorothy Marian. He is chief forester of the Modern Woodmen of America, and belongs also to the Yeomen and Red Men, being clerk in the lodge of the last mentioned order. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and in politics is independent.

Ferdinand Witt, who is engaged in farming 160 acres of land in section 8, Lincoln Township, was born in Pomerania, Germany, Sept. 14, 1855. His parents were Gottfreid and Maria (Betcher) Witt, both of whom died in Germany, where the father followed the occupation of farmer. Ferdinand was the only member of the family to come to America, making the journey in 1878. Locating in Whitehall, this county, he worked there two years and then bought the farm on which he now lives from Lars L. Skjonsby's widow, making the purchase in 1881. Here he has since resided, engaged in improving his property. In 1916 he built a barn, 36 by 84 by 12 feet above basement, with concrete walls and cement floors, and his seven-



FERDINAND WITT AND FAMILY

room frame house was rebuilt by him in 1913. In 1917 he built a silo 12 by 30 feet of cement blocks. He keeps 35 cattle and 10 horses, milking 14 cows, and also has a number of White Leghorn chickens and mammoth bronze turkeys, the appearance of his farm presenting evidences of industry and prosperity. Mr. Witt was married in March, 1881, to Olive Larson Skjonsby, whose father, Lars L., died in November, 1879. Her mother, Ingebor Larson, died Feb. 29, 1905. Mr. and Mrs. Witt have been the parents of 11 children: Gottfreid, who died at the age of three months; Clara, residing at home; Louis, a farmer in Lincoln Township, who married Agnes Kurth and has two children—Arthur and Florence; Fred, Josephine, William, James and Emma, who reside at home; Minnie, who died at the age of a year and a half; Millie and Alice, at home. Mrs. Witt was born in Norway, Nov. 6, 1860, and came to America with her parents in 1866, they spending two years in LaCrosse County. Afterwards her father homesteaded the land on which she and her husband now reside.

Gilbert F. Steig, a retired farmer residing in Whitehall, Wis., was born in Biri, Norway, Sept. 25, 1849, a son of Frederick and Bertha (Jenson) Steig. The parents came to the United States in 1867, settling in Mindora, LaCrosse County, Wis., where they remained one year, afterwards moving to Trempealeau County. They died on the farm of their son, the subject of this sketch, the father March 28, 1888, and the mother, in March, 1897. Gilbert F. Steig bought his farm in section 23, Hale Township, this county, in 1870, when he was 21 years old, and resided there, operating the farm until the fall of 1898, when he was elected county sheriff, at which time he moved to Whitehall, which has since been his place of residence. After filling the office of sheriff two years he went into the hay and grain business, also conducting an elevator with Christ Torgerson (of Independence) at Whitehall, and this was his occupation until 1914, when he retired. He was treasurer of the Pigeon Mutual Fire Insurance Company for five years and has been president of the company since 1901. A considerable part of his time has been devoted to the public service. He was township superintendent four years, township treasurer five years, school clerk two years, school treasurer 18 years, and president of the village board of Whitehall four years, in all these offices rendering good and faithful service. Mr. Steig was married May 30, 1874, to Gelina M. Lewis, who was born in Norway May 22, 1854, daughter of Gilbert and Marie (Thomervolden) Lewis. Her parents came to the United States with their family in 1865, locating in Dane County, Wisconsin, where they spent three years. They then removed to a farm in section 14, Hale Township, Trempealeau County, on which place the mother died in 1894, and the father ten years later, in 1904. Mr. and Mrs. Steig have eight children: Frederick, now a farmer in Bowman, N. D.; Gustav M., who graduated from the Whitehall high school and the W. B. University of LaCrosse, and is now a merchant at Church's Ferry, N. D.; Benonie I., a merchant at Edmond, N. D.; Minnie, who graduated from Steven's Point normal school, was a teacher two years, and is now the wife of Martin Swenson, a merchant of Esmond, N. D.; Louise, also a graduate of Stevens Point normal school, who was a teacher six years, and is now the wife of C. P. Larson, a banker of Eleva, Wis.;

Josephine, a graduate in the class of 1907 of the University of Wisconsin, and who is now teacher of mathematics in the Kenosha (Wis.) schools; Olga, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, class of 1914, who is a teacher of German in the Kenosha (Wis.) schools, and George C., a graduate of Whitehall high school and the W. B. University of LaCrosse, Wis., who is assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Lakota, N. D. It will be seen that Mr. Steig has given his children a good education and that they are making a good use of it to their own advantage and the credit of their parents.

David M. Sorenson, a well known resident of Ettrick Village, who is connected with the government mail service, was born near Jutland, Denmark, June 19, 1863, son of Christian C. and Gettie Sorenson, who were natives of the same locality. When he was less than a year old his mother died and his father thereupon emigrated to the United States with his family, consisting of six children, of whom David M. was the youngest. Settling in Davenport, Iowa, Christian C. Sorenson there found work at his trade, which was that of a wheelwright. He remained in that city about 18 months and then removed to LaCrosse, Wis., where he took up carpenter work, which occupation he followed until his retirement many years later. His death took place in LaCrosse in 1912. When a young man he had served in the regular army of Denmark in the War of 1848. David M. Sorenson when a boy attended school in LaCrosse, and at the age of 16 years began working as a farm hand in La Crosse County. When 19 he took up the blacksmith's trade with E. R. Savage, with whom he continued for three year, going from his employ to that of Sullivan & Buchanan of LaCrosse. Later he worked two years for McDonnell Bros. & Burchard of the same city. At the end of that time he came to Ettrick, where he started a general blacksmith and horseshoeing shop, which he conducted for 18 years. It was at the end of this latter period that he took the mail route, and since then he has remained in government employ as carrier, being not otherwise occupied. In 1912 he built his present residence in Ettrick, one of the best in the village, to which is attached three acres and a half of land. Interested in the growth and development of the community in which he lives, he aids in supporting local or other enterprises calculated to benefit the town or county, and is a stockholder in the Ettrick & Northern Railroad Company. Mr. Sorenson gave up bachelor life Oct. 10, 1886, when he was united in marriage with Lena Nelson Brenengen. Mr. and Mrs. Sorenson are the parents of four sons: Arthur Guy, Norman C., Joel L. and Oscar M., all residing at home. Mr. Sorenson is a member of the Masonic order, belonging to the Blue Lodge at Galesville, and also to the Beavers, being worthy councillor of his lodge.

Frank W. Young is operating the farm in the northwest quarter of section 22, Sumner Township, where he was born April 12, 1887, the second of the seven children of Walter and Minnie (Chamberlain) Young. He carries on general farming, and has a good grade of Holstein cattle and Duroc Jersey swine. His public work consists of service as justice of the peace since 1913, and his fraternal relations are with the M. W. A. Mr. Young was married Dec. 23, 1912, to Louise Anderson, who was born in

Unity Township, this county, Aug. 23, 1887, daughter of Daniel Anderson, and they have two children: Marjorie and Sarah Alice. Walter Young came to Wisconsin from Pennsylvania and his wife from New York state. They had seven children: Lester married Grace Kennedy and lives in Duluth; Lee is married and lives in Minot, N. D.; Owen lives with his mother at Augusta, Wis.; Grace married Joe Anderson and lives in Eau Claire County on a farm; Stella married Frank Justenson and lives on a farm in Eau Claire County; Frank and Neva live with the mother at Augusta.

John Wagstad, secretary and treasurer of the Whitehall Mill & Power Co., of which he is also the miller, was born in Sonfjord, Norway, Nov. 13, 1876, son of Simon and Marie (Hanson) Wagstad. His mother died in 1879 at the age of 36 years and Simon Wagstad subsequently married for his second wife Anna Flekke. Simon and his wife Anna are both living in Norway, the former at the age of 87 and the latter at that of 55 years. During his active career he was engaged in farming. John Wagstad came to America in 1894 with his brother Samuel, locating in Whitehall, Wis., where his first work was unloading a car of brick for John O. Melby & Co.'s new bank. After working for this company two years he began in 1896 to learn the miller's trade with the concern of which he is now an officer, and with which he has remained ever since, except for one year, when he was in the employ of the Arcadia Milling Company. In 1904 he became miller and has since retained that position. His fraternal affiliations are with the Independent Order of Foresters, while religiously he is connected by membership with the United Norwegian Lutheran Church. John Wagstad was married July 19, 1910, to Martha Peterson of Unity Township, Wisconsin, whose father, Gilbert Peterson, formerly a farmer, is now living retired in Whitehall. Her mother's maiden name was Olive Osgaard. Mr. and Mrs. Wagstad have one son, Gerald S. Wagstad, born Aug. 27, 1916.

Delbert G. Williams, who with his brother Hezekiah P., owns and operates 280 acres of land in sections 10 and 15, Unity Township, was born on his present farm, Feb. 13, 1868. His parents were Prince Barnard and Mary (Atkins) Williams. The father, who was born in Maine in 1832, subsequently migrated to Kane County, Illinois, with his parents, who died there. Prince B. Williams then went to Michigan, where he resided for some years. In 1859 he came to Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, and purchased the land now constituting the Williams farm from the railroad company. Here he resided until his death, devoting his time and labor to the development and improvement of the farm. His residence was the first house built in Unity Township, and it was he who named the township, in honor of his old home in Maine. After a strenuous life, spent mostly in hard work, he passed away May 4, 1895. His wife, Mary Atkins Williams, who was born in Maine, Jan. 14, 1830, died on the home farm May 4, 1906, having survived her husband just 11 years. Delbert G. Williams at an early age became practically acquainted with the various branches of farm work, being well taught by his father. From the latter he and his brother, Hezekiah, in 1890 purchased the old homestead and have since continued to own and operate it, with profitable results. In 1906 Hezekiah P. Williams moved to Osseo and the two brothers are now engaged in contracting, in addition

to farming, building state roads in Trempealeau County. Delbert G. Williams was married June 1, 1890, to Mary Boetzer, who was born in Germany, March 10, 1867, daughter of William and Wilhelmina Boetzer. Her father, who also was born in Germany, Jan. 13, 1824, came to America in 1874 and resided in Eau Claire County for several years. Mr. and Mrs. Williams are the parents of six children: Grace May, who was married Oct. 19, 1913, to Melvin Holmen of Strum; Charles, residing at home; Guy, also at home; Lottie, who was married Aug. 2, 1916, to Jesse Hogue of Strum, and Leona and Fred, both of whom reside at home. Mr. Williams served as township supervisor for two years, and has been a school director since 1898. In politics he is a staunch Democrat. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Beavers.

Oliver Waller, a prosperous merchant of Osseo, member of the firm of Hagen & Waller, was born in Norway, Jan. 10, 1851, son of Ole Jacob Johnson and Martha Olsdotter, both of whom spent the span of their years in the land of their birth. Oliver Waller was reared in Norway, and as a youth was apprenticed to a tailor, from whom he learned the trade. In 1877 he came to this country, and found his way directly to Trempealeau County, where he worked several years at his trade, first at Independence and then at Whitehall. In 1882 he opened a store at Stephen, Minn., under the firm name of O. P. Larson & Co. Six years later he returned to Independence. It was in 1895 that he came to Osseo, and with Eric Hagen, under the firm name of Hagen & Waller, established his present business. The firm enjoys a good trade, and carries a suitable line of general merchandise. Mr. Waller is a stockholder in the Osseo State Bank. His religious affiliation is with the Norwegian Lutheran Church at Osseo, of which he has been treasurer for some years. Mr. Waller was married Nov. 15, 1905, to Christina Haugen, daughter of M. K. and Guliana (Preste-gaarten) Haugen. Mr. and Mrs. Waller have had five children: Oliver Maynard, Thelma Gilma, Maynard Oliver, Julian Donald and Theola Ophelia. Oliver Maynard and Maynard Oliver died in infancy.

Allen B. Thompson, who is engaged in dairying and horse breeding on a fine farm of 70 acres, 25 acres of which are located within the city limits of Galesville and the rest of the property in Gale Township, section 53, was born in Galesville, this county, Aug. 30, 1880. His parents were William and Allie (Atwood) Thompson, the father a native of the state of New York and the mother of Waupon, Wis. William Thompson, who early in life engaged in the stock business, settled in Wisconsin and was engaged in farming in Trempealeau County for many years, residing on his farm and personally conducting it for some 12 years, at the end of which time he took up his residence in Galesville, where he died in 1894. He had come to the county when a lad of 17 years and had closely identified himself with its development. He was widely recognized as a man of character and ability and was elected mayor of Galesville and subsequently re-elected, but on account of impaired health did not serve out his second term. In this city he was also an extensive property owner, and was also one of the founders of and a stockholder in the Bank of Galesville, besides being prominently connected with other important enterprises. His wife sur-



ERIC HAGEN—OLIVER WALLER



vived him nearly 20 years, passing away in 1913. They reared a family of seven children, Allen B. being the fifth in order of birth. Allen B. Thompson acquired the elements of knowledge in the schools of Galesville and subsequently continued his literary education at Gale University. He then took a course in the State Agricultural College at Madison, having already acquired a fair practical knowledge of farming on the parental homestead and by working for others, which he began to do when he was 15 years old. When he was 21 he began to operate the homestead farm independently, and continued to do so for 12 years, at the end of which time he purchased his present farm, known generally as the old Waite Johnson farm, but registered as Top Notch Farm. Here, besides carrying on dairying successfully, he is engaged in breeding Percheron horses. His residence is situated on one of the finest building sites in the county, and his buildings and equipment are thoroughly up to date and kept in fine condition. Mr. Thompson was married Jan. 1, 1904, to Helen Maud Kilmer, who was born in Galesville, daughter of John and Drena (Baldwin) Kilmer. Her father was born in Cohoes, N. Y., Jan. 22, 1850, and was a carpenter and builder by occupation. He came to Trempealeau County when a lad of ten years and for a number of years resided in Stevenstown. Afterwards he became a prominent citizen of Galesville, served as postmaster one term and was city marshal for a number of years, and is still in active life. His wife was born in Waupun, Wis., Nov. 14, 1848. Of their children three are now living, their daughter Helen Maud being the second born and one of twins. She was educated in Galesville, graduating from the high school class in 1901. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have one child, Bernice. In the spring of 1916 Mrs. Thompson engaged in the breeding of black and tan terriers, using pedigreed registered sires, and has a number now on hand, besides a number bred from pedigreed sires and dames. These dogs are noted for their cleanliness and their desirability as pets and also as rat dogs, and there is a growing demand for them both in this and other states, as well as Canada. Mrs. Thompson expects to engage extensively in this line of business. She has erected quarters for the dogs, known as Top Notch Kennels, and her business is rapidly increasing. Mr. Thompson is independent Republican in politics, but has taken no active part in governmental affairs. He is known as one of the prosperous and substantial citizens of this locality, ready to do his part in advancing the best interests of the community.

Clyde S. Van Gorden, manager of the Osseo branch of the firm of S. H. Van Gorden & Sons, was born in Hixton, Wis., Aug. 7, 1892, son of Schuyler H. and Clara (Potter) Van Gorden. He passed through the graded schools of Hixton and in 1908 was graduated from the Hixton high school. In 1909 he was graduated from the Winona Business College, and subsequently took a year's course in Letters and Science at the University of Wisconsin. He assumed his present duties June 15, 1911, when the Osseo store was purchased. As manager of this store he has been very successful, and has built up a flourishing trade. He is a director in the Farmers' Exchange Bank of Osseo, and in the Central Wisconsin Telephone Co. For two years he has given good service as a member of the village council. His fraternal

affiliations are with the Masons, the Modern Woodmen and the Beavers. In the Masonic order he is a member of the Blue Lodge at Osseo and of the Chapter at Eau Claire. Mr. Van Gorden was married Aug. 27, 1912, to Elsie Caley of Waterford, Wis., the daughter of Henry and Ellen Caley, a graduate of the Whitewater Normal school, and for several years a successful teacher. Mr. and Mrs. Van Gorden have two children: Clara Jeanette, born Sept. 28, 1913, and Ethel Ellen, born Jan. 10, 1915.

S. H. Van Gorden, senior member and founder of the firm of S. H. Van Gorden & Sons, founder of a chain of stores in western Wisconsin, was born in Horseheads, N. Y., Jan. 22, 1852, descended from a long line of New York ancestry. He came West in 1866, and spent some seven years working on farms near Fredericksburg, Iowa. In 1873 he drove to Jackson County, this State, where he engaged in farming. Later he became traveling salesman for the Davis, Rankin Company, manufacturers of creamery supplies. In the employ of this company he erected creameries at Whitehall, Strum and other places in this region. In 1888 he opened a general store at Hixton. This venture was successful, and he decided to enlarge the scope of his activities. He bought a store at Taylor in 1893, at Alma Center in 1906, and at Osseo in 1911. These four stores were operated under the firm name of S. H. Van Gorden & Sons, S. H. Van Gorden, himself, managing the one at Hixton; the son, Bert L., the one at Taylor; the son, Harry H., the one at Alma Center, and Clyde S., the one at Osseo. S. H. Van Gorden is a prominent man in his community, is a director in the Hixton Bank and the Jackson County Bank at Black River Falls, and is treasurer of the Central Wisconsin Telephone Company. One of the sons, Bert L., is president of the Jackson County Bank at Black River Falls, vice-president of the Trempealeau Valley State Bank at Taylor, and president and general manager of the Central Wisconsin Telephone Company. He is serving in the Wisconsin Legislature as a member from Jackson County. S. H. Van Gorden was married July 4, 1871, at Fredericksburg, Iowa, to Clara Potter, who was born Sept. 20, 1851.

Knudt E. Runnestrand, among the prosperous merchants of the Village of Ettrick, where he is engaged in the furniture business, is the subject of this sketch, who was born in Bergen, Norway, Aug. 3, 1855. His parents were Elling and Barbara (Torgerson) Runnestrand, both natives of the same city, a noted seaport of Norway. The father was a sailor, but neither he nor his wife ever came to this country, both dying in their native land. Knudt Runnestrand resided with his parents until he was 17 years of age, when he began to learn the carpenter's trade, becoming a journeyman carpenter at the age of 21. After continuing work at his trade for one year in Norway, he decided to emigrate to the United States and soon after, June 5, 1877, arrived in Ettrick, Trempealeau County, Wis., where at that time there were but two or three houses. Here Sylvester Johnson gave him work in the harvest field, and after that he became acquainted with Almond Hollinger, a carpenter and contractor of Blair, who was known as the "church builder," and was then engaged in building the church at French Creek. Mr. Hollinger employed him to assist on that job and he remained with him 18 months, during which time he also helped to build Gilbertson's

store at Blair. He then began contracting on his own account, among other jobs building Swen Johnson's residence at Bear Creek. In 1880 Mr. Runnestrand returned to Norway, where, April 18, 1881, he was married in the city of Bergen to Anna Larson, who was born in Hardanger, Norway, where her father was engaged in farming. Her parents remained in their native land, but in June, 1881, about two months after their marriage, Mrs. Runnestrand accompanied her husband on his return to this country. Here he resumed his work as contractor and builder and has since continued in that line of industry, adding to it in 1907 his present furniture and undertaking business. His store is well stocked with a good line of furniture and his trade has gradually increased until it is now on a profitable basis. Mr. Runnestrand has been industrious and enterprising and is reaping the reward of his labors, having financial interests aside from those already mentioned. He owns valuable property in Ettrick and is a stockholder in the Bank of Ettrick and the Ettrick & Northern Railroad, now in process of construction. He and his wife are the parents of six children: Bertha, wife of Maurice Casey, who is engaged in the implement business in Ettrick; Emma, wife of Arthur Knudtson, a merchant of New England, N. D.; Clara, wife of William Truax, a farmer of Gale Township; Alfred T., who is engaged in assisting his father; Helen, a telephone operator in Ettrick, and Archie. Mr. Runnestrand and his family are members of the Norwegian Synod Lutheran church. In politics he is an independent Republican. He has served one term as township treasurer and is a man who occupies an honorable place in the community, which he has won by his own efforts.

Ole O. Thomasgaard. Among the well-developed agricultural properties in Unity Township is that known as Oak Grove Farm, in sections 20 and 29, of which Ole O. Thomasgaard is proprietor. Mr. Thomasgaard was born in Tolgen, Norway, June 3, 1848. His father, Ole L. Thomasgaard, died in Norway, as did also his mother, whose maiden name was Petronelle Hanson. The subject of this sketch came to America in 1870, locating first in Hesper, Iowa, where he worked on farms for two years. He then came to Trempealeau County, Wis., and worked two years on farms in Sumner Township, at the end of which time he bought 40 acres of his present farm in Unity Township, having since added to it the other 80 acres. In 1877 he assisted in the organization of Unity Township and served as its first assessor, two years later being chairman of the township board, which office he held for 20 years, and, by virtue of that office, a member also of the county board. He also served as justice of the peace for 20 years, and has been school clerk, serving three years, and school treasurer nine years. He helped to organize Unity Co-Operative Creamery at Strum, of which he has been a director for four years, and he is also a stockholder of the First State Bank of Strum. In these various positions, both business and official, Mr. Thomasgaard has shown capacity and a conscientious regard for duty which have given him a high place among the citizens of his township. As a farmer he has been prosperous, his land being productive and his place well improved. Mr. Thomasgaard was married Aug. 4, 1872, to Marit E. Kleven, who was born in Vingelen, Norway, Feb. 9, 1847, and who came to the United States on the same vessel with him. Her father, Esten O.

Kleven, who was a farmer, died in Norway, as did also her mother, whose maiden name was Johanna Roesplaece. Mr. and Mrs. Thomasgaard have had a family of eight children, but only three are now living. Their record in brief is as follows: Pauline, who is the wife of O. C. Olson, and has five children—Colonel Oscar Olson, Edwin, Mabel, Melvin and Julia; Josephine, who died at the age of four years; Emelia, who died when 2 years old; Josephine (second), who is the wife of Gilbert Svendby, of Strum, and has three children—Mabel, Odin and Clifford; Edward, who died at the age of 1 year; Edward (second), who resides on his father's farm, which he is managing; Oscar, who died at the age of 4 years, and Paulina, who died at the age of 3 years. The surviving members of the family belong to the United Norwegian Lutheran church, which Mr. Thomasgaard has served six years as trustee and six years as treasurer.

C. O. Thomas, who conducts an ice cream parlor and variety store in Osseo, was born in Lodi, Wis., Oct. 14, 1879, son of Charles Edmond and Adeline (Odell) Thomas, and grandson of James and Polly (Lyman) Thomas. Charles Edmond Thomas was born in Canada, and was a pioneer in Lodi, Wis., where he farmed and worked in hardware stores. He died Nov. 11, 1915, and his wife died May 30, 1903. C. O. Thomas was reared in his native place, and learned the trade of buttermaker there. Thus prepared he worked in creameries in Loyal, Wis., Osseo, and Poynette, Wis. In 1907 he came back to Osseo and entered the employ of John Carson, merchant. March 4, 1912, he purchased the variety store of A. B. Arvidson, and this he has since successfully conducted. He has a lunch counter and ice cream parlor, and handles soft drinks, cigars, pipes, tobacco, bakery goods, fancy groceries, candy and nuts, fruits and vegetables, sporting goods, kodaks and kodak supplies, books and magazines, 5- and 10-cent goods, toys, jewelry and post cards. He also has a clothing department, taking orders for custom-made clothes. Mr. Thomas' financial holdings include stock in the Farmers' Exchange Bank and in the Farmers' Elevator, both of Osseo. His fraternal relations are with the Masonic order and Modern Woodmen, and he is a member of the Osseo Band. Mr. Thomas was married Aug. 15, 1906, to Emma Nelson, daughter of Eric and Betsy (Roberts) Nelson.

Ador G. Peterson, manager of the electric light plant at Blair, was born in Norway, Nov. 12, 1866, son of Guttorm Rognrud and Karen Braskerud, who spent the span of their years in the old country, the father dying in 1890 at the age of 66 and the mother in 1878 at the age of 50 years. He was educated in the schools of his native land, and in 1888 came to this country and located in Blair. For a considerable period he divided his time between working in the pineries winters and on farms summers. As miller for W. G. Hyslop, at Blair, he did most efficient work for some seven years. For eight months Mr. Peterson was marshal at Blair. His fraternal affiliations are with the Independent Foresters and the Beavers. Mr. Peterson was married Aug. 21, 1898, to Lottie Kvenmon, of Blair, the daughter of Christ and Peunellie (Braskerud) Kvenmon, and this union has been blessed with seven children: Goldie, Alf, Alden, Gladys, Orrie, Robert and Pearl. The family faith is that of the United Norwegian Lutheran church.

Donald M. Phillips, D. D. S., of Galesville, was born in La Crosse County, Wis., July 30, 1891, a son of H. M. and Lillie (McKenzie) Phillips. The father was born in West Salem, Wis., April 5, 1868, and in early manhood was a farmer. He is now residing in Galesville, where he is in business as a bridge builder and contractor. His wife, the Doctor's mother, was born near La Crosse, Wisconsin. Dr. Phillips, who was the eldest of a family of six children, attended school in Galesville and subsequently took a preliminary college course from instructors connected with the University of Northern Indiana. His degree of D. D. S. was obtained later, after the usual course of study, from the Chicago College of Dental Surgery. In 1914 he began practicing his profession in Galesville and has since remained here. He has already gained a good reputation for skill and the number of his patrons has steadily increased, so that he is kept busy most of the time. He owns some valuable property in Galesville. Dr. Phillips' fraternal affiliations are with the local Masonic lodge, of which he is now junior deacon, the Red Men, Beavers, Modern Woodmen of America and Yeomen. He is also a member of the Galesville Fire Department. Dec. 26, 1914, Dr. Phillips was married to Florence Song, of Evanston, Ill., daughter of A. F. and Adeline (Ryerson) Song, both natives and present residents of Chicago, where her father is connected with the printing business. Dr. and Mrs. Phillips have two children: Donald M., Jr., who was born Jan. 7, 1916, and Robert Milton, born April 26, 1917.

Adolph C. Olson, harness manufacturer and dealer, now located at Blair, was born in Preston Township, this county, March 11, 1873, son of Carlos and Caroline (Christenson) Olson, and grandson of Andrew and Olea Christenson, all of whom were born in Norway, and immigrated to the United States, Andrew Christenson and his family coming first and Carlos Olson coming in 1871. Left fatherless when but little more than a year old, Adolph C. Olson was reared by his mother and grandparents until he was 10 years of age, at which time he was adopted by Andrew Shelly, a farmer of Springfield Township, Jackson County, Wis. At the age of 24 he started out for himself, and for several years was employed as a farm hand. In 1900 he began to learn the trade of harnessmaking under Ed. Arneson, of Taylor, this State. He came to Blair in 1904 and purchased a half interest in the shop of A. H. Boe. For several years the business was conducted under the firm name of Boe & Olson. Then, in 1907, Mr. Olson bought out his partner, and has since been the sole owner and proprietor. He manufactures and repairs leather goods and horse supplies. A substantial man in the community, he has been especially prominent in the local lodge of the Sons of Norway, in which he has been vice-president since 1912. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen. His religious affiliations are with the Synod Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Olson was married Nov. 2, 1904, to Olive Peterson, daughter of Ole and Lena Peterson, formerly of Jackson County, this State, both now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Olson have had three children: Lillian (died at the age of 4 years), Agnes and Lloyd.

Olaus and Carl Thompson, proprietors of 187 acres of land in section

16, Unity Township, are the sons of Klemet and Cecil (Sletto) Tandlokken, and were born on the family homestead in Unity Township—Olaus, Feb. 8, 1883, and Carl, Feb. 6, 1885. The original family name of Tandlokken has been Americanized to Thompson. The father, Klemet, who was born in Gulbrandsdalen, Norway, came to America in 1865, settling first in Vernon County, Wis., where he remained until 1870. He then purchased the farm in Unity Township now owned by his sons Olaus and Carl and spent the rest of his life in its improvement. His death took place January 16, 1909. His wife Cecil was born in Norway, June 26, 1854, and died Aug. 8, 1916. There were seven children in their family, of whom the two brothers above mentioned are the only ones now living. Carl Thompson was married June 21, 1911, to Nettie Nelson, of Unity Township, who was born in this township Sept. 4, 1876, daughter of Peder and Karen (Anderson) Nelson. Her father, a farmer by occupation, was born in Gulbrandsdalen, Norway, Feb. 22, 1843, son of Nels Peterson and Christina, his wife, and came to America in 1866, settling in Vernon County, Wis., where he remained two years. In 1869 he located on his present farm of 160 acres in section 19, Unity Township, Trempealeau County, where he has since remained, having well improved the farm. He was married, April 26, 1868, to Karen Anderson, of Vernon County, Wis., who was born in Norway, Oct. 21, 1841, and whose father, Andrew, died in Norway. Peder Nelson and wife were the parents of six children: Nels, who died at the age of 6 years; Marcus and Matilda, residing at home; Nettie, who is now Mrs. Carl Thompson; Albert, who married Selma Johnson, resides in Minneapolis and has had one child, Lincoln, who died at the age of 9 years; and Palma, who married Gust Peterson, of St. Paul. Mr. and Mrs. Carl Thompson have one child, Mabel Sylvia, who was born Dec. 13, 1912. Both Carl and Olaus Thompson are stockholders in the Farmers' Bank of Osseo. They are members of the Synod Norwegian Lutheran church, of Strum. Carl has served two years as township supervisor.

Louis J. Schansberg, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits as proprietor of Meadow Lake Farm of 155 acres, situated in section 24, Lincoln township, was born in Vernon County, Wis., near Chaseburg, Oct. 16, 1881. He is a son of John Schansberg, who was born in Norway in October, 1841, and who came to the United States in 1860, locating in Vernon County, Wis., where he resided until 1897. In that year John Schansberg removed to Trempealeau County, settling on the farm where his son Louis J. now resides, and which he cultivated until 1907. He then sold it to the latter and retired to a small farm near Whitehall, where he is now living. His wife, whose maiden name was Berget Steenberg, is still living, being now 69 years old. Louis J. Schansberg resided at home working with his father until 1907, in which year he bought the home farm with his brother, Henry J., and they operated it together in partnership until 1912, when Louis purchased his brother's interest in the place and has since remained sole proprietor. The buildings include a two-story, seven-room house, with full basement, and provided with furnace, bath, toilet and all necessary conveniences. In 1916 Mr. Schansberg built an ell-shaped, frame barn, the main part being 32 by 60 feet, and the ell 34 by 44, with concrete blocks four



L. J. SCHIANSBERG AND FAMILY

feet from the bottom, and 17 feet above the blocks. It is furnished with 25 Louden stanchions and litter carrier, and has concrete floors, concrete mangers and individual drinking fountains. He has also two silos—one a stave silo, 14 by 29 feet, the other of cement blocks, 12 by 29. Mr. Schansberg keeps graded Shorthorn cattle, having a herd of 45 head, of which he milks 20; he also feeds 100 Duroc-Jersey hogs a year. Aside from his direct farming interests, he is a director and vice-president of the Pigeon Grain & Stock Company. Since 1909 he has been treasurer of joint district No. 1, of Lincoln and Pigeon Townships, has served on the township board two years and as township treasurer two years. April 7, 1907, Mr. Schansberg was married to Clara Simonson, who was born in Pigeon Township, this county, Dec. 18, 1878, and whose father, Peter Simonson, now a retired farmer of that township, came to America from Norway in 1870. Her mother, whose maiden name was Helena Weverstad, is now 78 years old. Mr. and Mrs. Schansberg have five children: Selma V., born Jan. 28, 1908; Odell N., born June 19, 1909; Helen, born March 13, 1912; Lawrence, born Dec. 31, 1914, and Ralph H., born Jan. 8, 1917. The family are members of the United Norwegian Lutheran church, of which Mr. Schansberg has been secretary since 1911.

Paul Sura, a well-known real estate dealer and business man of Independence, was born in this village, June 11, 1880, a son of Peter and Agatha (Lucasek) Sura. The father, who was born in Germany, came to America in 1857, was the first Polish settler in Burnside and died May 11, 1879, at the age of 79 years. The mother of the subject of this sketch, who was his father's second wife, is still living in the village, being now 60 years of age. Peter Sura had a large family numbering 18 children, nine by each wife, all of those by the first wife being now dead. Paul Sura, who was the second-born child of the second marriage, after beginning industrial life worked out for others for some seven years. He then, in 1904, bought the saloon of Ignaatz Jelen in Independence and has since carried on business here, occupying a modern brick building of two stories with basement, 46 by 28 feet in dimensions. He deals in real estate and has recently built a modern garage, a brick building of two stories and basement, with concrete floors, 30 by 60 feet, with machine shop, washing rack and all necessary fixtures. He deals in Oldsmobiles (8's and 4's) and Dodge Bros. cars, together with all supplies and accessories. He is also a stockholder and was a promoter of the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of Independence. Mr. Sura was married Nov. 16, 1904, to Annie Woychik, of Independence, a daughter of Thomas and Frances (Gierok) Woychik, her father being a farmer. He and his wife have three children: Benedict, Lucy and Clarence. Mr. Sura is a member of the Catholic church. Active and enterprising, he takes a keen interest not only in the advancement of his own fortunes, but also in the general prosperity of the village and is prompt to lend his aid to a worthy cause.

Marcus Olson, who is conducting a farm of 78 acres in sections 10 and 15, Gale Township, was born in Ettrick Township, Trempealeau County, Wis., Dec. 28, 1873, son of Samuel and Bertha (Larson) Olson. The parents were natives of Berey, Norway, in which country they were mar-

ried. On coming to this country they settled near Sparta, Wis., from which place they later removed to Ettrick Township, where Samuel Olson engaged in farming. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted early in the Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteers, Company B, and served until the close of the war, escaping death, wounds and imprisonment. He is now a resident of Gale Township, and is a widower, his wife having died in February, 1900. Their family was large, numbering 12 children, Marcus being the fourth in order of birth. Marcus Olson was obliged to support himself at the early age of 10 years, working for his clothing and board. Besides doing farm work, he learned the carpenter's trade and worked at it for a number of years at intervals. Later he engaged in hauling cream to the creamery at Galesville and was thus occupied for 12 years. In 1907 he bought his present farm and has since resided on it, carrying on general farming and dairying. He has made extensive improvements on the place and now has good modern buildings with an adequate supply of tools and implements and all the accessories needed for modern agriculture. Besides operating his farm he still hauls cream to the creamery. Mr. Olson was married, June 15, 1899, to Julia Jurgensen, who was born at French Creek, Ettrick Township, daughter of Simon and Agnes (Johnson) Jurgensen. Her parents were natives of Norway, the father born June 15, 1830, the mother in 1834. Simon Jurgensen, who died in August, 1916, was a Civil War veteran, having enlisted in the same company and regiment as Samuel Olson, the father of the subject of this sketch. Receiving a gunshot wound in battle, he was sent home disabled, but recovering sufficiently, he returned to the army and served until the close of the war. The greater part of his life was spent in farming. His wife died in 1908. Their daughter Julia, who was the ninth born in a family of 12 children, was educated in the schools of Ettrick Township. Mr. and Mrs. Olson are the parents of six children: Aslang Lelma, Bert Selinar, Mabel Josephine, Lester Vilas, Clarence Richard and Hazel Irene, all of whom are residing at home. The Olson family are members of the Lutheran church. Mr. Olson gives his political allegiance to the Republican party, but is not active in politics, devoting his entire attention to his farm, his cream route and his home.

Louis Crawford Olson, manager of the Arctic Springs Creamery at Galesville, was born at Wild Rose, Waushara County, Wis., May 13, 1885. His parents were Louis and Ida (Nelson) Olson. The father, who was born in Norway, June 5, 1849, was brought to the United States when a child of four years and was reared in Wisconsin, becoming a farmer and land owner near Wild Rose. He has held various local offices and is still in active life. His parents reside in that vicinity. His wife Ida was born in Sheboygan, Wis., April 10, 1855. Louis Crawford Olson was the youngest of four children, of whom three are still living. He attended the grammar and high school at Wild Rose, also business college in Grand Rapids, Wis., subsequently taking a course in dairying at the University of Wisconsin. When about 18 years of age he was given the practical management of his parents' farm and remained at home until about 1911, when he entered the employ of the Wild Rose Creamery Company, with whom he remained two years. It was immediately after this that he took the dairy course at the



WILLIAM RUSSELL HENRY RUSSELL AND FAMILY MRS. WILLIAM RUSSELL

university. He then spent a year in Peshtigo, Wis., at the end of which time he came to Galesville to assume the duties of his present position. He is also a stockholder in the Wild Rose Creamery Company, but devotes his entire time to the creamery in Galesville. Mr. Olson was married June 5, 1913, to Jane Ramsdale, who was born in Madison, Wis., daughter of Frank and Mary (Jones) Ramsdale. Her parents were natives, respectively of Madison and Cambria, Wis. The father, who was a printer in early life, about the year 1900 became connected with the State Fish Commission, and is at present in its employ. He and his wife reside at Wild Rose, Wis. Mr. and Mrs. Olson are the parents of a daughter, Lorraine Clara. Mr. Olson belongs to the Masonic lodge at Wild Rose, No. 274, and to the Eastern Star in Galesville. In politics he is a Republican.

Henry Russell, proprietor of the Russell farm of 190 acres in section 4, Burnside Township, was born on this farm Oct. 4, 1874, son of William and Christina (Cooper) Russell, who were married in Scotland, their native land. William Russell was born in 1834 and his wife Christina Nov. 26, 1840, the former's birthplace being Edinburgh. In 1863 William, with his wife, four children, and his wife's parents, Henry and Isabelle (McKay) Russell, emigrated to the United States, locating first in Pennsylvania, where William Russell found employment in the coal mines. In the spring of the following year all the other members of the family came to Trempealeau County, Wis., he joining them in the fall. Here he bought the farm now owned by his son Henry, the subject of this sketch. At the time he did so he had neither team nor tools for agricultural purposes and the family was destitute of furniture. How they managed to get along and achieve final prosperity might well puzzle anyone brought up under modern conditions, but they accomplished this seemingly impossible task, after enduring many severe privations. Obtaining a few tools, perhaps by borrowing from his neighbors, who were always ready to help newcomers, Mr. Russell erected a small log house, 14 by 16 feet in dimensions, having a puncheon floor and slab roof, which was the family home for some years; and by some arrangement he obtained the use of an ox team for breaking the land. His subsequent labors were similar to those of other pioneers, which may be found often described in this volume. Here William Russell lived and toiled for 22 years, or until his death in 1886. He had made good progress with his farm and its subsequent development has since been taken care of by his son Henry, now the owner of the property, with whom resides the latter's mother, and other members of the family. One of the most recent improvements is a good barn, built in 1916, which measures 38 by 70 by 20 feet. It is of frame construction, except for the lower four feet, which is of concrete blocks, and has cement floors all through, being also provided with steel stanchions, litter carriers and other modern conveniences. Mr. Russell has a herd of 35 Durham cattle, of which he milks 15, all being high-grade animals, while he raises the various crops indigenous to this region. For fifteen years he has served as clerk of the school board. He was married June 7, 1899, to Allie Back, of Chimney Rock Township, daughter of George and Charlotte (Branch) Back, her father being a well-known farmer of that township. Mr. and Mrs. Russell have two children: Russell

A., born in September, 1900, and Christina, born in December, 1908. The following is a brief record of the children of William and Christina (Cooper) Russell: Alexander, who died in 1891; Mary, wife of A. W. Liver, a merchant of Independence, Wis.; Isabelle, who married William Koepke, of Racine, Wis., and died in 1910; Christina, who died in 1892; Henry, proprietor of the old homestead; William, now a farmer at Portland, Ore.; and Tona, wife of Albert Olson, a farmer of Preston Township, this county.

Peter C. Skroch, a well-known business man of Independence, agent for the G. Heileman Brewing Company, of La Crosse, was born in German Poland Aug. 12, 1864, a son of John and Mary (Sobota) Skroch. The father, John Skroch, a native of German Poland, came to the United States in 1882 and, settling in Trempealeau County, Wis., bought a farm in Lincoln Township, where he resided until 1900, when he retired to Independence. He died Jan. 14, 1916, aged 84 years. His wife Mary died Dec. 25, 1911, at the age of 63. Peter C. Skroch was reared on the home farm in Lincoln Township and lived there until his marriage. He then engaged in mason work in Independence. In 1889 he accepted his present position as agent for the G. Heileman Brewing Company, of La Crosse. Since 1892 he has held the office of assessor in Independence. He is a stockholder and was one of the organizers of the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank, of Independence. A member of the Catholic church, he has been secretary of the Congregation Sts. Peter and Paul for five years. He is president and was one of the organizers of Sts. Peter and Paul Society, having held the office of president seven years. This society is a branch (No. 14) of the Polish Union of America. In politics Mr. Skroch is a Democrat. Mr. Skroch was first married, Sept. 8, 1892, to Mary Sygula, of Burnside Township, who died in 1900 at the early age of 28 years. She left two children: Mary, now Mrs. John Klink, of Independence; and Rosa, a clerk in Garthus' store in this village, who resides at home. June 6, 1904, Mr. Skroch married for his second wife Rosa Firlus, of St. Paul. Of this union there are six children: Aloysius, Clara, Martha, Alphonse, Helen and Clarence.

Simon Skroch, a business man of Independence, of which village he is now postmaster, was born in Burnside Township, Trempealeau County, Wis., Oct. 28, 1885. His parents were Frank and Agnes (Sobota) Skroch. The father, who was born in German Poland, came to America in 1880, settling in Burnside Township, this county, where he died in 1892 at the age of 58 years. His wife survived him a number of years, dying in 1903 at the age of 52. They had 10 children, of whom Simon was the ninth in order of birth. He received his education in the parochial school and the Independence High School, graduating from the latter in 1903. Simon Skroch in his youth acquired a knowledge of farming, and from 1904 to 1908 worked at that occupation for his brother Michael. From 1910 to 1914 he earned a good living as painter and paper-hanger, following that occupation at Independence. Dec. 22, 1913, he was appointed postmaster at Independence by President Wilson, and has since retained that office. In politics he is a strong Democrat. Aside from his immediate occupation, he is a stockholder in the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank, of Independence. He belongs to the Knights of Columbus in Arcadia and is a member of the Catholic



MR. AND MRS. OLE J. ROMUNDSTAD—MR. AND MRS. MICHAEL J. ROMUNDSTAD

church. Oct. 13, 1914, Mr. Skroch was united in marriage with Lucy Zilla, of Independence, who was born Dec. 11, 1892, daughter of John F. and Agnes (Motszko) Zilla. Her father, who was a plumber by trade, died in 1907 at the age of 39 years. Her mother is still living and resides in Independence, being now 44 years old. Mr. and Mrs. Skroch have one child, Florence, who was born May 8, 1916.

Edwin C. Hanson, of the firm of Hanson & Johnson, hardware and implement dealers of Blair, is a native of the village where he now lives, having been born April 9, 1881, son of Christ C. and Bertha (Peterson) Blair, the former of whom, a retired merchant now living in Blair, came to America in 1869, and found his way directly to Trempealeau County. Edwin C. Hanson remained at home until 20 years of age, and then became timekeeper in an iron mine at Ely, Minn. Returning to Blair, he clerked for a number of years in the store of G. L. Solberg. Sept. 12, 1912, he purchased the hardware stock of F. L. Immel, and on Jan. 1, 1913, the implement stock of A. B. Peterson, carrying on the joint business under his own name until Jan. 20, 1915, when he took Oscar B. Johnson as a partner under the firm name of Hanson & Johnson. May 1, 1916, they purchased the building on the corner of Broadway and Gilbert Street, and have since carried on business there. The structure is a brick-veneered building, 28 by 64 feet, two-story with a basement, steam heated and modern throughout, and the firm carries a complete line of goods, being known far and wide for its reasonable prices and honest dealings. Mr. Hanson has done good service on the village council for six years. His fraternal relations are with the Modern Woodmen, the Sons of Norway and the Beavers. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Hanson was married Oct. 30, 1907, to Helga Olson, born in Hale Township, Aug. 8, 1880, daughter of Ole C. and Martha (Paulson) Hanson, the former of whom came from Norway in 1869. Mr. and Mrs. Hanson had three children: Bessie, who died in infancy; Corinne, born Nov. 20, 1910, and Helen E., born Oct. 20, 1914.

Michael J. Romundstad, proprietor of Valley View Farm, Unity Township, a highly improved piece of agricultural property, was born on this farm, Jan. 27, 1874, son of Ole J. and Gertrude O. Romundstad. The father was one of the early settlers in this locality. Born in Rindalen, near Trondjem, Norway, Sept. 3, 1840, he came to the United States in the spring of 1869 and homesteaded the farm on which his son Michael J. now lives. This farm now consists of 280 acres, of which 200 lie in section 4 and the other 80 in section 33. Here Ole J. Romundstad spent some 37 years, adding to the size of his farm and improving it by cultivation and the erection of buildings as needed until it became a valuable piece of property. His laborious career was brought to a close by death, Sept. 10, 1906. His wife Gertrude, who was born in the same part of Norway as himself, Oct. 23, 1847, came to this country in the spring of 1870, their marriage taking place Nov. 7, that year. She is still living and resides with her son, Michael J. Their family numbered nine children: John, a farmer at Fergus, Mont.; Odin, who is engaged in ranching at that place; Michael J., subject of this sketch; Ellen, wife of John Karo, a farmer of Fergus, Mont.; Mollie,

wife of Dan Moltzau, a farmer of Fergus, Mont.; Marit, wife of Harry Haanstad, a sawyer of Medford, Wis.; Louisa, now Mrs. Anton Clementson, her husband being a merchant at Mondovi, Wis.; Annie, wife of H. P. Frodal, of Shevlin, Minn., her husband being a farmer; and Olga, wife of Harry Oquist, a farmer of Roy, Mont. Michael J. Romundstad has resided on his present farm—the old parental homestead—all his life, becoming its manager in 1905 and its owner in 1906, after his father's death, he purchasing the property. The improvements are very extensive, and include a barn, 20 by 52 by 18 feet, for horses; another barn, 30 by 50 by 16 feet, with an ell, 24 by 52 by 18 feet, having cement floors and equipped with steel stanchions; also a residence of frame construction, two stories and basement, and containing ten rooms. Among his other buildings are a skimming house, 10 by 12 feet; a granary, 20 by 32 by 14, and a machine shed, 32 by 22 by 8 feet, these three being frame buildings, together with a concrete silo, 14 by 33 feet. Mr. Romundstad keeps a herd of 32 Shorthorn cattle, graded, and also raises Plymouth Rock chickens. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Exchange Bank, of Osseo, and the Unity Co-Operative Creamery, of Strum. As one of the responsible citizens of Unity Township, he has been called upon several times to aid in local government affairs, having been a member of the township board four years, school clerk four years and assessor one year. June 2, 1909, Mr. Romundstad was united in marriage with Marie Fossum, of Eau Claire, Wis., who was born in that city Dec. 26, 1886, daughter of Anton and Mathia (Johnsgaard) Fossum, her father being a carpenter by occupation. Mr. and Mrs. Romundstad are the parents of four children born as follows: Olive, July 6, 1910; Muriel, Dec. 9, 1911; Astrid, Sept. 23, 1914, and Gjermund, Feb. 25, 1916. The family are members of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

Claud Harrison Hare, proprietor of a dairy and stock farm of 160 acres in section 12, Gale Township, was born in Trempealeau Township, this county, Oct. 6, 1888, son of William and Aurilla (Hovell) Hare. His parents were natives of Wisconsin, the father born in La Crosse County, Sept. 4, 1860, and the mother in Trempealeau County, Oct. 31, 1870. William Hare became a land owner in this county in 1887 and has always been a farmer. He still resides on his old homestead of 180 acres and is one of the active agriculturalists of his township. He and his wife have been the parents of four children. Claud H. was the first born. Claud H. Hare in his boyhood attended District School No. 13, which was located on his father's farm. He learned agriculture under his father's tuition and lived at home until he was 20 years of age. He then worked on a dairy farm for two years, afterward moving to Galesville, where he resided for five months, during this period being engaged in operating a threshing outfit. At the end of that time—in December—he rented the Harris farm in Big Tamarac and operated it until December, 1913, when he purchased his present farm of 160 acres of improved land. This he is operating as a general dairy farm and stock farm, giving particular attention to the breeding of Durham cattle. He is not active in politics, preferring to give his entire attention to his business, which is growing larger each year. June 30, 1909, Mr. Hare was united in marriage with Mabel Harnslein, who was born at French-

ville, Trempealeau County, Wis., daughter of Andrew and Julia (Sagen) Harnslein. Her father, who also was born at Frenchville, this county, and raised there, was a traveling salesman up to the time of his death, Nov. 4, 1911. His wife, Mrs. Hare's mother, who is a sister of Ole Sagen, of Galesville, was born in Norway, Sept. 6, 1862. Mrs. Hare was educated in Trempealeau County, attending the Galesville High School and also Gale College. She and her husband are the parents of two children: Lyle Fern and Ruth Mae. Mr. Hare's fraternal society affiliations are with the Yeomen and the Modern Woodmen of America. He and his family stand high in the community and have a wide circle of friends.

Walter Hunter, a well-known farmer in section 35, Gale Township, was born on his parents' farm at Decorah Prairie, this township, Aug. 12, 1863. His parents were Thomas and Agnes (Grant) Hunter. He was educated in the district school and remained at home until he was 20 years old. He then went to Cheyenne, Wyo., under contract and for one summer was employed in cutting wood for the soldiers at old Fort Laramie. He then went to southwestern Nebraska, where he homesteaded Government land, residing there until the spring of 1902, and during this time being engaged in farming and stock raising on a tract of 320 acres, which he sold in 1906, four years after his return home. In 1902 he purchased his present farm of 120 acres of valley land, which adjoins his father's farm in section 35, and here he has since carried on general farming, devoting his entire time to the business. He is also a stockholder in the La Crosse Packing Company and in the Independent Harvester Company at Plano, Ill. Mr. Hunter was married April 28, 1892, to Jeanette Oliver, daughter of Robert and Mary (Scott) Oliver. Her parents, who were natives of Lanarkshire, Scotland, were early settlers in Trempealeau County, Mr. Oliver becoming an extensive land owner here. Mr. and Mrs. Hunter have a family of eight children: John, Lucian, William, Agnes, Mamie, Ollie, Norman and Donald, all of whom reside at home.

• **Frederick A. Smith**, senior member of the firm of Smith Brothers, hardware and implement dealers of Osseo, was born at Bedford, near Cleveland, Ohio, Sept. 25, 1853, son of Matthias M. and Elizabeth (Thomas) Smith. The family moved to Richland County, Wis., when Frederick A. was an infant, and there he was reared. In the spring of 1877 he came to Trempealeau County, and entered the employ of C. H. Shores & Co., general merchants. In 1888, with his brother, James W., he established his present business, and has since been successfully engaged therein. His standing as a citizen is shown by the fact that he has served as president of the village for 13 years. He has also been treasurer of the village, a member of the school board, and an assessor in the township of Sumner. His fraternal affiliation is with the Masonic order. Mr. Smith was married Nov. 4, 1874, to Mary E. Jaquish, daughter of Joseph and Antoinette Jaquish, of Richland County, Wis. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have three children: Charles G., who works in his father's store; Frank M., who farms near Osseo; and Julia, the wife of Leslie H. Field, also a farmer near Osseo. Mrs. Smith died Feb. 17, 1917. The firm of Smith Brothers, which does a large business, and which by fair dealing and sound business integrity has built up a large

trade, had its origin in 1888, when Frederick A. and James W. Smith bought the business of A. G. Cox, established in 1876, and continued it on an enlarged scale. The original structure was burned in 1891, and the firm erected a new building, 24 by 60 feet, brick veneered, fully equipped for its purpose in every way. The firm handles hardware, implements, paints, leather goods and the like.

James W. Smith, junior member of the firm of Smith Brothers, hardware and implement dealers, of Osseo, was born in Richland County, Wis., March 30, 1857, son of Matthias M. and Elizabeth (Thomas) Smith. He received his education in the public schools, and as a young man taught school in various Wisconsin districts. For a time he was merchant and postmaster at Neptune, Wis. In 1888 he came to Osseo, and established his present business. With the exception of the year 1900, he has been clerk of the village of Osseo since its organization in 1893, and in this capacity has done most excellent service. The Congregational church has found in him an active worker, and he has served that organization as treasurer since 1889 and as superintendent of the Sunday school since 1894. Mr. Smith was married Dec. 25, 1882, to Della M. Warner, who was born in Richland County, Wis., and died at Osseo, June 17, 1891.

Sivert Rekstad. Among the leading farmers and business men of Unity Township is the subject of this sketch, who was born near Trondjem, Norway, July 8, 1852, son of John E. and Kari Rekstad. Both parents died in Norway, the father, who was a farmer, in 1863, and the mother in 1893. Sivert Rekstad came to America in June, 1873, locating first in Ishpeming, Mich., where he worked as a carpenter for one year. Then going to Eau Claire, he found employment in the sawmill and pineries, spending one year in these closely related occupations. Subsequently until 1883 he worked as a carpenter and on farms in Unity Township, and at the end of that time purchased the farm he now owns in section 19, Unity Township, and which contains 172 acres and is known as Pine Grove Farm. This property is highly improved, the buildings, which are fine in appearance and substantially constructed, consisting of the following: A barn, 32 by 60 by 18 feet; horse barn, 20 by 42 by 16, with an addition of 16 by 16 feet; sheep barn, 24 by 32, with an ell 12 by 22 feet; granary, 20 by 32 feet, and a good frame residence of one and a half stories. Besides carrying on this farm Mr. Rekstad has been actively interested for a number of years in other important business enterprises. For 14 years he was manager of the N. C. Foster Lumber Company, of Strum, and then for two years he held the same position for their successors, the Wilson-Weber Lumber Company, and during the two following years was manager for the North Star Lumber Company, successors to the Wilson-Weber Lumber Company. In 1908 he assisted in organizing the First State Bank of Strum, of which he has since been a director. He was its vice-president for two years and since Jan. 1, 1916, has held the office of president. Jan. 1, 1911, he became treasurer of the Unity Co-Operative Creamery and still holds that position. He was treasurer of the town of Unity for five years, town clerk two years and treasurer of the school district 33 years, has been identified with the Mutual Insurance Company of Ettrick for 35 years. Mr. Rekstad was married,



SIVERT REKSTAD AND FAMILY

June 23, 1882, to Annie Knutson, who was born in Brown County, Kan., Aug. 17, 1859. He and his wife have been the parents of six children: Christophine, who is residing at home; Mary, residing at home, and a teacher in the parochial school; Martha, a nurse in the Lutheran Hospital at Eau Claire; Joseph, who died when 3½ years of age; Clara, a music teacher living at home; and Katrine, who is a student at St. Olaf's College at Northfield, Minn. Mr. Rekstad and his family are members of the United Norwegian Lutheran church, of which he has been secretary since 1880. Both as a farmer and business man he has made an excellent record and is highly respected throughout Unity and neighboring townships.

Peter J. Callahan, a prosperous farmer in section 5 South, Ettrick Township, was born in Boston, Mass., Feb. 9, 1859, son of James and Katherine (O'Keefe) Callahan. His parents were born in County Kerry, Ireland, the father in March, 1825, and the mother in 1839, their marriage taking place in Boston. James Callahan was 30 years old when he came to the United States. He was a carpenter and wheelwright by trade and was thus employed in Boston for a number of years. In 1864 he came from that city to Wisconsin and homesteaded land in section 32, this township, which place he has since developed into a good farm with substantial buildings, and is still active in agricultural work. During his early years in this vicinity he followed at times his trade of carpenter, and many of the old residences here were built by him. His wife is also living. Peter J. Callahan was the second born in a family of four children. He was educated in the district school and remained at home until 20 years of age. He then began working in the northern woods, and continued working for others until he was 25, when he bought his present farm. He had some previous experience in farming, starting when a lad of eight or nine years, when he used to lead the oxen his father used in plowing and subsequently assisted his father in other branches of farm work. After buying his farm Mr. Callahan resided on it for two and a half years and then went to La Crosse, where he entered the employ of a firm for whom he traveled for eight or nine years. He then returned to his farm, which consists of 80 acres of valuable land. He is carrying on general farming with some stock raising, breeding Duroc-Jersey hogs, and is also a stockholder in the Ettrick & Northern Railroad Company. Mr. Callahan was married June 25, 1892, to Catherine Corcoran, who was born at Ettrick, this county, daughter of John and Catherine (McKay) Corcoran. Her father, who was born in County Kerry, Ireland, in 1825, was a farmer all his active life, coming to Trempealeau County in 1864, and residing here until his death in 1875. Mrs. Callahan's mother was born at Horseheads, Pa., Jan. 15, 1833, and in her younger days was a cook on the Erie canal, having 40 cooks under her supervision, her husband being employed on the canal at the same time. They were thrifty and industrious people and a valuable addition to the farming community of their township. Mr. and Mrs. Callahan are the parents of two children: Catherine Mae and Arnold James. Catherine Mae, who was born Aug. 27, 1893, is the wife of William Bishop, of Canadian birth, and they reside on the Callahan farm. They have two children: William Stanley and Catherine Fay. Arnold James Callahan was born

Aug. 2, 1896. After graduating from the local schools he attended the La Crosse normal school and has taught school for four terms, making a creditable record. Mr. Callahan is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters, he and his family being members of the Catholic church, in which he is serving as a trustee. In politics he is independent, though usually voting the Democratic ticket.

Melvin P. Skogstad, the energetic cashier of the Farmers Exchange Bank, of Osseo, of which he is one of the organizers, was born in Chimney Rock Township, Aug. 18, 1886, son of Peter J. and Mary (Hanson) Skogstad. Peter J. Skogstad was born in Norway, came to America in 1865 with his parents, lived in Dane County, this state, a number of years, came to Trempealeau County in 1868, and for several years has been associated with his son-in-law, Harvey Havenor, at Eleva, Wis., in the hardware and implement business. In the family there were six children: Clara died at the age of ten months; Cora is the wife of Harvey Havenor, a hardware man in Eleva; Melvin P. is the subject of this sketch; Luella is the wife of Ben Bergerson, a farmer of Albion Township; Henry is at home; Palmer served as clerk for a time in the First State Bank of Strum, and now making his home at Eleva. Melvin P. Skogstad remained on the farm until twenty years of age. Then he entered the State Bank of Strum, where he was bookkeeper until the spring of 1911, when he became cashier. May 1, 1916, he organized the Farmers Exchange Bank of Osseo, and has since been its cashier. Fraternally Mr. Skogstad is a member of the Masonic order and of the Modern Woodmen. He was married May 10, 1913, to Goldie Cardinal, of Sumner Township, born Sept. 9, 1894, daughter of Samuel and Emma (Olson) Cardinal, both of that township. Mr. and Mrs. Skogstad have two children: Marjorie Eleanor, born Feb. 22, 1914, and Stanford Pierre, born March 19, 1916. The family faith is that of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America at Osseo.

Charles F. Peterson, M. D., of Independence, a man of excellent standing in his profession, was born in Pomerania, Prussia, June 5, 1871. His father, August Peterson, born in Germany in 1838, came to the United States in 1884 and for some years operated a stone quarry at Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wis. He died Jan. 25, 1917. August married Minnie Anklam, who was born in 1842 and came with her husband and the rest of their family to this country, including the subject of this sketch. She is no longer living, having passed away in 1904. Charles F. Peterson was 13 years of age when he left Germany with his parents. He had attended school in his native land and after coming to Trempealeau County entered the Arcadia high school, where he was graduated in 1892. He taught eight years and in 1900 he was graduated from the River Falls (Wis.) normal school, and for the next two years followed the occupation of a teacher. As such he proved his ability and was principal of schools at Independence, Osceola and Galesville. In the meanwhile he entered medical college in 1902 and began the study of medicine and was graduated from the Northwestern Medical College at Chicago in 1907, while there becoming a member of the Phi Beta Pi college fraternity. On June 1 of the year of his graduation he opened an office in Independence, Wis., where he has built



DR. E. A. OLSON AND FAMILY

up a successful practice both in medicine and surgery. He has never allowed himself to get into a rut, but keeps in close touch with the advance of his profession, continuing his studies and subscribing for the best medical journals. He is a member of the county, state and national medical associations, being now secretary of the county association, of which he served as president one year. Aside from this he keeps up his interest in educational matters. He has been clerk of Independence school district since 1907, and it was he who started and kept up the agitation for the new and splendid school building, costing \$32,000, which is at once an ornament to the town and an important factor in the training of the younger generation. This enterprise was not brought to fruition without considerable labor on his part, for there were many who objected to the cost of the building, preferring to put off the work to some future time and to get along for the present with inferior accommodations, but Dr. Peterson and a few others looked farther ahead and finally brought a majority of the citizens to see the expediency of present and thorough action and the work was accomplished, which probably few of the original objectors are now sorry for. Dr. Peterson has also taken an active interest in the local library, having served as president of the board since 1908, in which position he has used his influence to augment the quantity and raise the qualitative standard of the books in the circulating department. He has also served as health officer of the village since 1908 and has been physician of Trempealeau County asylum since July 1, 1915. The State Bank of Independence numbers him among its stockholders. Dr. Peterson was first married Jan. 18, 1896, to Julia Runkel, of Independence, a daughter of J. W. and Margaret (Steiner) Runkel. She died Feb. 13, 1904, at the early age of 28 years, having been the mother of two children: Maxwell, who died when a year old, and Donald, now (1917) aged 16 years. June 5, 1906, Dr. Peterson married for his second wife Helen Runkel, who is a sister of his first wife. They have a wide circle of friends in the best society of Independence.

Ever A. Olson, M. D., has practiced medicine in Osseo for nearly forty years. Arriving here June 20, 1877, he at once opened an office, and with the exception of one year, 1889-90 spent in Sioux Falls, S. D., has since continued to live here. Aside from ministring to a constantly increasing number of patients he has been actively engaged in public life for many years. When the village of Osseo was organized he served as president of the first council, and continued in that position for four years. For thirty years he has been health officer of Osseo and Sumner Township. A conservative Republican in politics, he has been delegate to district, county and congressional conventions, and has served as a member of the Republican County committee. His financial holdings include an interest in the Farmers Exchange Bank of Osseo. In the Masonic order he has passed through the chairs of the Blue Lodge, and is a member of the Chapter and Commandery. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias. Member of the State Medical Society and the Eau Claire County Medical Society. He was married Feb. 28, 1875, to Helen E. Valleau, of Mauston, Wis., born in Lindina Township, Juneau County, Wis., Aug. 29, 1863, daughter of Theodore and Eliza (Linderman) Valleau, pioneers, who were married in

Illinois, and settled in Juneau County in 1855, the former dying in 1913 at the age of 89 years. Mrs. Valleau died in Juneau County, July 8, 1917, aged 89. Dr. and Mrs. Olson have a daughter, Blanche Louise, who was born Oct. 18, 1882, was married Nov. 27, 1909, to Dr. Roy C. Ferguson, a dentist of Osseo, and has two children, Marlen Neville and Virginia. Dr. Olson was born near Christiania, Norway, Oct. 18, 1850, was brought to Wisconsin as an infant, passed through the schools of Mauston, in that state, and graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Keokuk, Iowa. His parents, Ole T. and Sarah (Everson) Olson, were born in Norway, came to America in 1853, and after living in Milwaukee, Wis., for a time went to Mauston, where the father engaged in the show business and where he still lives at the age of 92, the mother having died in 1894 at the age of 75 years. Dr. Olson in 1900 spent four months in Europe, traveling extensively through Belgium, France, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, England, Ireland and Scotland. He attended the Paris Exposition and visited land of the midnight sun. He had the pleasure of viewing the midnight sun.

John A. Rumpel, formerly a member of the firm of Rumpel & Coy, but now sole owner, having purchased the interest of Mr. Coy Jan. 15, 1917, engaged in the meat market and grocery business in Independence, was born Jan. 11, 1892, in this village, son of Nicholas and Josephine (Filla) Rumpel. The father, a native of Poland, was formerly proprietor of the old Welcome House, which for many years was a well known landmark in this locality. He died in 1903 at the age of 42 years. His wife, now 50 years old, is living in Independence. John A. Rumpel after leaving school learned the butcher's trade in Independence and worked for others until the firm of Rumpel & Coy was organized, April 1, 1916. Then with George A. Coy he bought the business and fixtures of the Peter Filla Market, renting the building, which is a two-story brick structure with basement. He does his own killing and handles a full line of fresh and cured meats, groceries, canned goods and bakery goods. Though so recently started he has made good progress and his establishment is favorably known throughout this part of the county, enjoying a good and increasing patronage. Mr. Rumpel was married Nov. 3, 1914, to Anna Smick, of Independence, daughter of Julius and Hattie (Blacha) Smick, her father being a retired farmer now residing at Elk Creek. Mr. and Mrs. Rumpel have one child, Marion Lucile, born Jan. 7, 1916. The family are members of the Catholic church.

John B. Corcoran, a well known and popular citizen of Ettrick Village, engaged in the mail service as carrier, has lived in Trempealeau County all his life, having been born a quarter of a mile from the site of Ettrick, May 15, 1858. His parents were James and Hannah (Callahan) Corcoran. James Corcoran was born in County Kerry, Ireland, in 1830, and his wife in Ireland in 1831. The former was a young man when he came to the United States, settling in New York State. For two years he was employed as clerk in the old Van Dusen Hotel at Elmira, N. Y., and then, about 1855, came west to Wisconsin, locating in Galesville, Trempealeau County. Here he entered the employ of Judge Gale, his wife—for he had married in New York State—boarding the men who were engaged in building the judge's residence, which now stands on the Gale farm. After being thus occupied

for awhile James Corcoran, anxious to become independent, availed himself of the opportunity to homestead a farm on the East Branch, near Ettrick, and having secured this property, settled down to develop and improve it. There he resided until his death, which occurred about 1890. His wife survived him many years, dying in 1913. They had a family of seven children, of whom John B. was the first born. John B. Corcoran first attended school in the Ettrick district and distinctly remembers the small log shanty in which he mastered his A, B, C. Afterwards he went to school at Frenchville, where he gained some further knowledge. He had to make himself useful at an early age, however, especially as being the eldest child and son he was the best able to assist his father. At that time he frequently drove cows over the site of the present village of Ettrick. Wild game was abundant and he has counted as many as 15 or 20 deer at one time, while there were also many beaver. When 12 years old he often used to haul wheat from Ettrick to Trempealeau with an ox team. Later he became a regular farm hand and also tried other industrial lines, working some four or five years as a machinist in Ettrick, following the same trade for awhile in Galesville and later at Eau Claire, in which place he continued at it three years. Then returning to Ettrick he built a hotel and feed barn, and has continued in that business since, being now engaged in erecting a new hotel of 16 sleeping rooms, office, dining room, parlor and kitchen. The building is of brick veneer two full stories, with ground dimensions of 65 by 34 feet, and will be operated as a commercial hotel. Mr. Corcoran is now serving in his thirteenth year as railroad mail carrier from the Ettrick office and will continue in that occupation, his son, Edwin J., operating the hotel. He is also the owner of a farm of 160 acres, situated a mile and a quarter east of Ettrick on the south branch of Beaver Creek, and is a stockholder in the Ettrick & Northern Railroad. At times he has held office as a member of the township and school boards, his political principles being those of the Democratic party. He is a member of the Catholic church at Ettrick. June, 1884, Mr. Corcoran was married to Margaret Lane, who was born in La Crescent, Minn., daughter of Timothy and Mary (Buckley) Lane, her parents, like his own father, being natives of County Kerry, Ireland, though coming to America seven years later. They settled six miles east of Ettrick, on the Willie Mack farm, where they resided practically for the rest of their lives, though they finally retired and removed to Ettrick Village, where they died. Mr. and Mrs. Corcoran are the parents of three children: Edwin J., who resides in Ettrick and has charge of his father's hotel and barn; Florence, wife of Ray Trunbar, proprietor of a European hotel in Sioux City, Iowa, and Perry, who lives with his parents. Mr. Corcoran's fraternal affiliations are with the Order of Beavers. He is noted throughout this region as a skillful hunter, never missing a season of deer hunting in the north woods. Among his trophies of the chase are a jacket, gloves and mittens of buckskin, made from the hides of deer which he killed.

Maurice Casey, Sr., in former years a well known farmer and stock dealer in Ettrick Township, but now deceased, was born at Fort Covington, N. Y., near the Canadian line, and was in early business life a stock dealer exclusively. He resided in the state of New York until 21 years of age,

coming to Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, in 1858, to take advantage of the opportunity for buying cheap land in this section, then but partially developed. Homesteading land in Ettrick Township, he farmed there for many years, also at times dealing in stock. Finally he retired to Ettrick Village, where, after for some time in quiet and easy circumstances, he died July 29, 1909. While not particularly active in public affairs, in early days he served as constable and was a member of the school board for a number of years. Mr. Casey married Helena Daley, a native of New York City, their marriage taking place in La Crosse, Wis. They were the parents of six children. Mrs. Helena Casey died in Ettrick some 18 months previous to her husband, on Dec. 4, 1907. They were highly respected people and had a multitude of friends.

Maurice Casey, a prominent resident of Ettrick Village, where he is profitably engaged in the implement and automobile business, was born in Ettrick, this county, April 14, 1880, son of Maurice, Sr., and Helena (Daley) Casey. He attended school in Ettrick and at an early age was obliged to make himself useful on the home farm, speedily acquiring a knowledge of agricultural methods, stock raising, dairying and all branches of farming science. Up to the age of 19 years he assisted his father and then rented the latter's farm, which he operated for two years with his brother William as partner. At the end of that time he entered the employ of J. E. Cance, of Ettrick, in whose store he learned the tinsmith and plumbing business, continuing with Mr. Cance until 1912, at which time he engaged in his present business. He has a thoroughly up-to-date establishment, enjoys a good patronage, and his trade is steadily increasing. Mr. Casey is the owner of a good residence in Ettrick, besides three village lots, and is a stockholder in the Bank of Ettrick, the Ettrick & Northern Railroad Company, and in Ettrick Hall. His fraternal affiliations are with the Beavers and the Modern Woodmen of America, he having been secretary of his camp in the latter order for the last 12 years. On March 16, 1911, Mr. Casey was united in marriage with Bertha Runnestrand, who was born in Ettrick, Wis., daughter of Knudt E. and Anna (Larson) Runnestrand, natives of Norway, her father coming to Ettrick in 1877. Further mention of the family may be found in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Casey have one child, Helen Anna. In politics Mr. Casey is practically independent, though usually voting the Democratic ticket. He reserves the right, however, to judge of the fitness of candidates for public office, not being bound by strict party ties. As a citizen of Ettrick he has the interests of the general community at heart, and is quick to support any practical measure with that end in view. He and his family are well known and popular residents of the village.

Andrew J. Beirne, who has a good farm of 160 acres in section 13, Gale Township, was born in the neighboring town of Ettrick, this county, Feb. 2, 1869, son of Thomas and Catherine (Smith) Beirne. Both parents were natives of Ireland, the father born in County Roscommon, Dec. 22, 1821, and the mother in County Cavan, April 1, 1831. Coming to America in 1847, Thomas Beirne spent several years in the eastern states, and then, in the fifties, came to Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, homesteading a

farm in Ettrick Township, on which he lived for half a century. Finally retiring, he took up his residence in the village of Ettrick, where he died Nov. 22, 1905. His wife did not long survive him, passing from this life in 1907. Their family numbered nine children, of whom Andrew J. was the eighth born. Andrew J. Beirne was educated in the district school of his neighborhood and while still young picked up a good knowledge of agriculture on his father's farm, of which he had the practical charge after reaching the age of 16 years. He was married to Alice Crogan, who was born in Ettrick Township, daughter of Hugh and Mary (Monahan) Crogan. Mrs. Beirne's father, Hugh Crogan, was born in County Roscommon, Ireland, June 27, 1829, and had a somewhat adventurous career. When a young man he went to California, then the Mecca of gold seekers from all parts of the world, where men of every station in life mingled together in a wild scramble for sudden wealth, most of them, however, meeting only with disappointment, and not a few with speedy death, accidental or otherwise. Mr. Crogan was a man well able to take care of himself, and he remained in the state for a number of years, engaged in mining with moderate success. In 1866 he came to Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, and purchased land, becoming a farmer in Ettrick Township, in which occupation he continued until he was killed in a runaway accident on his farm in 1876. His wife, Mary, who was born in County Roscommon, Ireland, May 18, 1839, died Feb. 15, 1913, having survived him 36 years or more. Their daughter Alice was the fourth born in a family of five children. Mr. Beirne after his marriage continued on his father's farm for four years longer, and then settled on his present property, on which he has made all the improvements. He is engaged in general farming and is a stockholder in the Farmers Exchange of Galesville, the creamery at Galesville and the La Crosse Packing Company. He and his wife have seven children, born as follows: Lester Stephen, Dec. 7, 1895; Gerald Francis, April 19, 1900; Edward Joseph, Aug. 15, 1902; Myrtle Elizabeth, Aug. 7, 1904; Donald Andrew, April 12, 1906; Mary Katherine, May 31, 1907; and Smith Raymond, Jan. 17, 1914. The family are members of the Catholic church, and in politics Mr. Beirne is a Democrat, voting generally his party's ticket, but taking no active part in local government.

George A. Markham, who from 1887 to 1909 was proprietor of the Independence News, was born in Independence, Trempealeau County, Wis., May 7, 1865, a son of George H. and Fannie (Bishop) Markham. His parents are still living in Independence, the father, a retired farmer, being now 80 years old and the mother 76. George A. Markham acquired a good education, attending Gale College at Galesville, and afterwards the Winona normal school. He learned the newspaper business in Galesville while attending school, but subsequently remained on his parents' farm, raising fancy poultry, until the spring of 1887, when he branched out into newspaper work for himself, buying the Independence News, which he edited and published until his death, July 16, 1909. His premature demise, for he was only 44 years old, caused widespread regret, for he was a man of many friends, and in his journalistic work he never neglected any opportunity of advancing the interests of the community of which he was a prominent

citizen, and where he had been born and passed so many years of his life. Mr. Markham was married Oct. 11, 1891, to Ada E. Rogers, who was born Dec. 26, 1867, in Burnside Township, this county, daughter of Alfred H. and Abby A. (Buzzell) Rogers. After Mr. Markham's death Mrs. Markham took charge of the office and has since continued the publication of the News. She is secretary of the library board and is active in a number of ways in promoting the general interests of the village. Religiously she is affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Ernest H. Remington, who is carrying on agricultural operations in section 11, Sumner Township, his farm of 120 acres being known as Cloverhill Farm, was born in this township, May 16, 1874, son of D. L. and Ella (Zhe) Remington. After residing at home until reaching the age of 26 years, he bought a farm in Otter Creek Township, Eau Claire County, which he operated from the year 1900 until the spring of 1907. He then purchased his present farm from Frank Svobada and has since remained here. The property has good buildings on it, the house being a frame structure of two stories and basement, with eight rooms. There is also a frame barn 30 by 56 by 20 feet above stone basement, with cement floors, and a stave silo, 14 by 36 feet. The farm is well fenced with woven wire. Mr. Remington, besides raising the usual crops, keeps graded Holstein cattle and Poland-China hogs. He was first married Thanksgiving Day, 1903, to Ethel Ferguson, of Eau Claire County, daughter of Charles and Jane Ferguson, her father being a farmer and logger, who is now deceased. Mrs. Eethel Remington died Feb. 15, 1907, at the age of 33 years, leaving one child, Vyan Keith, who was born April 24, 1905. On June 29, 1909, Mr. Remington contracted a second marriage, to Cornelia Campbell, who was born Feb. 9, 1877, daughter of Charles R. and Martha Jane (Rosebrook) Campbell. Graduated from Stevens Point normal school in 1898, she followed the vocation of a teacher for 18 years, and was elected county superintendent in the fall of 1905, being re-elected in the fall of 1907, and thus serving four years in that position. Her father, Charles R. Campbell, who was born in Illinois, came to Wisconsin in boyhood. He died in August, 1912, at the age of 72 years. His wife, Martha Jane, died in February, 1913, at the age of 65 years. Of Mr. Remington's second marriage three children were born: Owen, who died at the age of three days; Lucile, born June 27, 1911, and Winnifred Janet, born Sept. 25, 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Remington are members of the Congregational church at Osseo, and he belongs also to the Masonic order and the Modern Woodmen of America. He has served as township supervisor three years, has been chairman of the township board and a member of the county board since 1916, and while a resident of Eau Claire County served as clerk of the school board one year. In addition to his farming interests he is a stockholder in the Osseo Telephone Company and the Osseo Farmers Elevator.

John Ring, postmaster at Osseo, is one of the leading men in this part of the county. As chairman of Sumner Township he did most efficient service on the county board for fourteen years, and as a member of the school board of his district for a considerable period he also did good work. In 1916 he was candidate for county treasurer. For many years he has

been a leading Democrat, and as such has been a member of numerous committees, and a delegate to several conventions. His financial holdings include stock in the Farmers Exchange Bank of Osseo. His fraternal affiliations are with the A. F. & A. M. and the M. W. A. Mr. Ring was born in Milwaukee, March 1, 1857, son of Robert and Sarah (Murphy) Ring, natives of Ireland, who went down with the ill-fated Lady Elgin, on Lake Michigan, Sept. 8, 1860, leaving, besides John, two sons, one of whom, James, worked his way up until he was a successful railroad conductor, and was killed at Hawthorne, Wis., and the other of whom, Michael, became a prominent citizen of Kansas City, Kan., and died a short time ago. Young John, left an orphan by the Lady Elgin catastrophe, was taken into the home of his uncle, Michael Ring, of Cleveland, Ohio, by whom he was reared. As a young man he became interested in farm pursuits. It was in 1879 that he came to Trempealeau County, and secured a farm in section 2, Sumner Township. There he successfully farmed until November, 1915, when he moved to Osseo, to fulfill the duties of the postmastership to which he had been appointed July 2 of that year. Mr. Ring was married April 11, 1877, to Bertha Dighton, daughter of Francis and Dolly Ann (Gillett) Dighton, the former of whom was a Methodist clergyman. Mr. and Mrs. Ring have had eight children: Robert, of Plentywood, Mont.; Jessie, wife of Alva Isom, a farmer of Sumner Township; Julia, wife of Mr. Sever Semmingson, a farmer of Crosby, N. D.; Laura C., wife of Bert Zee, a farmer of Sumner Township; Glen, a farmer of Whitetail, Mont.; Francis, who died at the age of seven years; and Pearl and James, who are at home.

Richard Brophy, who is conducting a farm of 108 acres in section 31, Gale Township, Trempealeau County, was born in this township in October, 1865, son of John and Honora (Colliday) Brophy. His parents were both natives of Ireland, but were married in this country, the father coming here when a lad under 20 years of age. After working for others for a number of years John Brophy became a land owner and engaged in farming for himself, continuing in this occupation until his death in March, 1913. His farm consisted of 100 acres of good land in Gale Township, a part of which is still owned by the subject of this sketch, the latter's mother living with him. Richard Brophy was the eldest in a family of six children. He attended school at Galesville and resided on the homestead with his parents until he was married, except during the winters for eight years, when he worked in the timber woods. Jan. 23, 1893, he married Margaret Cantlin, who was born in Ettrick, this county, daughter of Owen and Margaret (Shay) Cantlin, her parents being natives of Ireland, who came to this country and were married in La Crosse. Owen Cantlin was a farmer, settling at an early date in Ettrick Township, where he resided until his death in 1886. His wife died in June, 1896. Richard Brophy at the time of his marriage rented the farm and operated it on his own account for several years until he finally became its owner, and, as already mentioned, he still owns a part of it. He carries on general farming, raising grain, keeping hogs and cattle, some of the latter being pure-bred Durham, to which breed he is devoting special attention, with the view of raising them almost exclusively. Aside from these immediate interests he is a stockholder in the

Farmers Shipping Association and in the Farmers Co-Operative Packing Company, of La Crosse, while fraternally he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. He and his wife are the parents of seven children: Hazel Ann, LaVerne Eugene, Dorothy, Margaret Esther, Blanche Mary, May Ellen and Katherine Evelyn, all residing at home. Mr. Brophy and family are members of the Catholic church.

Fred W. Lowe. Among the farms of moderate size in Lincoln Township there are few better improved or equipped than that of Fred W. Lowe, of section 22. The property is known as Fair Oaks Farm and contains 160 acres—a size ample for profitable handling without requiring too much outside assistance, which most farmers have found expensive. Mr. Lowe was born in Preston Township, this county, July 14, 1874. His parents were William and Mary Jane (Colwell) Lowe, the former, born in Ulster County, New York, in 1841, being a son of Wessel and Hannah (De Pew) Lowe. When a boy William accompanied his parents to Belvidere, Ill. There were two other children in the family, both of whom died there, and Wessel Lowe, with his wife and surviving son, in 1856 homesteaded a farm in section 7, Preston Township, Trempealeau County. Here they lived for a number of years or until their death. On the breaking out of the Civil War William enlisted in Company C, Thirtieth Wisconsin Infantry, and during his absence of four years his father homesteaded a farm for him in section 7. At Hixton, Wis., in 1869, he married Mary Jane Colwell, who was born in Ulster County, New York, and who died in the hospital at Winona, Minn., Dec. 5, 1910. Fred W. Lowe was educated in the district schools and in the school at Blair, after which he taught for five years. At the age of 21 he bought his grandfather's old farm in section 7, which he operated until March, 1905, considerably improving the property. He then sold it and removed to his present farm in section 22, which he acquired by purchase, and on which he has since resided. Here also he has made some important improvements, in 1912 rebuilding the barn, which is a good frame structure, 34 by 64 by 20 feet, with concrete floors and steel stanchions, and provided with running water. His residence he built in 1916, a two-story frame building, 28 by 32 feet, containing nine rooms, and with kitchen added to the back. It is lighted with electricity, as are also the other buildings on the farm, Mr. Lowe owning his own electric plant, and is also provided with other modern conveniences, hot water heat and running water. Mr. Lowe's dairy building is also of frame construction, is 16 by 20 feet in dimensions, and was equipped with boiler, sterilizer and bottle washer, cooler and bottle filler and refrigerator. Mr. Lowe operated a retail dairy in Whitehall until he sold it Sept. 1, 1917, together with bottling equipment. He has a herd of 40 cattle and milks 30, using the "B. L. K." milking machine of two units. Aside from his farming interests he is a director in the Farmers Telephone Company and the Peoples State Bank. For eight years he has assisted in local government as a member of the township board. He served as township treasurer one year and is now treasurer of the Whitehall school. In the Independent Order of Odd Fellows he has passed all the chairs and is a member of the Grand Lodge of that order, also of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Beavers Reserve Fund Fraternity. June 19, 1895, Mr.



MR. AND MRS. WESSEL LOWE—WILLIAM LOWE AND FAMILY—FRED W. LOWE AND FAMILY

Lowe was united in marriage with Berenice Lamberson, who was born on the Lamberson farm in Lincoln Township Feb. 29, 1872, daughter of John C. and Lucene (Becker) Lamberson. Mrs. Lowe is a lady of more than average education. She was graduated from the Whitehall schools and from Soper's School of Oratory at Chicago, and was teacher of oratory for six years, one year of which time was spent at the Glendale Female College, Glendale, Ohio. She has been an efficient helpmate to her husband and by her wise management of the household has contributed in no small measure to his success. Their family now includes six children, all residing at home, who were born as follows: John W., April 19, 1897; Mirpah M., is attending La Crosse normal school, Jan. 15, 1899; Helen P., April 1, 1903; Portia E., Dec. 5, 1906; Marion B., Jan. 4, 1913, and Esther M., April 30, 1915. The son, John W., is now at the University of Wisconsin, taking a course in chemistry, while the older daughters are able to assist their mother in the work of the household.

D. L. Remington, secretary and manager of the Osseo Telephone Company, is one of the active men of Osseo Village. In 1902, two years after the company was organized, he became secretary, served a year, was then made president, and held that office until 1912, when he assumed the duties of his present position. In public life he has served several years as township chairman and town clerk, and in 1911 he was supervisor of assessments for Trempealeau County. He was vice-president of the Citizens State Bank from 1906 until it was absorbed by the Osseo State Bank late in 1907. In the Congregational church, of which he is an active member, he has been trustee since 1894. Mr. Remington was born in Otsego County New York, March 28, 1851, son of Charles and Elizabeth (Grumley) Remington. Charles Remington was born in New York in 1815, came to Reedsburg, Wis., in 1852, farmed there until 1860, and then moved to Mower County, Minnesota, where he died in 1886. His wife died in Wisconsin in 1853, and in 1858 he married Elizabeth Olp, who died Nov. 10, 1915. The subject of this sketch, having lost his mother, was reared by his uncle, D. L. Remington, who came from Washington County, New York, to Walworth County, Wisconsin, in 1858, and farmed there until 1869, when he came to Trempealeau County and homesteaded a tract of land two miles east of Osseo, where he lived until his death in 1870. The nephew, D. L. Remington, operated the place until 1911, when he moved to Osseo. Mr. Remington was married in 1873 to Ella Zhe, who died in 1884, leaving two children, Ernest, chairman of the town board of Sumner, who farms near the village; and Jessie, who married James W. Rorabeck, a grain man of Franklin, Mont. In 1891 Mr. Remington married Mrs. Emily (Shores) Chamberlain, who was the mother of two children: Harvey, drowned in 1896, and Perry, who operates the home farm.

Nicholas M. Rognlien, a well known and respected citizen of Unity Township, proprietor of a farm of 320 acres, forming the east half of section 30, was born in Hurdalen, Norway, Jan. 31, 1862. His parents were Martin E. and Annie (Enerson) Rognlien, the father born in Norway, Jan. 13, 1826, and the mother in 1823. The family came to America in 1870, taking a homestead in the northwest quarter of section 30, Unity Town-

ship, this county, where Martin E. Rognlien died March 21, 1911, his wife having passed away in 1900. Their family numbered eight children: Even, now deceased, whose widow and children now reside on the farm of the subject of this sketch; Bertha, who married John M. Rice, a farmer of Johnson Valley, and died in 1882; Georgia, who died at the age of 22 years; Nicholina, wife of Louis Dahl, a farmer of Unity Township; Anton, who is farming in Albion Township, this county; Martin, a farmer of Unity Township; Nicholas M., also of Unity Township, and Otto, who is a farmer in Griggs County, North Dakota. Nicholas M. Rognlien, like most farmers' sons, was early trained to agricultural work, and when quite young was able to be of some assistance to his father. When he got large and strong he began working out in the pineries, but after being thus occupied for a while he bought 120 acres of land in section 17, Unity Township, which he sold later to Even Holte for \$1,500, Mr. Holte paying \$5.00 down and the balance at the rate of \$100 a year for 15 years. After selling this farm Mr. Rognlien rented the home farm from his father and operated it on that basis for 14 years. Subsequently he bought a 200-acre farm in Albion Township, but sold it five years later. Feb. 5, 1896, he purchased his present farm, moving onto it the same year, and here he has since remained, with the exception of three years which he spent in Europe. As a farmer Mr. Rognlien has had a prosperous career, due to his industry and sound practical knowledge of the business. His farm is well handled and presents a thriving appearance, showing the guiding hand of a good manager. Mr. Rognlien is a stockholder in the Osseo Creamery and in the First State Bank of Strum. He is affiliated religiously with the Beef River Synod church, and in 1916 gave \$1,000 to help build the church edifice of that denomination in Strum. Few men in this vicinity have been more successful and perhaps it may be said that none have been more liberal in supporting enterprises for the religious, moral or material advancement of the community.

Martin M. Rognlien, who is engaged in farming 170 acres of land in section 20, Unity Township, was born in Hurdalen, Norway, Feb. 17, 1859, son of Martin E. and Annie (Enerson) Rognlien. The father came to America in 1868, homesteading a farm in section 30, Unity Township, this county, his wife and the children, including the subject of this sketch, following him in 1870. Martin M., on arriving in Wisconsin, spent three weeks in Sparta, after which he proceeded to his father's homestead, on which he resided until reaching the age of 21 years. He then rented a farm on Big Creek, Albion Township, operating it for four years. Then building a house on his father's farm, he lived there for the next six years while working out by the day with a team. In the spring of 1889 he bought his present farm of Sam Hoag, and has been occupied in its cultivation and improvement, owning besides his farm of 160 acres on Big Creek, Albion Township. On the farm where he makes his home he has a barn 36 by 56 by 16 feet above basement, equipped with steel stanchions and with cement floors, and all his buildings are good and suitable for up-to-date farming. Mr. Rognlien was married Nov. 22, 1879, to Matilda Dahl, who was born in Norway, April 26, 1860, daughter of Johannes and Mary (Hanson) Dahl. Both her parents died in Unity Township, they having settled in section

27 in 1876, six years after coming to this country, the intervening period having been spent in Vernon County. Mr. and Mrs. Rognlien have had a family of 12 children: Mary, who died at the age of 15 years; Josephine, who died at the age of 12 years; Annie (born after Mary and before Josephine), who is residing at home; Martin, now living in Calgary, Canada; John, a farmer in Unity Township, who married Johanna Flaten and has one child, Abraham; Louis, who is engaged in operating his father's farm in Albion Township; two who died in infancy, and William, who died June 26, 1917; Anton, Emma and Margaret, who are residing at home.

Eric Hagen, manager and partner in the firm of Hagen & Waller, general merchants, Osseo, was born in Sondreland, Norway, April 23, 1863, son of Hans E. and Anne (Lunde) Hagen, the former of whom came to America in 1869, farmed in Arcadia Township for many years, and now lives a retired life in Whitehall, the latter having died in 1875. Eric Hagen was reared to farm pursuits, and attended the country schools. His attention, however, was early turned to mercantile lines, and while still a youth he secured employment as a clerk in a store at Elk Creek. Further experience in the same line was secured in St. Paul and in Independence. In 1895 he came to Osseo and organized with Oliver Waller the firm of Hagen & Waller. This firm succeeded Larson, Getts & Co. in the general mercantile business. It has a large trade, and well deserves the esteem and confidence in which it is held by its numerous patrons. From 1897 to 1907 the firm owned a creamery at Osseo, and from 1904 until it was destroyed by fire in the winter of 1915, owned and operated the elevator there. Mr. Hagen is also interested in the State Bank of Osseo, in which he is the assistant cashier and one of the directors. Busy though he is with his financial interests, Mr. Hagen has found time for some excellent public service. Since the spring of 1914 he has been a member of the county board, and he has also been a member of the school and village boards. His fraternal relations are with the A. F. & A. M., while his religious affiliations are with the Congregational church, in which he is one of the trustees. Mr. Hagen was married March 17, 1891, to Mary Reid, of Burnside Township, daughter of James and Margaret (Lange) Reid. Mr. and Mrs. Hagen have five children: Mabel A., who graduated from the La Crosse normal school and was teacher in the Osseo schools. She was married to E. A. Nelson, a banker of Maddox, N. D., July, 1917. Henry, a farmer in Steele, N. D.; and Ralph E., Margaret and Alice, who are at home.

Henry N. Robbe, cashier of the First National Bank of Strum, has been an important factor in the business and financial life of the community for several years. He was born at Elk Mound, Wis., March 3, 1868, son of Gunder and Marie (Nelson) Robbe. Gunder Robbe was born in Roldal, Christiansand, Norway, in 1838, came to America in 1856, lived in Waupon, Wis., for a while, and then located at Elk Mound, Wis., where he has since resided, his wife, who was born in Norway in 1838, having died in April, 1913. Henry N. Robbe passed through the public schools and took special courses in the Curtiss Commercial College at Minneapolis. Thus prepared he taught in the schools of Dunn County, Wisconsin, for seven years. In 1899 he came to Strum as a teacher. Deciding to locate here he purchased

a half interest in the store of O. M. Solberg. Later he resold his interest to Mr. Solberg, erected a building and opened a store of his own. After conducting this alone he formed a partnership with his brother, Nils H., under the firm name of Robbe Brothers. Later admitting O. J. Dahl to partnership, and changing the firm name to Robbe Bros. & Dahl, they bought the store of H. Williamson and added his business to their own. In the meantime, in 1905, the subject of this sketch had assisted in organizing the State Bank of Strum, of which he became director and examiner. Jan. 4, 1912, he was elected president, a position he held until May 1, 1916, when he became cashier and assumed the active management, as at present. About the same time he disposed of his mercantile interests. He is also president and manager of the Strum Telephone Company and for a time was treasurer and manager of the Unity Co-operative Creamery Company. In public life he has done good service as clerk of the school board since 1912. Mr. Robbe was married Jan. 28, 1900, to Malena Albertson, born in Strum, May 7, 1884, daughter of Reinhard and Marie (Teveand) Albertson, the former of whom died in 1909, and the latter of whom lives in La Crosse. Mr. and Mrs. Robbe have three children: Gordon, born Sept. 13, 1905; Harvey, born Aug. 8, 1907, and Ethel, born June 1, 1909.

Nils H. Robbe, of the firm of Robbe & Myhers, general merchants at Strum, is a native of Wisconsin, born at Elk Mound, Dunn County, May 10, 1865, son of Gunder and Marie (Nelson) Robbe. He remained with his parents until 1900, when he came to Strum, and with his brother, Henry N. Robbe, engaged in the line of business with which he is now connected. In public life, Mr. Robbe has been a supervisor of the township a year. His financial holdings include stock in the First State Bank of Strum. In the Synod Norwegian Lutheran church he has been especially active, having been secretary of the building committee when the new church was erected in 1915 and 1916. Mr. Robbe was married Jan. 11, 1903, to Clara Peterson, of Strum, daughter of Ole and Clara Peterson, and they have six children: Marshall, Gladys, Nobel, Alice, Helen and Francis.

H. George Peterson, organizer, president and manager of the Strum Automobile Company, was born in Eau Claire, Wis., Jan. 4, 1890, son of Hans Peterson Stai and Hannah Halvorson. Hans Peterson Stai was born in Norway in 1853, and now farms in Unity Township, having come to this country in the '90s. H. George Peterson was reared to farm pursuits by his father. His mechanical experience was received in automobile shops in Minneapolis and St. Paul. For a time he was foreman of engines for the Hackney Land & Credit Company, McLeod, N. D. In Hill County, Mont., he proved up on a homestead. But in 1915 he determined to cast his lot in Strum. Accordingly he erected a building 26 by 50 feet, and opened a garage. His friends became interested in the project and in September, 1915, his firm was incorporated as the Strum Automobile Company with a capital of \$2,500, by Melvin P. Skogstad, Joseph Mathison, Olof J. Dahl and H. George Peterson. The officers are: President and manager, H. George Peterson; vice president and treasurer, Olof J. Dahl; secretary, Joseph Mathison. The firm handles the Dodge, Ford and Reo cars, carries a full line of supplies and accessories, and does all kinds of repairing. Under



C. K. EDISON AND FAMILY

the personal supervision of Mr. Peterson the business is constantly growing and is one of the important assets in the general prosperity of the community. In April, 1917, Mr. Peterson purchased the interest of the other stockholders and now conducts the business alone under the name of H. George Peterson, the corporation having been dissolved. On Aug. 7, 1917, Mr. Peterson was united in marriage with Hannah Amundson, daughter of Christ Amundson, a prosperous farmer of Bruce Valley, in Gale Township.

C. K. Edison was born on his father's farm near Vassevangen, Norway, Nov. 5, 1854, a son of Knud Aadson and Cecelia Sjursdatta Gjelle, who were natives of Vass, Norway, where they were numbered among the most distinguished and representative farmers of their community. Both died in their native land, he in 1859, and his wife in 1883. C. K. Edison attended the public and high school of Norway and at the age of 16 set out for the new country across the seas. In April, 1870, we find him and his sister embarking in a sail ship bound for America. They had to furnish their own board while on the ship. It took them seven weeks from the time of leaving the port of Bergen, Norway, until they arrived at Quebec, Canada, and then they spent about three weeks traveling on steamboats and railroads before they reached their destination near Decorah, Iowa, in which place they arrived in July. They stopped there during summer and in the fall the same year they, in company with their cousin, started for Dodge County, Minnesota, going in a so-called prairie schooner pulled by a yoke of oxen. Mr. Edison spent about three years at that place working in the harvest fields in summer and working for his board and attending school in winter. In 1874 he returned on a trip to his native land to pay a visit to his mother and brother, returning to his adopted country the next year. In 1880 he came to Trempealeau County, Wis. July 30, 1881, he was united in holy bonds of matrimony to Mary Herbjornson, who was born in Iowa County, Wis., Aug. 8, 1862, a daughter of Hans and Guri Herbjornson, both now deceased, the father dying in 1898 and the mother in 1903. In 1884 he purchased part of his present farm in section 7, Chimney Rock Township. He has resided on this place continuously since, with the exception of three years spent in Eleva and two years in Superior, Wis. Mr. Edison on his arrival in Trempealeau County did valuable service as pioneer school teacher for about ten years. He now owns a good dairy farm of 333 acres, on which he keeps on an average about 30 milch cows, with young stock and a lot of horses. The farm is under a good state of cultivation. He has erected modern and substantial buildings. The neatness in appearance of the entire place bespeaks thrift, coupled with good judgment, in behalf of its owner. Mr. Edison has always acted as a leader in his community. As such he was a member of a committee who built the new church and the brick school house, also in laying out a good road in Bennett Valley, etc. He has served as town supervisor, justice of the peace, clerk of his school district for 12 years, and for 23 years he has done efficient service as town clerk. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Edison has been blessed with the birth of nine children: Ed, Cecelia, Gertie, Hilma, Charles, George, Gertie Bertina, Horace, Kemel and Marvin. Ed married Lizzie Holten and is associated with his father on the home farm. Cecelia became the wife of John Killnes,

a farmer of Dover Township, Buffalo County, Wis. George married Josephina Austen, and is farming. Horace is clerking in a store at Mondovi, Wis. Marvin is attending high school at the same place. Charles and Kemel are farming at home. Gertie Helma died at the age of 4 years. Gertie Bertina keeps house for her father, the mother having died Aug. 23, 1917. In the death of Mrs. Edison the family are deprived of a most accomplished woman, who through all her years was a loyal wife and loving mother. The family are members of the Bennett Valley Norwegian Lutheran church, Mr. Edison being one of the organizers, and of which he has ever been a beneficent supporter.

Tobias M. Olson, who has extensive mercantile and farming interests in the village of Strum and Unity Township, was born in Gulbrandsdalen, Norway, March 2, 1869. His father, Michael, who was born in Norway in 1834, married Kari Tandlokken, who was born in that county Nov. 14, 1836. In 1872 the family, which then included eight children, left their native land for the United States, and settled in Monroe county, Wis. Here they remained five years, and then, in 1877, came to Unity Township, Trempealeau County, where the father bought 80 acres of land in section 9, on which he spent the rest of his life, engaged in farming.. His death occurred Sept. 12, 1885. His wife, who survives him, resides with her son, the subject of this sketch. Tobias M. Olson, who was brought up to agricultural work, operated the home farm from the time of his father's death until 1910, and is still the owner of the property. On March 1, 1897, he purchased 160 acres constituting the northeast quarter of section 22, where he now lives. Here he has built at a cost of \$10,000 a fine three-story and basement solid brick house, 34 by 36 feet in ground dimensions, and containing 12 rooms. The furnishings are strictly modern, including quarter-sawed oak finish and floors, with electric lights and other conveniences. He has also very large barns and out-buildings, electrically lighted, and in addition owns several other farms, both in Unity and Sumner Townships. In 1897 Mr. Olson bought an interest in a hardware and implement business at Strum, with John A. Call, and was engaged in business there for two years. In 1899 the firm was dissolved, since which time Mr. Olson has carried on the implement business alone. His brick store at Strum, 30 by 70 feet, two stories and basement, which he uses for implements and automobiles, was erected in 1913. In 1898 he built a large grain elevator at Strum, and in 1916, another at Eleva, and both of these he operates at the present time. His business interests have grown with good management until he is now recognized as the most prominent business man in the community, his transactions being the most extensive. Dec. 25, 1900, Mr. Olson was married to Mary Romundstad, of Unity Township, who was born in this township Jan. 15, 1877, and whose father, Ole O. Romundstad, is a farmer in Eau Claire County. Seven children have been born of this marriage: Milton (who died at the age of 7 months), Myrtle, Edwin, Ruth, Helen, Olga and Harriet Thelma. Mr. Olson is a member of the Synod Norwegian Lutheran church. His example should be an inspiring one to all young men just starting in life, proving, as it does, that industry and perseverance, guided by intelligence, still meets with due reward.

Dell Nicols, who is engaged in operating a farm of 160 acres in section 11, Burnside Township, was born on his present farm Feb. 29, 1880, a son of William and Emma J. (Cripps) Nicols. The father, William, was born in Scotland in 1836 and came to America with his parents in 1850. In 1866 he bought the farm on which his son Dell now lives and was engaged in its operation and improvement until 1904, a period of 38 years. He then took up his residence in Independence, this county, in which place he died May 17, 1916. His wife is still living in Independence, being now 60 years old. Dell Nicols, who received a good agricultural training on the parental homestead, assisted his father until the year 1900, and then rented the farm until 1916, in which year he bought it. It is well improved and furnished with good buildings and adequate equipment for profitable farming. Mr. Nicols was married July 3, 1900, to Annie Olson, of Independence, this county, who was born at Traverse Valley, this county, April 17, 1881, daughter of Mat and Martha Olson. Her mother now resides at Independence; her father died April 22, 1917. Mr. and Mrs. Nicols have three children: Edith May, born Oct. 11, 1900; Lester A., born Jan. 30, 1904, and Giles W., born Oct. 30, 1908.

Richard Mattson, president of the Whitehall Mill & Power Company, was born in Soler, Norway, Nov. 11, 1869, son of Martinus and Dorothy (Lund) Mattson. The father, a farmer by occupation, was also a native of Norway and came to the United States in 1872, and after reaching Blair, Wis., bought a farm in Pigeon Township, which was his home until 1908. He then retired and moved to Whitehall, where he died Nov. 22, 1916, at the age of 82 years. His wife, who is also living, is 77 years old. Richard Mattson, who accompanied his parents to America when a young child, at the age of 18 years began working in the woods at the lumber industry, and was thus occupied for six years during the winters, being employed on his father's farm in the summers. He subsequently learned the carpenter's trade and followed the business of carpenter and contractor in Whitehall until 1910. He then bought an interest in the Whitehall Mill & Power Company, with which concern he has since been connected. While a contracting carpenter he built the schoolhouse in Blair and another in Taylor, also a bank in Hixton, additions to the schoolhouse and jail in Whitehall, and the residences of E. A. Sorenson and C. B. Melby, besides doing other important work. The Whitehall Mill & Power Company, with which, as above stated, he became connected in 1910, was incorporated in the spring of that year with a capital stock of \$10,000, Mr. Mattson becoming president and John Wagstad secretary and treasurer. The concern occupies a substantial frame building, and besides furnishing electric light and power for the village, has a capacity of 25 barrels of flour per day. It was originally started and the building erected in 1880 by Earl, Gates & Scott, and was purchased in 1893 by John Larson, who sold out Nov. 1, 1908, to T. E. Thompson. With Mr. Thompson as president, John Wagstad as vice-president, and M. S. Olson as secretary and treasurer, it was operated until its incorporation in 1910, as above recorded. Mr. Mattson is an up-to-date business man, and aside from his personal interests has served eight years as a member of the village council. He is a member of the church,

belonging to the Norwegian Lutheran Synod. He was married in Pigeon Township, Sept. 5, 1896, to Augusta Mortenson, who was born in that township Aug. 3, 1876, daughter of Hans H. and Mathia (Evenson) Mortenson. Her father, now 81 years old, is a retired farmer living in Whitehall with his wife, who is now 70. Mr. and Mrs. Mattson have nine children: Hilman, who enlisted in Company I, Eleventh United States Infantry, April 24, 1917; Adelia, Agnes, Rudolph, Anna, Edwin, Alfred, Elsie and Helen, all of whom reside at home with their parents.

Christian O. Dahl, president of the Farmers' Exchange Bank, of Osseo, Wis., and proprietor of Hillsdale Farm of 160 acres, the northeast quarter of section 2, Unity Township, was born at Coon Prairie, Vernon County, Wis., July 8, 1868. He is a son of Ole Dahl, who was born in Ringsaker, Norway, Feb. 4, 1837, and who came to America in 1865, residing for two years in New York City, where he was married in 1867 to Ane Bue. She was born in Foaberg, Norway, Sept. 24, 1846. Soon after their marriage Ole Dahl and wife came West to Wisconsin, locating first in Vernon County, in the village of Westby, where for two years Mr. Dahl followed the blacksmith's trade. In 1870 they came with their family to Unity Township, Trempealeau County, and homesteaded the farm now known as Hillsdale Farm, as above described. Here Ole Dahl spent the rest of his life, his death occurring June 14, 1916. He was a highly-respected citizen, serving on the township board for several years, also on the school board, and for a long period being one of the officials of the Synod Norwegian Lutheran church. He was also an esteemed member of the Trempealeau County Historical Society, taking a keen interest in the growth and development of the county and in the preservation of its historical records. His wife is still living and resides on the farm with her son Christian. Eight of their children are now living: Christian O., subject of this sketch; Marie, wife of Charles P. Holman, a farmer of Humbird, Wis.; Andrew, who is engaged in the ranching business at Saratoga, Wyo.; Hannah, who is housekeeper for her brothers, Olans and Thorvald, at Price, Wis.; Caroline, who married Nils Indstefjord, a farmer of Price, Wis.; Olans and Thorvald, farmers at Price, Wis., and Tilda, who resides with her brother Christian. Christian O. Dahl has resided on his present farm since his parents moved onto it in 1870, and since 1896 has been its manager. Besides planting the usual crops, he raises cattle, sheep and horses, usually milking 25 cows, for which purpose he uses a three-unit milking machine. The farm is well improved and yields good returns for the labor spent upon it. Mr. Dahl gives his chief attention to this property, but is also interested financially in other business enterprises. On July 10, 1916, he aided in organizing the Farmers' Exchange Bank, of Osseo, of which he has since been president. He is a director in the Inter-County Co-Operative Packing Company, of New Richmond, Wis., and helped to organize the Osseo Farmers' Produce Company, of which he is treasurer. For a number of years Mr. Dahl has taken an active part in official life, having served as township treasurer for a period of three years, township supervisor one year, township clerk four years, school clerk 20 years, and as chairman of the township board and a member of the county board since 1908. He is a member and



C. O. DAHL

treasurer of the Synod Congregation of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America at Strum, having served in the latter office since 1904.

Thomas J. Myhers, D. V. M., Osseo, was born in Eau Claire, July 23, 1885, passed through the public schools, came to this county when he was 15, graduated from the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Veterinary College in 1911, located at Strum, where he remained for five months, and has since practiced in Osseo. His fraternal affiliation is with the Masonic order. July 20, 1912, he married Julia Nysven, of Strum, daughter of Ole and Ida Nysven, the former of whom is postmaster at Strum, as he has been for the past 30 years. Dr. and Mrs. Myhers have two daughters: Irma, born April 2, 1915, and Marion, born Sept. 2, 1917. The parents of Dr. Myhers are Jacob and Inga (Johnson) Myhers. Jacob Myhers was born in Norway, was foreman of the Valley Lumber Company, of Eau Claire, Wis., for 20 years, and since 1900 has farmed in Unity Township, in this county.

Anton A. Myhre, the well-known proprietor of Fair Pines Farm of 159 acres, in sections 12 and 13, Sumner Township, was born at Biri, Norway, Feb. 2, 1851. His parents were both of Norwegian birth, the father, Even Anderson Myhre, born in 1807, and his mother, whose maiden name was Martha Olson, born in 1820. They came to the United States in 1861, accompanied by their four children, and settled in Coon Valley, Vernon County, Wis., where they resided until 1868, moving in that year to Tamarac Valley, Arcadia Township, where the parents spent the rest of their lives, Even A. Myhre dying in 1889 and his wife Martha in 1902. They had six children, of whom two died in infancy. Anton A. was the first-born. Then came Ole, who is a farmer in Arcadia Township; Pauline, who is keeping house for her brother Ole, and Mary. The last mentioned married Olaus Johnson, who died in Osseo in 1909, where she now resides. Anton A. Myhre when a young man worked out on farms in Vernon County, and in Arcadia Township, Trempealeau County, until 1872. He was now 21 years old, and, thinking it time to start in for himself, he homesteaded a farm in Chimney Rock Township, section 25, and until 1893 was engaged in its cultivation and development, in which he made good progress. He then sold it and bought his present farm, which his son Theodore now rents and operates. It is well provided with good buildings and everything necessary for modern farming. Mr. Myhre was township supervisor for one year in Chimney Rock Township, and assessor for four years in the same township. The latter office he has held also for two years in Sumner Township, in addition to which he has served for 15 years as school clerk. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Telephone Company and the Osseo Produce Company. March 9, 1878, Anton A. Myhre was married to Helena Anderson, who was born at Faaberg, Norway, Feb. 2, 1851, daughter of Andreas and Margaret (Leir) Faaberg, both of whom died in Norway. Mrs. Myhre died Jan. 25, 1895, having been the mother of six children: Emil, now a farmer at Spiritwood, N. D.; Andreas, a carpenter residing in Seattle; Anna, born Oct. 10, who died Aug. 24, 1898; Mina, who married Lauritz Oftedahl, of Osseo; Theodore, manager of his father's farm, and Benjamin, a farmer at Allen, Mont. Theodore Myhre, who was born on his parents' farm in Chimney

Rock Township, July 23, 1888, was married, June 14, 1913, to Minnie Severson, of Jackson County, Garfield Township, her birth taking place in that township, Jan. 2, 1889. Her parents, Sever and Marit (Hattren) Severson, were farming people. Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Myhre have two children: Marion Helen, born April 10, 1914, and Samuel Arnold, born Sept. 11, 1915. Theodore has rented his father's farm since 1909 and is cultivating it successfully. The family are affiliated religiously with the Norwegian Lutheran church, of which Anton A. Myhre has been a trustee for 16 years.

Jakob T. Myhers, who is engaged in farming on a tract of 240 acres in section 23, Unity Township, was born in Gulbrandsdalen, Norway, Dec. 18, 1857. His father, Thor G. Myrum, who was also a farmer, was born in Norway in 1826 and died in that country in 1910. The mother of our subject, Mary Grothe, died in Norway in 1868. In the spring of 1877 Jakob T. Myhers sailed from Christiania for Quebec, and from the latter port proceeded to Chicago. Finding himself without money, he shipped as a railroad hand to Marquette County, Mich., where he worked in the iron mines for two years and a half. At this time his future wife, Inga Johnson, was working in Eau Claire, Wis., and Mr. Myhers went there and found employment with the Valley Lumber Company at \$1.25 a day, boarding himself. He remained with this firm for 18 years, the first three years of this period as yard and barn man. During the last 15 he was salesman and foreman of the lumber yard and wood yard. While here he was married, May 5, 1880, to Inga Johnson, whose parents, Joseph and Mary (Lee) Johnson, had remained in Norway, where the mother is now living at the advanced age of 90 years. He and his wife began housekeeping at Shawtown, in Eau Claire, their residence being an old cow barn, which they cleaned up, and here they lived for two years. In 1882 occurred the great flood which swept away nearly the entire city of Eau Claire, and Mr. and Mrs. Myhers lost all that they had. They continued working in Eau Claire, however, until 1900, by which time, having been industrious and frugal, they had succeeded in saving some money. This they made a good use of in the purchase of their present farm from Gilbert Brown, on which they have since resided, and which Mr. Myhers has brought into a good state of cultivation. When it came into his possession it had hardly any improvements on it, but there is now a good two-story house, a large modern horse barn, a good cattle barn, with numerous sheds and a large silo, all evidences of a well-deserved prosperity. Mr. Myhers has served as school director for nine years. Since childhood he has been a member of the United Norwegian Lutheran church. He and his wife are the parents of nine children: Thomas J., who is a veterinary surgeon at Osseo; John, a member of the mercantile firm of Robbe & Myhers, at Strum; Mary, wife of Thomas Rice, a carpenter residing at Strum; Martin, who lives at home with his parents; Jacob T., a veterinary surgeon of Eleva, and Ole, Ingwald, Caroline and Rena, all of whom reside with their parents. Mr. Myhers left home when 11 years old and started life for himself, first herding cattle and sheep for his uncle, remaining in this position until 14 years old; then engaged on a stock farm, remaining there until 21 years old, giving to his parents, who were poor and old, all his savings, and after coming to America sent his



JOHN H. CALL AND FAMILY

father \$400 to pay off all his indebtedness in order that he might remain on the farm.

John H. Call has been a resident of Sumner Township since 1877, and assisted by his good wife has reared a large family of children, developed a good farm and established himself as one of the substantial men of the community. He is doing the township good service as supervisor, to which position he was first elected in 1915. Born near Bergen, in Norway, June 9, 1851, he is the oldest of the eight children born to Henry and Sophia (Eirum) Call. The father, born April 21, 1824, and the mother, born Dec. 23, 1835, brought their children to America in 1853, reached Dane County, Wis., June 9, of that year, after a trip of six months, fourteen weeks of which were spent aboard a sailing vessel, and the next year located at West Prairie, Vernon County, Wis., where the father died in 1890 and the mother in 1910. John H. Call was reared to farm pursuits and for a number of years was employed on various farms. After his marriage in 1877 he purchased his present farm of 121 acres in section 27, Sumner township. From a wilderness he brought the farm to its present high degree of cultivation. On this place he now successfully carries on general farming, and makes a specialty of breeding Holstein cattle, of which he has a good-sized herd. In this connection he has purchased a two-unit milking machine, which is proving a great saving of labor. The farm throughout is equipped with the best of machinery and tools, and is fenced with woven wire. The buildings are especially sightly. The first house, a frame building, 12 by 18 feet, was erected in 1877. The present home, a two-story frame structure of eight pleasant rooms, was erected in 1899. The barn was constructed in 1912. It is 40 by 64 by 14 feet, with a stone basement and cement floors. Steel stanchions and other improvements add to the comfort of the stock. The silo, 12 by 39 feet, is built of substantial cement blocks. Mr. Call was married July 1, 1877, to Caroline Prestegaarden, born in Gulbrandsdalen, Norway, Feb. 4, 1855, daughter of Andrew and Martha (Eirum) Prestegaarden, who came to America in 1869, located in Dane County, Wis., and in 1871 took up their residence in Sumner Township, Trempealeau County, where they spent the remainder of their days. Mr. and Mrs. Call are the parents of ten children: Sophia, born Feb. 22, 1878; Albert, born Aug. 12, 1880; Helmer, born March 1, 1882; Charles, born April 24, 1884; Martha, who died in infancy; Julia, born Oct. 12, 1888; Martha, born July 29, 1890; Clara, born Dec. 2, 1892; James, born June 2, 1895, and Bernhard, born Feb. 6, 1897. Albert and Helmer farm in Jackson County, Wis. Julia graduated from the La Crosse State Normal School and taught three years. She married, Nov. 27, 1916, Edwin Anderson, a farmer living in Unity Township. The other members of the family are at home. The family faith is that of the Hauge Norwegian Lutheran church, of which Mr. Call is the treasurer.

Paul H. Moltzau. Among the many successful agriculturists and business men of Trempealeau County no small number are of Norwegian birth or ancestry, that class of settlers possessing in a large degree the qualities, perseverance and thrift, without which little can be accomplished. Few of the Norwegians of Trempealeau County, however, have been more

successful than the subject of this sketch, who is one of the best known, as he is also one of the most prosperous citizens residing in Unity Township, being proprietor of two good farms in section 18—the Carter Valley Dairy Farm of 200 acres, and the Fairview Farm of 160 acres, besides owning other valuable property elsewhere. Paul H. Moltzau was born in Hurdalen, Norway, May 25, 1862, son of Hans Moltzau and his wife, Mathia Roserud. The father, Hans, who was born Sept. 20, 1835, emigrated to the United States with his family, in 1867, locating in La Crosse County, Wis., and for three years residing in Bostwick Valley, that county. From there he came in 1870 to Unity Township, Trempealeau County, buying 160 acres of land in section 31, which became the family homestead, as he lived on that farm for 24 years, only leaving it to take up his residence with his son, Paul H., on the latter's Carter Valley Dairy Farm in 1894. This place was his subsequent home until his death, Jan. 14, 1909. His wife Mathia died in 1877, at the age of about 42 years. Of their family six children are now living: Mary, wife of Gilbert Halvorson, a farmer of Farmington, Minn.; Martha, wife of Hans Hanson, a barber of Eau Claire; Paul H., of Unity Township; Annie, wife of Peter Frodahl, of Wilton, Minn.; Emma, who married Nels Nelson, her husband being a hotel keeper at Seattle, Wash., and Daniel, who resides at Fergus, Mont. Paul H. Moltzau in his youth acquired a good knowledge of agriculture and when old enough began working out on farms and in the pineries, in which manner he was occupied until he was 21 years old. He then started out on an independent career by purchasing the old homestead of his parents, which he operated for a number of years, or until 1894. He then bought the Carter Valley Dairy Farm and resided on it until July, 1915, on which date he moved to the Fairview Farm, a mile and a quarter northwest of Strum, where he is now living. This farm is situated on a high ridge, from which a fine view of the country may be had for ten miles around. In the year in which he moved here Mr. Moltzau built his present residence, a two-story brick veneer dwelling, with basement, and containing ten rooms and bathroom. A hot-water heating system is installed and there is hot and cold running water in the house, which is lighted by electricity from a plant on the premises. The floors are all maple, the first floor is finished in quarter-sawed oak and the second in pine, great pains being taken in the construction of the house and in its modern equipment. Besides operating these two farms, Mr. Moltzau is president of the Unity Co-Operative Creamery Company, of which he has been a director for ten years, and is a director in the First State Bank of Strum. He has also rendered service in township affairs, his official career covering eight years as township supervisor and 12 years as treasurer of the school board. A member of the Synod Norwegian Lutheran church, he has served that organization 15 years as treasurer. Mr. Moltzau was married May 30, 1885, to Severene Frodahl, of Albion Township, who was born in Toten, Norway, Sept. 3, 1863, a daughter of John and Helena (Christianson) Frodahl. The father was born in Norway in 1831, the mother in 1827. They were married in their native land and came to America in 1869, settling in La Crosse County, Wis., whence they came to Albion Township, Trempealeau County, in the spring of 1878. John

Frodahl died in January, 1898, and his wife in March the following year. Mr. and Mrs. Moltzau have had ten children: Alfred, who died at the age of 5 years; Andor, who married Selma Tronson and is now farming at Shevlin, Minn.; Marshall, a farmer at Shevlin, Minn., who married Tillie Martinson and has one child, Muriel; Herman, assistant cashier of the Bank of Eleva, who married Goldie Knutson and has one child, Hewitt; Doris, wife of Dr. J. J. Myhres, a veterinary surgeon of Eleva; Margaret, who married Alfred Borgen, of Eau Claire, Wis., chief of the Bell Telephone Company, of Chippewa Falls; Valborg, who graduated from the Mondovi High School and is now a teacher, and Esther, Theodore and Paul LeRoy, who reside at home.

Albert J. Lamberson, V. S., proprietor of "The Lamberson Farm" of 200 acres in sections 22 and 27, Lincoln Township, was born on this farm May 2, 1870, a son of John C. Lamberson. John C. was a son of Orson S. and Jane (Hoskins) Lamberson, the former of whom died on this place Jan. 30, 1904, at the age of 82 years. Orson's wife Jane died in Sauk County, Wis., about 1848, when a young woman. John C. Lamberson was born in Bradford County, Pa., June 13, 1840, and came to Sauk County, Wis., with his parents in 1850. He then removed to Rochester, Minn. In October, 1861, he enlisted in Company K, Third Minnesota Infantry, with which regiment he served four years, taking part in the battles of Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge and Chickamauga. In 1867 he bought a part of the farm now owned by his son Alfred—that part of the farm in section 22, which place he made his home till 1892. Aug. 8, 1867 he married Lucena Woolsey (nee Becker), whose first husband, James Woolsey, died in the army, she being then a resident of Adams County. By him she had one child, Ella, who is now the wife of A. R. Warren, of Lincoln Township. John C. Lamberson and wife had four children: Alfred J., subject of this memoir; Berenice, wife of Fred W. Lowe, a farmer of Lincoln Township; George W., also a farmer of Lincoln Township, and Lloyd H., who is an accountant in the employ of the Studebaker Company at South Bend, Ind. Mr. J. C. Lamberson died June 20, 1917. Alfred J. Lamberson was reared on his parents' farm, and to more fully qualify himself for his intended vocation as a farmer, he attended for two years the State Agricultural College. He then spent two years at the Ontario Veterinary College at Toronto, Canada, being graduated from that institution in the spring of 1891. Going to Winona, Minn., he practiced as a veterinary there for 12 years, after which, in the spring of 1902, he bought the old home farm from his father and has since been engaged in its operation. He has made some important improvements on the place, in 1916 rebuilding the barn, which is a T-shaped structure, 116 feet long, the cross section being 82 feet long. In part the barn is 42 feet wide, and stands on 20-foot posts, with full basement. It is provided with concrete floors, swinging stanchions and litter carriers and has room for 50 cows, besides 75 young stock and 10 horses. There are two silos; one 16 by 42 feet, of solid concrete, the other of cement blocks, 14 by 42. The house, which he rebuilt in 1904, is an 8-room building, two-story and basement, thoroughly modern in its fittings, and tasteful in design and appearance. Dr. Lamberson raises Holstein cattle, having a

herd of 60 head, of which he milks 40, furnishing whipping cream to the Hardwick Dairy, of Winona. He also raises Poland-China hogs, selling one carload per year. Feb. 5, 1893, he was married to Birdie L. Johnson, of Pigeon Township, who was born March 20, 1873, daughter of Seneca B. and Lydia (Bangs) Johnson. Her father was a merchant at Coral City, of which place he was a pioneer. He died there in 1881, and his widow subsequently became the wife of David Flack, who is also now deceased. She is still living and resides in Whitehall. Dr. and Mrs. Lamberson have had three children: Raymond, who was graduated from the Department of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin, in 1916, with the degree of Bachelor of Science of Agriculture, and who is now with his father; Winifred, residing at home, and Sidney, who died at the age of 1 year. Dr. Lamberson and family are members of the Baptist church, and he belongs to the Masonic order. His father, John C. Lamberson, was a stockholder in the Melby Bank, and for a number of years was chairman of the township board.

Jacob Pederson, an early settler in Hale Township, now deceased, but who will be long remembered, was born in Norway, Feb. 6, 1848, son of Peder and Mangnil (Pederson) Pederson. He was educated in his native land and came to America in 1867 with his parents, the family locating at La Crosse, Wis. In 1870 they came to Trempealeau County, taking a homestead of 80 acres in section 4, Hale Township. Jacob remained at home until 1875, and then began life's battle for himself, buying 120 acres of wild railroad land in section 9, in the same township. Moving onto it, he threw himself with all his energy, of which he had an abundance, into the hard pioneer work of developing a farm. Success finally crowned his efforts, in time he increased his holdings, and at last found himself in possession of a good farm of 240 acres, of which 80 acres lay in section 10, 80 in section 4, 40 in section 3, and 80 in section 9. He was engaged in diversified farming, and became a prosperous and highly-respected citizen of the township, also serving as school clerk for three years. His father and mother both died on the farm, after doing their part in helping to make the wilderness a fertile area of production. Jacob Pederson died June 14, 1903, his loss being much regretted by all his friends and acquaintances, which included practically the entire population of the township. Mr. Pederson was married, Jan. 5, 1876, to Anne Marie Granrud, who was born in Norway, Jan. 7, 1857, daughter of Ole and Karen (Anderson) Granrud. He and his wife were the parents of a large family, numbering 10 children, whose names, respectively, were: Peter, Olaf, Martha, Edward, Julia, Sigvart, Anna, Emil and Karen. Peter, who married Cora Saxrud, lives in Bowman County, N. D., and has two children, Signa and Viola. Olaf married Augusta Johnson and resides in Sumner Township, Trempealeau County. He has two children, Edward and Florence. Martha, now Mrs. Sim Lee, resides at Osseo, this county, and has two children, Adrienne and Abner. Edward died at the age of 18 months, and George at that of 26 years. Julia is the wife of William Wagner and lives in Bowman County, N. D. Sigvart, who married Lila Swaim, is living on the home farm and has one child, Arline Loretta. Anna, now Mrs. Louis Christianson, lives in Hale Town-



MR. AND MRS. OLE GRANRUD—JACOB PEDERSON (HOMESTAD) AND FAMILY

ship. Emil is on the old homestead and Karen is a student in the Osseo High School. The family are members of the Norwegian church. Since Mr. Pederson's death Mrs. Pederson has still further enlarged the size of the farm, having purchased 120 acres more, of which 80 lie in section 9 and 40 in section 10. The farm contains 360 acres, over 40 of which lie in Sumner Township. The estate is a valuable one, highly improved and well taken care of, so as to reach the highest point of productiveness.

Ole Granrud, a pioneer of Trempealeau County in 1868, was a native of Norway, where he married Karen Anderson. In 1866 he came with his wife and family to the United States, locating first in Fillmore County, Minnesota, whence he soon came to Trempealeau County, taking a homestead of 120 acres in section 4, Hale Township, he being the first settler in the South Branch District. He and his family began life here in true pioneer style, living the first summer in a dug-out with lumber roof, the lumber for which was obtained at Hamburg. In the fall Mr. Granrud built a larger dug-out, with lumber, hay and sod roof, in which he and his family resided until 1874, when, his circumstances having improved, he built a fine house. In 1893 he sold the farm and for the next three years he and his wife resided with their daughter, Mrs. Jacob Pederson. At the end of that time he bought a farm in Sumner Township, onto which he moved, and which he operated for about seven years. He then returned to his daughter's home, where he died in 1900. His wife survived him but a short time, dying in 1902. Their children were: Elle, now deceased; Andrew, deceased; Anne, wife of Jacob Pederson, and Ole, now living in Tacoma, Wash.

Anton W. Liver, a member of the firm of Liver & Torgerson, hardware dealers in Independence, was born in the village of Sarn, Canton of Graubunden, Switzerland, Feb. 3, 1857, son of Anton and Clara (Wazau) Liver. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, died in Switzerland in 1867, and two years later, or in 1869, his wife also passed away. Young Anton, thus left an orphan at the age of 12 years, was reared by his father's sister, Mrs. Ursula Masueger. In 1874, when only 17 years old, he came to the United States, locating first in Milwaukee, where he found employment and remained a year. He then removed to Buffalo County, Wis., and learned the tinner's trade at Alma, working at it there for some two years. Subsequently he followed it in Independence until 1881, in which year he opened a hardware store for himself in the village, conducting it until 1888. He then purchased the interest of Ferd Horst in the hardware firm of Danuser & Horst, the style of the firm being changed to Danuser & Liver. In 1894 Christ Torgerson bought the interest of Mr. Danuser, since which time the business has been carried on under the style of Liver & Torgerson. The firm has an up-to-date store, keeping a good and complete stock, and enjoys a large and profitable patronage. Mr. Liver is a stockholder in the State Bank of Independence, and for some time has taken a more or less active part in local government matters. His service in this connection includes nine years as clerk of the school board, two years as a member of the village council and the same length of time as its president, and six years as a member of the county board of supervisors. He is a member, trustee

and steward of the Methodist Episcopal church, while fraternally he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Liver was married, April 28, 1880, to Mary Russell, of Burnside Township, whose father, William, a farmer born in Scotland, settled in Trempealeau County in 1875 and resided there until his death in 1886. Her mother, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Muir, died in 1852. Mr. and Mrs. Liver have had five children: Clara, who married Alven Elstad, of Independence, and died at the age of 30 years; William, who died at the age of 18 months; Pearl, who died at the age of 15 months; Iva and Bessie, who are residing at home with their parents.

William K. Levis, a pioneer, was born in Bucks County, Pa., in 1814, and there married Mary Blanchard, who was born in 1823. He came to Black River Falls, this State, in 1846, and operated a sawmill there until 1860. Then he moved to Alma Center, in Jackson County. From there in 1867 he came to Trempealeau, and settled on a farm some two miles north of the village of Osseo. After a long and useful life on the farm he moved to the village in 1890, and here died in 1898, his wife surviving until 1907.

Clark M. Levis, meat dealer at Osseo, was born in Black River Falls, Wis., June 8, 1859, son of William K. and Mary (Blanchard) Levis. He spent his early boyhood in his native town, and at Alma Center, Jackson County, this State. In 1867, while still a youth, he was brought to Osseo, and was reared on a farm some two miles away. He worked with his father for a while, purchased 80 acres of the farm in 1883, and the remainder in 1899, and there remained until 1904, when he came to Osseo and established his present business. A public-spirited man, he has served on the village council six years, and as county supervisor one year. His fraternal relations are with the Masonic order and the Modern Woodmen. Mr. Levis was married, June 1, 1884, to Della Sawyer, daughter of John and Caroline (Chase) Sawyer, of Eau Claire County, and they have one daughter, Gladys C., born July 26, 1896.

Andrew C. Hagestad, proprietor of the Hagestad Stock Farm, which embraces the old Hagestad homestead in section 19, Ettrick Township, is one of the best-known agriculturists in this county. He has a wide reputation as a breeder of Holstein-Fresian cattle, he has been an important factor in many farmers' organizations, and he has been very active indeed in church, school and township affairs. Like his father before him, he is energetic and progressive, and is recognized as one of the most useful citizens in the community. A native of this county, he was born on the place where he now lives, Jan. 23, 1876, son of Knut K. and Astri (Knutson) Hagestad, the early settlers. He was reared to farm pursuits, attended the public schools, and in the winters of 1896-97 he attended the College of Agriculture at the State University, receiving his diploma in the spring of 1897, thereafter became his father's partner in conducting the farm, acquiring a half interest in the place. In the winter of 1917, before his father's death, he secured the other half interest and is now the sole owner. On this place he successfully conducts agricultural operations along the latest approved lines. In connection with his breeding of Holstein-Fresian cattle, he owns the noted sire, "Prince Korndyke," No. 177,392, whose dam,



MRS. K. K. HAGESTAD—A. G. HAGESTAD AND FAMILY—K. K. HAGESTAD



Princess De Kol Echo, has a world-wide reputation for having in a stated tested period given 98 pounds of milk a day and produced over 28 pounds of butterfat in a week. The farm is also known for its Berkshire swine and Single-comb White Leghorn poultry. Aside from his farm holdings, Mr. Hagestad has extensive business interests, including stock in the Ettrick Creamery, of which he is vice-president; in the Ettrick & Northern Railroad Company, of which he is a director, and in the Ettrick Lumber Company and the Farmers' Telephone Company at Ettrick. In church and public life he has been no less prominent, he is a member of the Lutheran church, and has held an office of trustee for eight years, has been director of the school district for the past nine years and township treasurer for the past five years. As a believer in agricultural progress he has affiliated himself with the Wisconsin Experiment Association, with headquarters at Madison. In advertising his farm, Mr. Hagestad makes use of an interesting device of his own invention. The device consists of two large wings, connected by a circle. The left wing bears the word "Quality," the right wing the word "Quantity," the top of the circle the word "Production," and the bottom of the circle the word "First," thus giving the slogan: "First in Production, First in Quality and First in Quantity." In the center of the circle is a picture of the famous Prince Korndyke. Mr. Hagestad was married Jan. 25, 1901, to Martha Christianson, of Ettrick, daughter of Hans Christianson, and this union has been blessed with five children: Victor R., born June 13, 1902; Evelyn C., born June 19, 1904, and died Dec. 27, 1904; Kenneth H., born Jan. 22, 1906; Elsie M., born June 4, 1910; and Ruth C., born April 3, 1914.

Tom Lomsdahl, of Osseo, dealer in hardware, farm implements, agricultural machinery and automobiles, was born in Søndre Land, Norway, Aug. 6, 1874, son of Peter and Maren (Andreasdotter) Lomsdahl. And in 1893 the mother and her son Tom came to America, where she later married E. C. Hagen, of Bruce Valley, Hale Township. The subject of this sketch was employed as a farm hand for several years. Then for nearly ten years he operated a farm near Osseo. In 1910 he moved to the village and purchased the business of Fields & Olson. In 1912 he bought out the interest of Gilbert Lewis, in the firm of Lewis & Hokland. With Frederick N. Hokland as a partner, under the firm name of Tom Lomsdahl & Co., he carried on the business for five years, when he purchased the interest of his partner, Mr. Hokland, Feb. 5, 1917, and now carries on a large and constantly increasing business alone. For three years he was secretary and manager of the Farmers' Telephone Company, in which he is still a director. He is a stockholder in the State Bank of Osseo. His services for four years as a member of the village council have been highly valued, and he did equally good work as a member of the town board of Sumner Township for two years. He is one of the directors of the Osseo Farmers' Produce Company. His religious faith is that of the Synod Norwegian Lutheran church, and his fraternal affiliation is with the Beavers. Mr. Lomsdahl was married Nov. 12, 1898, to Mary Gunnem, of Bruce Valley, daughter of Thom and Carrie (Osldotter) Gunnem, natives of Norway, who came to America in the early '70s, and spent the remainder of their lives in Trempealeau County, the

former dying in 1907 and the latter in 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Lomsdahl have a daughter, Lillian May, born Sept. 25, 1906.

Sim E. Lee, manager of the Osseo Feed Mill, from which mill the electric current of the village is supplied, was born in Burnside Township, this county, April 26, 1881, son of Joseph N. and Belle (Simonson) Lee. Joseph N. Lee was born in Norway, Aug. 5, 1849, and came to America as a young man. After the death of his first wife, Belle Simonson, he married Lena Olson. Sim E. Lee was reared on the home farm and educated in the common schools. In 1904 he became manager of the Osseo Feed Mill. On Jan. 28, 1914, he installed therein an electric light plant, which furnishes electricity for street, business and residential lighting. In this capacity the plant has won wide favor, and its manager is held in high esteem. Mr. Lee is a stockholder in the Farmers' Exchange Bank of Osseo, and also has other business holdings. Mr. Lee was married June 16, 1907, to Martha Pederson, who was born in Hale Township, July 1, 1882, daughter of Jacob and Annie (Grandrud) Pederson. This union has been blessed with two children: Adrine, born Dec. 6, 1908; and Abner, born June 19, 1911.

John Konz, Jr., blacksmith, garage owner and opera house manager, of Osseo, was born in Dane County, Wis., April 3, 1870, son of John and Frances (Krisch) Konz. The second of a large family of 10 children, he remained at home until he was 24 years of age. Then he farmed near Osseo for a number of years. In 1907 he came to Osseo, and purchased the blacksmith shop of J. M. Anderson, which he now conducts. He also engaged in the sale of farm implements. In 1909 he enlarged and remodeled his building, and established an opera house on the upper floor. As a stockholder in the Farmers' Exchange Bank and as a director and stockholder in the Osseo Telephone Company he has taken his part in the financial and business development of the village and community. His fraternal affiliations are with the Modern Woodmen and the Beavers. The family faith is that of the Catholic church. Mr. Konz was married Feb. 1, 1898, to Elizabeth Andrus, of Sumner Township, daughter of Alvah and Angelia (Lane) Andrus, and descended from an old New York family. The father makes his home with Mr. and Mrs. Konz, while the mother died in 1880. Mr. and Mrs. Konz have four children: Ardys, Raymond, Margaret and Maurice. William died at the age of 6 weeks. John Konz, Sr., father of John Konz, Jr., was born in Germany, came to America in 1860, located on a farm seven miles south of Augusta, in Eau Claire County, Wis., in 1873, farmed there until 1911, and then moved to Augusta, where he is now the proprietor of the Augusta Hotel, one of the leading hostelries of that place.

J. Reese Jones, attorney at Osseo, was born in Dodge County, this State, July 15, 1882, son of Jonah and Margaret (Williams) Jones. Jonah Jones was born in Wales, and came to America in 1843 with his parents, living in New York for a while, and subsequently locating in Wisconsin, where he farmed for the remainder of his life. He died in 1913 at the age of 76, and his wife is now living in Columbus, Wis. In the family there are six children: Mamyé, wife of W. J. Roberts, of Columbus; Hannah, of Columbus; Kathryn, now Mrs. Richard Griffith, of Columbus; Marjorie, now Mrs. Griff. Jones, of Vallejo, Cal., where her husband is employed in the navy



MR. AND MRS. K. A. KNUDTSON AND DAUGHTER

yards as a machinist; William O., a farmer of Columbus, and J. Reese. Evelyn died at the age of 2 years. The subject of this sketch was reared to farm pursuits and received his early education in the schools of his neighborhood. In 1907 he graduated from the Stevens Point Normal School, and then, after teaching school for a year, entered the College of Law of the University of Wisconsin, from which he was graduated in 1911. Immediately upon graduation, he opened an office in Friendship, in this State. In the fall of 1915 he came to Trempealeau County, bought out the practice of G. O. Linderman, at Osseo, and has since maintained his office here. He is one of the successful young lawyers of the county, and his friends predict for him a brilliant future. Mr. Jones is a stockholder in the Farmers' Exchange Bank, of Osseo. His fraternal affiliation is with the Masonic order.

Knut A. Knudtson, a retired farmer of Whitehall, and owner of the Overland Farm of 160 acres in section 28, and the Ada Stock Farm of 240 acres in sections 4 and 9, all in Pigeon Township, was born in Telemarken, Norway, June 24, 1852, son of Andrew and Margaret (Halvorson) Knudtson, born in Norway in 1827 and 1832, respectively, who came to America in 1869, and located in Preston Township, this County, where they died, the father in 1909 and the mother in 1886. After coming to this country, Knut A. worked about among the farmers of the neighborhood until 1874, when he bought the Overland Farm on Fly Creek. This farm he operated about 30 years. In 1903 he took up his residence in Whitehall. But he still longed for farm life, so in the fall of 1909 he purchased the Ada Stock Farm, on which he lived until 1912, when he again took up his home in Whitehall. For three years he served on the town board and for 15 years on the school board. He is a stockholder in the Whitehall Creamery, the Pigeon Grain & Stock Company, the People's State Bank and the Whitehall Hospital. Mr. Knudtson was married Nov. 6, 1874, to Julia Knudtson, daughter of Aslak and Hannah (Hendrickson) Knudtson, of Pigeon Township. This union has been blessed with 10 children: Amanda, Ida, Hannah, Ella, Tina, Clara and Grace, living, and Ada, Adolph and Clara deceased. Amanda is the wife of Ira Thompson, a farmer of Preston Township. Ida married Patrick Murphy, a stonecutter of Waterbury, Vt. Hannah married E. E. Deppe, a real estate man of Duluth, Minn. Ella married Theo. Stendahl, a farmer of Pigeon Township. Tina married Luther Quackenbush, of Whitehall. Clara and Grace are at home. Ada died at the age of 2 years, Adolph at the age of 18 years, and Clara at the age of 11 years. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

Gust G. Johnson, a farmer operating 120 acres of land in section 25, Sumner Township, was born at Black Earth, Dane County, Wis., Dec. 15, 1861. He is a son of Gunerius C. Johnson, who was born at Soler, Norway, Oct. 5, 1833, and who, after coming to the United States, participated in the Civil War as a member of the Forty-ninth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He married Syverine Christianson, who was born in Hedemarken, Norway, in 1836, and who died May 12, 1893. His death occurred Nov. 6, 1898. Gunerius C. Johnson came to the United States in 1854, locating in Detroit, Mich. From there he subsequently removed to Iowa County, Wis., where

he was married in 1855. In 1870 he and his family came to Trempealeau County, homesteading land in section 36, Sumner Township, where he and his wife spent the rest of their lives. They had a large family of 12 children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth. Gust G. Johnson resided on the home farm until his marriage, which united him, May 14, 1883, to Martha Erickson, who was born in Iowa County, Wis., July 2, 1867. Her parents were Peter and Christina (Olson) Erickson, the former being now a retired farmer residing in Osseo, whose eighty-second birthday occurred Jan. 31, 1917. Mrs. Johnson's mother, who was born in Norway, Sept. 22, 1839, died March 3, 1901. After his marriage Mr. Johnson rented a farm in section 25, Sumner Township, and cultivated it 12 years, removing to his present farm in the same section in 1895, having bought it in 1891. He has served as township treasurer since 1912, was township supervisor two years, and has been treasurer of the school district since it was organized in 1890. He is also a director of the Golden Valley Cheese Factory, the valley in which the factory is located having been named by him. He and his wife have been the parents of seven children: Swerin, who died at the age of 16 years in 1901; Adelia, residing at home; Philip, who is engaged in farming in Sumner Township, and Clifford, Dewey, Lawrence, Viola and Orlando. In addition to the business interests named above, with which Mr. Johnson is connected, he is also a stockholder in the State Bank of Osseo. Both as farmer and business man he has been successful, and is recognized as one of the reliable and substantial citizens of his township.

David Isom came to Trempealeau County in 1882 and purchased a farm in section 19, Sumner Township, which he operated until 1907, when he sold it to his son, George J., and moved to Osseo, where he now resides. He was born in Leicestershire, England, May 27, 1843, son of Francis and Elizabeth (Hoe) Isom, the former of whom, of German descent, was born in 1801 and died in 1878, and the latter of whom, of English descent, was born in 1814 and died in 1864. Coming to America in 1862, the subject of this sketch visited Quebec and Montreal, and lived in Door and Dane Counties, this state, before coming to Trempealeau County. Mr. Isom was married Dec. 1, 1868, to Emma Jane Elwood, who was born in England, April 13, 1851. This union has been blessed with seven children: Ada E., Frank W., George J., Alvah E., James, Clarence and Lura Maria Rosella. Ada E. died of diphtheria at the age of eight years. Frank W. is in the land business in Los Angeles. George J. owns and operates the home farm. He was married April 25, 1900, to Jennie Nichols, born in Eau Claire County, this state, daughter of Caleb F. and Anna (Olson) Nichols, retired farmers of Osseo, and this union has been blessed with five children: Eunice Adele, born Nov. 30, 1901; Grace Elizabeth, born Nov. 21, 1902; Ernest Francis, born July 11, 1904; Vera Anna, born Sept. 21, 1906, and Harold William, born Aug. 27, 1910. James was drowned at the age of two years. Alvah E. farms in Sumner Township. He was married Sept. 23, 1903, to Jessie Ring, daughter of John Ring, of Osseo, and they have three children: Eugene Willard, born Nov. 16, 1905; Clifford Roy, born Sept. 9, 1909, and Howard Kent, born Sept. 13, 1911. Clarence died at the age of six months. Lura



CHESTER BESWICK, SR.—CHESTER BESWICK, JR.—MRS. CHESTER BESWICK, SR.

Maria Rosella was married April 13, 1902, to Sidney Carter, who operates a garage at Cadotte, Wis., and they have four children: Walter Isom, born July 17, 1906; Dorothy May, born Aug. 5, 1908; Frank Elroy, born Aug. 6, 1913, and Elwood David, born Sept. 1, 1915.

Alva E. Isom, a successful and well-known farmer living on 160 acres of well-improved land in section 17, Sumner Township, is a native of this state, having been born at Black Earth, Oct. 17, 1880, son of David and Emma (Elwood) Isom. He was educated in the schools of his neighborhood, was reared to farm pursuits by his father, and remained with his parents until 1903, when he purchased his present place. In public life he has been town supervisor for two years and school clerk for seven years. His financial holdings include stock in the Farmers' Elevator at Osseo and the Farmers Exchange Bank of Osseo. His fraternal relations are with the Modern Woodmen of America, in which he is an officer. Mr. Isom was married Sept. 23, 1903, to Jessie Ring, born in Sumner Township, May 24, 1880, daughter of John and Alberta (Dighton) Ring, and this union has been blessed with three children: Eugene W., born Nov. 16, 1905; Clifford R., born Sept. 9, 1909, and Howard K., born Sept. 13, 1911.

Chester Beswick, Jr., a retired farmer residing in section 17, Preston Township, was born at Bolton, Warren County, N. Y., Dec. 24, 1834, son of Chester Beswick, Sr., and Polly Ann (Rice) Beswick. The father was born in Warren County, New York, Sept. 22, 1810, and in 1849 migrated west to Beaver Dam, Wis., residing there six years. He then came to Trempealeau County and pre-empted 120 acres of land in section 17, Preston Township. The rest of his life was spent in the cultivation and improvement of his farm, his death occurring Feb. 13, 1895. His wife, Polly Ann Rice, was born in Warren County, New York, June 3, 1815, and died Nov. 29, 1905. Her parents, with their family, removed from New York state to Kenosha, Wis., where the father died at the age of 95 years. Mrs. Rice, with her son Simon, came to Trempealeau County so as to be near her daughter, Mrs. Chester Beswick, Sr., and with whom she made her home until her death, March 31, 1888. She was born in New York state Feb. 25, 1796. Her son Simon was afterwards a well known farmer of Preston Township. Chester Beswick, Jr., came to Wisconsin with his parents, but in the spring of 1859 he went to Texas and engaged in sheep herding in the valley of the Brazos River. At the outbreak of the Civil war he and four companions started home on horseback. While on the way they were arrested by Confederate troops as spies and were thrown into prison, where they remained for a month. Then, in order to gain their freedom, they enlisted in the Confederate army, but soon afterwards deserted. They were retaken, however, by a band of Osage Indians, who were in the Confederate service, and were again imprisoned and sentenced to be shot. The day before the date set for their execution they again escaped, but were once more recaptured. In an effort to learn the truth from them their captors put ropes around their necks and made ready to hang them, but were finally dissuaded from doing so by some members of their own band. At another time the Indians had them lined up to be shot, and on still another occasion had prepared a fire to burn them, but this time they were saved by their

interpreter. It was in December, 1862, when Mr. Beswick finally made his way in safety to his Wisconsin home, and resumed industrial life in a safer locality. He was married July 4, 1877, to Anjenette Thurston, of Blair, whose father, Ebenezer Thurston, was the first postmaster of that village, which was then called South Bend. He kept the post office in his old home in section 16, on the farm now owned by Paul Thompson. Mr. Thurston was born Dec. 30, 1805, and died May 13, 1880. He married Mary Eveline Haywood, who was born June 10, 1811, and died Dec. 15, 1881. Chester Beswick, Jr., lived most of his life on the old farm taken by his father in 1855, except for a period of 20 years, when he was engaged in farming four miles north of Independence. He is now healthy and active at 82 years of age, being able to read without glasses. He resides with his son-in-law, Henry M. Hanson. His wife, Anjenette Thurston Beswick, who was born April 28, 1844, died Sept. 10, 1901. Their children were: Alice, born May 17, 1870, who married Palmer Back, a farmer of Preston Township; Harriet, born Nov. 23, 1872, who died Oct. 10, 1873; Charles, born April 3, 1874, who died Aug. 20, 1877, and Susan E., born Jan. 9, 1876, and now wife of Henry M. Hanson, the owner of Mr. Beswick's old farm. Alice (Mrs. Palmer Back) has had seven children, whose names, with dates of birth and death, are as follows: Hazel Charlotte, born Aug. 4, 1892; Willis Irvin, May 18, 1894, died Sept. 26, 1909; Charles Chester, Aug. 10, 1901; Myrtle Adine, July 1, 1903; Dorris Evelyn, April 23, 1906; Florence Irene, Feb. 25, 1911, and Wyllis Margarite, Aug. 30, 1912.

Frederick N. Hokland, formerly of the firm of Tom Lomsdahl & Co., Osseo, dealers in hardware, farm implements, agricultural machinery and automobiles, was born in Nordland, Norway, Sept. 22, 1853, son of Nels O. and Mary (Frederickson) Hokland. Nels O. Hokland came to America from Norway, with his family, in 1867, and farmed in Vernon County, Wisconsin, until 1872, when he came to Trempealeau County, and located in Pigeon Township, moving a year later to a farm in the east side of Hale Township, where he remained until 1903, when he moved to Osseo, where he now lives at the good old age of 83, making his home with his son, Frederick N., his wife having died in 1884. Frederick N. Hokland was reared on his father's farm. From 1897 to 1901 he was manager of the Whitehall & Pigeon Trading Association at Whitehall. In 1904, with Gilbert Lewis, he opened a hardware and implement store in Osseo, under the firm name of Lewis & Hokland. Tom Lomsdahl, in 1912, purchased the Lewis interest, and the firm was consolidated in Tom Lomsdahl & Co. Aside from building up a large trade, Mr. Hokland has found time for service as a member of the village council for four years. He was clerk of the school board of his district in Hale Township for eleven years.

Bert L. Hume, blacksmith and general machinist, now conducting a plant at Osseo, was born in Otter Creek Township, Eau Claire County, Wis., Feb. 26, 1883, son of Alexander and Amanda (Root) Hume. Alexander Hume was born in Canada, came to Wisconsin with his parents in 1863, and lived in Eau Claire County until his death in 1902, his wife still living in Osseo. Bert L. was reared to farm pursuits by his father and remained on the home place until 1901, when he went to Augusta, and learned the black-



C. L. BOLENG AND FAMILY

smith trade. In 1909 he came to Osseo, and purchased the shop of E. Nelson & Son, which he has since conducted. The shop was destroyed by fire on Aug. 30, 1911, and Mr. Hume then built his present plant. The building is of concrete, 40 by 40 feet, well equipped for all kinds of blacksmith and machinery work and automobile repairing. A feature of the plant is a large oxygen-acetylene welding apparatus, and the trip hammer, drill press and two lathes add to the efficiency of the work done. The shop occupied the corner of Thomas and Main streets, the site of the first house built in the village of Osseo. Mr. Hume is well liked in the community, and is a member of the Modern Woodmen and of the Woodmen of the World. He was married Sept. 24, 1903, to Emma M. Krienke, of Otter Creek Township, Eau Claire County, daughter of Fred and Bertha (Bethe) Krienke. Fred Krienke was a native of Germany, served in the German army, and was a pioneer in Eau Claire County. Mr. and Mrs. Hume have five children: Edna, Selma, Margaret, Edwin and Alice.

William Henry came to Trempealeau County in 1858 and homesteaded a farm of 160 acres in sections 21 and 22, Sumner Township, where he lived until his death, May 28, 1913. He was born in County Down, near Belfast, Ireland, Jan. 27, 1828, the son of David Henry, who was born in Scotland, and for many years was an inn keeper in Ireland. William Henry came to America in 1852, and located in Chenango County, New York, where he lived until coming to Trempealeau County. In 1859 he went back to New York for a short trip and was there married to Elizabeth Skillin, a native of Chenango County. They had two sons, Elmer H., who farms in Eau Claire County, four miles north of Osseo, and Edward J., who bought the home farm about 1898.

Edward J. Henry, proprietor of the Oakgrove Stock Farm, sections 21 and 22, Sumner Township, was born on the place where he still lives Nov. 29, 1863, son of William and Elizabeth (Skillin) Henry. He has made many improvements on the farm, has fenced it with woven wire, and maintains his substantial home, barns and silo in the best of condition. He completed in 1917 a barn 36 by 60 feet, with cement floor and steel stanchions, for stock. Carrying on general farming in all its branches, he has made a specialty of Duroc-Jersey swine, of which he has a good drove. In public life he has served as supervisor for two years, and as clerk of the school board of his district since 1900. Mr. Henry was married June 1, 1886, to Ettie L. Johnson, born in Black Earth, Wis., Aug. 18, 1865, daughter of Almond S. and Jane (Oswald) Johnson, and this union has been blessed with six children: Vina, William D., Jane E., Nina L., Frank S. and Laura L. Vina was born June 1, 1888, and married Ludwig Johnson, who farms in Eau Claire County. William D., born March 21, 1892, farms in Forsythe Mont. Jane E., born Dec. 12, 1893, graduated from the Augusta high school, and has successfully taught school in the same district for four years. Nina L. was born April 23, 1897, and is a graduate of the Augusta high school. Frank S. was born Sept. 23, 1902. Laura L. was born Oct. 10, 1905, both living at home.

Christ L. Boleng, proprietor of a grocery store at Tamarac, Arcadia Township, was born in Norway, Sept. 5, 1851, son of Lars and Martha

(Iverson) Boleng. As a youth his attention had been drawn to America as a land of opportunity and he resolved, as soon as he was able, to seek his fortune in the New World. This resolve he made good at an early age, for he was only 18 years old when, in 1870, he sailed from his native shores, landing in New York June 6, that year. In the same year he came to Wisconsin, locating first at La Crosse, where he lived for six years, in the summers working in the sawmills and at the log booms of Black River, and in the winters in the pine woods of Clark County, Wisconsin. During all this time he was looking forward to being his own master, and as a first step to this, in 1874 he bought 80 acres of wild land in Trempealeau County, four miles west of Independence. This land was situated in Traverse Valley, its previous owner being Abe Bugee, who had built a log house or shanty on it. During the winter of 1875-76 Mr. Boleng again worked in the Clark County pineries, living economically and saving as much as he could. In the summer of 1876 he sent to Norway for his parents, and on their arrival settled them on the Traverse Valley land, where they lived until 1882. During the years from 1876 to 1882 he went to the woods every fall and worked there until the next haying season, when he would return to the farm for the balance of the summer. Mr. Boleng's father died in Unity Township, this county, Dec. 24, 1915. His wife, surviving him, is still living in that township and is now 87 years old. June 6, 1879, the subject of this sketch was married to Elizabeth, daughter of Halvor and Melinda (Lee) Kattleson, of La Crosse County. Her brother Nels Lee was the first settler near Lee, Ill. She was born on the site of Midway, between Trempealeau and La Crosse Counties, Wisconsin. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Boleng took up their residence on the Traverse Valley farm, where they lived until 1892. They then rented the farm and moved into Independence Village, making their home there until the summer of 1898. At that time they moved to Tamarac, half way between Centerville and Arcadia, where Mr. Boleng purchased the stock of a country grocery store, also the store building a year later, and where he has since carried on business. For eight years he was postmaster at Tamarack until the rural delivery came into operation. The first mail he received was on Oct. 10, 1898, and the last mail arrived at 12:24 Tuesday, July 31, 1906, and departed at 12:40 the same day. On Sept. 7, 1916, Mr. Boleng was assaulted and robbed in his store and left for dead, but fortunately recovered. He is a stockholder in the State Bank of Trempealeau, in Savage's factories at Minneapolis and in Savage's Electric Railway. In politics he is a staunch Republican. He and his wife have had five children: Lee H., Lilly (first), Lilly (second), Milton and Milton G., of whom the first named Lilly is deceased, and the first Milton died in infancy. Lee H., who was a graduate of Wisconsin University, went to China as an instructor in English, and was drowned in that country while on a vacation July 3, 1910. Lilly (second) is keeping house for her father, and Milton G., who graduated from Gale College in the class of 1917, is now with the John Latsch wholesale house, Winona, Minn. Mr. Boleng and his surviving family are members of Norway Coulie Lutheran Congregation. He is a popular citizen in this part of the county and the brutal attack upon him last September caused great

indignation in the neighborhood. Mrs. Boleng passed away May 19, 1902, at Galesville Hospital.

William Hunter, an early settler, was born in Clackmannanshire, Scotland, and as a young man became a miner. He married Jane Neish, and in 1852, after three children had been born, set out for America. His wife died shortly after his arrival in the new country. Locating near Pittsburg, Penn., he followed his former occupation as a miner for eighteen years. He was determined, however, to see other environment for his family, so, in 1870, he came west and secured a homestead of 160 acres in section 5, Burnside Township, this county. Here he successfully farmed until his death, in 1897. He was the father of six children: William, who lives with his brother James N. on the home farm; Janet, wife of D. A. Hunt, of Burnside Township; James N., who owns and operates the old homestead; Annie, now Mrs. Cole, of South Dakota; Kate, the wife of Charles Hoyt, of Spokane, Wash., and Mary, wife of Fred Martin, of Trempealeau.

James N. Hunter, farmer, township chairman, member of the county board, bank director, and man of many interests, was born in Clackmannanshire, Scotland, June 21, 1852, son of William and Jane (Neish) Hunter, with whom he came to America in 1852. He grew to young manhood near Pittsburg, Penn., and in 1870, with his father, brother and sisters, came to Trempealeau County, and located in section 5, Burnside Township, where he has since resided. Coming here as a youth, he has led his life day by day, uprightly and honorably, and has won the respect and esteem of the entire county. Since 1898 he has been chairman of the township board and a member of the county board, having served as president of the latter body for four years. He has served as justice of the peace for many years, and as health officer of the township he has looked after the physical welfare of the community. His financial holdings include stock in the Farmers & Merchants Bank of Independence, in which he is a director. His broad interest in the county and its affairs is shown by his work as president of the Trempealeau County Historical Society. Fraternally his associations are with the Masonic lodge at Arcadia. He is unmarried.

Alfred Hagen, buttermaker for the Unity Co-operative Creamery at Strum, is one of the popular young men of the village, and is thoroughly proficient in his chosen line of work. He was born in Eau Claire, Wis., Oct. 10, 1882, son of Segvart A. and Karen (Olson) Hagen. Segvart A. Hagen was born in Norway, came to Trempealeau County in the nineties, settled on a farm in section 12, Albion Township, and there lived until his death in 1906, since which time the widow has continued to make her home there. Alfred Hagen remained with his parents until 15 years old. Then he was employed as a farm hand for several years. In 1911 he entered the Unity Creamery as a helper, and gradually perfected himself as a buttermaker until he was promoted to his present position in the spring of 1916. Mr. Hagen was married April 7, 1915, to Clara Engen, of Eleva, daughter of Ole and Mathia Engen, for many years residents of section 22, Albion Township, where the father died in 1908 and where the mother still lives. Mr. and Mrs. Hagen have a daughter, Myrtle Kathrine, born March 12, 1916.

Olaf C. Gullord, contractor and builder of Osseo, was born on a farm

four miles south of the village Sept. 4, 1881, son of Christ and Paulina Gullord. Christ Gullord, a mason by trade, was born in Norway, came to America in June, 1880, bought a farm in Sumner Township, this county, farmed here until 1911, and then went to Billings, Mont., where he died in 1914, his wife dying in 1905. Olaf C. Gullord started to learn the trade of mason from his father at the age of 14 years, and after following this trade for a number of years, gradually worked into his present business. He has been successful in his undertakings, and is regarded as a substantial and well-to-do man. He is a holder of business property in the village, having in 1915 erected a garage, 50 by 60 feet, of solid concrete, with two stories and a basement, fully equipped in every way. This garage he now operates in connection with the sale of Overland automobiles. Mr. Gullord was married April 14, 1905, to Emma Stensby, daughter of Berndt Stensby, who was born in Norway, and has farmed in Hale Township since 1886. Mr. and Mrs. Gullord have two children, Franzel and Lester.

George Gjuul has lived in this county as manager of the Midland Lumber & Coal Company at Osseo since Jan. 4, 1912. In advocating better farm buildings he has assisted in the development of the surrounding rural region, while his work for the progress of Osseo has included his efforts toward the organization of the Farmers Exchange Bank, of which he is now one of the directors. His fraternal affiliations are with the A. F. & A. M. Mr. Gjuul was born in Mankato, Minn., May 13, 1874, the youngest in a family of three children. As a youth he worked with his father. At the age of twenty-four he secured employment in a hardware store at Erskine, Minn. A year and a half later he took up his present line of work as manager for the Stenerson Brothers Lumber Yard at Menton, Minn. Six years later he became manager for the Lamper Lumber Company at Ruthton, Minn. Subsequently he occupied a similar position for the H. W. Ross Lumber Company at Hancock, Minn., for the Glattley Lumber Company at Hot Springs, S. D., and for the John J. Queal Lumber Company at Leeds, Sioux City, Iowa. With this experience he came to Osseo. Mr. Gjuul was married April 25, 1906, to Elva Williams, of Amboy, Minn., daughter of Cyrus and Mary Nixon, the former of whom died in 1914 at the age of 72 and the latter of whom died in 1916 at the age of 70. Torris F. Gjuul, father of the subject of this sketch, was born at Trondjem, Norway, came to America, and after living at Stevens Point, Wis., a year, located in Mankato, where he became a successful contractor and builder. In later years carried on farming at Mankato, Minn., and died Feb. 26, 1906. He married Randi Dahl, who lives in Texarkana, Tex., with her son Frank.

Bert Thompson, for several years proprietor of Maple Lawn Farm of 176 acres, in section 31, Preston Township, but now living in Whitehall, was born in section 6, this township, July 4, 1877, son of William and Laura E. (Hine) Thompson. He resided at home, assisting his father and brothers until the spring of 1914, at which time he bought the above mentioned farm from his father. There he was engaged in raising the usual crops and in breeding Shorthorn graded cattle, Duroc-Jersey hogs and Partridge Wyandotte chickens, doing a successful and increasing business. He had a good eight-room house, with a substantial barn, 40 by 60 feet in dimensions, and



MR. AND MRS. EDWARD D. WEEKS
MR. AND MRS. BERT THOMPSON

a glazed-tile silo of ample capacity. In the spring of 1917 he disposed of the farm and moved to the village of Whitehall, where he erected a comfortable residence, which is now the home of himself and wife. Mr. Thompson was first married Jan. 1, 1900, to Jennie B. Ecker, who was born Aug. 17, 1881, daughter of Charles A. and Margaret (McKimm) Ecker. Her father, who was a pioneer railroad agent for the G. B. & W. R. R. at Whitehall, Wis., died in 1915, aged 65 years, and is survived by his wife, who is now living in Whitehall at the age of 67. Mrs. Jennie B. Thompson died Nov. 18, 1902, and after remaining a widow nearly 12 years Mr. Thompson married for his second wife Cecil M. Weeks, Sept. 30, 1914. She was born Dec. 6, 1882, daughter of Edward and Minnie (Hodgdon) Weeks. Mr. Thompson is secretary and treasurer of the Whitehall Presbyterian Church. He is recognized as one of the enterprising and successful agriculturists and stock breeders of his township and has a wide circle of friends. He and his family are members of the Presbyterian church and he is also a member of the Sons of Veterans and for several years was commander of the camp.

Edward D. Weeks, a retired farmer now residing at Coral City, Pigeon Township, Trempealeau County, was born at Cooperstown, Otsego County, N. Y., Dec. 24, 1840, son of Stephen and Selina (Lyon) Weeks. The father was a native of Massachusetts, born in 1812. When a young man he went to New York City, where he was engaged in the butcher's trade until 1855. In 1833 he married Selina Lyon, and they had a family of seven children: Elmira, who married Floyd Washburn, and died at Black River Falls, Wis., in 1864; George, who died at Watertown, S. D.; Luzerne, who died at Whitehall, Wis., in June, 1916; Edward D., subject of this sketch; Marcus L., now living at Beaver Dam, Wis., and two who died in infancy. The mother died at Beaver Dam in 1894, and her husband at Neillsville about 1886. The latter was a Civil war veteran, having served three years in Company I, Seventeenth Wisconsin Infantry, his son Marcus serving four years in the same regiment, and Luzerne three years in the Tenth Wisconsin Infantry. The aggregate service of the family in the army amounted to 13 years, the other three years being served by the subject of this sketch, Edward D., who enlisted at La Crosse in Company B, Second Wisconsin Infantry. Edward was shot in the shoulder at the battle of Gettysburg and taken prisoner, and was in a parole camp at West Chester, Pa. He took part in 11 important battles, including, besides Gettysburg, the second battle of Bull Run, and the battles of Antietam, South Mountain and the Wilderness. At the last mentioned battle he was shot through the leg and was subsequently confined to the hospital for four months. After his discharge from the army he came to Trempealeau County and in 1865 took a homestead in Chimney Rock Coolie, Hale Township, where he lived for 15 years, engaged in agriculture. In 1880 he removed to Coral City, where he worked as a laborer for some years, but is now retired. June 29, 1870, Mr. Weeks was married to Minnie Hodgdon, who was born at Epping, N. H., Oct. 13, 1851, daughter of Charles and Lamira (Cummings) Hodgdon. Her father also a native of New Hampshire, served four years in the Civil war. He died in his native state. The wife, with her children, came to Wisconsin, locating at Lake Geneva in 1852. There in 1862 she was married to George Follett.

and they afterwards came to Trempealeau County, Mr. Follett conducting a store at old Whitehall for a year. They then removed to Coral City, where he conducted a store and hotel until 1880. He died at Wadena, Minn., about 1901, which was the year of his wife's death, she being aged 73 years. Mr. and Mrs. Edward D. Weeks have been the parents of four children: Ruby, wife of Alfred Taintor, a retired farmer of Meadow, S. D., and the mother of four children: Myrtle, Edward, Lyle and Perry (Mrs. Taintor died Aug. 8, 1916); Lewis E., employed in the Crosby Lumber Yard at Crosby, N. D., who married Kate Martin and has had six children: Norma, Edward W. (died 1906), William H., Howard, Ervin and Robert; Jennie, who died at the age of one year, and Cecile, wife of Bert Thompson, of Whitehall Village. Mr. Weeks is a member of Winfield Scott Post, No. 104, of Whitehall, Wis., and is well known and respected in Coral City and vicinity.

William S. Gilpin, editor and proprietor of the Osseo News, was born in Alexandria, Minn., Nov. 19, 1872, son of Joseph and Sarah (Walker) Gilpin, the former of whom is a retired newspaper man. Of the four children in the family there are now living three: William S., the subject of this sketch; Mary T., an accomplished musician, a graduate of Carleton College at Northfield, Minn., and principal of the public schools of Hopkins, Minn., and Nellie, wife of Walter B. von Fredenburg, a traveling salesman living in Minneapolis. William S. Gilpin attended the public schools of Alexandria, and learned the printing and newspaper business in the office of the Douglas County News, then owned by his father. In 1891 he bought the Eagle Bend (Minn.) Pilot, and later the Browerville (Minn.) Citizen. In 1893 he moved the Citizen to Alexandria, and there published it until 1896. For two years he conducted Gilpin's X Rays at Hamilton, N. D. It was in 1898 that he came to Osseo, and purchased the Osseo Weekly Recorder. In 1911 he sold out. The next year he established the Osseo News, which on Jan. 1, 1915, absorbed the Recorder. From 1903 to 1915 he was postmaster at Osseo. For one term he served on the village council. He has also done good service on the library board. By helping to organize the Osseo Telephone Company he assisted in making possible a valuable modern improvement. Mr. Gilpin was married Oct. 3, 1893, to Evelyn M. Abbott, of Eagle Bend, Minn., the daughter of Benjamin and Mary (Crichton) Abbott, both now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Gilpin have three children: Myle de Vere, born March 3, 1897; Selby A., born June 4, 1898, now in United States navy, and Beatrice, born Aug. 7, 1901.

Ole Gilbertson, proprietor of a 240-acre farm in section 22, Unity Township, and also of 188 acres in section 28, the same township, was born in Telemarken, Norway, Oct. 9, 1860, his father being Gilbert Olson, and his mother, before marriage, Thorild Nilson. Gilbert Olson was born in Norway in 1825 and passed the greater part of his life in his native land, coming to this country in 1898, when he was about 73 years old. He and his wife resided in Bruce Valley for six years and then removed to Hale Township, where Mr. Olson died in the spring of 1914. His wife now lives with her daughter, Mrs. John Lee, of Hale Township. Ole Gilbertson was a young man 20 years old when he came to the United States in 1880. He located in Arcadia, this county, and for about a year worked in the pineries and on

farms. Then for six years he was engaged in farming in Bruce Valley, afterwards farming a place near Pleasanton one year. The next 20 years were spent by him on a farm in section 28, United Township, and at the end of that time he bought his present farm in section 22, moving onto it in the spring of 1914. This farm has good buildings, the house being a two-story frame structure with basement, and containing 12 rooms, lighted with gasoline and furnished with hot water heat and running water. The barn measures 48 by 105 by 16 feet above stone basement, and there are two solid cement silos, each 16 by 36 feet. Mr. Gilbertson is conducting a successful farming business and has already attained a considerable degree of prosperity. His present farm was purchased from Samuel R. Anderson and is a fine property. He is also a stockholder in the First State Bank of Strum. In June, 1890, Mr. Gilbertson was married to Tina Christopherson, who was born on the farm he owns in section 28, Unity Township, July 8, 1870, daughter of Paul and Anna (Olson) Christopherson, a memoir of whom may be found elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Gilbertson have seven children: Paul, Oscar, Theodore, Amanda, Melvin, Joseph and Ida, all residing at home.

Ernest E. French, D. D. S., has practiced his profession in Osseo since 1909, and has established an admirable reputation. His office is equipped with the most modern appliances, and his standing is shown by his membership in the Eau Claire, Chippewa and Dunn County Dental Society, the Wisconsin State Dental Society and the National Association, as well as in the dental college fraternity, the Gamma Epsilon. Dr. French was born in Eau Claire, Wis., March 18, 1876, son of Dr. Edmund C. and Esther (Edward) French. After passing through the public schools of his native city he entered the Dickinson Seminary at Williamsport, Penn., with which preparation he studied three years in Hamline University in St. Paul, and Macalester College in Minneapolis. His dental training was received in the offices of his father in Eau Claire of Dr. Frank Brooks, in Charleston, Ill., and of Dr. Jason Lyons in New York City. For four years he had charge of the Chicago Dental Laboratories at Chicago, and in 1905 established the Reliable Dental Laboratories in the same city, which he conducted for some two years. Then he practiced in Eau Claire for a while before coming to Osseo. Dr. French was married Aug. 8, 1906, to Lillian K. Spencer, who was born in Genesee County, New York, June 10, 1871, daughter of Alanson and Mary (Thorp) Spencer. Dr. French has one daughter, Mignon.

Edmund C. French, D. D. S., now of Eau Claire, this state, has practiced in that city since 1874. He has attained prominence in his profession, and was a member of the Wisconsin State Dental Board of Examiners, as well as president of the Wisconsin State Dental Society. His fraternal relations are with the Masonic order, and his politics are those of the Republican party. Dr. French was married Jan. 27, 1867, to Esther Edwards, who was born in Salem, Penn., and this union has been blessed with four children, Myrta, Ernest E., Dwight Day and one who died in infancy. Myrta, known as Madam Kursteiner, the Wisconsin Nightingale, is a famous grand opera singer. She lives in New York, and is the wife of Jean Paul Kursteiner, a composer of some note, and the director of music at Bryn Mawr and

Ogontoz Colleges. She has been soloist for the Strackash Grand Opera Company, of London, Berlin, Paris and Vienna with Madam Nellie Melba and Madam Phoebe Strackash, and leading soprano with the International Grand Opera Company, Andrews Grand Opera Company, Sousa's Band, the Walter Damrosch Orchestra and the Siedel Orchestra in this country. Ernest E. is a dentist in Osseo, Wis. Dwight Day is an interior decorator at Minneapolis.

Chester I. Field, garage man and automobile dealer of Osseo, was born in the village where he now resides, Aug. 18, 1891, son of Horace A. and Zoe (Shephard) Field. Horace A. Field was born in Richland County, Wisconsin, came to Sumner Township, this county, in 1861, with his parents, was reared on the farm, and devoted his life to that occupation and to keeping a hardware store in Osseo. He died in 1913 at the age of 62, while his wife died in 1896 at the age of 36 years. In the family there were six children. Roy died in infancy. Genevieve is secretary to Superintendent L. D. Harvey, of the Stout Institute, at Menominee, Wis. Her twin, Elinor, is the wife of Bartlett Cole, an attorney of Portland, Ore. Martha is a teacher in the primary grade of the Osseo schools. Marshall F. is an insurance agent at Osseo. Chester I., the youngest of the family, received his early education in the schools of Osseo and Menominee. For a time he helped his father operate the farm. In the spring of 1911 he established his present business. He handles the Chevrolet cars, does general repairing, and carries a full line of accessories and supplies. His financial holdings include stock in the State Bank, of Osseo; the Farmers Exchange Bank, of Osseo, and the Osseo Telephone Company, in the latter of which he is the vice-president. His fraternal affiliations are with the Masonic order and the Modern Woodmen. Mr. Field was married Oct. 29, 1915, to Mrs. Ella (Stearns) Bradley, born in Fairchild, Wis., May 14, 1881, daughter of Charles and Barbara Stearns, who conduct a hotel at Fairchild. By her previous marriage to Charles Bradley, a traveling salesman of St. Paul, Mrs. Field has a daughter, Louise.

John Thompson, one of the most prominent citizens of Preston Township, who is both a farmer and business man, was born in the northern part of Sweden, March 16, 1848. His father, who was Thomas Olson, was born in 1810, and in 1857 emigrated to the United States with his family, locating first in Racine County, Wisconsin. After residing there until 1864 he decided to remove farther west, and accordingly, hitching an ox team to a wagon, he started with his family for Trempealeau County. On arriving here he located in Preston Township, taking up land which forms the present farm of his son John—a fine piece of agricultural property containing 218 acres, in sections 21, 22 and 27, and known as "The Oaks." When he took it, however, it was unimproved and he spent many years in its cultivation and development until it began to assume somewhat the appearance it has today. On this farm he died in 1890. His wife, whose maiden name was Brita Johnson, and who was born in Sweden in 1820, passed away before him in 1882. John Thompson, who was reared on his parents' farm, remained at home until the year of his mother's death. Some years before that event, or in 1878, he had purchased his present



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farm, and he now moved onto it and has since made it his home. Aside from his interests represented therein he is president of the First National Bank of Blair, Wis., and for two years has been a stockholder in the creamery there. His success has been marked, both as farmer and business man and there are few citizens of Preston Township who stand higher in public confidence and esteem. For ten years he served as township assessor, and he has also held the office of township treasurer, in both positions making a creditable record. June 26, 1880, Mr. Thompson was united in marriage with Ellina Mattison, who was born in La Crosse County, Wisconsin, daughter of Mattes and Anna (Olson) Mattison. Her father, born in Sweden in 1827, came to America in 1852, residing in Pennsylvania until 1866, in which year he came to Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, making his home here until his death in 1905. Mrs. Thompson's mother, who was born in 1828, died in 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are the parents of eight children: Anna, who married Gilbert G. Anderson, a farmer of Ettrick Township, and Melvin, Oscar, Emma, Edmund, Victor, Arthur and Gilford. The seven last mentioned are residing at home, except Edmund, who is traveling in the interests of the Agricultural Department of the United States at Washington. The family are members of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church.

Anton N. Freng came to Trempealeau County in 1875, and has lived on his present place of 160 acres in sections 27 and 28, Sumner Township, since 1883. As chairman of the town board of supervisors he has served on the county board eleven years, he has been assessor seven years, and clerk on the school board for twelve years. His financial relations are with the State Bank of Osseo, his business holdings include a half interest in his son's furniture store in Osseo, and his church connections are with the Hauge Norwegian Lutheran congregation, of which he has been secretary nearly a quarter of a century. As a modern farmer he keeps well abreast of the times and takes great pride in the development and improvement of his estate. Mr. Freng was born in Ringsacker, Norway, July 31, 1852, and was brought to America by his parents, Nels and Bertha (Johnson) Haakenson Freng, living with them in La Crosse, Wis., two years, before coming to this county. He was married July 10, 1880, to Louise Huskelhus, born in Biri, Norway, Feb. 20, 1862, daughter of Peter Arneson Huskelhus and Sedsel Jorgenson, who came to America in 1877. Mr. and Mrs. Freng have four children: Bernt A., Peter N., Sena E. and Albert L. Bernt A. is a furniture dealer and undertaker at Osseo. He has two children, Mildred and Nels. Peter N. is employed in a garage at Osseo. He has two children, Blanche and Sena. Sena E. died at the age of twenty-five years. Albert L. farms with his father. He has two children, Anton and Elmer. Nels Haakenson Freng settled in Golden Valley, Sumner Township, in 1875, and five years later moved to Hale Township, remaining there until he took up his home with his son, Anton N. Freng, where he lived until his death in 1905 at the age of 79 years. His wife, Bertha Johnson, died in Sumner Township in 1878 at the age of 67. Before locating in this county they had lived in La Crosse, Wis., to which city they came from their native land of Norway in 1873.

David L. Davidson, proprietor of a good farm of 169 acres in sections 22 and 27, Lincoln Township, was born near Bergen, Norway, March 5, 1861. He is a son of Lars Davidson, also a native of Norway, who came to America in 1866, locating in Ettrick Township, Trempealeau County, Wis. Later he removed to Preston Township, where he subsequently resided until his death in 1909 at the age of 79 years. Lars married Julia Johnson, who did not long survive him, passing away in 1910, at the age of 81 years. David L. Davidson was reared on his parents' farm, which he purchased in 1887. He conducted it thereafter until 1911, at which time he sold it and bought his present place. In 1914 he rebuilt the barn, which is a substantial frame structure, 30 by 50 feet, with an L-shaped addition 34 by 46 feet, and having a capacity of 50 head of cattle. In 1915 he built a cement block silo, 16 by 40 feet. He keeps graded Holstein cattle, milking 25. Mr. Davidson is a member of the Synod Norwegian Lutheran Church. He has served three years on the Preston Township school board, and is a man who takes a personal interest in the welfare and development of the community in which he lives. He was married July 3, 1887, to Bertha Everson, of Arcadia Township, whose father, Ever, died in Dane County, Wis. Mr. and Mrs. Davidson are the parents of six children: Louis, John, Elmer, Clarence, Ernest and Mildred. The last mentioned was the third in order of birth, and is now the wife of Jacob Wilitzky, a farmer of Arcadia Township. All the others reside at home. Mr. Davidson and his family are well known and prosperous people, he and his wife reaping the reward of industry and thrift. Their children have been brought up to be a credit to the family name.

John Carson, of Osseo, was born in Winneshiek County, Iowa, Dec. 24, 1867, oldest of the thirteen children of Ole and Jennie Carson. Ole Carson was born in Norway, came to America in 1865, and farmed near Decorah, Iowa, until his death in 1898, since which time his second wife, Julia Green, has made her home in Osseo. John Carson was reared in his native county, and started out on his own responsibility at the age of 13 years. When he was about 15 he came to Osseo. After working on various farms for a number of years he opened a general store in Osseo in 1900. For a time he had J. N. Lee as a partner, but for some 15 years he conducted the business alone, selling out to M. I. Gilbert in 1916. In 1908 he erected a cement block building, with two full stories and a basement, thus giving him ample room for his rapidly growing trade. As justice of the peace for six years Mr. Carson won the respect of the community. He is especially interested in church work in the Hauge Norwegian Lutheran congregation, and has been superintendent of the Sunday school for nearly twenty years. Mr. Carson was married June 5, 1899, to Anna Nelson, daughter of Eric and Betsy (Robertson) Nelson. Eric Nelson was born in Norway, came to America as a boy of nine years, has lived in Osseo 35 years, and now makes his home with the Carson family, his wife having died in 1914. With the family also lives Lottie Nelson, an Osseo miliner, who was reared by Mr. and Mrs. Carson.

William Thompson, Sr., a retired farmer residing in section 31, Preston Township, was born in Broome County, New York, Feb. 17, 1840, son of



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Robert and Elizabeth A. (Scott) Thompson. The father, also a native of New York State, came to Wisconsin in 1847, locating in Milwaukee, where he resided two years. The next six years of his life were spent in Columbia County, Wisconsin, after which, coming to Trempealeau County, he bought 360 acres of land a mile and a half east of Blair, and farmed there until 1865. He then bought a farm in Little Tamarack Valley and resided there two years. Selling that place, he bought a farm near Mankato, Minn., where he lived three years. The next two years of his life were spent at the home of his son William. He then retired to Blue Earth County and there died at the age of 74 years. His wife died at the home of her son William, Jan. 8, 1892. They had a family of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth. William Thompson Sr., was brought up on his parents' farm and early acquired a practical knowledge of agriculture. He was in his twenty-first year when the Civil war broke out and in the following year, Aug. 15, 1862, he enlisted in Company C, Thirtieth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, at Reynolds' Coolie school house, Preston Township. After a military service of three years he returned home and for the first year worked in the woods. Then in partnership with Cyrus H. Hines he built Pigeon Falls mill. In 1867 he traded his interest in the mill for Mr. Hines' farm in section 6, Preston Township, where he resided for some years engaged in farming. Again he traded, this time for a one-half interest in Coral City mill, residing at Coral City for several years, or until 1885, at which time he bought the farm on which he now lives, which is a good piece of agricultural property, with very fine improvements. During his active career as a farmer Mr. Thompson was an extensive cattle raiser, specializing in Durham cattle and doing a considerable dairy business. At an early date he hauled for Ole Knutson the first load of lumber ever carried to old Whitehall. Since 1914 he has been practically retired from active work, the farm being operated by his son, Ira Thompson. Mr. Thompson was first married Dec. 14, 1866, to Laure Hine, daughter of Cyrus H. and Catherine (Barber) Hine, of Pigeon Falls. Of this union there were six children born: Dewey, who died in infancy; William C. and Ira, who are both farmers in Preston Township; Catherine E., who was born after William and before Ira, Nov. 15, 1871, and who died Oct. 15, 1877, and Bert and Selon, both of whom are farmers in Preston Township. On Friday, June 18, 1882, Mrs. Laure Thompson met an instant and tragic death. The family were at that time occupying J. W. Snow's house, on his farm half way between Blair and Whitehall. It was 11 o'clock at night, and she and her husband and youngest child were asleep in bed, three elder children being asleep upstairs. A terrible storm was passing over the neighborhood, when suddenly a bolt of lightning passing down to the bed room, killed Mrs. Thompson instantly and shocked Mr. Thompson and his child and threw them both out of bed. For several minutes he was unconscious, but neither he nor the child was seriously injured. Two of the other children upstairs were thrown out of bed onto the floor, but not seriously injured. The house was splintered more or less all through and several trees and posts standing near were split open. Mrs. Thompson was born at Lenox, Ill., July 4, 1849. She was a very popular lady in this

vicinity, and her funeral was attended by a large number of friends and neighbors. Mr. Thompson subsequently married Mrs. Emma Ellison, by whom he had two children: Grace E., now the wife of Alvah Van Sickle, a farmer of Pigeon Township, and Alice M., wife of Oscar Cummings, a carpenter living in Whitehall, Wis. Dec. 28, 1898, Mr. Thompson contracted a third marriage, with Agnes Wright, who was born at Staffordsville, Ontario, Oct. 4, 1864. Her father, Joseph Wright, a native of Canada, came to Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, by team, accompanied by his wife and family, and was subsequently a resident of Pigeon Township until his death in 1901 at the age of 71 years. His wife, Mrs. Thompson's mother, whose maiden name was Georgiana Douglas, is now residing at the age of 84 years on the old farm in Pigeon Township, operated by her son James Wright. The family attended the Presbyterian church. Mr. Thompson is a Republican in politics. He is a man who takes an intelligent interest in all measures calculated to advance the interests of the community in which he lives, but has never sought public office.

Samuel Cardinal dates his residence in Trempealeau County from 1897, when he came to Sumner Township and purchased 140 acres in sections 18 and 19, then owned by John Lovesey. To the development of this place he has since devoted his attention. In 1909 he built a barn, 38 by 6 feet, with cement floors; in 1910 he rebuilt his house, making a pleasant home of eleven rooms, and in 1911 he erected a stave silo, 14 by 35 feet. He keeps a good herd of Durham cattle, four of which are registered, and a drove of Duroc-Jersey swine, eight of which are registered. His public work has included service as township supervisor for three years and as clerk of the school board of his district for five years. His financial holdings include stock in the Farmers Exchange Bank and the Farmers Products Company, both at Osseo. Mr. Cardinal was born in Montreal, Canada, April 18, 1868, the son of Gideon and Rose Ann (Roberts) Cardinal, natives of Canada, the former of whom was born in 1836 and died in 1904, and the latter of whom was born in 1832 and died in 1908. The family came to the United States in 1872, to a homestead in Chippewa County, Wisconsin, and there lived until 1892, when they moved to Tomahawk, in Lincoln County. There Samuel Cardinal was employed at home and on various farms until coming to this country. He was married Aug. 26, 1891, to Emma Olsen, who was born in La Crosse, July 20, 1870, and was reared at Strum, in this county, where her mother, Mary Anderson Olsen, now lives, the father, Christ Olsen, who was born in Christiania, Norway, in 1844, having died in 1896. Mr. and Mrs. Cardinal have had nine children, of whom there are living seven: Nora, a nurse at Eau Claire, Wis.; Goldie, the wife of M. P. Skogstad, the cashier of the Farmers Exchange Bank at Osseo, and Leo, who married Pearl Ring, daughter of John Ring, postmaster at Osseo, March 28, 1917; Marshall, Lillie, Mabel and Juanita, who are at home. Ethel died at the age of six years and Marian died in infancy. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran Church.

John A. Call, an influential and prosperous business man of Strum, was born in Crawford County, Wisconsin, March 1, 1864, son of Andrew and Brita (Johanasdotter) Call. Andrew Call was born in Sogon, Norway.

in 1826, came to America in 1850, farmed in Crawford County, Wisconsin, until 1872, and then came to Unity Township, Trempealeau County, where he remained until his death in 1896, his widow now making her home in Strum. John A. Call was reared in Crawford County and came to Unity Township when eight years old. He attended district school and devoted his life to agricultural pursuits until 1896. In that year he came to Strum and engaged in the hotel and livery business. Subsequently he became a salesman of farm machinery. In 1904 he engaged in the hardware and implement business. In addition to this he handles harnesses and pianos and deals extensively in live stock. He has been a director of the school board since 1915. Mr. Call was married March 6, 1896, to Christine Johnson, of Unity Township, born in Gulbrandsdalen, Norway, in 1872, the daughter of Lars Johnson. Mr. and Mrs. Call have had nine children: Birdella, William, Clarence, Lillian, Ruth, Esther, John and two who died in infancy.

Charles H. Anderson, whose well cultivated farm of 230 acres is located in sections 26 and 35, Lincoln Township, was born in Dane County, Wisconsin, Dec. 15, 1865. He is a son of Bennett and Ellen (Everson) Anderson and is of Norwegian ancestry. His grandfather, Gilbert, married Inger Flategar. Gilbert had considerable property in Norway and during a famine gave it all away to feed the starving. His mother, aged 80 years, had a life interest in the old home, and this she sold to provide her son Gilbert and his family with funds to come to America. They reached Milwaukee with no money and this aged lady walked from Milwaukee to Dane County, Wisconsin, with the family and the ox team. Bennett Anderson, father of Charles H., was reared in Dane County and there married Ellen Everson. After living in Dane County until 1868 he homesteaded land in Arcadia Township, which was his home until his death. He and his wife had nine children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth. Charles H. Anderson lived on the old home in Arcadia Township till 1887. He then went to Yellowstone Valley in Montana, where he worked at railroad construction work for eight years. Then in the summer of 1896 he bought his present farm, which is a well improved piece of agricultural property. He raises Shorthorn cattle, keeping 50 head, which are all high grade. He feeds one carload a year and milks 20 cows, and keeps 40 acres of his land in clover and timothy. Mr. Anderson has served six years on the township board, during three years of which he has been chairman. He was married April 14, 1897, to Mrs. Marian Skaug (nee Wald), widow of Christopher Skaug, of Unity, Wis. They have had 11 children, of whom three—Charles, Omer and Rudolph R.—died in infancy. The living are: Blanche, Laura, Jane, Julia, Eleanor, Myrtle, Casper and Doris. Mr. Anderson is a member of the Synod Norwegian Lutheran Church.

Charles J. Amundson is proprietor of the Amundson Auto Company, of Osseo. This company has the Osseo agency for the Ford cars. The garage is a frame building, 30 by 50 feet, supplied with all kinds of Ford supplies and accessories. The place is excellently equipped for general repairing, an electric motor and a lathe being among the special features. Mr. Amundson was born in Jackson County, this state, Sept. 9, 1878, son of

Thore and Mary (Johnson) Amundson, the former of whom died in Jackson County in 1888, and the latter of whom is now the wife of John Larson, of that county. Charles J. Amundson was the fourth of five children, the others being: Anna, now wife of John Olson, an undertaker of Marietta, Minn.; Theodore, who farms in Jackson County; Helen, who died at the age of 17 years, and Josephine, now of Eau Claire. The subject of this sketch was reared to farm pursuits in his native county. At the age of 15 he started work at the carpenter trade, and was employed in this line until 1912, when he established his present business. His fraternal relations are with the Modern Woodmen. Mr. Amundson was married, June 1, 1906, to Anna Christianson, of Hale Township, daughter of Charles and Helen (Johnson) Christianson. This union has been blessed with one child: Hilman Charles, born Dec. 6, 1911.

Giles E. Cripps, an enterprising and successful agriculturist, who is engaged in operating a farm of 280 acres in sections 13 and 14, Burnside Township, was born in section 11, this township, Oct. 19, 1861, son of Giles and Harriet (Wood) Cripps. A memoir of his parents may be found in the biography of Fred C. Cripps, elsewhere published in this volume. He was reared on his parents' farm and resided on it until reaching the age of 22 years, during this period being engaged in assisting his father. Dec. 30, 1883, Mr. Cripps married Eliza Zimmer, who was born at New Lisbon, Wis., Dec. 16, 1863, her parents being John J. and Margaret (Wunderlich) Zimmer. The father, usually known as Jacob Zimmer, was born in Erie County, N. Y., Jan. 7, 1836, and came West with his parents to Racine, Wis., in 1845, residing there one year. He then removed to Jefferson County, where he lived until 1865. His marriage to Margaret Wunderlich took place March 12, 1856. She was a native of Germany, born March 12, 1834, and died Nov. 15, 1912. John J. Zimmer in 1862 enlisted in the Twelfth Wisconsin Battery and was wounded in the right leg at the battle of Corinth. In the spring of 1865 he came to Trempealeau County and rented a farm in Hale Township, but after a two years' residence there, he moved to Traverse Valley, section 17, Burnside Township, where he bought a farm on which he lived until 1892. The remainder of his life was spent in the village of Independence, where his death finally occurred, Feb. 6, 1909, about three years and nine months before that of his wife. On beginning agricultural work for himself Giles E. Cripps purchased the farm on which he has since resided, and which is now well improved, the land being well tilled, the buildings ample and of good, substantial construction, and the equipment of tools and machinery being fully adequate to all the needs of modern farming. An all-woven wire fence surrounds the entire farm. Mr. Cripps and wife have been the parents of three children, the first of whom died at birth. The others are: Ralph, born Nov. 6, 1890, and Mildred, born Sept. 12, 1894. Ralph Cripps, who is engaged in operating the farm for his wife's mother, was married Oct. 3, 1916, to Jennie Cooke, of Independence, who was born Aug. 9, 1897, daughter of Samuel and Martha (Arnold) Cooke. They have one child, Willis Ralph, born Sept. 10, 1917. Mildred resides at home.

Ole O. Hovre, recently county treasurer of Trempealeau County, was



MR. AND MRS. GILES CRIPPS



MR. AND MRS. JOHN JACOB ZIMMER

born in Guldbrandsdalen, Norway, Feb. 14, 1864. His father, Ole O. Hovre, also a native of Norway, came to the United States on 1874, settling in Ettrick Township, where he homesteaded land in section 2 in 1876. He died on his farm in 1900 at the age of 70 years. Ole O. Hovre married Sönnöv Husmoen, who survives him and still resides on the homestead, being now 78 years old. They had six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born. Ole O. Hovre, Jr., was graduated from Gale College in 1886. He then went to Spink County, S. D., where he remained until 1890, working on farms during the summers and teaching school in the winters. At the end of that period he bought a general store in Hale, Trempealeau County, Wis., and conducted it for 26 years, or until the spring of 1916, when he sold out. He was elected county treasurer in the fall of 1914 and served two years. He has lately purchased a farm in Taintor Township, Dunn County, to which he intends to remove after Jan. 1, 1917. Mr. Hovre served as clerk of Hale township for 12 years. He was also clerk of School District No. 3 for eight years. For 24 years he served as deacon of the Norwegian Lutheran Synod church, acting as secretary for six years. He was also justice of the peace for 24 years. Mr. Hovre was married May 13, 1891, to Mathia Böle, of Ettrick, Wis., who was born there Feb. 7, 1871, daughter of Juuhl and Ingri Böle. Her father, who was born in Norway, came to America in 1875, locating in Vernon County, Wis., from which place after a year he came to Ettrick. He died in 1914 at the age of 89 years. His wife still lives on the old farm, having now attained the age of 90 years. Mr. and Mrs. Hovre have had a family of 10 children: Selma, residing at home; Olga, who lives in Culbertson, Mont., where she is employed as a bookkeeper; May, who is the wife of the Rev. Folkestad, of Strum, Wis.; and Helmer, Hazel, Myrtle, Lillian M., Orvel, Allice and Catherine, all of whom are residing at home except Lillian M., who died at the age of 2 years.

Henry Anderson was born in Trondhjem, Norway, and as a young man came to America. He married Cassandra Everson, a native of Harrisburg, Pa., and together they came to Trempealeau County. For a time they lived on a farm near Independence. In the late '80s they moved to Superior, Wis., where Henry Anderson was employed as a structural iron worker. While engaged in this occupation in November, 1891, he was severely injured, from the effects of which he died on the 27th of the following month. His wife still lives in Superior. In the family there were six children: Ida, Alice, Seburt J., Clarence, Oscar and Cornell H. Ida married Carl Sorem, an electrical engineer of Minneapolis. Alice is a teacher in the eighth grade of the Superior public schools. Seburt J. is a violin player, and makes his home in Chicago. Clarence is the chief clerk of the Minneapolis Board of Education. Cornell H., twin of Clarence, is State insurance inspector and adjustor for the Home Fire Insurance Company of New York, and is located at Milwaukee. Oscar was killed while deer hunting near Superior, Nov. 27, 1904.

Cornell H. Anderson, a prominent insurance man of the State of Wisconsin, now living in Milwaukee, claims Trempealeau County as his place of nativity, his birth having taken place in Independence, Aug. 8, 1885. His

parents, Henry and Cassandra (Everson) Anderson, took him to Superior, Wis., as a child, and there he passed through the graded and high schools. Entering the insurance business at the age of 17, he became clerk in the office of an agency at Superior, and there thoroughly learned the business. In 1910 he assumed the duties of his present position as special State agent, inspector and adjustor for the Home Fire Insurance Company of New York. With an office at Milwaukee, he covers the entire State. He is a "hustler," and is widely known for his business ability and his good fellowship.

Seth S. Speestra, proprietor of one of the best farms in Hale Township, known as Hillside Stock Farm, was born in Holland, Europe, Jan. 16, 1884, son of Samuel F. and Ruth (Bronz) Speerstra. The parents came to America with their family in 1890, locating first in La Crosse County, Wis., where they made their home until 1898. Removing to Trempealeau County, they purchased the farm in Hale which is now known as Hillside Stock Farm, where they resided until the spring of 1911, when they moved to their present place of residence near Whitehall, Seth S. Speerstra then taking possession of the farm. It was in the spring of that year, also, on June 7, that the latter was united in marriage with Sophy Johnson, who was born in Hale Township, Trempealeau County, Wis., Nov. 1, 1886, her parents, Peter L. and Eldri (Nelson) Johnson, being well-known and prosperous farming people. Mr. Speerstra's farm contains 380 acres and is a fine piece of agricultural property, being well improved and adapted to all the requirements of the most scientific farming. The residence is a commodious frame dwelling of nine rooms conveniently arranged; the barn, also a frame structure, measures 58 by 60 by 16 feet, and is provided with a good cement floor; while among the other buildings, all substantially built, are a hog house, 28 by 80 feet, with cement floor, and a frame silo, 16½ by 37 feet in size. The entire farm is well fenced around with woven wire fencing. Besides raising the usual crops, Mr. Speerstra is quite extensively engaged in stock breeding and dairying, in which branches of the farming industry he has achieved a pronounced success. He has now 100 head of Shorthorn cattle, milking 30 cows, and having in connection with his dairy a Hinman machine of four units, with gasoline engine. Each year he feeds one car of cattle for the market. He also has a large herd of Poland-China hogs, numbering at the present time about 200 head, of which he sells about 100 head a year, and also sells 20 head of hogs for breeders. Of pure-bred Shropshire sheep he keeps about 55 head, his sheep being registered animals; and in addition to the above-mentioned stock he keeps a flock of Mammoth Bronze turkeys. The management of so large a farm naturally requires an expert knowledge of every branch of agriculture, together with a more than ordinary amount of good business judgment, but Mr. Speerstra has shown himself thoroughly capable of handling his large interests and making his farm pay a handsome profit. He has taken rank among the leading farmers of his township, and he and his wife are well-to-do and popular members of the community in which they reside.

John Raichle, a well-known resident of Ettrick, Wis., where he is engaged in business as a general contractor and bridge builder, and is also a land owner, was born in Winona, Minn., Oct. 18, 1868, son of William



MR. AND MRS. HANS A. FREMSTAD
ALBERT H. FREMSTAD AND FAMILY

and Emma (Medsker) Raichle. His early education was acquired in the public school of Frenchville, Wis., and he resided at home until he was 18 years of age. He then went to South Dakota, where he worked out for others, and in the winters was engaged in cutting timber in the woods. When about 22 years old, having returned to Trempealeau County, he rented land in Ettrick Township and engaged in farming, continuing to rent for four years. At the end of that time he purchased the John Cance farm, which he operated until the winter of 1908-09. He then rented it out and moved into the village of Ettrick, in the meanwhile having begun the construction of his present residence, which was completed in 1913, after which he took up his residence in it. He has sold 160 acres of the land he formerly owned, but still has 101 acres left, which he rents out. For some time past Mr. Raichle has been engaged in contracting in masonry and construction work, including bridge building, and at present has contracts for the Ettrick & Northern Railroad, now building. He is a stockholder in the Bank of Ettrick and in the Ettrick Creamery Company, the Ettrick Hall Company, and in a lumber company, organized Jan. 18, 1917. Mr. Raichle was married May 28, 1895, to Nettie Benrud, who was born at Frenchville, this county, daughter of Marcus and Carrie (Hegge) Benrud, who were born in Biri, Norway, the father Jan. 17, 1846, and the mother Dec. 13, 1845. The parents of Mrs. Raichle were married at La Crosse, Wis. Marcus Benrud came to the United States when a lad of 18 years, locating at French Creek, this county, where he made his home with Mr. Gilbertson, working out for two years. He then went back to Norway, and when he returned to this country he brought with him his young wife. Then settling in La Crosse, he engaged there in the liquor business, but continued in it but a short time, coming to Frenchville not long after and starting a hotel here, which he conducted for about six or seven years. In the meanwhile he acquired some land and when he gave up the hotel business he engaged in farming, and in this latter occupation he continued until his death, which took place Aug. 23, 1910. His wife survived him less than a year, dying May 6, 1911. For a number of years Mr. Benrud held the office of assessor in Gale Township. He and his wife had six children, of whom their daughter Nettie (Mrs. John Raichle) was the second-born. Mr. and Mrs. Raichle are the parents of four children: Elmer Oscar, Albert William, Robert Theodore and Antoinette, all residing at home. Mr. Raichle belongs to the orders of Royal Neighbors and Beavers at Ettrick. For a number of years he has served on the township board and as president of the Ettrick Creamery Company.

Albert H. Fremstad, an enterprising and prosperous agriculturist, proprietor of the Fremstad Farm of 160 acres in sections 3 and 4, Pigeon Township, is a native of Wisconsin, having been born in Vernon County, Nov. 27, 1871. His father, Hans A. Fremstad, was born in Nordland, Norway, in 1838, and came to the United States in 1857, residing for some years in Vernon County, this State. In December, 1871, he came to Pigeon Township, this County, taking the farm on which his son Albert H. now lives, and which he cultivated for many years, or until his retirement from active labor. He still, however, makes it his place of residence. His wife, whose maiden

name was Andrena Nilson, was born in Norway in 1834, and died Oct. 1, 1916. Albert H. Fremstad was an infant scarcely a month old when his parents came to Trempealeau County and took the land since known as the Fremstad Farm. Here he was reared, attending the local schools in boyhood and also beginning at an early age to acquire a knowledge of agriculture. This knowledge was of a most practical kind and at times involved considerable labor, but in performing it he was laying the foundation of his present prosperity. In this work he was associated with his father until 1898, when, with his brother Anton, he purchased the farm and it was carried on by them under the name of Fremstad Bros. until the spring of 1915, since which time Albert H. has been the sole proprietor. The improvements are extensive and up-to-date, and include a barn, 32 by 60 feet, with basement, and shed on the north side; a solid concrete silo, 14 by 36, built in 1913; a tobacco shed, 40 by 144, and a good two-story house of 12 rooms. Mr. Fremstad has four acres planted in tobacco. His herd of cattle numbers 40 head, of which he milks 20. Mr. Fremstad was married March 27, 1901, to Clara Hougen, who was born in Osseo, Trempealeau County, Wis., April 4, 1875, daughter of Mat and Gurina (Prestegaarder) Hougen. He and his wife have six children, born as follows: Hazel, Jan. 4, 1903; Clifford, Nov. 9, 1904; Palmer, March 15, 1908; Glen, March 6, 1910; Maynard, Oct. 31, 1913, and Ernest Milton, June 30, 1917. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

Omer F. Immell, hustling agent for the New York Life Insurance Company, was born on a farm three miles east of Blair, April 22, 1872, son of Francis M. and Anna (Storley) Immell. Francis M. Immell was born in Ohio, came to Wisconsin in 1851, lived at Black River Falls four years, came to Trempealeau County in 1856, located three miles east of Blair, and there lived until he moved to the village, where he died in 1913, his good wife having passed away the previous year. Omer F. Immell started out for himself while a boy in his early teens. As a youth he did farm work. For several years he was a clerk in the Farmers' Trading Association store at Blair. For one year he traveled for the Ramer Candy Company, of Winona, and for six years for the Winona Candy Company, of that city. Later he traveled seven years for the Kratchwil Candy Company, of La Crosse. In 1913, he established at Blair, the Immell Bait Company for the manufacture of the "Chippewa Bait." Jan. 25, 1915, he accepted his present agency. In this capacity he has several times led the State organization in number of applications obtained, and in February and March, 1915, he led the district comprising Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota and a part of Canada. The enclosed extract, taken from a journalistic source, is a well-merited tribute to his ability in the line of industry he follows: "O. F. Immell, agent for the New York Life Insurance Company, has the honor of being one of seven to win a vice-presidency in what is termed by the company the \$100,000 class. To be in this class an agent must sell over \$100,000 worth of insurance. Mr. Immell came close to doubling this figure, selling a total of \$183,000 worth of insurance for the year (1917). By so doing he automatically elected himself a delegate from this district to the convention of that company at Atlantic City, which

is held Thursday and Friday of this week. Mr. Immell has worked hard for this honor and only a close attention to this business, coupled with the fact that he is well posted on insurance matters and represents one of the best companies, enabled him to win. The company has this to say of him: 'He has the honor of having a larger volume, \$183,000, than any other official in the club. He is so close to the \$200,000 club that we shall expect to see him there without fail one year from now.'” Mr. Immell was married Jan. 1, 1895, to Margaret McKivergin, a native of Trempealeau County, daughter of James McKivergin. This union has resulted in two children: Orrie and Florence.

Algernon P. Tallman, proprietor of a blacksmith and wagon shop in Whitehall, was born in the southeastern part of Hale Township, Trempealeau County, Wis., May 31, 1879. His parents were Humphrey G. and Esther (Boyd) Tallman. The father, a native of the State of New York, fought for the Union in the Civil War, as a member of Company A, Sixteenth New York Cavalry, serving 18 months. After the war he came to Trempealeau County, homesteading land in Hale Township, and engaged in farming. In 1904 he retired to Whitehall. Algernon P. Tallman began learning the blacksmith's trade at York, Jackson County, Wis., where he remained two years. March 5, 1901, he purchased his present business from Louis Brenom and has since remained here, enjoying a good patronage. He is a stockholder in the Pigeon Grain & Stock Company, and as a business man and good citizen is interested in everything connected with the welfare of the village. His fraternal society affiliations are with the Order of Beavers. Mr. Tallman was married, June 25, 1900, to Pearl Bursell, daughter of William and Melissa (Creighton) Bursell. He and his wife have one child, Nina, who was born Nov. 18, 1901.

Andrew F. and Oluf Lovlien, joint proprietors of the Lovlien Farms in Pigeon Township, were born in this township, Andrew on May 23, 1878, and Oluf July 2, 1891. Their parents were Fred O. and Guri Lovlien, natives of Norway, who were married in Wisconsin, both having come to this country in the '60s. Fred O. was the first to arrive, settling in Vernon County, this State, where he and his wife were married. Coming to Trempealeau County, he first worked out in Trempealeau to earn enough money with which to buy land, which he finally purchased in Pigeon Township, where his sons are now located. Beginning with 160 acres, he also bought another homestead of 80 acres. He had very little capital to start with and there were no buildings on his place, so pioneer work had to be done, and continued for a number of years. Like nearly all the pioneer settlers, he made use of an ox team, and during the early days sometimes walked to La Crosse for supplies. He erected a frame house which was the family residence for many years, being replaced in 1914 by the present substantial brick dwelling. The barns now standing were built by members of the family. Religiously Fred O. Lovlien was affiliated with the Norwegian Lutheran church. After a long and active life, during which he accomplished a large amount of useful work, he died in 1913 at the age of 72 years. His wife is still living, being now 69 years old. They were the parents of 10 children, of whom three died when young. Those living are:

Ole, Anna, Andrew, Hans, Christine, Nina and Oluf. Nina's husband died in 1911 and she and her son have since made their home with her brothers. On their father's death, or in 1913, the two sons, Andrew and Oluf, took charge of the home farm, which they are now operating, raising the usual crops and keeping good stock. They are shareholders in the Whitehall Creamery, as was also their father, and also hold shares in the Pigeon Grain & Stock Company. Their enterprising efforts have met with well-deserved success and as general farmers they are doing a profitable business. Both are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Lars J. Dahl, who for over 40 years has been engaged in operating an 80-acre farm in section 21, Unity Township, was born in Tolgen, Norway, April 8, 1850, the son of John and Birit Hulbakdahl, both of whom died in Norway. Lars J., while in Norway, used his father's surname of Hulbakdahl, shortening it to Dahl after coming to America, which he did in 1870, making the voyage on the same ship with Ole Thomasgaard, and landing at Quebec, Canada, May 1. From there he made his way to Lansing, Iowa, where he found employment and worked at various jobs for some two years. He then removed to Menominie, Wis., where for three years he was employed in the woods and on the river by the Napp-Stout Lumber Company. In the meanwhile he had been saving his money and was now in a position to start life for himself. Accordingly, coming to Trempealeau County, he purchased his present farm from the railway company and has since remained here, having been the only owner of the farm, and the only man on his road who had stayed on his original purchase. In so doing he has probably prospered as well as he might have done elsewhere, as his property is now very finely improved and is one of the most valuable farms of its size in the county. He operates it on the four-year rotation plan, whereby the land produces twice as much as it would without rotation, in 1915 his yield of corn being 66 bushels to the acre. In 1900 Mr. Dahl erected a barn 36 by 52 by 12 feet with a stone basement, the latter having cement floors. His residence was built in 1907 and is a brick veneer structure of two stories and basement, measuring 28 by 30 feet, the basement having cement floor and the house containing eight rooms, heated by furnace. Mr. Dahl's sound judgment and business ability have been recognized by his fellow citizens and he has served longer in public office of one kind or another than any man in his township, his activities in this direction having extended over a period of 26 years. For four years he was supervisor in Sumner Township, and he has served in Unity Township eight years as township treasurer, 11 years as assessor, and three years as chairman of the township board and consequently as a member of the county board. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

Mr. Dahl was married April 3, 1878, to Nikoline Rognlien, who was born in Hurdalen, Norway, Sept. 21, 1854, daughter of Martin E. and Annie (Enerson) Rognlien, of whom a memoir may be found on another page of this volume. Ten children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Dahl: John, Anna, Bertha, Mary, Julia, Louisa, Martin, Alfred and Inga. John, who was graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1913, was for some



FRANK A. GEORGE

time a school teacher, being principal of the high school at Thorp for two years and of that at Shell Lake one year, Cashton one year and Algoma four years. He was also superintendent of city schools at Bloomington Prairie, Minn., three years. His training for the profession of teacher was obtained at the River Falls normal school, where he was graduated in 1904. While engaged in this work he studied law by the correspondence method and applied himself to it so thoroughly that he qualified for the bar, during the same period earning \$5,500 in his regular vocation. He is now a practicing attorney at Rice Lake, Wis. Anna graduated from the Dixon Business College at Dixon, Ill., and resides in St. Paul, where she is cashier in a store. Bertha, who graduated from the River Falls normal school and was a teacher for ten years, is now the wife of Grover Pace, a druggist of Adams, Wis. Mary, who graduated in domestic science from the University of Chicago, is engaged in teaching domestic science at Hammond, Ind. Julia, who graduated from River Falls normal school, is now a teacher at Mason City, Iowa. Louisa, a graduate of the same normal school, is teaching at Carthage, S. D. Martin is residing on the home farm and assisting his father in its cultivation. He has the distinction of being the youngest town treasurer to serve in the county, being elected at the age of 22, and serving three years. At the age of 26 he was elected to his present office as chairman. Alfred graduated from a business college at Minneapolis in June, 1916, and is now bookkeeper in a bank at Seattle, Wash. Inga, who graduated from the La Crosse normal school, is now a teacher at Brandon, Wis. It will thus be seen that Mr. Dahl has educated his children for responsible positions in life, and that all, both sons and daughters, are making their own way in the world, and, it may be added, reflecting credit on the family name.

Frank A. George, secretary of the Auto Sales Company of Whitehall, and president of the Trempealeau County School Committee, is one of the best known men in the county. Of a genial temperament and quiet disposition, he has been actively interested in public affairs for many years, has mingled considerably in politics, has served in numerous local offices, has represented the Republican party at numerous conventions, and for a time occupied an official position in the House of Representatives at Washington. Of ancient New England ancestry, he was born in Haverhill, Mass., July 26, 1861, son of Lucien and Harriett (Morrison) George. He received his early education in the public schools of his native place, graduated from the high school there, and passed the examinations admitting him to Harvard University. Determining, however, to embark upon a business rather than a scholastic career, he became cashier and accountant for the Gale Brothers' Manufacturing Company at Haverhill. In 1883 he decided to become an agriculturist in the middle west, and with this object in view came to Hale Township in Trempealeau County and secured 400 acres in sections 19 and 20, Township 23, range 7, 240 acres being bought from the railroad, and 160 acres from a previous owner. Of this, four years later, he sold 160 acres, leaving a good farm of 240 acres, which he still owns. Mr. George was the pioneer dairyman of the county. Others had raised cows for dairy purposes, but it was he who first understood it

as the principal business of his farm. For a time he had the biggest dairy business in the county. Of this herd of 100 cows 23 were full blooded Jerseys, and there were seasons when he milked as high as 60 cows. In 1911 he turned the farm over to his son-in-law, S. B. Scott, and in 1913 he moved to Whitehall and purchased an interest in the Auto Sales Company, of which he became the secretary. His popularity and personality have been important factors in the success with which the concern has met. Mr. George's public life would in itself make a most interesting chapter. In his township he was an excellent justice of the peace for about twenty years, and for a similar period did most efficient service on the school board, part of the time as clerk and part of the time as treasurer. His experience in this line was an important factor in securing him the appointment at the head of the county school board in 1915. A staunch Republican in politics, he has been chairman of the County Republican Committee for the past eight years, and in the old convention days he was the center of many a hot political fight at county and state gatherings. In recognition of his activities and worth he was given an appointment on the staff of employees of the House of Representatives at Washington, serving in 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900 and 1901. For ten years he was chairman of the town of Hale and in this capacity gave most excellent service as a member of the county board. All in all he is a most useful citizen. Unostentatious in his ways, his voice and influence are always raised in behalf of the things that are for the betterment and progress of the community, and any good cause finds in him an active supporter. Mr. George was married at Shawano, Wis., October, 1877, to Mary J. Gibson, and this union was blessed with one daughter, Edith, wife of S. B. Scott, who conducts her father's farm. Mrs. George died Dec. 6, 1911.

Peter O. Skulhus, proprietor of a general merchandise and confectionery business at Eleva, was born in Biri, Norway, June 23, 1878, son of Ole P. and Louise (Bratberg) Skulhus. The father died in Norway and his wife subsequently came to America in 1908 and married S. H. Anderson, a retired farmer now living in Eleva. Peter O. Skulhus came to this country in June, 1900, locating in Eleva, Wis., where he worked one year and nine months for the Larson-Melby Company. He then bought the confectionery business of Sever Severson, and subsequently purchased of Andrew Tweit the building in which he is now located. He is carrying on a successful business and his prospects are good for further advancement. In 1911 he made a visit to Norway, and in 1914 he again visited his native land, attending the world's fair at Christiania, and making the voyage on the first vessel which sailed after war was declared. Mr. Skulhus was married May 2, 1903, to Molly Semmingson of Eau Claire County, Wisconsin, who was born in that county May 8, 1883, her parents, Matt and Gina (Hagen) Semmingson, being farming people there. Mr. and Mrs. Skulhus have had two children: Oliver Millard, born Nov. 18, 1904, who died October 3, the same year, and Gordie Louise, born Dec. 6, 1905. The family belong to the United Lutheran Church and Mr. Skulhus has served five years as a member of the village board, being ever ready to do his part as a responsible citizen.



OLE FREDRICKSON AND FAMILY

Gustave M. Instenes, who is engaged in operating the old Instenes farm in section 26, Chimney Rock Township, was born on this farm April 24, 1888, son of Sven and Ragnil (Rosgaard) Instenes, who had settled in this township in 1874. Reared on the homestead, he became familiar with every branch of agricultural work, and was associated with his father until his death, since which time he has operated the farm alone, acquiring it by purchase in February, 1914. On Dec. 30, 1914, he was married to Elise Haakenson, who was born in Chimney Rock Township, April 21, 1882, daughter of John and Eli (Erickson) Haakenson. Her father, born in Soler, Norway, Aug. 26, 1846, died Dec. 4, 1891. Her mother, also a native of that place, born March 11, 1852, is still living on the old homestead. Mrs. Gustave M. Instenes, who received a good education, taught school for fourteen years and a half. The Instenes farm is a well improved and productive piece of property and is kept up to a high standard of value. Mr. Instenes has served as school clerk for three years. He and his wife are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

Sven Instenes, who for many years was a well known farmer and popular citizen of Chimney Rock Township, was born in Hardanger, Norway, Feb. 4, 1845, son of Lars and Anna Instenes. In 1861 he accompanied his parents to the United States, the family settling in Adams County, Wisconsin, where they remained until 1874. They then came to Trempealeau County, Lars Instenes homesteading the northwest corner of section 23, Chimney Rock Township, where he made his home until his death June 2, 1899. Sven Instenes was well trained in agricultural methods in his youth and was 29 years old when he started in for himself, homesteading the northwest quarter of section 26, Chimney Rock Township, in 1874. From that time until his death, Feb. 21, 1913, a period of 39 years, he resided on that farm, cultivating the soil, raising stock and performing other farm duties connected with the development of his place. He was industrious and successful and was well liked and respected by his neighbors as a man of good qualities and a reliable citizen. April 9, 1871, Sven Instenes was united in marriage with Ragnil Rosgaard, who was born in Numedahl, Norway, March 18, 1852. They had eight children, of whom one is now deceased, the family record being briefly as follows: Anna, who married Sam P. Solfast, a farmer of Chimney Rock Township; Lars, who died Aug. 9, 1911; Otis, who is farming in Velva, N. D.; Albert, Robert and Helmer, who are all three farming in McCabe, Mont.; Gustave, residing on the old homestead in Chimney Rock Township, and Henry, who is also a farmer in this township. Mr. Instenes served as treasurer and director of the school board for nine years and was also nine years township supervisor. Mrs. Instenes resides on the old farm with her son Gustave.

Ole Fredrickson, who as proprietor of Brookhill farm of 167 acres, in section 25, Pigeon Township, is taking an active part in the development of the agricultural resources of this township, was born in Stor Hammar, Hedemarken, Norway, March 25, 1857. His father was Fredrick Olson, a railroad man, who died in Norway in 1881, and whose wife, Helen Olson, is now living in Christiania, Norway, at the age of 87 years. It

was in May, 1881, the year of his father's death, that the subject of this sketch came to the United States. Following the trail of most of the Norwegian pioneers to the great Northwest, he located at Whitehall, this county, but for about a year was employed near Osseo at farm work. For 15 years Mr. Fredrickson worked for various employers, in the meanwhile saving his money and looking forward to the day when he should be able to begin an independent career. When the time came, having decided upon agriculture as the readiest means of attaining prosperity, he bought a farm in Curran Township, Jackson County, this state, and taking up his residence upon it operated it for six years. Then, for substantial reasons, he decided to make a change of location, and accordingly purchased his present farm in the southeast corner of town 23 north, range 7 west, Pigeon Township, where he has since remained. Acting on progressive ideas, he has made various improvements on the place, one of the most important of which is the barn erected in 1905, and measuring 34 by 80 by 16 feet, with an eight-foot basement, and provided with running water. In 1914 he built his present residence, a frame two-story building, with basement, containing nine rooms, with hot water heat and provided with hot and cold running water and Delco plumbing throughout. In 1917 he installed an individual electric light plant in his house and barn. On the farm is also a concrete silo, 14 by 30 feet. Mr. Fredrickson has a herd of 31 Holstein cattle, seven being pure-bred and registered. Of this herd he milks 15. The farm is conducted on a profitable basis and he has taken his place among the successful and prosperous citizens of his township—a result achieved by hard work and perseverance, aided by a competent knowledge of all the various branches of the farming industry. The farm is an historic one, the original home of Nils Jensen Tomten, built in 1870, being still standing thereon. Mr. Fredrickson has been treasurer of the local school board for nine years, serving two years as clerk. He is also a stockholder in the Pigeon Grain & Stock Company and in the Whitehall Hospital. Mr. Fredrickson entered in to the married state about 14 years ago or more, Mrs. Mattie Tomten becoming his wife Oct. 29, 1902. Mrs. Fredrickson was born in Norway Dec. 8, 1866, a daughter of Torger and Regina Thorson. The Thorson family came to America in 1876, settling in Pigeon Township, this county, where the father died in 1913; his wife died Sept. 28, 1916. Their daughter Mattie was first married to Gilbert Tomten, a son of Niels Jensen Tomten by his wife Berte Olsdatter, both natives of Norway, where the father was born April 8, 1815, and the mother Jan. 13, 1815. Coming to America in the spring of 1866, with their family, Mr. and Mrs. Tomten bought the farm on which the subject of this sketch, Mr. Fredrickson, now lives, and this place was their home until their respective deaths, Niels J. Tomten passing away March 30, 1882, and his wife Nov. 12, 1891, the latter surviving her husband over nine years. Their two sons, Gilbert and John N., after their death divided the farm between them, Gilbert taking the part now owned by Mr. Fredrickson, the farm as a whole having a larger acreage, and this he operated until his death, Nov. 14, 1900. He was born in Biri, Norway, Dec. 2, 1863, his marriage to Mattie Thorson taking place May 13, 1900. They had one child, Robert

Tomten, born April 1, 1891, who is now residing at home. Mr. and Mrs. Fredrickson are the parents of two children: Frederick G., born July 20, 1903, and Mildred Helen Olive, born Jan. 20, 1912. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

Lars M. Lyngdal, proprietor of the Independence Hotel at Independence, Wis., was born in Vernon County, Wisconsin, July 22, 1856, son of Michael and Metta (Larson) Lyngal. The father, Michael, was born in Norway and came to America in 1837, when 23 years old. He went first to Chicago, but afterwards worked on farms in Illinois for several years. About 1852 he homesteaded land at Coon Prairie, Vernon County, Wis., and farmed there until 1873. He then sold and bought a farm at Pigeon Falls, Trempealeau County, on which place he spent the rest of his life, dying Sept. 5, 1892, at the age of 69 years. His wife Metta died Jan. 28, 1910, at the age of 84. They had six children, of whom Lars M. was the second born. Lars M. Lyngdal remained at home until 1885 assisting his father. He then bought the home farm and conducted it on his own account till 1899, when he sold it and went to Spokane, Wash., where he remained nine months. Then coming to Whitehall, he bought the City Hotel and was its proprietor until the spring of 1916, at which time he located in Independence and took over the Independence Hotel, which he is now conducting. He has a good class of trade and is popular with the traveling public. The hotel is a modern, three-story, brick building of 21 rooms, all newly furnished and installed with all desirable accommodations. Mr. Lyngdal was married May 22, 1886, to Isabel Stendal, who was born at Midway, La Crosse County, Wis., Oct. 7, 1868, daughter of Tostem and Hannah (Solberg) Stendal. Her father, who was a farmer of Pigeon Township, died Dec. 5, 1897, at the age of 75 years; her mother died Feb. 27, 1911, at the age of 82. Mr. and Mrs. Lyngdal are the parents of seven children: Sydney, born March 9, 1887, who is cashier in Simmons hardware store at Minneapolis and who married, April 12, 1911, Florence Anderson of Minneapolis and has one child, Lorin, born March 29, 1915; Bernie, born Aug. 7, 1890, who is a druggist in Chicago; Myrtle A., born Sept. 24, 1892, a stenographer, residing at home; Lancelot, born Sept. 24, 1896; Reuben, born April 4, 1898; Ernest, born June 3, 1903, and Viola, born June 2, 1907, all residing at home.

Emil Huslegard, a well known farmer of Chimney Rock Township, proprietor of the Huslegard farm of 160 acres in section 33, and also the owner of 35 acres in section 4, Burnside Township, the whole forming one farm, was born in Soler, Norway, June 4, 1858, a son of Ole and Ellen, his wife, whose maiden name was Ellen Ansett. The father was born in Norway in 1829 and was married in his native land, where his wife died in 1869. In 1871 he came with the surviving members of his family to the United States, settling in Adams County, Wis., where he remained five years. He then bought 80 acres of land in section 33, Chimney Rock Township, which he cultivated for four years, subsequently retiring and taking up his residence with his son Emil, at whose home he died in June, 1897. By his wife Ellen he had seven children: Lottie, who married Carl Hendrickson, a farmer of Chimney Rock Township; Halvor, who resides

with his brother Emil, who was the third born child; Helen, who married Adolph Melsness, who is secretary of the I. S. W. A. at Eau Claire, Wis.; Bertha, wife of Charles Johnson, a moulder of Eau Claire, Wis.; Mary, wife of Adolph Hendrickson, a farmer of Chimney Rock Township; Alice, who died at the age of 20 years. Emil Huslegard was a boy of 13 years when he accompanied his father to America. At that early age he made himself useful in various ways and when a little older and stronger began working in the saw mills at Necedah, Wis., being thus occupied subsequently, and also working in the woods, until 1889. He then bought the farm on which he has since resided and which he is operating on a profitable basis. This is a well developed piece of agricultural property, with good buildings, and is pleasantly situated in the southern part of the township in the neighborhood known as Russell.

Jan. 17, 1892, Mr. Huslegard was married to Laura Haakenson, who was born in Chimney Rock Township, this county, Jan. 17, 1871. Her father, John Haakenson, who was born in Norway in 1846, came to America in 1868, and died Dec. 4, 1891. Her mother, whose maiden name was Ellen Erickson, was born in Norway, March 11, 1832, and is still residing on the old homestead in Chimney Rock Township. Mr. and Mrs. Huslegard are the parents of three children: John, born April 26, 1893; Alice, born Jan. 29, 1895, and Henry, born Jan. 12, 1898. The family attend the Norwegian Lutheran Church.

Even Holte, one of the enterprising and successful farmers and dairymen of Unity Township, was born in Westertoten, Norway, Nov. 16, 1859. His father, Andreas Holte, who was a farmer, and his mother, Olena Paulseth, died in Norway. Even Holte was a young man in his nineteenth year when he emigrated to the United States in 1879. Settling in Unity Township, Trempealeau County, Wis., he found employment working on farms for about a year, and then, having made up his mind to be his own boss, rented the farm of Christ Olson, which he operated for five years. During the five years following he rented the farm of C. Quale, and then, being in a position to purchase a farm of his own, bought the first 120 acres of his present farm, which he has since enlarged by purchase up to its present size of 320 acres. His improvements since he took hold of the place have greatly increased its value, one of the most notable being a frame barn, built in 1901, which measures 34 by 70 by 20 feet above stone basement, having cement floors and stanchions, and in connection with which there is an L, 30 by 30 by 20 feet, for horses. Having thus provided for his stock, Mr. Holte, in 1903, built himself a new residence, a two-story and basement structure, 30 by 34 feet, containing eight rooms and heated with hot air furnace. The other buildings on the farm are also substantial and equipped with modern conveniences. Mr. Holte raises pure-bred Holstein cattle, having a herd of 53, and using a three-unit milking machine. His silo is of frame construction, plastered with cement plaster inside and out. He was one of the organizers of the Unity Co-operative Creamery at Strum and was its secretary for ten years, and is a stockholder in the First State Bank of Strum. Although a busy man, Mr. Holte has devoted some part of his time to aiding in local government affairs. Thus he was township



JORGEN OLSON AND FAMILY

treasurer eight years, school treasurer three years and a director of the school board three years and is now treasurer of the school district, making a good record as a public official. His business holdings include stock in the State Bank of Strum, of which he is a director. For 15 years he has been secretary of the Synod Norwegian Lutheran Church, to which he belongs as a member. For nearly 30 years Mr. Holte has led a domestic life, having been united in marriage July 2, 1887, to Marie Rice of Unity Township, who was born in Vernon County, Wisconsin, April 28, 1867. Her father, Simon Rice, and her mother, whose maiden name was Mathea Bergum, were Norwegians, the former being born at Little Hammer, Norway, June 21, 1845, and the latter at Land, Norway, Oct. 24, 1845. Simon came to America in 1854, settling in Vernon County, this state, whence in 1869 he came to Unity Township, Trempealeau County, where he was subsequently engaged in farming until his death, May 21, 1901. He was one of those hardy settlers, almost pioneers, who broke the land and helped to lay the foundations of that agricultural prosperity of which the present generation enjoys the advantage. His wife, who survived him, is now living on the old home farm in section 30, Unity Township. The family circle of Mr. and Mrs. Even Holte has been rounded out to good dimensions by the birth of ten children, whose record in brief is as follows: Minnie, born Nov. 21, 1888, and now residing in Chicago; Olga, born Dec. 16, 1890, who is living at home; Julia, born Dec. 28, 1892, who graduated at River Falls normal school and is a teacher in the fourth grade at Marmarth, N. D.; Laura, born Feb. 23, 1895, who is the wife of Edwin Rognlien, a bank cashier of Foster, Wis., and Seymour, born April 20, 1897; Josephine, born July 18, 1899; Nordahl, born Dec. 20, 1902; Lillian, born Feb. 3, 1904; Evelyn, born Dec. 18, 1906, and Alton, born Dec. 12, 1908, who are all living at home.

Jorgen Olson. One of the oldest and best known residents of Chimney Rock Township is the subject of this sketch, who has been a resident here for nearly 48 years, having been one of the early Norwegian settlers in the county. He was born in Valdres, Norway, Nov. 3, 1844, a son of Ole Jorgenson, a mason, and his wife, Annie Uldrikson. Both parents died in Norway. It was in 1867, at the age of 23 years, that Jorgen Olson left his native land for the United States, attracted hither by reports that had reached Norway from those gone before of the opportunity to obtain free land in the great northwestern states. On his arrival in the country he located first in Dane County, Wisconsin, where he remained three years, earning and saving money and keeping his main purpose steadily in view. Then, having saved enough to purchase equipment and make a fair start, he came to Trempealeau County in 1869 and homesteaded a farm in section 2, on which he spent 18 years of his life, carrying on agriculture and stock raising and improving his property, so that when he finally sold he obtained a good price for it. Since then he has been engaged in cultivating his present farm in section 24, which he purchased on leaving the farm in section 2. This property also he has improved considerably, building the residence, a two-story house of 10 rooms, in 1889. In 1914 he erected a new barn, 30 by 74 by 14 feet, with stone basement and cement floors. His son Olaus now rents and manages the farm, and together they raise graded

Shorthorn cattle, having a herd of 40 head, of which they milk 15. Mr. Olson served as township treasurer for 14 years. He also helped organize school district No. 1, Chimney Rock Township, of which he was treasurer six years. His son Olaus has served as school clerk three years. Mr. Olson was married May 17, 1870, to Berget Halvorson, who was born in Norway in 1851, and died on the home farm in November, 1904. There were seven children born to them: Olaus, mentioned above, who was born Aug. 18, 1873; Annie, who married Halvor Veum, a farmer of Chimney Rock Township; Anton, who is farming at Hettinger, N. D.; Henry, a resident of Superior, Wis.; Christine, who is keeping house for her father and brother Olaus; William, who is operating a farm in this vicinity, and Joachim, who is residing at home. The family are members of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church, of which Mr. Olson has been a trustee for four years. The Jorgen Olson farm contains 180 acres and is pleasantly situated, the land being fertile and everything about the place being up to date and in good condition.

Ole Haug, proprietor of Haug Farm of 260 acres, in section 25, Lincoln Township, and section 30, Pigeon Township, was born at Holmen, La Crosse County, Wis., Dec. 12, 1877, son of Peter O. and Augusta Haug. The father, who was born in Norway, came to America with his parents in 1855, they locating in La Crosse County, Wis. There he was reared, and there he lived until March, 1896, when he bought the farm on which his son Ole now resides, which he cultivated until his death in 1902 at the age of 49 years. His wife, who was born near Holmen, Wis., is still living on the farm, being now 61 years old. They had three children: Ole, Amalia, who lives on the homestead, and Smith, who died in 1907, at the age of 21 years. Ole Haug assisted his father on the farm until the latter's death in 1902, after which he operated it for his mother until 1908. He then purchased it and has since been the sole owner. He has 55 head of cattle, mixed grades, milking 20 cows, and keeps 100 hogs per year. The farm has good buildings, including a two-story, eight-room, frame house with basement, equipped with furnace heat, and modern in every respect, except lights. His barn, 36 by 94 by 18 feet in dimensions, has a good basement with cement floors, steel stanchions and litter-carrier, cement mangers, watering buckets, hog house, 24 by 30 feet, frame with cement floors. Mr. Haug was married, November, 1902, to Mina Tharaldson, of Pigeon Township, who was born in La Crosse, Wis., daughter of John and Theoline (Suggerud) Tharaldson. Her father was a native of Norway. Mr. and Mrs. Haug have three children: Palmer, Agnes and Tilman, the two latter being twins.

Nels S. Fagerland, who is successfully engaged in business as proprietor of a good general store in the village of Eleva, Wis., was born in Deerfield, Dane County, Wis., June 25, 1883. His father, Gunder O. Fagerland, was born in Norway in 1857 and came to America in 1881, settling in Dane County, Wis., where he resided until 1893. He then removed to Curran Township, Jackson County, which is his present place of residence. Our subject's mother, in maidenhood Brunhilde Sundnäs, was born in Norway in 1860. Nels S. Fagerland remained with his parents until 1909. Then, with Clarence Thompson, his brother-in-law, he bought the general store



MR. AND MRS. EVEN A. HEGGE



MR. AND MRS. NELS F. HEGGE
H. H. MORTENSON

of A. E. Amundson in Eleva, and they carried on business together until May 1, 1915, when he came to his present location, buying the store in company with Oscar Wold, who, however, lived but one year after. After Mr. Wold's death his wife continued the business with Mr. Fagerland until March 1, 1917, when his brother Olaf purchased her interests, the firm now being Fagerland Brothers. Mr. Fagerland was married March 30, 1907, to Isabelle Thompson, who was born in Jackson County, Wis., April 27, 1881. Her parents, Thomas and Martha (Anderson) Thompson, were farming people of Jackson County, where the mother died in 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Fagerland have two children: Violet and Harley. Mr. Fagerland has served as village clerk for three years, as a member of the council four years and as school director three years. He and his family belong to the United Lutheran church. Since coming to Eleva they have made many friends and are increasing in prosperity from year to year as the result of honest dealing, enterprise and frugality.

Even A. Hegge, prominent member of the county board from Pigeon Falls, is one of the influential men of the county, and has been unusually active in public affairs. His work on the town and county board has been of the highest order, and as an advocate of good roads he had done much to promote the best interests of the community at large. A native of this county, he was born on his present farm at the mouth of Hegge Valley, in Pigeon Township, Nov. 27, 1875. He attended school in the district of which his father was an official, and supplemented this with a course in the Wisconsin Business University at La Crosse. Thus equipped, he returned home and resumed agricultural operations. For a while he worked with his father, then he managed the farm, subsequently rented it, and still later acquired the ownership. The place consists of 290 acres in section 3, township 22, range 7, and has been made into a model farm in every particular. Since taking possession, Mr. Hegge has greatly improved the farm in general, has rebuilt the barn and house, and has put in an individual electric light plant, a complete water system, and modern plumbing conveniences. Carrying on general farming along scientific lines, he makes a specialty of raising thoroughbred and high-grade Holstein cattle for dairy purposes, and Duroc-Jersey swine for shipping. Before being elected town chairman in 1912, Mr. Hegge did good service for fifteen years as town clerk. He has been secretary and treasurer of the Pigeon Grain and Stock Company since its organization, and is a director in the People's State Bank of Whitehall, which he also assisted in starting. For several years he has been secretary of the Norwegian Lutheran Congregation of Pigeon Falls.

Nels F. Hegge was for many years one of the substantial men of the county. He gave his name to an important valley in Pigeon Falls Township, was an earnest worker in town and school office, and being a well-read man of kindly disposition, exerted a wide influence upon his fellowmen. He came of old Norwegian stock, and was born in Biri, Norway, Oct. 31, 1839. He was there reared amid rugged surroundings, and in 1866 determined to seek his fortunes amid the wider opportunities of America. Reaching La Crosse, he secured various employment, farming in the summer months, and working in Clark County in the lumbering season, both as a chopper in

the forests and as engineer at the King's Mills. It was in the spring of 1871 that he came to Trempealeau County and located at the foot of the valley which has since borne his name. For thirty years he toiled early and late and built up his farm. In 1901, after a useful life filled with worthy endeavor, he retired and moved to Whitehall. His death, Aug. 25, 1912, was sincerely mourned. Starting with no other resources than a sturdy body and strong integrity, he had established his place as a man of worth and ability, he had achieved success, and given to the world a good family. His death will long be sincerely mourned. Mr. Hegge was married Sept. 20, 1869, to Nekoline E. Nelson, and this union was blessed with 10 children: Edward, of North Dakota; Oluf N.; Isaac, of North Dakota; Oscar, of Durant, Miss.; Sigvold, a banker of Whitehall; George, of Preston, Wash.; Even A., who resides on the home farm, and Frederick, Josephine and Anna, who are dead. Mrs. Hegge resides in Whitehall. Mr. Hegge was married March 26, 1902, to Clara Mortenson, who was born in Pipeon, Sept. 23, 1878, daughter of H. H. and Romang Mathea (Mathiason) Mortenson. This union has been blessed with a fine family of nine children: Norman Herbert, born Jan. 8, 1903; Myrtle Nettelie, March 17, 1904; Edgar Alfred, Nov. 15, 1906; Harold Erland, July 10, 1907; Ernest Victor, June 3, 1909; Orris William, April 9, 1911; Nels Frederick, Dec. 27, 1912; Anna Dorathy, Nov. 8, 1915; and Esther Andrea, born July 19, 1917.

Edward S. Englesby, assistant postmaster at Eleva, is a native of this State, born in Modena, Buffalo County, March 7, 1862, son of Harrison and Roxanna (Hammond) Englesby. Harrison W. Englesby was born in Vermont, and settled in Buffalo County, this State, in 1860. In 1868 he opened a hotel at Coral City, not far from what is now Whitehall, in Trempealeau County. Subsequently he farmed in Preston Township, this county, for a while. Then he lived successively in Black River Falls, Eau Claire and Mondovi. In 1876 he settled in Albion Township, and there remained until his death. Edward S. Englesby followed the fortunes of his family and spent his young manhood on the Albion Township farm. For a time he was employed as a lumberman, on the rivers and in the pine forests. In 1892 he engaged in lumbering at Hayward, Wis., and three years later he came to Eleva and entered the postoffice. From 1903 to 1915 he was a rural mail carrier, and since that date has occupied his present position, his wife being the postmistress. In addition to his services for the Government, Mr. Englesby has for some years operated a farm of 80 acres in Albion Township. For three years he did good work on the village board. His fraternal affiliations are with the Masons, the Woodmen and the Beavers. Mr. Englesby was married Oct. 9, 1892, to Ida Gibson, daughter of Milo B. and Mary (Harvey) Gibson, of Eleva, and they have one child, Marguerite, born May 3, 1910.

James Maloney, a well-known farmer of Hale Township, and one of the large land owners of Trempealeau County, was born in Adams County, Wis., Aug. 30, 1857, son of David and Margaret (Warner) Maloney. The father, David Maloney, was born in Cork, Ireland, Jan. 18, 1830, and came to America with his parents in 1852, they settling in Hadley, Mass. His marriage to Margaret Warner took place in the same, on Nov. 1. She also



JAMES MALONEY AND FAMILY
MR. AND MRS. DAVID MALONEY



was a native of Cork, Ireland, the date of her birth being Aug. 29, 1832. It was in 1867 that David Maloney and his family settled in Hale Township, Trempealeau County, Wis., Mr. Maloney buying land which, with subsequent additions, constitutes the present farm of the subject of this sketch. The estate now contains 1,000 acres, lying in section 28 and other sections, town 23 north, ranges 7 and 8 west, Hale Township. David Maloney spent many years of his life in enlarging and improving his property, the present large estate being in a great measure the result of his industry, thrift and far-sighted judgment. He died in 1898 and his wife on June 2, 1912. They were the parents of seven children, as follows: Katherine, Mary, James, Esther, Margaret, David and Nellie. James Maloney was a boy of 10 years when he arrived with his father's family in Trempealeau County. He was reared on the home farm and was associated with his father in its operation until 1896. He then purchased the farm and has since conducted it on his own account, raising varied crops, and keeping a flock of 600 Shropshire sheep, besides 40 head of cattle, of which he milks 20. In 1915 Mr. Maloney erected a fine barn, 36 by 126 by 14 feet above stone basement, and equipped with steel stanchions. In the same year he built a glazed block silo, reinforced with steel, 14 by 35 feet in dimensions. His buildings are all substantial and his equipment adequate to all the purposes of modern farming and stock raising, and he has taken place among the successful and well-to-do farmers of his township. Dec. 25, 1893, Mr. Maloney was united in marriage with Lavinia Dissmore, daughter of George and Mary E. (Rogers) Dissmore, the date of her nativity being Feb. 17, 1862. He and his wife are the parents of four children: George, born Nov. 20, 1894, and now a student at Bethel Academy, Arpin, Wis.; David, born Jan. 6, 1897, now residing on the home farm, who married Sarah Getts and has one child, Esther, born Oct. 5, 1916; James, born June 14, 1898, and Archie, born Nov. 29, 1900, both living at home. Mr. Maloney has taken part to some extent in local government affairs, having served three years as treasurer of the school board. He and his family have a wide circle of friends in Hale Township and the vicinity and are among the representative members of the agricultural community.

Halvor J. Halvorson, expert buttermaker at the Eleva Co-Operative Creamery, has been connected with the creamery industry in this village for 18 years, and is thoroughly familiar with all departments of his business. He was born in Chippewa Falls, Wis., Oct. 6, 1874, son of John and Mary (Haganess) Halvorson, who operate a farm in Eau Claire County. Halvor J. Halvorson spent his boyhood on a farm, and came to this county in 1899 as a helper in the old Eleva creamery. Desiring to further perfect himself, he studied in the Dairy School of the Agricultural College of the University of Wisconsin. Completing his course there March 1, 1903, he took his present position, and here he has since remained. In addition to this, he operates a farm of 75 acres in section 10, Albion Township, where he carries on general agricultural operations. He holds the agency for the Wonder Milking Machines for Eau Claire, Trempealeau and Buffalo counties, and has installed several on Trempealeau County farms. Busy as he is, he has found time for public service, and has been a member of the village council

three years. Mr. Halvorson was married July 1, 1902, to Louisa Serum, who was born in Buffalo County, Wis., Feb. 23, 1877, and died Oct. 1, 1907, daughter of Ole and Mary Serum. Mr. and Mrs. Halvorson had two children: Josephine, born April 1, 1903, and Obert, born June 14, 1906.

Byron L. Hutchins, who is engaged in the real estate business at Independence, Wis., was born in Burnside Township, Trempealeau County, Wis., Sept. 22, 1865, son of James L. and Elizabeth (Tubbs) Hutchins. The father, James, took a homestead in this county about 1860, and died in 1876 at the age of 37 years. His widow resides in Independence at the age of 72 years. Byron L. Hutchins was reared in Independence and for a number of years after his father's death was occupied in the management of his mother's business affairs. In 1900 he engaged in the real estate business in Independence and has since continued in it, handling city and farm property and rentals. He has been a member of the village council eight years and is a stockholder in the State Bank of Independence. In the order of the Knights of Pythias he has passed all the chairs. Mr. Hutchins was married in February, 1899, to Bertha Arnold, of Arcadia Township, this county. Her father, William D. Arnold, who was a pioneer farmer here, is now living retired at the age of 85 years in Winona, Minn.; his wife, Mrs. Hutchins' mother, is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Hutchins have two children: Lee J., aged 16 years, and Earl B., aged 10 years.

Clarence P. Larson, president and cashier of the Bank of Eleva, is one of the leading citizens of the village, and has business and financial interests and connections which extend far beyond the boundaries of the State. He was born in Independence, this county, June 6, 1885, son of Ole P. and Lina (Waller) Larson. He was reared in Whitehall and received his early education in the Whitehall schools. For a time he was a student in the Toland Business College, at Winona. With this preparation he entered the John O. Melby & Co. Bank, at Whitehall, as accountant. For one year, 1908, he engaged in the general mercantile business at Aneta, N. D. In 1909 he came to Eleva as cashier of the Bank of Eleva, and the following year was made president as well. In these capacities he is still serving. His engaging personality and sound business ability have been the most important factors in the success with which the institution has met. Since 1911, Mr. Larson has been president of the Eleva Mercantile Company. He is president of the Larson-Stevning Company, of Stephen, Minn., secretary of the Central Trading Association of Whitehall, and a stockholder in the United States National Bank of Superior, Wis., and the John O. Melby Co. Bank, of Whitehall. Mr. Larson is a member of the county board, serving his third year. He is a thirty-second degree Mason, and also a member of the Commandery, the Shrine and the Eastern Star. His Elk affiliation is with the lodge at Eau Claire. Mr. Larson was married Aug. 21, 1909, to Louise Steig, born in Pigeon Township, this county, Sept. 8, 1883, daughter of Gilbert F. and Gelena (Lewis) Steig, now living in Whitehall. Mr. and Mrs. Larson have had four children: Charles Philip, born Aug. 15, 1900; Oliver Philip, born March 2, 1912, and died Feb. 5, 1913, and Mary Jane, born March 2, 1914, and Betty Louise, born Aug. 20, 1917. The family faith is that of the Synod Norwegian Lutheran church, at Whitehall.



CLARENCE P. LARSON

Ralph W. Wood, whose farm of 240 acres in section 15, Lincoln Township, is a well-cultivated and productive piece of agricultural property, was born in this township, Jan. 19, 1879, son of David and Mary (Parsons) Wood, the others in the family being Archie, now a contractor and builder of Whitehall; James, also residing there and engaged in the same business; Kippy, who died at the age of 7 years; Alta, who died at the age of 2 years, and Ralph W. Wood has resided on his present farm since his father purchased it about the year 1900, and has been operating the plow since 1913. The farm is nicely improved, the 12-room frame house being equipped with water and lights. The barn measures 50 by 80 feet, and the cement block silo, built in 1912, 16 by 33 feet. Mr. Wood milks 15 cows, feeding one carload of cattle a year for the market and half a carload of hogs. He also raises Plymouth Rock chickens. Sept. 27, 1906, he was married to Martha Johnson, of Osseo, Wis., who was born near that village, Feb. 20, 1886, daughter of Charles and Anna (Granlin) Johnson, her father being a farmer of Hale Township. Her parents' children were as follows: Helen, wife of Charles Christianson, a farmer of Hale Township; Karen, wife of Swen Swenson, also of Hale Township; Charlotte, now Mrs. Martin Engen, her husband being a farmer of Rusk County, Wis.; John, who is engaged in farming near the home place; Louise, wife of Fred Steig, a farmer of Bowman, N. D.; Augusta, wife of Olaf Peterson, a farmer of Sumner Township; Hilmer, who resides on the home farm; Martha, wife of Ralph W. Wood, and Louise (first), who was born after John and died at the age of 2 years. The children of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Wood are: Helen B., born Dec. 17, 1908, and Harold C., born Feb. 24, 1910. The family are among the prosperous members of the agricultural community of Lincoln Township and are widely known and respected.

Hans H. Mortenson, a pioneer of Pigeon Township, now living in retirement at Whitehall, has seen the Pigeon Valley develop from a wild, uncultivated area, with only a few scattering houses, into one of the richest regions in Western Wisconsin, and by building up a fine farm, he himself took an important part in the wonderful progress and improvement. Born in Tromso, Norway, Sept. 15, 1836, the son of Morten Peterson and Helena Christopherson, he received such meager education as the church schools of the vicinity afforded, and then, like all the other boys of his neighborhood, he embarked in a seafaring life, devoting the years of his young manhood to fishing with various fleets along the Norwegian coast. But the wages were small and life was hard, so he determined to transfer the scene of his work to America. Accordingly, in July, 1862, he arrived in the United States and found his way to La Crosse County, where for six years he was engaged at various work, laboring for farmers during the agricultural seasons, and securing employment in the pineries and on the river in the winter. It was in 1868 that he came to Trempealeau County and took a homestead of 160 acres of wild land in section 32, township 23, range 7. Starting on a small scale and amid primitive conditions, he broke the land, erected the necessary buildings, and for many years successfully carried on general farming. Prosperity came with the years, and in 1909 he was enabled to sell his property at a good figure and retire to the village of Whitehall, where

he has a pleasant home, and where after a life of hard work, he is enjoying the fruits of his success. Mr. Mortenson has seen considerable public life. For nine years he was town assessor, for two years town treasurer, and for two years town supervisor. For sixteen years he was clerk of his school district. His work as census enumerator for the town of Pigeon in 1880 and 1890 won high commendation from his superiors. While on the farm he was a stockholder in the Whitehall Creamery. Mr. Mortenson was married Oct. 26, 1867, to Romang Mathea Mathiason, who was born in Norway in 1845. This union has been blessed with six children: Augusta, Clara (second), Anna, Ida, Ruth and Esther, living, and Martin, Emelia, Isaac, Clara (first) and Maria, deceased. Augusta is now Mrs. Richard Mattison, of Whitehall. Clara (second) is now Mrs. Even A. Hegge, of Pigeon Township. Anna is now Mrs. Claude Everson, of Lincoln Township. Ida is now Mrs. Ludwig Berg, of Hale Township. Ruth is now Mrs. L. O. Goplin, of Hale Township. Esther, a teacher, lives at home.

Ray H. Larson, who is successfully conducting an up-to-date garage in the village of Independence, was born near this village, Nov. 25, 1888, son of Ed and Belle (Amundson) Larson. His parents are both living in Whitehall, the father being a retired farmer now 65 years old, and the mother aged 63. They had three children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the second in order of birth. Ray H. Larson was reared on his parents' farm. When a young man he worked one year in Milwaukee and was also employed for some time in a hardware store in Independence. With his brother, Louis C., he opened a hay and straw business in Independence in 1911 and has since conducted it, the brother withdrawing in the fall of 1915. In the spring of the year last mentioned Mr. Larson bought the auto sales agency of Steiner & Larson and started his present garage, located in a frame building, two stories in height and 30 by 90 feet in dimensions. He handles Studebaker and Ford cars, together with the usual supplies and accessories and his business is gradually increasing. Mr. Larson is a member of the United Norwegian Lutheran church.

William E. Harlow, one of the proprietors of the Harlow & Herrell garage, at Whitehall, Wis., was born in Pigeon Township, Trempealeau County, Wis., Dec. 6, 1872, son of O. F. and Lucy (Kidder, nee Scott) Harlow. He made his home with his father until he was 24 years old and then learned the painter's trade, at which he worked in Whitehall until 1916. He then became a member of the firm of Harlow & Herrell, and in June they opened their present garage, a one-story frame building, 28 by 86 feet, on Scranton Street. Here they do all kinds of repairing and handle all supplies and accessories. With the increasing popularity of the automobile, their business is bound to grow, and they have already made an auspicious start. Mr. Harlow also has a knowledge of electrical work, which is likely to be of use to him in the future. He is fraternally affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. June 10, 1896, he was married to Florence M. Breed, of Whitehall, who was born Oct. 25, 1876, daughter of Calvin E. and Anna (Crane) Breed. Her father, now a retired farmer, is a military veteran. Mr. and Mrs. Harlow have one child, Eugene Scott, who was born Oct. 14, 1907.

William White, one of the prosperous farmers of Albion Township, whose fertile farm of 160 acres, known as "Natural Spring Dairy Farm," lies in section 6, was born in Ohio, Jan. 10, 1854. He is a son of David and Mary (Ettel) White, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania in 1827. In 1860 David White with his family came to Wisconsin, settling in Pepin County. After a residence there of five years he removed to what is now Buffalo County, where he made his home for the rest of his life. His wife Mary, who was born in Germany in 1834, came to the United States in 1841, their marriage taking place in Pennsylvania. She was the first to pass away, dying in 1904, while his death took place July 18, 1911. William White resided with his parents until March 20, 1877, that being the date on which he bought his present farm. The land was first entered by Sylvanus Moore, Oct. 8, 1858, and was sold by him to James McDermott, the latter selling to Mr. White. The property is now well improved and Mr. White is profitably engaged in farming and stock raising, keeping Holstein cattle, Poland-China hogs and Belgian horses—all grades. Mr. White was married, May 6, 1875, to Emma Walker, who was born in La Crosse County, Jan. 14, 1855, daughter of Silas and Mary J. (McEldowney) Walker. Her father was a farmer, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1818 and died in 1880. Her mother, who was born in 1829, now resides in Mondovi, Wis. Mrs. White was given a good education, being graduated from Gale College, of Galesville, in 1872. She and her husband have been the parents of seven children: Nora, Maynie, Earl, Winnifred, Gladys, Vilas and Velma, of whom Earl, the third-born, died at the age of 2 years. Nora is the wife of Isaac Perry, of Albion Township, and has three children—Floy, Evelyn and Constance. Maynie, who married Earl Davis, a farmer of Eau Claire County, Wis., has eight children—Pierre, Claire, Glen, Helen, Howard, Margaret, Dean and Max. Winnifred, who is the wife of Eugene Rosman, has two children—Lloyd and Delbert. Mr. White is affiliated religiously with the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he is a Democrat. He has devoted some part of his time to the public service, having been township supervisor three years and school clerk six years. He and his family are well known and respected in this part of the county.

Christ Torgerson, who is engaged in the hardware business in Independence as a member of the firm of Liver & Torgerson, was born in Ringebo, Gulbrandsdahlen, Norway, Dec. 8, 1855. His father was Torger Tulibakken, a farmer, who died in 1877 at the age of 65 years. Torger married Ragnil Tulin, who survived him until 1912, when she passed away at the advanced age of 90. Christ Torgerson in 1876, having attained his majority, left his native land for the United States, knowing that here he should find wider opportunities for self-advancement. He first located at Black River Falls, where he found employment and remained until 1882. Then coming to Independence, he entered into business for himself, and so continued till 1894, when he bought the interest of L. E. Danuser in the hardware and implement firm of Danuser & Liver. The business has since been conducted under the style of Liver & Torgerson and is in a flourishing condition. Mr. Torgerson is also a stockholder in the Central Trading Association of Whitehall and the State Bank of Independence. For three years he was a member

of the village council. He belongs to the United Norwegian Lutheran church and to the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Torgerson was married, May 20, 1883, to Martha Nelson Bidney, of Buffalo County, Wis., whose father, Ole Nelson Bidney, born in Norway, settled in Dane County, Wis., afterward becoming a pioneer of Buffalo County, where he followed farming, and died in June, 1916, at the age of 84 years. Mrs. Torgerson's mother, who now lives in Independence, is 75 years old. Mr. and Mrs. Torgerson are the parents of nine children: Theodore, Edward, Wren, Myron, Albert, Ella, Marion, Ida and Norman. Theodore is a prominent citizen of Alma Center. Edward has just completed a term as sheriff of Trempealeau County. Wren and Albert are employed in their father's store. Myron, a hero of the Great War, enlisted from Saskatchewan in the Canadian Colonial troops at the beginning of the war, was sent to France with one of the first contingents, was there wounded, and then returned to Saskatchewan, where he now lives. Ella is the wife of Ansel Everson, of Blair. Marion is the wife of Peter Haugh, of Taylor, Wis. Ida is the wife of Maurice Thompson, of Blair.

Albert G. Rognrud is a native of this county, having been born near Blair, Feb. 27, 1874, son of Gunarius G. Pederson Rognrud and Olea O. Tappen, his wife. Albert G. was reared and educated on the home farm, attending the district schools of the neighborhood. For a time he worked as a fireman in the Northwest Sawmill at Eau Claire, Wis., and for a while he owned the T. H. Moen farm in Pigeon Township, but on March 21, 1904, he purchased the home farm, where he has since resided. Mr. Rognrud was married April 8, 1899, to Anna Moen, who was born in Dane County, Wis., Sept. 3, 1876, daughter of Thorsten H. and Eli (Gutormson) Moen, who were born July 19, 1847, and Dec. 2, 1853, respectively, and came to America in 1876, settling near Eleva, in Eau Claire County, where they still live. Mr. and Mrs. Rognrud have two children: Elvina, born Dec. 2, 1900, and Geodina, born Sept. 12, 1902. With the Rognrud family lives Caroline Rustad, who homesteaded the Rognrud Farm in the fall of 1873, and in 1880 deeded the farm to Gunarius Rognrud with the provision that she retain therein her habitation during life. She was born in Elverum, Norway, Jan. 12, 1831, and came to this region in the spring of 1873. In order to file on the property where she settled she made the trip to the land office at La Crosse, a distance of 50 miles, on foot.

Lars H. Weverstad was born in Hammer, Norway, Nov. 11, 1846, and came to America in 1870. For eight years he was employed as a lumberman. At the end of this period he purchased his father's farm in section 14, Pigeon Township, this county, where he farmed until 1906, when he purchased his present farm of 160 acres in the northwest quarter of section 23. He has a well-improved place, and successfully carries on general farming. Mr. Weverstad was married Dec. 5, 1879, to Agnethe Moe, who was born in Ringsager, Norway, Feb. 4, 1861, daughter of Peter and Karen (Herberg) Larson, who came to America in 1877 and settled in Moe Cooley, in Pigeon Township. Mr. and Mrs. Weverstad have had 11 children: Mary, Clara, Nettie, Peter, Laura, Mandley, Edwin and Margaret, living; and Augusta, Anna and Minnie, deceased. Mary married Theo. Thorson, a



MR. AND MRS. GUNARIUS G. (PEDERSON) ROGNERUD
MR. AND MRS. OLE A. BREKKE

farmer of Oneida County, Wis. Clara married John Lundstad, a farmer of Pigeon Township. Nettie married Emil Hanevold, a farmer of Fly Creek, this township. Peter operates the home farm; he married Julia Dake, in June, 1911, and has two children, Almon and Wilmar. Laura married Walter Vitense, of Madison, Wis. Mandley, Edwin and Margaret are at home. Mr. Weverstad was the son of Michael and Nellie (Franseth) Weverstad, who came from Norway in 1872, and secured a farm in section 14, Pigeon Township, this county, where he died in 1878 at the age of 60, and she in 1887 at the age of 75.

Gunarius G. Pederson Rognrud, whose estate name in the old country was Gunarius G. Rongrud, was born in Voler Soler, Norway, Oct. 14, 1831, and was there reared. Upon coming to America in the '60s, he lived in La Crosse County a year, and then found his way to this county, where he spent the remainder of his days. When he reached here he bought 100 acres of land a half mile south of Blair. Later he purchased 40 acres adjoining the old village of Porterville, and platted Pederson's addition to that village. On this addition, an important part of Blair is now located, the village of Porterville having faded into oblivion. In 1890 he sold his farm and moved to Fly Creek Valley, in Preston Township, where he farmed until his death in 1902. When he platted Pederson's addition he gave a lot for the church, and on this lot he helped to build the edifice, hauling the lumber from Black River Falls. His wife, Olea O. Tappen, who was also a faithful church member, was born April 25, 1848, and died on Thanksgiving Day, 1906, after a long and busy life. They were the parents of 15 children: Peder, Alavus (deceased), Lena, Geoadena (deceased), George, Emma, Gilbert, Albert G., Karn, Clara, Volborg, Alexander, Petra, Gena and Isaac.

Andrew A. Brekke, an early settler, was born in Norway, and there grew to manhood. In 1868 he came to America and found employment in Racine, Wis. His residence in Trempealeau County dates from 1870, when he located on the old Trumpp farm, in west side of Preston Township. Two years later he homesteaded 160 acres a little more than a mile west of the present village of Blair. He was a mason by trade, as well as a farmer, and he assisted in laying the foundation of many of the early houses in this vicinity. When the village of Blair was started, he not only laid the foundations for the first two houses, but also assisted in building the houses themselves. He remained on his farm until his death, Sept. 30, 1905. He did not seek public office, but devoted himself to his work and his family. He was, however, an active laborer in the Norwegian Lutheran church, and contributed liberally to its support. He married Berget Groeness, who died in 1907, and they had nine children: Tove, Ingeborg, Burgue, Torger, Olav, Tollef, Lesa, Johan and Hage (deceased).

Olav A. Brekke, real estate dealer of Blair, and formerly an expert butter-maker, was born at Mosele, in Telemarken, Norway, April 11, 1868, son of Andrew A. and Berget (Groeness) Brekke. He was brought to Preston Township, this county, as a child, and devoted his early manhood to working as a farm hand, both at home and elsewhere. In 1891 he started creamery work in Blair, where he learned his trade. For some 18 years he was employed in creameries in Blair and Westby, in the meantime spend-

ing three years on the road as an agent for creamery supplies. In 1893 he was awarded a medal and a diploma from the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago for his excellent butter, and in 1905, in the same city, he won the diamond medal in the Diamond Medal Contest. He has also won other awards and prizes. Since 1913 Mr. Brekke has devoted his attention to the real estate business, with an office in the Home Bank Building. He has passed through the chairs of the Odd Fellows' lodge at Cashton, Wis., and was the second member to join the Beaver Lodge at Blair. Mr. Brekke was married March 20, 1890, to Lena G. Fogrud, born in Blair, Dec. 12, 1869, daughter of Gunarius G. Rogrud.

Richard Bibby, one of the sturdy farmers who is engaged in developing the agricultural resources of Gale Township, was born on his present farm in section 27, July 10, 1868. His parents, Richard and Mary (Faulds) Bibby, natives of Scotland, were married in the State of Maryland, in 1852, after they had been in this country some four or five years. In 1854 Richard Bibby, the elder, purchased from the Government the land which now constitutes the farm of his son and namesake, but it was not until October, 1856, that he and his family moved onto it. At that time it could hardly be called a farm, as it was destitute of improvements of any kind, so Mr. Bibby found plenty of hard work ahead of him. He went at his task with vigor, at first putting up only the most essential buildings, and those of a primitive kind, giving his main attention to raising crops for the support of himself and family. As time went on, however, he improved the place, and cultivated a larger area of land. Satisfied with his choice, he tried no experiments with other locations, but remained here until his death, which occurred in July, 1894. For 18 years, beginning with the organization of the district, he served as a member of the school board. His wife did not long survive him, passing away in March, 1895. They belonged to that sturdy pioneer class who conquered the wilderness, and to whom the present generation owes much for the better conditions now enjoyed. Moreover, they took part in the religious life of the community, Mr. Bibby being a charter member and for some years an elder of the Presbyterian church at Galesville, and later assisting to organize the church of that denomination at North Bend. Their family was a large one, numbering 15 children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the ninth in order of birth. Richard Bibby, the second of the name, acquired the elements of knowledge in the district school. As may be supposed, he was not allowed to grow up in idleness, but at an early age began to assist his father, there being always something to do on the farm. He resided at home, with the exception of two or three winters, until 1894, when, being now in his twenty-sixth year, he rented the farm from his father for one year. The latter dying soon after, however, he then became the owner of the property and has resided on it ever since. It contains 158 acres, and Mr. Bibby carries on general farming, including dairying and the raising of hogs, besides keeping more or less other stock. The chief improvements now standing were made by him, and include a circular barn, 64 feet in diameter, with a 9-foot basement and 20 feet overhead, the erection of which shows him to be enterprising and up-to-date. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers' Exchange at



IVER EIMON

Galesville, the La Crosse Packing Company and the Independent Harvester Company, of Plano, Ill., and is a member of the American Society of Equity. In politics Mr. Bibby is an independent Republican. He has served on the board of supervisors three terms and as a member of the school board nine years. Sept. 23, 1896, he was married to Ina Jones, who was born in Gale Township, daughter of John and Lucy (Miller) Jones. Her parents were both natives of England, but were married in Columbia County, Wis., in which State Mr. Jones settled when he came to this country, being then about 22 years old, subsequently locating in Columbia County. In the early '50s of the last century he removed with his family to Trempealeau County, and was a pioneer of Gale Township, taking a farm on the Jackson County line. That place was his subsequent home until his death in 1887. His wife is still living on the old homestead, being now well advanced in years. They had five children, of whom Mrs. Bibby was the youngest. Mr. and Mrs. Bibby have been the parents of six children: Richard A., Arthur, who died at the age of 2 years, Allen L., William Hollis, Mary E. and Alice M. The surviving children are all residing at home. Mr. and Mrs. Bibby are members of the North Bend Presbyterian church, and have many friends throughout this part of the county.

Iver Eimon, one of the most prominent farmers and stock raisers in Hale Township, and an extensive land owner elsewhere, was born in Land, Norway, June 5, 1854, son of Ole and Sierce (Thomle) Eimon. His parents, who were natives of the same part of Norway, came to the United States in 1862, locating at Blue Mounds, Dane County, Wis., where the father engaged in farming, and also at times worked in the lead mines. In 1868 they came to Trempealeau County, taking a homestead of 160 acres in section 12, Hale Township, it consisting entirely of wild land. Here Ole Eimon built a shanty and with four yoke of cattle, assisted by his son Iver, broke the land. In time, by hard work and perseverance, he developed a good farm, on which he resided until his death, Feb. 6, 1908. His wife passed away long before him, in March, 1882. They had in all, seven children, two of whom, Bertha and Christian, are deceased. The others are: Iver, the direct subject of this sketch; Beaty, who now lives in North Dakota; Christian, Peter and Benjamin. Iver Eimon accompanied his parents from Norway to Wisconsin, arriving with them in Trempealeau County in 1868. In the summer he assisted his father on the home farm and in winter worked in the woods at lumbering. In 1893 he became manager of the farm, which he later purchased. Energetic and enterprising, he has made many valuable improvements on the property, having now a fine barn, 120 by 52 feet, provided with running water and electric lights, two silos, each with a capacity of 100 tons, and other first-class buildings. He is successfully engaged in breeding Holstein-Freisian cattle, shipping a carload of beef cattle to market each spring. His farm is a large one, of 320 acres, in section 12. He also owns a farm of 320 acres in Becker County, Minn., which he rents. For many years Mr. Eimon has served as school clerk, and is now a supervisor of Hale Township. He has been twice nominated for the State Assembly. He has traveled extensively, both in the United States and Europe, having visited in this country nearly every State in the Union, in particular the Gulf States.

For six years he owned a cotton farm at Fort Ben, Tex., and at one time owned 10 acres of land at Houston, that State. His travels also extended into old Mexico, while on a five-months' trip to Europe he visited Scotland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Germany, France, Switzerland and Italy. During these travels he saw many interesting sights and acquired a knowledge of the manners and customs of various races of people, and found the time well spent. His present prosperity is the result of intelligent effort, kept up perseveringly through a series of years, and his reward has been large. On July 5, 1886, Mr. Eimon assumed the responsibilities of domestic life, being united in marriage with Margaret Heyerdahl, a native of Pierce County, Wis. The following children have been born to him: Sigvald, born Dec. 3, 1888, who married Anna Golbertson; Max, born March 19, 1891; Sigrid, Feb. 7, 1894; Paul, March 3, 1900, and Margaret, Sept. 7, 1906. All except Sigvald are residing at home. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church, and Mr. Eimon is a Prohibitionist in politics.

Christian E. Sveum, the well known proprietor of Sveum Stock Farm of 196 acres, located in sections 23 and 24, and Home Farm of 160 acres, in section 14, town 23 north, range 7 west, Hale Township, was born in Ringsager, Norway, April 6, 1863. His parents, Even and Johanna Sveum, both died in Norway. In 1886, Christian E. Sveum, then 23 years old, came to the United States, seeking to better his condition. Having heard of opportunities in the great Northwest, he located in Whitehall, Trempealeau County, Wis., renting the farm of Hans Borreson—now the Sveum Stock Farm—for six years. At the end of that time he purchased it, and in April, 1913, bought his other farm, known as the Home Farm. He is successfully engaged in agriculture and stock raising, his two properties being well improved, and is numbered among the substantial and prosperous farmers of Hale Township. Nov. 13, 1889, Mr. Sveum was married to Anna Borreson, who was born on the old farm in sections 23 and 24, Hale Township, which her parents, Hans and Helena (Anderson) Borreson homesteaded in 1870. They were born in Norway, in the town of Birid, the father July 5, 1830, and the mother Jan. 5, 1832. They were married in 1869 at Coon Valley, Vernon County, Wis., the same year in which they came to America. Both are now living on the farm. They had four children, of whom three died in infancy, the only survivor being Mrs. Sveum. Mr. and Mrs. Sveum have had a large family of 13 children, born as follows: Edwin, March 3, 1890; Harry, Feb. 5, 1892, now farming on a homestead at Joslyn, Mont.; Hjelmmer, born Sept. 7, 1893; Clara, Oct. 17, 1895; Josephine, Aug. 29, 1897; Agnes, Aug. 22, 1899; Inga, Oct. 13, 1901; Gustav, March 13, 1904; Tina, Feb. 28, 1906; Lillian, Dec. 9, 1908; Blanchard, July 14, 1911; Evelyn, Dec. 8, 1913, and one unnamed, who was born July 20, 1900, and died the same day. All the living children except Hjelmmer, Harry and Edwin reside at home. Mr. Sveum's residence stands on the Home farm, and is a good, neat and substantial house, the barns and outbuildings being also well constructed and in good condition. He keeps 90 head of cattle, milking 50, and is a stockholder in the creamery at York, the Pigeon Grain & Stock Company and the Whitehall Hospital. For three years he has served as school director. He and his family



MR. AND MRS. HANS BORRESON
C. E. SVEUM AND FAMILY

are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church, of which he is a trustee.

Albert G. Cox, proprietor of the Linderman Mills, one mile west of Osseo, and of a 300-acre farm in sections 8 and 9, Sumner Township, was born in Milford, Wis., March 28, 1856, son of Samuel and Sarah (Dickenson) Cox. Samuel Cox was born in London, England, came to America in 1841, located in Philadelphia, where he lived until 1850, and then came to Wisconsin. He farmed two miles south of Osseo from 1866 to 1880 and then retired to Osseo Village, where he resided until his death, his wife dying in 1893. Albert G. Cox was reared to farm pursuits by his father, and as a young man learned the tinner's trade. In 1876 he opened a hardware and machinery establishment in Osseo, which he conducted until 1887. Then he became general agent for the Van Brunt & Wilkins Manufacturing Company, implement makers, traveling for them in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. Upon entering the employ of this concern he moved to Augusta, Wis. From 1894 to 1900 he conducted a hardware store in that place. In 1900 he returned to Osseo and took charge of the Linderman Mills, which on the death of Mr. Linderman were willed to the Cox family. These mills, Mr. Cox, who moved his family here six years later, in 1906, has since successfully conducted. Mr. Cox is a well-known man in the community, and is regarded as a leading citizen. He is a member of the Blue Lodge and of the Chapter and Commandery in the Masonic order, and at Augusta passed through the chairs of the Knights of Pythias Lodge. In addition to his milling and agricultural interests he is president of the Northern Wisconsin State Fair Association and president of the Osseo Telephone Company. Mr. Cox was married, Aug. 17, 1878, to Emma Linderman, daughter of James L. and Abigail (Williams) Linderman, and this union has been blessed with three children: Laura, Clarissa and Winnifred S. Laura married C. A. Williams, who owns creameries at Augusta, Osseo and Fairchild. They live at Augusta and have two children: Albert Cox and Mary Jane. Clarissa married A. E. Bradford, a banker of Augusta, and they have three children: Elizabeth, Clarissa and Barbara. Winnifred S. married George Livesey, an attorney of Bellingham, Wash., and has one child: Kathryn.

The Linderman Mills, located on Beef River one mile west of Osseo, were first erected by E. Scott Hotchkiss and James L. Linderman in 1872, and except for having been burned and rebuilt in 1880 has been in continual existence since that time. The original building is of white pine and is still standing in as good condition as it was when first erected. The original machinery, however, was all replaced with new and modern equipment by A. G. Cox in 1901. This original building is 36 by 50 feet, four stories high, with a basement. The elevator building is 32 by 32 feet, and 35 feet high to the eaves, and with still another story above, used for elevator heads. This building was erected by A. G. Cox in 1901. The mill is run by water power by a flume of the Beef River, and the engine is about 100 feet distant from the mill, power being furnished from the engine, when needed, by a transmission rope. The machinery consists of four double strand of rolls for wheat, the same with corrugated rolls for rye, and a

separate mill with three double strand of rolls for buckwheat. A plansifter system is used for each mill, and dust collectors throughout. A 22-inch ball-bearing Foss attrition mill is used for feed grinding. A 45 horsepower Atlas engine auxiliary power is installed, to be used when needed, but this need is only in the very cold weather, and at the busiest time of the year should the water run low. Situated on the C., St. P., M. & O. Ry., it is the center of a rich farming community, and aside from turning out excellent grades of wheat and buckwheat flour does an extensive grist-mill business. A new dam with concrete piers has been installed to replace a wooden one after its 30 years or more of service. The pond extends a mile above the dam. With the exception of the big flood of 1876 there has never been a washout. The property was operated by its founder and owner, James L. Linderman, until 1900, when Albert G. Cox took over the mill, paying Mr. Linderman a rental. The new machinery was all installed by Mr. Cox, with the understanding that the mill was to be willed to his family, which was done by Mr. Linderman, the business being conducted by Mr. Cox, and the title of the property now resting in his and his wife's names.

James L. Linderman, founder of the famous Linderman mills, located on the Beef River, one mile west of Osseo, was born at Ithaca, N. Y., April 4, 1827. In 1871 he came to Osseo from Rockford, Ill., where he had been a traveling salesman for the F. H. Manny Company, manufacturers of farm machinery. The next year he and F. Scott Hotchkiss started the Linderman Mills. There he continued to work for the remainder of his life. He was a most estimable man, and was an important factor in the agricultural development of the county, furnishing a market for the constantly increasing grain crops. He took a prominent part in the political life of the county and state, was a delegate to many county, district and state conventions, and sat in the Republican National Convention of 1888. He served his district with distinction in the General Assembly of 1876-77. After a long and useful life he died Oct. 7, 1906. His wife, Abigail Williams, was born in Troy, N. Y., Dec. 12, 1822, and died Nov. 15, 1898.

August E. Goplin came to Trempealeau County as a boy, and has resided on his present farm located in sections 16 and 17, township 23, range 7 (Hale), since 1889. It now contains 440 acres of good, fertile land and is one of the best in the vicinity, his buildings being his especial pride. The pleasant home was built in 1897. It is a frame structure, two stories high, with 12 rooms and a full basement, supplied with running water, hot water heat, acetylene lights and other conveniences. The barn was built in 1916. It is 48 by 80 by 14 feet, with a stone basement, and an addition 22 by 36 by 12, for horses. The floors are of cement, the stalls are equipped with steel stalls and stanchions, the interior is lighted with acetylene, and there are pens for the young calves, and a special hospital pen. Among the other buildings may be mentioned a barn for young stock, 26 by 66 by 20 feet. Mr. Goplin carries on general farming and makes a specialty of raising Durham cattle, at which he has been very successful. While busy with his farm duties, Mr. Goplin has found time to take an interest in public affairs, and has done excellent service on the school board for two years.



AUGUST GOPLIN AND FAMILY



MR. AND MRS. DAVID C. CILLEY

He was married Dec. 15, 1888, to Beatha Steig, who was born Dec. 24, 1868, in section 23, range 7, township 23 (Hale), daughter of Christian and Ingeborg (Anderson) Steig, and this union has been blessed with six children: Edward, Inga, Emma, Charles, Mildred and Ernest. Edward was born Jan. 6, 1890, and was married Sept. 2, 1916, to Ella Eid, daughter of Gilbert Eid, of Pigeon Township. He works with his father on the farm. Inga was born March 23, 1892, and is a stenographer. Emma was born June 21, 1895; Charles, Nov. 19, 1898; Mildred, Dec. 3, 1904, and Ernest, May 23, 1907. All living at home. Mr. Goplin is a native of Norway, where he was born Aug. 1, 1857, son of Eric O. and Eli (Roen) Goplin. The father, Eric O., was born in Norway, Aug. 14, 1805, came to America in 1867, lived in Rock County a while, and in 1869 came to Trempealeau County and took a homestead in section 14, range 7, township 23 (Hale), where he labored until his death in 1883. The mother was born in Norway, Sept. 30, 1827, came to America with her husband, and died May 14, 1914. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

David C. Cilley, who was for many years one of the enterprising farmers of Burnside Township, of which he became a resident at an early day, was born in Franklin County, New York, May 22, 1833, a son of David and Abigail (Church) Cilley. He was reared in his native county and was there married, Jan. 17, 1853, to Anna E. Wright, whose home was on the shores of Lake Champlain, her birth taking place there Dec. 28, 1833. Her parents were Isaac and Rhoda (Barlow) Wright, her father being a sailor in the days when American merchant vessels visited all the ports of the world, many of them being everywhere admired for their beautiful build and fast sailing qualities. In 1855 Mr. and Mrs. Cilley came west to La Crosse, Wis., going from there to Houston, Minn., where they were engaged in farming for nine years. They then came to Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, settling in section 4, Burnside Township, and here Mr. Cilley resided, engaged in agricultural operations, until his death, April 11, 1911. His wife still resides on the old homestead, which is now operated by their son Darwin C. They had in all four children: William O., a farmer at Concrete, N. D.; Charles L., who is a carpenter living at Herman, Minn.; John H., formerly an engineer in Chicago, who died May 5, 1913, and Darwin C.

Darwin C. Cilley, who is successfully engaged in operating the old Cilley farm of 200 acres in section 4, Burnside Township, was born in Houston, Minn., March 12, 1861, son of David C. and Anna E. (Wright) Cilley. He was reared partly in Houston and then on his parents' farm in Burnside Township, this county, and began to assist his father at an early age. He has always resided on the homestead since coming here in childhood, and since taking its management in hand has operated it with profitable results. The property is well improved and is kept in good shape by Mr. Cilley, whose knowledge of practical farming is thorough and extensive. June 18, 1890, Mr. Cilley was united in marriage with Clara Boesden, who was born in Arcadia, this county, April 15, 1872. Her father, Stephen Boesden, who was born in Kent, England, in 1830, came to Arcadia, Wis.,

in 1860, and died April 2, 1910. His wife, whose maiden name was Eliza Leonard, died in 1912, at the age of 54 years. Mr. and Mrs. Cilley have been the parents of nine children: Josephine, born Nov. 11, 1891, who married Fred Sieh, a farmer of Minong, Wis.; James, born July 13, 1893; David L., born April 3, 1895; Susan, born Feb. 23, 1897; Clara, born March 13, 1899, now wife of Herbert Coardes; Henry, born March 26, 1901; Margaret N., born July 23, 1906; Estella N., born Oct. 6, 1908, and Dorothy M., born June 25, 1904. David L. is in the United States service, having gone south with the Sixth Wisconsin. Susan is a graduate of the Eau Claire Training school and is now teaching. With the Cilley family lives the venerable and gracious mother, Mrs. David C. Cilley.

Martin H. Skjeie is one of the progressive farmers who are engaged in developing the agricultural resources of Ettrick Township, his fine farm of 197 acres being located in section 8 in the eastern part of the township. His present homestead was also the scene of his birth, which occurred Aug. 16, 1872. His parents, Halver N. and Martha (Lindebrekke) Skjeie, were born in Hardanger, Norway, the date of the father's birth being Sept. 28, 1836, and the mother's occurring in June, 1840. Married in their native land, they came to the United States in 1868 and located on Beaver Creek, Ettrick Township, this county, Halver N. Skjeie homesteading 40 acres of the farm now owned by his son Martin and acquiring the balance by purchase. He spent many years in clearing and improving the land, and is still residing on the farm, though now retired from active work. His wife is also living. Martin H. Skjeie was the fourth born in a family of five children. He attended school in Ettrick Township and after having acquired the elements of knowledge, spent six months in the Winona Business College. He has resided on the parental homestead nearly all of his life, becoming manager of the farm about 1897, and later becoming its owner by purchase. It contains 197 acres of valuable land, on which he carries on general farming, doing a successful business. He also owns a 40-acre tract of land at Minong, Washburn County, Wis. Mr. Skjeie is also a stockholder in the Farmers' Exchange of Blair and the Ettrick Telephone Company. Oct. 9, 1901, he was married to Julia Hauge, a native of Ettrick Township, and daughter of Adolph and Nellie (Rogness) Hauge. Like many other hardy settlers of this part of Trempealeau County, her parents were born in Norway, the father in Soler, April 13, 1847, and the mother in Bergenstift, Feb. 8, 1854. Adolph Hauge came to America when about 20 years old and became a farmer and land owner in Ettrick Township, this county. He still resides on the old farm, after a long life of activity in the cultivation of the soil and during which he became one of the prominent citizens of his township, serving on the school board for many years, a part of the time as clerk. He also assisted in the organization of the United Lutheran Church at Blair and took an active and sometimes leading part in various other local enterprises. His wife, who came to America at the age of 16, died Feb. 28, 1902. They had eight children, of whom their daughter Julia was the third born. Mr. and Mrs. Skjeie have an adopted daughter, Jeanette, who is attending school. Mr. Skjeie belongs to the order of Beavers and to the Modern Woodmen of America.



T. H. HAUGE AND FAMILY

He is a Republican in politics and he and his family are members of the Lutheran Synod Church at Hegg, Ettrick Township.

Thomas H. Hauge, a well known and prosperous farmer of Hale Township, proprietor of a farm of 240 acres in sections 24 and 35, is, like many other successful men in his line of work, a native of Norway, having been born in Hitterdal, that country, July 20, 1859. His father, Harold Aslakson, came to America in 1869, locating in Arcadia Township, this county, where he homesteaded a farm. He thus followed close on the heels of the pioneers and had much the same experiences, the surroundings at that time being more or less primitive and the work of developing a homestead one of long toil and occasional privation. Harold Aslakson was, however, adapted by nature and disposition to succeed, and in time his industry and perseverance brought their due reward in a flourishing and profitable farm on which he resided until his death in the spring of 1892. His first wife, whose maiden name was Karen Tostenson Gunnem, died in Norway in 1861, and he married for his second wife, in Dane County, Wisconsin, in 1869, Asslan Johnson, who died in 1890. Thomas H. Hauge, who was initiated at an early age into agricultural methods, worked on his parents' homestead for some time in his youth. He then for seven years and a half operated a farm for F. C. Allen of Eau Claire, which was located in Arcadia Township. At the end of that period he bought a farm in Bruce Valley, Hale Township, on which he resided until 1909. It is now operated by his son-in-law, Oscar Hanke, and his son, Melvin Hauge. Upon leaving his farm in 1909 Mr. Hauge purchased his present farm. In the same year he built the house in which he now resides, a two-story and basement cement brick veneer structure of 12 rooms, heated by furnace and lighted by electricity, the same lighting system being used in all his buildings. The barn was rebuilt in 1912, and is a frame structure, 50 by 72 by 20 feet, with cement floors. In 1913 Mr. Hauge erected a stave silo, 14 by 32 feet in size. He has a herd of 31 graded Holstein cattle, of which he milks 20, and also raises Buff Orpington chickens. Aside from his farm interests he is a stockholder in the Pigeon Grain & Stock Company. For four years he has served as township treasurer. Mr. Hauge was married, July 23, 1882, to Anna Olson, who was born at Tamarack, Ettrick Township, Dec. 25, 1866, daughter of Andrew H. and Olive (Gilbertson) Olson. Her father, born in Norway in 1836, died March 7, 1908, in Arcadia, having come to America in 1852. Her mother was born in Norway in 1828 and died May 14, 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Hauge have had a large family, numbering 15 children, of whom all are living but one. They are as follows: Carrie, who is the wife of Sever Williamson, a farmer of Hale Township, and has one child, Walter; Henry a farmer of Hale Township, who married Mary Johnson and has two children: Marion and William; Mary, wife of Oscar Hanke, also a Hale Township farmer, and the mother of two children: Marion and Florence; Melvin, who is farming in Hale Township; Clara, who was a teacher four years and is now the wife of Peter Enger, a farmer of this township; Annie, wife of Otto Olson, proprietor of the Commercial Hotel, Arcadia; Cora, who resides at home; Alma, who graduated from the La Crosse normal school and is now a teacher in Bruce Valley; Hartwick, living at home; Carl Alfred,

who died at the age of one and a half years, and Agnes, Delia, Walter, Viola and Stella, all of whom are residing at home. Mr. Hauge and his family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, of which he is also a trustee. As the son of an early settler of the county and himself a substantial and reliable citizen, he is widely known and highly esteemed.

Peter Hanson, for many years a prominent resident of the county, was born on the estate known as Björnstad, Vaage Gulbrandsdalen, in 1826, and became a farmer. As a young man he married Anna Risdal, who was born in 1829. The emigration of the family to America took place in 1869, Coral City, Trempealeau County, Wis., being selected as their place of settlement. There they remained, however, but six months, and then removed to section 33, Unity Township, where Mr. Hanson bought a tract of railroad land and started farming. In this occupation he continued on the same farm until his death in 1898, but which time he had improved his property to a large extent and was a prosperous citizen. His wife died in 1911. Their children were: Sven (deceased), Johannes P., Peter, Jr., of Strum, Torger (deceased), Hans (deceased) and Martinus (deceased).

Johannes P. Hanson, agriculturist, creamery secretary, man of affairs and former county clerk, is not only one of the leading residents of Albion Township, but also one of the best known men in the county. He is affable, genial and official, the friend of every worthy cause and a valuable and useful citizen in every respect. He was born in Vaage, Gulbrandsdalen, Norway, March 21, 1863, son of Peter and Anna (Risdal) Hanson), who brought him to Trempealeau County in 1869. He was reared to farm pursuits and in 1891, in partnership with his brother Sven, took over the home farm. His acquaintance and popularity increased from his early boyhood, his abilities became widely known, and in 1904 he was elected county clerk, taking office Jan. 1, 1905, and serving two terms. In this capacity he more than justified the faith of his friends, and conducted the affairs of the office with general satisfaction to the voters. Upon retiring from office he took up his home on his present farm in Albion Township. Mr. Hanson has also at various times rendered other public service. He was town clerk of Unity Township for nine years and clerk of Albion Township four years, being appointed jury commissioner in 1909 and still holding that office. He also served as school clerk in Unity Township three years. In addition to his direct farming interests Mr. Hanson has been secretary of Unity Co-operative Creamery in Strum since 1909. He is a director of the First State Bank of Strum, and a member of its examining board, and is financial secretary of Branch No. 30, I. S. W. A., at Strum. June 10, 1903, Mr. Hanson was married to Toline Veggum of Mt. Horeb, Wis., who was born at that place Aug. 21, 1870. Her parents were Hans and Gunhild (Ramlet) Veggum, the father now residing on the Hanson farm with his daughter and son-in-law, his wife having died Dec. 26, 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Hanson have one child, Alice Gertrude, who was born May 25, 1907. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, Mr. Hanson being vice-president of the congregation at Strum.

Basil I. Peterson is one of the energetic business men of Blair, and is known throughout western Wisconsin for his active work in furthering



J. P. HANSON AND FAMILY



ERNEST A. PETERSON—BASIL I. PETERSON

every interest that has for its object the betterment and upbuilding of his village, county and state. Born in Blair, Nov. 22, 1889, he was reared in the home of his parents, Albert B. and Amelia (Torkelson) Peterson, and applied himself so well to his studies that he was graduated from the Blair high school at the age of 15 years. Then he studied a year at St. Olaf College at Northfield, Minn. Thus prepared he entered the College of Letters and Science at the University of Wisconsin in 1906 and was a senior at the age of eighteen, the youngest member of his class. He then entered the law offices of Jesse E. Higbee at La Crosse, where he served as a clerk for two years. In 1911 he went back to Madison and took a year's law course in his Alma Mater. A year later he entered the Northwestern University at Chicago and was there graduated in Law in 1914. Having acquired a liking for Chicago he decided to remain in that city for a while, and accepted a position as assistant credit manager for the Miehle Printing Press & Manufacturing Company of Chicago, with whom he secured valuable business experience. He was called home by the death of his brother, and on May 15, 1916, succeeded him as cashier of the First National Bank of Blair, a position in which he has given most efficient service, his personality, education and experience being important factors in its success. His fraternal associations are with the Masonic order at Whitehall.

Ernest A. Peterson, cut off in the prime of his young manhood with an unusually brilliant future ahead of him, and with a sterling record of worth and character already achieved, was one of the leading spirits in Blair from his boyhood up; he was a man among men, a good son, a loyal friend, a keen student of people, of business and of books, and his memory will long be held dear in all the walks of life to which his duty called him. He was born Sept. 22, 1892, in Blair, son of Albert B. and Amelia Torkelson Peterson, completed his studies in the Blair graded and high schools at the age of sixteen, and then studied science and music a year at St. Olaf College, at Northfield, Minn. In 1910 he entered the University of Wisconsin, where he distinguished himself in scholarship, music and athletics, winning many honors. A popular man with his classmates, he was a leading member of the Beta Gamma Sigma, Honorary Fraternity, and also of the Chi Phi, Social Fraternity. Upon his graduation at the age of 20 in 1913 he returned to Blair and for a short period was employed in the Home Bank of Blair. Then he went to Bowman, N. D., where he was employed in the State Bank of Bowman. Late in 1914 he returned to Blair once more, and with his father organized the First National Bank, of which he was cashier until his untimely death, April 14, 1916. He was one of the foremost young business men of the county, and lived to see his bank established on a sound basis. From early boyhood Mr. Peterson was interested in music. At St. Olaf he studied the piano and was flute soloist in the college band, and belonged to several musical organizations in Madison while attending college there, and in Blair he found time for considerable orchestra work. His life and character were a joy and a solace to his parents, in whose hearts his place can never be filled.

Bent Pederson, a pioneer of Jackson County, this state, was born in Sweden, Dec. 1, 1829, and was still a boy when he was brought to America

by his parents in 1851. Upon attaining man's estate he acquired a farm in Jackson County, upon which he still resides. He has been a hard-working successful farmer, and has occupied several public offices in his township. His wife, whom he married in November, 1861, was like him a native of Sweden and came to America as a girl. Her maiden name was Anna Norgaard. After 55 years of happy married life they gave a large celebration to mark the event in 1916, the affair being attended by neighbors, friends and relatives for miles around. Mrs. Pederson, after a long and useful life, passed away June, 1917. They were the parents of 14 children, of whom the following six are still living: Olaus, Sophia, Albert, Emelia, Bennie and Myrtle.

Iver Torkelson was for many years a prominent figure in the life of Jackson County, this state. He was born in Norway, came to America as a youth, and by native ability and hard work attained a position of influence and importance among his fellow men. At the outbreak of the Civil War he rushed to the colors and became sergeant of a Wisconsin regiment and was wounded in action. For twelve years he was registrar of deeds of Jackson County, and for a considerable period he served as postmaster. He also held local offices of varied nature. He died in January, 1901, at the age of 62 years. His wife, Martina Anderson, died in April, 1912, at the age of 70.

Albert B. Peterson, long connected with the financial, political and mercantile life of Blair, was born in Jackson County, this state, Nov. 16, 1863, a son of Bent and Anna (Norgaard) Pederson. He was reared to farm pursuits, but early acquired an ambition to engage in business. Accordingly he started his commercial career in 1885 by entering the employ of T. I. Gilbert & Co., the pioneer merchants of Blair, for two years. Then he bought a half interest in the hardware store of John E. Mayer in that village, changing the name of the concern to Mayer & Peterson. After two more years he bought out his partner's interest and successfully conducted the establishment until 1896, when he sold out to the Herried Brothers. In the meantime the store had been burned in the fire of 1891, but was almost immediately rebuilt. From 1896 until 1900 Mr. Peterson served efficiently as village postmaster. After the expiration of his term he engaged in the general mercantile business with Martin Peterson under the firm name of Martin Peterson & Co. From 1901 to 1912 he engaged in the hardware and implement business. Since then he has been extensively interested in the real estate business, handling considerable local property, and engineering deals throughout the western states as far west as California. The First National Bank of Blair, which he organized in company with his son, Ernest A., and others, is a monument to his faith in the future progress of the village. His public services have included loyal duty as a member of the county board, as a member and president of the village council, and as a member of the school board. His religious affiliation is with the Norwegian Lutheran Church. Mr. Peterson was married Feb. 22, 1889, to Amelia Torkelson of Black River Falls, daughter of Iver and Martina (Anderson) Torkelson. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson have had four children: Basil I., Ernest A., Marie and Eugene. Basil I. was born



MR. AND MRS. A. B. PETERSON



EBERT S. EVERSON AND FAMILY

Nov. 22, 1889, and is now cashier of the First National Bank of Blair. Ernest A. was born Sept. 22, 1892, and died April 4, 1916. Marie, born Jan. 11, 1901, and Eugene, born Feb. 8, 1904, are at home.

Syver Everson, a pioneer of Jackson County, was born in Julberg, Solar, Norway, in 1832, and at the age of 20 he, with his brother Ole and one sister, Mrs. Andrew Olson, together with others from their neighborhood, left on June 22, 1852, for America. They stayed at Christiania about two weeks before sailing. Leaving Christiania they went on board the sailing vessel Incognito and were on the Atlantic ten weeks and four days, landing in New York on Saturday morning, September 4. The following Tuesday they left New York, going to Wellsboro, Pa. They then went to Coudersport, that state, and from there traveled on foot 60 miles to Bergen, settling one mile from that place in what was known as Ole Bull's colony. The valley where they settled was called Oleann, and in time a town grew up. The students who had come over on the Incognito and joined the colony soon became dissatisfied with the land they found and composed that well known Norwegian song "Oleanna." That section of Pennsylvania was then only a wilderness, many of the trees being so large that it took three men to reach around a single tree. It took Syver, with his father and brother, a whole year to clear an acre of land. In 1853 Syver Everson was married to Helene Pederson Svenbykvernen, a young lady who had crossed the ocean on the same ship, and for five years they continued their residence in the colony. On May 13, 1858, they left for Wisconsin and came to Trempealeau, from there traveling on foot 34 miles to the home of Mr. Everson's cousin, John Koién, who then lived near the Trempealeau Valley church. After remaining there one year they moved, in April, 1859, to Ole Tappen's place in Porter Cooley, now known as Tappen Cooley. Here they bought 80 acres of government land, moving onto it that fall and making a home, and later adding more land to the farm, where Mr. Everson resided up to the time of his death, Aug. 29, 1911, at the age of 79 years and 14 days. He was survived by his wife, Helene, and four children: Mrs. Cassandra Anderson of Superior; Ebert S. of Preston, Peter of Blair, Wis., and Mrs. Ole Dahl of Preston; also by a brother John, residing at White Earth, N. D., who is now dead.

Ebert S. Everson, one of the thriving agriculturists of Preston Township, is a native of Wisconsin, having been born in Springfield Township, Jackson County, Oct. 24, 1858, son of Syver and Helene (Pederson) Everson. He was reared to agricultural endeavor and to that line of work has since given his attention. For seventeen seasons he devoted his time to threshing, and for thirteen years he conducted two cream routes. In 1887 he purchased 40 acres of his father's farm, and to this he has since added until he now owns 186 acres of fertile and highly improved land in sections 26, 27 and 34, Preston Township. He has christened his place the "Fairview Farm," and here he now carries on general farming and dairying with good financial results. Mr. Everson is a director in the Preston Creamery Company and a stockholder in the First National Bank of Blair. For three years he did good service as town supervisor, and for twelve years as school clerk. He is a charter member of Camp No. 2576, Modern

Woodmen of America at Blair. Mr. Everson was married June 4, 1884, to Anna Kjelson, who was born in Pierce County, Wisconsin, Feb. 14, 1861, daughter of Arne and Karen (Pederson) Kjelson, natives of Norway, the latter of whom died in 1909. Mr. and Mrs. Everson have a family of five children: Sevilla, who died when 10 days old; Mabel Elvira, born July 13, 1888, who graduated from the Blair high school with the class of 1907 and has been a teacher for nine years; Alice Selmine, born April 21, 1891, who graduated from the Blair high school with the class of 1910, and was a teacher for seven years; Elmer Alfred, born April 18, 1894, who is a student in the agricultural college at Onalaska, Wis., and resides at home, and Myrtle Constance, born Aug. 16, 1896, who graduated from Blair high school with the class of 1915 and resides at home. The family are members of the United Norwegian Church, of which Mr. Everson is a trustee.

Frederick C. Steig, proprietor of Steig farm of 200 acres in sections 23 and 24, town 23 north, range 7 west, Hale Township, belongs to that class of hardy and industrious Norwegian farmers who have done so much to build up and develop the resources of Trempealeau County. His birth took place in Biri, Norway, April 1, 1866, his parents being Christian F. and Ingeborg (Anderson) Steig. The father, who was born at Biri, Norway, March 11, 1839, emigrated with his family to the United States in 1866, locating in Dane County, Wisconsin, where he remained about two years. In 1868 he came to Trempealeau County, settling on the farm now owned and operated by his son Frederick C. Here he resided for some 42 years, dying June 25, 1910, after a long career of agricultural activity, during which time he greatly improved his farm, becoming a prosperous citizen of his township. His wife Ingeborg, who was born in Norway, Dec. 8, 1842, is still living and resides with her son Frederick, subject of this sketch. The latter was reared on the home farm and for many years assisted his father in operating it. In 1887 he became its manager and so continued until 1896, in which year he bought the property and has since been engaged in its further development. In 1904 he built the house in which he and his family now reside, which is a two-story brick veneer structure, with basement, containing eight rooms and heated by furnace. In 1914 Mr. Steig built a frame barn, 36 by 90 by 12 feet, with an eight-foot stone basement, having cement floors and modern equipment. He keeps graded Durham cattle, having a herd of 35 head, of which he milks 22. Since 1908 he has been a member of the school board of his district. Mr. Steig was married Oct. 7, 1893, to Antonette Klundby, who was born in Biri, Norway, June 11, 1869. Her father, Hans Klundby, born in Norway in 1830, came to America in 1884 with his family, settling in Hale Township, this county. He died in 1892. His wife, whose maiden name was Agnethe Olson, was born in Norway in 1828 and died in 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Steig are the parents of eight children, born as follows: Hulda, June 21, 1894; Carl, July 31, 1895; Catherine, Oct. 6, 1897; Arthur, Nov. 26, 1899; Florence, June 2, 1902; Cora, Aug. 22, 1904; Hazel, Dec. 17, 1906, and Selma, Sept. 19, 1910. All the children are living at home except Hulda, who was married July 30, 1917, to Orlando Kaas of Pigeon Township. Mr. Steig and his family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran



FREDERICK C. STEIG AND FAMILY



OLE SYLFEST AND FAMILY

Church of America. They have a wide acquaintance and are among the substantial and prosperous families of Hale Township.

Mattis Mattison, for many years a prominent citizen of Preston Township, and the father of a number of children actively identified with the affairs of the county, was born in Sweden in 1841, and in 1848 came to America with his parents, who settled in Pennsylvania, in the historic colony established by Ole Bull, the famous violin virtuoso. He was reared in Pennsylvania, was there married, and in 1864 came to Trempealeau County, bringing his family, and settling in sections 21 and 28, Preston Township. Here he spent many years in cultivating the soil and developing his farm. After a long and useful life he died Dec. 19, 1909. His wife, Anna Olson Strum, to whom he was married in Abbott Township, Potter County, Penn., Oct. 13, 1856, was born in 1837 and survived him four years or more. They were the parents of eight children: Martin (deceased); Eline, now Mrs. John Thompson; Martin O. of Omaha, Ark.; Betina, now Mrs. John E. Pederson; Albert (deceased); Ole M. of Canby, Ore.; Maria, now Mrs. Erick Frederickson; Paul (deceased); Thomas, who farms on the old homestead; Albert; Edwin F., postmaster of Blair, and Minnie, now Mrs. Ole A. Thompson.

Thomas Mattison, who is successfully engaged in carrying on agricultural operations in sections 28 and 21, Preston Township, was born in this township July 31, 1876, son of Mattis and Anna (Olson-Strum) Mattison. He was reared on the farm and worked for his father until he was in his 28th year, at which time he married. In 1903 he bought a farm situated near his father's and cultivated it until 1906, at which time he sold it and bought the parental homestead, on which he has since resided, and which contains 225 acres. Here he carries on general farming, keeping a good herd of Shorthorn cattle. He also breeds Rhode Island Red chickens, with which he has several times won prizes at poultry shows. Since 1911 he has been president of the Preston Creamery Company at Blair, and he is also a stockholder in, and was one of the organizers of the First National Bank of Blair. Mr. Mattison was married June 5, 1904, to Anna Peterson, of Preston Township, who was born in that township June 1, 1882, daughter of Sever and Olena (Andreson) Peterson. Her father, who was born in Norway in 1852, came to America with his parents in 1864, they settling in Salve Cooley, Preston Township, which was his home until his death in 1908. Mrs. Peterson, who was born in Norway in 1851, is now residing in Blair. She and her husband had a family of seven children, their daughter Anna being their fifth child. To Mr. and Mrs. Mattison have been born seven children: Orwin, Feb. 18, 1905; Rudolph, April 18, 1906; Wilfred, Dec. 10, 1907; Walter, Sept. 25, 1909; Lorenze, July 16, 1912; Viola, March 20, 1914, and Cora, Jan. 23, 1916. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church, while Mr. Mattison is also a member of the Masonic lodge at Whitehall and of the camp of the Modern Woodmen of America at Blair.

Ole Sylfest, a well known farmer who is engaged in operating 130 acres of land in section 11, Preston Township, was born in Vossie Cooley, this township, May 8, 1865. His father, whose name also was Ole, was

a native of Voss, Norway, who came to the United States in 1854, locating in Dane County, Wisconsin, from which place he came in 1860 to Trempealeau County, settling in Vossie Cooley. Here he died in 1888 at the age of 66 years, after many years hard work spent in improving his farm, which he left in good condition. His wife, whose maiden name was Carrie Gjerstad, died in 1907, aged 88 years. They had been the parents of five children: Sever, now living on the old farm in Vossie Cooley; Ingeborg, who married Lars Johnson, a farmer of Vossie Cooley; Susan, who resides with her brother Sever; Ole (first), who died at the age of one year, and Ole (second), subject of this sketch. Ole Sylfest resided at home with his parents until reaching the age of 25 years, or until the time of his marriage in 1891. He then farmed the old Sylfest homestead for seven years, subsequently going to Shepherd Cooley, where he operated a farm for 10 years, or until 1908, when he bought his present farm. This is a good piece of agricultural property, having a nice commodious residence, a good basement barn and all other necessary buildings, besides a full equipment of tools and implements. Mr. Sylfest is operating the place with profitable results and is recognized throughout the township as a thoroughly practical farmer and a reliable citizen, one who can be depended upon to support the interests of the community in which he lives. He has won his success in life entirely by his own efforts, and has succeeded by exercising hard work, frugality and good judgment. Since 1903 he has served as a member of the township board, having been its chairman, and consequently a member of the county board also, for eight years. He is doing good service as clerk of his school district. In connection with his farm work he has been interested in co-operative movements, assisted in organizing the Preston Creamery Company, of Blair, and has been one of its directors for 10 years. June 11, 1891, Mr. Sylfest was united in marriage with Paulina Olson, who was born in Tromp Cooley, Jan. 30, 1868, daughter of Christian and Anna (Peterson) Olson. Her father, who was a native of Norway, came to the United States in 1860, and on the breaking out of the Civil War enlisted in the Eleventh Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, in which he served four years. After the war he settled in Tromp Cooley and engaged in farming there until his death in 1879. His wife Anna now resides in Tromp Cooley, having survived him 38 years. Mr. and Mrs. Sylfest have been the parents of five children: Otilia, born Jan. 6, 1894, who graduated from the Blair High School and La Crosse Normal School and has been a teacher four years; Amelia, born Jan. 3, 1898, who graduated from the Blair High School and is clerk in a business house in Blair; Myrtle, born April 3, 1900; Stella, born May 21, 1905, and one that died in infancy. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church, of which Mr. Sylfest has been treasurer since 1902.

Bernhard Hulberg, a rising young garage man of Osseo, was born in Hale Township, this county, March 27, 1887, and was reared to farm pursuits, attaining a good rudimentary education in the district schools. He became interested in the automobile industry, and seeing an opening at Osseo, formed a partnership with his brother, Conrad, and engaged in the garage business in this village, occupying a building which was erected



ORSON S. LAMBERSON—MR. AND MRS. JOHN C. LAMBERSON

for them in 1915 by O. C. Gullard. Mr. Hulberg is now connected with the Amundson Garage, in whose success he is a valued factor. He was married May 10, 1916, to Helga Brateng, who was born Dec. 22, 1891. The parents of Mr. Hulberg were Edward and Paulina (Raa) Hulberg, natives of Norway, who came to Hale Township some forty years ago, the father now living in Osseo, and the mother having died in 1896.

Conrad Hulberg, a popular young automobile man, was born in Hale Township, April 4, 1891. He went to the neighborhood schools, learned farming from his father, and early became an adept in mechanics. With his brother he engaged in the garage business at Osseo for a while, and is now employed in the Hohmann Garage at Arcadia, where he is doing excellent work. He is a good workman, a master of his trade, and a genial friend.

George W. Lamberson, proprietor of Four Pines Farm, in section 22, Lincoln Township, was born on the old Lamberson farm in this township, June 12, 1874, son of John C. and Lucena (Becker) Lamberson. He was trained to agriculture in early youth and resided at home until reaching the age of 21, at which time he bought his present farm of 160 acres, which is a well-improved piece of property. His residence, built in 1908, is a frame structure of nine rooms, equipped with furnace and other modern conveniences, except lights. The barn was erected in 1898 and is a frame building 28 by 54 by 16 feet, with 4-foot basement. In 1913 he built a solid concrete silo, 14 by 36 feet. The farm is surrounded with woven wire fencing. Mr. Lamberson keeps Holstein cattle of high grade, having 20 head, of which he milks 15; also Poland-China hogs, having a herd of 60 head and handling 100 per year, part of which are registered and all of which are pedigreed. Since 1910 he has served as president of the Whitehall Creamery Association. Mr. Lamberson was married May 21, 1893, to Claudia Williams, of Whitehall, who was born at Stevens Point, Wis., May 1, 1878, daughter of Edward J. and Rose (Mason) Williams. Her father, formerly a member of the crew of the U. S. S. Dolphin, is now living at Palm Beach, Cal.; her mother died in 1890 at the age of 32 years. Mr. and Mrs. Lamberson have had four children: Milo J., born Dec. 30, 1893; Percy G., born July 5, 1895; Bernice, born June 21, 1902, who died at the age of 5 months, and Crystal, born May 13, 1905. Mr. Lamberson is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he has been steward since 1900. He has served as township clerk since the spring of 1914 and is a citizen always ready to do his part in promoting the interests of the community in which he lives.

John C. Lamberson was born in Bradford County, Pa., June 13, 1840, and died June 20, 1917. He was a descendant of Garrit Lamberson, who served under General Washington at the memorable Delaware campaign. His great-grandmother was of the family of John Hart, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. His grandfather, Isaac Lamberson, a veteran of the War of 1812, was married to Rebecca Monroe, a first cousin of President James Monroe. His father and mother, Orson Lamberson and Sarah Haskins, moved to Wisconsin in 1850, his mother dying shortly after. A little red schoolhouse had been erected at Kerns Corners, near Baraboo, and his early school advantages consisted of only three years' attendance,

studying such books as were then available. Being of a studious disposition and living to learn something of benefit each day, he later became, by observation and study, as well versed in matters of literature, science and the business world as many men of better opportunities. At the early age of 13 years he ventured upon his own resources out into the then pioneer settlements of Wisconsin and Minnesota, working as a farm hand in various places until 1861. On Oct. 11 he went to Fort Snelling and enlisted in the Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, serving until discharged on account of disability, on April 14, 1862, at Nashville, Tenn. For some time he carried mail from Wabasha to Rochester, stopping occasionally with his father and sisters at Greenwood Prairie, about 15 miles north of Rochester. At this time occurred a sad event which always was a shade in his memory. One August morning his sister, a child of 13 years, left with a family of friends who were emigrating overland to Mankato. The Indian Massacre of New Ulm is written in history. The family never reached their destination, nor was any trace ever found to clear any doubt as to their sad disappearance. The lure of battle called, presumably through his sturdy ancestors, and again having fully recovered from his injury he went South to Chattanooga, Tenn., and enlisted under Captain Godfrey, remaining until the close of the war. He soon started North, traveling by steamboat as far as Fountain City. On a bright June morning in 1865 he started on foot to reach his father's cabin, on what is now the James Wright farm in Fly Creek Valley. Stopping over night at the home of G. H. Markham, he reached his destination the following day. He was employed by Henry Freeman the balance of the summer, and rented the farm now owned by Archie Wood in 1866. On Aug. 8, 1867, he was married to Mrs. Lucena Becker Woolsey, and Dec. 24, 1867, they moved to the home farm one mile west of Whitehall. Here he at once took a prominent part in the life of the community. Industrious and hardworking, a friend of every good cause, he endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact. By his industry and care he acquired and improved one of the best farms in the community. He served his town in various offices in a manner creditable alike to himself and to the taxpayers. His home life bordered on the ideal, and the many pleasant family gatherings will pass on in vivid memories. When death visited the home of his neighbor, L. D. McNitt, leaving a number of orphaned children, little 8-year-old Gertrude was admitted into the family circle. On account of advanced age and failing health he retired from the strenuous work of the farm and removed with his wife to Winona, Minn., on March 18, 1902, where they resided in their pleasant home at 1066 West Seventh Street. He left a wife and step-daughter, Ella, wife of A. R. Warren; three sons, Dr. A. J. Lamberson, George W. Lamberson, L. H. Lamberson, and a daughter, Bernice, Mrs. Fred W. Lowe.

Amund Garthus is one of the leading citizens of Independence, and has been intimately associated with its business, political and social life for nearly 40 years. In building up a successful business he has assisted in the general development of the village, but the work by which he will be longest remembered is his civic service. The municipal improvements of the village have been his especial hobby, and he has given much of his spare time



MR. AND MRS. AMUND GARTHUS



MR. AND MRS. FREDERICK SEILER
C. F. W. SEILER AND FAMILY

and all of his influence, to bring some of these improvements about. For no less than 17 years he was president of the village council, and for 15 years he served on the school board, a long record of public work worthily and efficiently performed. He was born in Valders, Norway, Oct. 4, 1852, son of Harold and Karen (Rustebakke) Garthus. He was reared to manhood in the old country, and in 1880 set out for the United States. Sept. 14 of that year he reached Independence, where he obtained work as clerk in a store and was thus occupied for about nine months. He then entered into partnership with Henry Hanson and bought the store of O. P. Larson, which they conducted for two years and a half under the style of Hanson & Garthus. Subsequently Mr. Garthus conducted the business alone until 1884, when the store was destroyed by fire. In the fall of 1885 he started another store with J. A. Johanssen and was associated with him until the spring of 1889, at which time he bought the entire business and has since operated it alone. He has built up a good patronage and is doing a successful business. In 1901 he rebuilt the store, now having a two-room brick building, two stories and basement, measuring 42 by 70 feet. He and his family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church, he having been secretary of the Independence congregation for many years. Mr. Garthus was married Aug. 13, 1887, to Susanna Torgerson, of Vernon County, Wis., who was born in that county Dec. 9, 1864. Mr. and Mrs. Garthus have had six children: Harold O., born May 23, 1888, who is manager of his father's store; Samuel C., who died in 1907 at the age of 17 years; Lillian T., born February 18, 1892, who is a bookkeeper in her father's store; Ira B., born Sept. 18, 1894, and Adam S., born Nov. 26, 1897, who are employed in the store, and Arthur W., who died in infancy. Harold Garthus, father of Amund Garthus, was born Feb. 6, 1802, and died Oct. 12, 1880. He was married Nov. 12, 1836, to Karen Rustebakke, who was born Sept. 2, 1819, and died Oct. 16, 1891. Ole Forgeron, father of Mrs. Garthus, was born and reared in Norway, came to America in 1850, settled in Dane County, this State, moved to Vernon County in 1852, and there devoted his life to farming, dying at Independence in the spring of 1901, at the age of 86 years, his good wife, Sigri Midtveit, dying in 1896 at the age of 77 years.

C. F. W. Seiler, better known locally as Will Seiler, is one of the thriving farmers of Hale Township, being proprietor of Plainview Stock Farm of 320 acres, comprising the north half of section 13, town 23 north, range 8 west. He is a native of Wisconsin, having been born at Cream, Buffalo County, Dec. 9, 1871. His parents were Frederick and Frederika (Bade) Seiler, the father born in Mecklenburg, Germany, in 1844, and the mother in Germany in 1847. Frederick Seiler emigrated to the United States in the year 1869, locating at Fountain City, Wis., where he worked out and rented farms until 1880. He then bought the north half and northeast quarter of section 13, Hale Township, residing on and cultivating that farm until 1904, when he took up his residence in Whitehall. Here he died in 1909. His wife survived him some years, passing away in the spring of 1915. They were the parents of three children: C. F. W. Albert, who died in infancy, and Paulina. "Will" Seiler was reared on the parental homestead and worked for his father until 1900, which was the year in which he purchased

his present farm. Since then he has made some valuable improvements on it, in 1907 building his present residence, a 10-room, two-story, frame house, with basement, furnished with acetylene lights and running water. The barn was put up in 1905, and is 36 by 74 by 18 feet, with a cement floor basement, and has similar lighting and water facilities to the house. Mr. Seiler raises Shorthorn cattle, having 80 head of high graded animals, and milking 25; also graded Shropshire sheep, of which he has 50 head; and White Plymouth Rock chickens. His farm is well fenced with woven wire, its general appearance showing thrift and prosperity. Mr. Seiler is also a stockholder in the Farmers' Exchange Bank, of Osseo; the Pigeon Grain and Stock Company and the Whitehall Hospital. Mr. Seiler was married May 20, 1899, to Lena Sielaff, who was born in Lincoln Township, Trempealeau County, Wis., April 2, 1878, her parents being Reinhold and Wilhelmina (Schwolon) Sielaff. Four children have been born to them: Louise, May 4, 1900; Clarence, Feb. 15, 1901; Ida, July 2, 1902, and Esther, Sept. 13, 1905. Mr. Seiler and his family are members of the German Lutheran church, of which he is also a trustee. He has served as township treasurer for two years and since 1908 has been a director and treasurer of the school board of District No. 1.

Samuel Gunderson, proprietor of the Pleasant Hill Farm, section 22, Sumner Township, is a native of this county, has spent his life on his present farm, and has served his township as clerk since 1910 and his school district as clerk and director. He was born Sept. 12, 1875, was reared to agricultural pursuits, attended the district school, and in 1900 rented the home farm, which he bought in 1906. In carrying on general agricultural operations he has been very successful. By his wife, Hannah Amundson, whom he married May 2, 1906, he has five children: Helen, born March 27, 1907, died Aug. 12, 1917; Thomas, born Dec. 3, 1908; Ruth, born May 30, 1912; Sigvald, born Nov. 29, 1915, and Helen Almira, born July 15, 1917. Mrs. Gunderson was born in Sumner Township Aug. 31, 1875, daughter of Halvor and Ragnild (Hougen) Amundson, who came to America in 1869, located in Dane County, Wis., and three years later settled in Sumner Township, this county, the father, who was born in 1830, dying in 1907, and the mother, who was born in 1835, dying in 1913.

Torger Gunderson came to Trempealeau County in 1874, and located on a farm of 160 acres in section 22, Sumner Township, which he operated until 1900, when he rented it to his son Samuel, the fourth of his 12 children (who purchased it in 1906), and retired to a farm of 120 acres in section 28, in the same township, where he now lives. He was born in Norway, Feb. 20, 1846, came to America in 1869, and lived in Vernon County, this State, five years before coming to this county. His wife, Randi Simenson, was born in Norway, Dec. 12, 1846.

Frank M. Smith, stock dealer and agriculturist, of Osseo, is one of the prominent men in the community. He helped organize the State Bank of Osseo, has been one of its directors for many years, was its first depositor, and has been its president since 1912. He assisted in the organization of the Osseo Telephone Company, and is now a director and assistant manager of it. He has been a trustee of the Trempealeau County Asylum since its



TORGER GUNDERSON



-MR. AND MRS. SAM. GUNDERSON



MRS. TORGER GUNDERSON

establishment in 1900, and for a number of years served as secretary of the State Association of County Asylum Trustees and Superintendents. For several years he has been clerk of the school board of Osseo, and was one of the active promoters of the building of the new modern Lincoln Hill High School, which now adorns the village. In religious work he is also active, and has been trustee of the Congregational church for some time. His fraternal relations are with the Masonic order and the Modern Woodmen. Mr. Smith was born at Ithaca, Wis., Nov. 1, 1864, son of Mathias M. and Elizabeth M. (Thomas) Smith. His education was received in the district school of Neptune, and the high schools of Sextonville and Richland Center. With this preparation he taught for three years at Ithaca and Cazenovia, Wis. In June, 1889, he came to Osseo, and for some years operated a livery stable and meat market. Selling the livery business, he purchased a farm near Osseo, and another meat market in Fairchild, Wis., operating the two markets and doing an extensive business in live stock shipping for many years. He was married Jan. 1, 1892, to Florence Newell, daughter of George F. and Harriet R. (Sylvester) Newell, the former of whom, a miller, came to Osseo in 1880, and died in 1895, 14 years after the decease of his wife. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have three children: Cecile Harriet, married to Earl Johnson, of Augusta; Margaret E. and Newell M., who are at home with their parents. Miss Margaret is a graduate of the Austin High School, of Chicago, and Master Newell is a boy of 14 in the Osseo High School. Mrs. Smith has been and is active in church and social work, and has shared her husband's enthusiasm for better schools and better homes for Osseo. Their home is a hospitable one of culture and refinement, from which emanates a splendid influence for good. Mathias M. Smith was born in Herkimer County, N. Y., came to Wisconsin and located in Richland County in 1854, farmed there until 1900, then came to Osseo, and died here in 1906, his wife dying in 1910.

Robert C. Field, a sturdy pioneer of this county, was born in Cairo, Greene County, N. Y., May 6, 1804, son of Robert B. and Sally (Austin) Field. He grew to manhood in his native State, became a leading man in his community, and did distinguished service in the New York Assembly in 1844. In 1849 he came to Wisconsin, and located in Richland County. Here his former reputation preceded him, and 10 years after his arrival he was sent to the Wisconsin Assembly. After completing his duties at the State capital, he came to Trempealeau County, and located on section 16, in Sumner Township. As before, he speedily became a leader among his fellows, and in 1874 he was sent to the State Senate. While conducting his farm, he bought and sold cattle and also dealt in real estate. He died June 16, 1876, sincerely honored and mourned. Mr. Field was married Jan. 1, 1837, to Harriet M. Graham, who died a few months after their marriage. April 1, 1838, he married May Stoddard, who was born Nov. 3, 1815, and died Jan. 2, 1901, a daughter of Neri and Triphena (Beebe) Stoddard. Mr. and Mrs. Field had seven children: Harriet, who married E. S. Hotchkiss; Stoddard, a prominent man of Osseo; Robert D., Francis E., Horace A., Hiram H. and Mary E., who married C. D. Van Hoesen. All are dead except Stoddard.

Stoddard Field, one of the leading men of Osseo, has been an important factor in the upbuilding of the community. He has taken a deep interest in all the big enterprises of his day, has led an active life, and has been a useful and worthy citizen. He was born at Cairo, Greene County, N. Y., Aug. 19, 1842, son of Robert C. and Mary (Stoddard) Field, the pioneers. For many years he lived on the home farm near Osseo, carrying on agricultural operations while engaged extensively in stock dealing, and also handling considerable real estate. For a time he was a merchant at Osseo. In connection with his stock buying, he held for a considerable period the contract for furnishing meat for woodsmen in Northern Wisconsin. Sometimes he bought, killed and dressed as high as 100 head of cattle a day, to be shipped to Ashland, Wis., from which point it was distributed. Mr. Field is now living a retired life in his pleasant home in Osseo, where he is deeply beloved by all who know him. Mr. Field was married Jan. 1, 1871, to Martha E. Robbins, a teacher in Eau Claire, born in Marquette County, Wis., Feb. 25, 1850, daughter of E. W. and Laura (Pond) Robbins. E. W. Robbins was born in Lennox, N. Y., Feb. 24, 1821, and was married in 1846 to Laura Pond, who was born in Camden, N. Y. They came to Marquette County, Wis., in 1843, and to Eau Claire County in 1854, farming three miles east of Eau Claire until his death, Feb. 20, 1904. Mr. and Mrs. Field have two children: Leslie H., born Nov. 19, 1871, farms near Osseo. Clarence W., born Feb. 8, 1874, is a lumber dealer in Osseo.

Anton Senty, vice-president of the State Bank of Independence, was born in Buffalo County, Wis., Oct. 4, 1865. He is a son of John George and Margaret (Gasner) Senty. The father was born in Switzerland and came to the United States in 1849, settling in Sauk County, Wis., where he was engaged in farming. In 1857 he removed to Buffalo County, where the rest of his life was spent, as he died in Montana Township, that county, in 1879, at the age of 53 years. His wife Margaret died in 1913 at the age of 75. Anton Senty resided on the home farm until the age of 25 years. He acquired a good education, attending Gale College, at Galesville, after graduating from the Arcadia High School, and subsequently taking the regular course at the Winona Normal School. He then taught five winters in the public schools. While living on the farm he served as town clerk of Montana Township. In 1892 he became bookkeeper for John Sprecher, in whose employ he continued until 1897. In that year he and Mr. Sprecher organized the Sprecher & Senty Bank, a private institution, which later became the State Bank of Independence. Of this he became cashier and was also the practical manager, Mr. Sprecher being president. In 1913 Mr. Senty was elected vice-president, in which position he is still serving. He is also a stockholder in three other banking institutions and in the Sprecher Lumber Company. Since 1905 he has served as treasurer of the board of education of Independence. As a business man he is progressive, with a conservatism that avoids taking doubtful risks. The institution of which he is one of the leading officers is prospering and gradually increasing in strength and importance owing to the wise management of himself and his associates. Mr. Senty was united in marriage, Jan. 25, 1900, to Nellie Lockway, of Independence, a daughter of Michael and Sena (Severson) Lockway. Her



R. G. FIELD



STODDARD FIELD



ANTON SENTY AND FAMILY



PETER NELTON AND FAMILY

father, who was engaged in the grain business, died in 1908 at the age of 62 years. He is survived by his wife, who is now 62 years old and resides in Independence. Mr. and Mrs. Senty have had six children, two of whom died in infancy. Those living are: Lester A., who was born May 19, 1903; Margaret S., born April 15, 1909; Dorothy N., born Nov. 29, 1913, and Imogene, born Feb. 13, 1917. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Peter Nelton. Few names are better known in Trempealeau County than that of the subject of this sketch, who, besides operating a small but well-improved farm in section 33, Chimney Rock Township, has for many years been intimately connected with public affairs and is a leading member of the Democratic party in this section. He was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, Oct. 13, 1853, son of Mads and Mary Nelton. His mother died in 1860, in her native land, and the father, coming to America in 1869, died at Dubuque, Iowa, the same year at the age of 57 years. Peter Nelton did not come to this country until 1872, and then he settled at Topeka, Kan., where he obtained employment on the railroad and was thus occupied for two years. At the end of that time he came to Trempealeau County, Wis., and located in Arcadia, where he worked as lumberman and clerk until 1876. From that time until 1879 he resided in Borst Valley, being employed on a farm and then purchased his present place in section 33, Chimney Rock Township. The farm contains 40 acres, the land being fertile and the buildings neat and substantial. Mr. Nelton is president of the creamery company at Independence. Aside from the duties connected therewith, and the management of his farm, he has for a long period devoted a large part of his time to the public service, for 20 years having been chairman of the township board and a member of the county board by virtue of that office. He was also clerk of the school board 18 years; chairman of the county Democratic committee three years, and in the office of the Railway Commission at Madison from 1891 to 1895. In 1911 and 1912 he served as a member of the Wisconsin Assembly. In all these various positions Mr. Nelton has shown himself an efficient and conscientious public servant, familiar with local conditions, loyal to his constituents and progressive in spirit and action when changes were needed in the laws or in their application. That he has gained the confidence of his fellow citizens is attested by the fact that he has been so continuously in public life, having advanced usually from lower to higher positions. He is a member of the Masonic lodge in Arcadia and also of the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Nelton has enjoyed the comforts and shared the responsibilities of domestic life for over 40 years, having been married Nov. 1, 1876, to Mary Olson, who was born in Denmark, May 28, 1844. He and his wife are the parents of three children: Mamie is now a teacher, having been a student in the University of Wisconsin. Nora is a teacher in Chimney Rock Township. Earl was an attorney at Grand Rapids, Wis., for two years. He is now in the United States service, having been made a lieutenant in the officers' reserve camp at Camp Custer, near Battle Creek, Mich.

Judson A. Palmer, M. D., one of the leading physicians and most influential citizens of Trempealeau County, was born near Bothwell,

Ontario, Canada, June 9, 1868, son of Gideon A. and Jane (Wilson) Palmer. The father, who was born in Nova Scotia in 1832, was a farmer by occupation; he died at Bothwell, Ontario, Oct. 4, 1908; his wife, who was born in Bothwell in 1838, died there Feb. 7, 1912; they had a family of eight children, all born in Bothwell: Emily, born in 1864, and now Mrs. Joseph McAuslin of Bothwell; Hiram W., born in 1866, who is engaged in farming near Bothwell; Judson A., subject of this sketch; Spurgeon, born in 1870, who is a traveling salesman residing at La Crosse, Wis.; Alexander, born in 1878, who is a farmer living near Bothwell; Fannie, born in 1884, who is residing at the old home in Bothwell; Eliza, born in 1886, who resides in Ontario, and George, born in 1891, who is an expert machinist, making his home in Bothwell. Both Eliza and Fannie are unmarried. Judson A. Palmer came to the United States in 1887 and entered the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, from the medical department of which he was graduated in 1890. In the same year he began medical practice at Foston, Minn., but after remaining there one month he removed to Red Wing, Minn. In July, 1891, he came to Arcadia, where he built up a good reputation throughout this part of the county as physician and surgeon. Dr. Palmer was appointed local medical examiner for all the old line insurance companies represented in this section, and also for a number of fraternal lodges and orders, to which he himself belongs. He has been a Chapter Mason since 1896, a Knight Templar since 1911, a member of the Consistory and the Shrine since 1914. The other lodges or orders of which he is a member are: The Eastern Star, Independent Order of Foresters, Yeomen, Woodmen of the World, Modern Woodmen of America, Knights of the Maccabees, Beavers, Knights of Pythias and Elks. For several years he has been a member of the county board and has served in several local offices. Aug. 6, 1907, he enlisted in the United States service, received a commission as first lieutenant and was sent to Ft. Riley, Kansas.

March 27, 1895, Dr. Palmer was united in marriage with Alice M., daughter of Daniel and Florence (Caldwell) Bigham of Arcadia Township, who were among the earliest settlers of Trempealeau County. Dr. and Mrs. Palmer have one son, Donald, born on Aug. 22, 1911. Mrs. Palmer is active and prominent in various society circles, being a member of the Eastern Star and a past member of the Grand Chapter, Eastern Star. She is also interested in educational matters and is now serving as secretary of the county committee on common schools, having been appointed by the county board.

Halvor K. Moen, a retired farmer residing at Arcadia "Old Town," a mile east of the present village of Arcadia, was born in the province of Christiansand-Telemarken, Norway, April 4, 1849, son of Kittle and Turi Moen. In 1866, at the age of 17 years, he came to America, landing at Quebec, Canada, from which city he journeyed by train to Windsor, crossing into the United States at Detroit, and proceeding by train to Chicago. Here an attempt was made to forward him, with others of the party to Milwaukee by boat, but as their tickets called for rail transportation they stood on their rights and came by train to Dane County, Wisconsin, locating near Madison. Young Moen, who had neither money nor ticket, passed

as a member of another family. After staying in Dane County until November, he left for Prairie du Chien, taking boat from the latter place to La Crosse and proceeding on foot the rest of the way to Trempealeau County, on his arrival here locating in Holcomb Coulie. He worked at whatever he could find to do for a number of years thereafter, boating on the Mississippi River, helping in the Minnesota harvest fields and lumbering in the woods during the winters, for many seasons running logs on Black River. In 1870 he went to Norway for his parents, buying for them a homesteader's right to 120 acres in Holcomb Coulie, where they settled on their arrival. In 1875 he bought 200 acres of partly improved land in Thompson's Valley, three miles from Arcadia in Arcadia township, on which land stood a small log house. This property he rented till 1883 and then began working it for himself. On March 12, 1885, Mr. Moen married Carrie Hanson, daughter of Sever and Torbjor Hanson of Thompson's Valley, who was born in Norway and when a child of two years came to America with her parents, they settling in Trempealeau County, Wisconsin. Until 1899 he and his wife resided in the log cabin on the farm and then Mr. Moen built a good residence—a two-story, brick-veneer house of nine rooms. In 1890 he built his first barn, six years later erecting a modern frame barn, 24 by 44 feet, with full basement. He has also put up a granary and machine shed combined, a hog house, poultry house, spring-house and other necessary or useful buildings. He continued to improve and cultivate the farm until 1916, in which year he retired to his present residence, where he is passing the time in ease and comfort, the reward of many years of strenuous exertion. He is a stockholder in the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company, the Arcadia Shipping Association, the Independent Cattle Company of North Dakota, and the Independent Harvester Company of Plano, Ill. His financial interests in North Dakota and Montana are quite extensive. He and his wife have reared a family of ten children: Thomas, residing in Montana, unmarried; Rena, living in Montana and the owner of a claim there; Thea, who resides at Devils Lake, N. D.; Clara, residing at home, unmarried; Helma, unmarried, who graduated from the Arcadia high school and the normal school at Mayville, N. D., and has taught school for the past five years; Sarah, a graduate of the Arcadia high school and of the La Crosse normal school, who is unmarried, and is teaching in Montana, where she owns a claim; Gelena, who married Gustav Timboe and resides at Devils Lake, N. D.; Otto, who is a student at the Wisconsin Business University, La Crosse, Wis.; Carrie, a student in the Arcadia high school, and Carl, attending the Arcadia school, both residing at home. Mr. Moen and his family are members of the Tamarack Lutheran Congregation. He is a charter member and was one of the founders of the church located in Norway Coulie, south of his old homestead. In politics he is a Democrat. He served as township assessor two years, was tax collector a number of years, treasurer of the school district No. 7 for several years, and clerk of the board one year, rendering efficient service in these various offices.

Michael English, insurance and real estate man of Arcadia, was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, April 3, 1850, son of Daniel and Margaret

(Hawley) English, who brought him to this country that same year. He spent his early boyhood in various places in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Wisconsin, and was brought to Arcadia Township, this county, as a boy of fourteen. He was reared to farm pursuits, taught school four years, was undersheriff six years, and has been in his present line of endeavor since 1874. For two years he was town treasurer. Mr. English was married Jan. 25, 1876, to Anna Glennon, who was born Nov. 13, 1857, daughter of Redmond and Margaret Glennon. This union has been blessed with five children: Edward G., Ralph, Margaret, Redmond F. and Mark. Edward G. graduated from the Arcadia high school, and from the medical college of the University of Wisconsin, and is now a physician in Pachuca, Mexico, in which country he has lived for the past nine years. Ralph died at the age of nine years. Margaret is the wife of George H. Barry, implement dealer of Arcadia. Redmond F. graduated from the Arcadia high school and the University of Washington and is now in partnership with his father. Mark has also studied engineering in the University of Washington.

Daniel English, for many years a well-known citizen of Trempealeau County, was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, May 19, 1819, and there spent his youth. As a young man he married Margaret Hawley. They came to America in 1850, and to secure funds for their trip to the Mississippi Valley worked in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Reaching Wisconsin they worked for a while in Milwaukee and La Crosse. In 1864 they came to Trempealeau County and settled on a farm in the southern part of Arcadia Township. Through thrift, economy and hard labor he soon developed a fine farm, and became one of the substantial men of the community. In 1889 he moved his family to Arcadia Village, and there resided until his death, in 1898. He had been a true husband, a kind father, and loyal friend and a good citizen, and his loss was sincerely mourned. Daniel English and Margaret Hawley were married April 5, 1848. Mrs. Hawley was born May 28, 1824, and proved an able helpmate of her husband through all the changing fortunes of life. Mr. and Mrs. English were the parents of seven children: Michael, John, May, Ellen, Edward G., Daniel and William T. Michael and John live in Arcadia. May and Edward G. live in Mt. Vernon, Wash. Daniel lives in British Columbia. Ellen, who became Mrs. Egan, and Dr. W. T., formerly of Winona, are dead.

Noah D. Comstock, a pioneer settler of Arcadia, long passed away, but whose memory will remain green for many years to come, was born in Lowville, Lewis County, N. Y., Nov. 22, 1832. In his native town he received a common school and partially academic education. When 18 years of age he moved to Calhoun County, Mich., and one year later to Indiana, where he taught school until 1853. In that year he crossed overland the great plains and mountains to the gold mines of California. After working in the gold mines for two years, he returned east as far as Wisconsin and in 1855 became one of the first settlers of Arcadia. He was town assessor in 1858, county treasurer in 1860, and re-elected in 1862 and 1864, was a member of the county board in 1868, and a member of the assembly from Trempealeau County in 1872, 1874, 1875 and 1876; he also held other local offices

and was elected state senator in 1882. In 1868 Mr. Comstock was united in marriage to Ellen Comstock, a union of the happiest and brightest order, lasting for more than 20 years. But in time came the inevitable end, and after a long, patient and resolute struggle against the messenger of death, Noah Durham Comstock passed away on the morning of the 6th of June, 1890. His death was regretted by all who knew him, for he possessed all the characteristics of a true and noble gentleman. A man of great independence of character and stern integrity, united with rare ability, he had a warm heart and a remarkably unselfish and self-sacrificing disposition, being ever ready to lend his counsel and assistance to those in need. In manner he was modest and retiring. Void of all superstitious fear of death, his main study was to learn how to live—how to utilize his narrow span of time here in the faithful performance of life's daily and hourly duties, indulging in no vain speculations as to the shadowy future. Like the Hebrew sage, of whom Longfellow speaks in one of his shorter poems, he sought to be remembered "as one who loved his fellow men." During his last sickness he was gentle and patient, and greatly appreciated all that was done for him. He suffered much, but never complained, though he was conscious to the last, and when death came it was as a peaceful sleep. At his own request, his funeral services were conducted by Judge A. W. Newman, of Trempealeau, and his remains were followed from his residence to the village cemetery by a large concourse of friends and neighbors who had come from nearly every part of the county to pay a last sad tribute of respect to one whom in life they had learned to honor and esteem. To his wife and children he left the fragrance of an exemplary life and the honor of a stainless name.

James Gaveney was one of the founders and pioneers of Trempealeau County, his personality was woven into much of the warp and woof of the county's early history, and his name was inseparably connected with its destinies for many years. He not only developed one of the best farms in the county, but he likewise became interested in a number of important business ventures, and his varied activities included the milling, lumbering and cheese-making industries. James Gaveney was born at Bally Bay, County Monaghan, Ireland, April 5, 1825. Left an orphan at an early age, he was reared to farm pursuits, and upon attaining his majority, went to Dublin, where for some years he was employed as a member of the police force. While thus engaged he constantly heard stories of the wonderful possibilities offered to men of industry and intelligence in the United States, and he accordingly determined to try his fortunes in the new world. The opportunity came in 1848, when, with little more than sufficient funds to pay his passage, he set out for America. After landing, he found his way to Mineral Point, this State, where for a while he was engaged in lead mining. In 1852, when the excitement attending the gold discovery in California was at its height, he joined Captain Sublette's company and crossed the plains to the Pacific coast. His first location in that State was at French Corral, where he remained one year, and was afterward at Forest City about four years. At French Corral he formed the acquaintance of Noah Comstock, another pioneer and prominent citizen of Trempealeau County, who

preceded Mr. Gaveney here by a year, and became one of the first settlers in the now historic "Bishop Colony," of which he was a member. The circumstances of the meeting of these two sturdy frontiersmen was most peculiar, and furnished them with much amusement in after years. According to the story which, with many a chuckle, they often told, they met as strangers, and there arose between them a most serious dispute as to the title of a certain claim which grew so violent in its character that revolvers were drawn, and the quarrel seemed likely to terminate seriously to one or both of the parties. But better counsels prevailed, and they agreed to work the claim in partnership. As these gentlemen came to know each other better, and to appreciate each other's better qualities, a friendship was formed which only ceased with death. Their attachment was ever a subject of remark.

Mr. Gaveney returned from California via the Isthmus of Panama, and came to Trempealeau County from Mineral Point in 1856; he first purchased 40 acres of land, which forms a part of the present homestead of the family; and he afterward increased his possessions until he owned many hundred acres. His life was devoted mainly to agricultural pursuits, and he was ever a well-known and influential citizen. In 1879, in company with Mr. Comstock, he bought the Independence Mill at Independence, where they did quite an extensive business; their output averaged about \$60,000 per annum. They were also engaged in the lumber business at the same place. Personally, Mr. Gaveney was a man of more than average physical strength, and possessed great will power. He was prominent in whatever tended to promote the best interests of the community in which he lived, and possessed the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens. In his political affiliations he was a Republican. His tastes were opposed to the seeking of political preferment, but he was prevailed upon to accept a number of public offices, including the chairmanship of his township, and other positions, and from June, 1876, until July, 1885, he was postmaster, resigning his position by reason of advancing years. He was a successful man, and deservedly so, and at his death, which occurred June 21, 1889, the community was bereft of one of its most worthy citizens. He left behind him a record worthy of preservation in the annals of his county. Mr. Gaveney was married in Arcadia, in 1860, to Maria Martha Briggs, who was born in Vermont, June 30, 1830. This union was blessed with three children: Charles, John C. and Mamie. Charles was born May 27, 1861, and died Dec. 5, 1889. John C. was born Oct. 30, 1863, and is one of the leading citizens of Arcadia. Mamie died at the age of 11 years, in 1879. After the death of Mr. Gaveney his good wife continued to live on the pleasant homestead near the village of Arcadia until her lamented death, Feb. 19, 1908.

John C. Gaveney, leading attorney, former senator, member of the Wisconsin Exemption Board, president of the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company, president of the Ettrick & Northern Railroad Company, vice-president of the Bank of Arcadia, owner of a modern stock farm, and prominently identified with the political, economical and social life of Trempealeau County for the past 30 years, is one of the leading citizens of Western Wisconsin, and his name is inseparably connected with its history, as was that



John C. Gaveney

of his father before him. The career which has led to these many honors and distinctions has been a most notable one. Born on the pioneer homestead in this county, June 30, 1863, he was reared to sturdy boyhood, and attended first the school at Old Arcadia, and then the school in the new village, graduating from the Arcadia public schools with the class of 1879. Thus prepared, he increased his educational experience by teaching for several seasons, and then, in 1881, entered the University of Wisconsin, graduating in the class of 1885 with the degree of B. A. Then he again taught for a while, and subsequently entered the law department of his alma mater, receiving his degree of LL. B. with the class of 1888. He began the practice of his profession at Milwaukee, but a short time afterward formed a partnership with J. O. Raymond at Stevens Point. He was there on the highway to success, when he was called home by the death of his father, June 21, 1890, and the death of his brother, Dec. 5, 1889, and the burdens of the various interests of the estate fell upon his shoulders. He at once opened an office here, but for the first three years he was largely engaged in operating the mill and lumber yard at Independence, and the farms at Independence and Arcadia. He is now dean of the lawyers of the county, he has been engaged in most of its important litigation for nearly 30 years, and he has been one of the most eloquent and able attorneys that has ever practiced before its courts. His interest in farming has never abated. His large tract of 500 acres near the village is one of the show places of the county. Here he carries on general agricultural operations along the most modern improved lines, making a specialty of dairying and stock raising and maintaining a fine herd of Holstein-Friesian cattle. A tractor engine furnishes much of the motive power, and a feature of the work on the place is the new B. L. K. milking machines, the farm being the first in this region where such equipment was installed. The story of the starting of the telephone line which has now become the important Western Wisconsin Telephone Company by Mr. Gaveney and a few of his friends, as well as the story of the Ettrick & Northern Railroad, and his shaping of its destinies since the people of Ettrick first conceived the project is told elsewhere in this work, as is also the story of the municipal improvements of Arcadia, many of the most important of which were installed during his terms of office as village president, and all of which have been given the benefit of his influence and enthusiasm. Since early manhood he has been interested in politics, he has been the center of many a political fight as a delegate to county, district and State conventions, and while he has preferred to be a power behind the office rather than to actually occupy office himself, he has served in several important public positions. His service as state senator in 1901-1905 added materially to his influence throughout the State. Being of a fraternal nature, Senator Gaveney has allied himself with Arcadia Lodge, No. 201, A. F. & A. M., and with Chapter No. 76, R. A. M. He is a lover of the out-of-doors, and aside from farming, his greatest hobby is fishing, some of his greatest legal problems having been worked out while he was "casting" for trout along the beautiful streams of Trempealeau County. In personality, Senator Gaveney is of genial temperament and tremendous energy, a polished gentleman of the old school, and much of his

influence is reflected in the progressive spirit of the village. He is democratic and approachable, an untiring worker for every good cause or worthy project. His beautiful home, erected on a bluff overlooking the business section of the village, is one of the social centers of the county, and he and Mrs. Gaveney delight in dispensing hospitality to young and old alike. Mr. Gaveney was married, April 9, 1890, to Isadore D. Webster, step-daughter of Judge E. W. Keyes, of Madison. This union has been blessed with two children: Marguerite and Stanleigh. Marguerite was born Oct. 2, 1891, graduated from the Arcadia High School, attended the University of Wisconsin, became a proficient musician, and is now proprietor of a millinery establishment in Arcadia. Stanleigh was born July 6, 1896, graduated from the Arcadia High School, where he attained considerable distinction as an athlete, and is now attending the University of Wisconsin, with a view to later adopting his father's profession.

Albert Hess, postmaster, and editor of the Arcadia Leader, is a native of this State, having been born in Buffalo County, Montana Township, Sept. 24, 1871, son of George and Fredericka (Beutner) Hess. George Hess was born in Germany, came to America in 1850, lived at Cleveland, Ohio, five years, employed as a carpenter, came to Winona, Minn., in 1855, and located in Buffalo County in 1860, there remaining until his death in 1895 at the age of 70 years. He married in 1852 Fredericka Beutner, who was born in Germany in 1830, came to America in 1851, and now lives in Buffalo County at the age of 87 years. Three of the children in the family are living. Albert Hess attended the public schools of his neighborhood, supplemented with courses in the high schools at Arcadia and Alma. He was reared to farm pursuits, and remained on the home farm until 1896. Then he was employed in the machine business at Arcadia, six years. In 1902 he entered the postal service as mail carrier on Route No. 1, out of Arcadia. The Leader being for sale in 1904, he purchased it, and has since been its editor and proprietor. Sept. 1, 1913, he was appointed postmaster by President Woodrow Wilson. Previous to this for three years he had been secretary of the Democratic County Committee. Mr. Hess was married Jan. 1, 1896, to Clara Nickel, daughter of Fred and Elizabeth (Fenstermacher) Nickel, the former of whom is pastor of the Evangelical Association church at Port Washington, Wis. Mr. and Mrs. Hess have one daughter, Ethel, born May 11, 1899, who assisted her father in the postoffice, but now is a student at the State University at Madison, Wis.

Caspar Wohlgenant, a prosperous business man of Arcadia Village, was born in the Tyrol, Austria, Aug. 22, 1849, son of Joseph and Catherine (Coeb) Wohlgenant. When he was 12 years old his parents died and he had to go to work to earn his own living. At 15 years he began to learn the cabinetmaker's trade, finishing his apprenticeship at the age of 19. For the next two years he traveled through Switzerland, working at his trade. On attaining his majority he was turned over to the Austrian government, according to the law enforcing military service, but instead of serving he decided to come to America. Landing in New York in 1871, he proceeded by rail to Dubuque, Iowa, where he worked two years as a carpenter and millwright. In 1873 he went to Wabasha, Minn., finding



ALBERT HESS, MISS ETHEL HESS, MRS. ALBERT HESS

employment in a furniture factory there and remaining two years. Coming to Arcadia in the fall of 1875, he entered into partnership with E. J. Tracy in the furniture business, and this partnership was continued until the fall of 1877, when it was dissolved, Mr. Wohlgenant buying Mr. Tracy's interest. A few months later Mr. Wohlgenant associated himself as partner with Peter Ley, and they continued together for two years, at the end of which time the subject of this sketch bought out Mr. Ley and again became sole owner of the business. During the partnership above mentioned a frame store was built by the firm, which is now occupied by Mr. Wohlgenant's successor. In connection with the furniture business Mr. Wohlgenant built and operated a planing mill, and in 1896 he added a lumber business, establishing a yard in Arcadia, which he still operates. June 1, 1914, he sold his furniture business, together with the store building, to John J. Schneider, a son-in-law, who now operates the leading furniture business in Arcadia, carrying a large stock. Since purchasing the business Mr. Schneider has erected a two-story brick block, 35 by 80 feet. Mr. Wohlgenant was married, July 22, 1878, to Mary, daughter of Peter and Catherine Ley, of Arcadia. He and his wife have had four children: Rosy, born in 1879, who died in 1893; Mary, born Feb. 2, 1884, who is now Mrs. Harry Engeldinger, of Durand, Wis.; Katherine, born May 30, 1886, now Mrs. Perry Comersford, of Chicago, Ill., and Anna, born March 8, 1889, who is the wife of John J. Schneider, of Arcadia. All these children were born in Arcadia. Mr. Wohlgenant is a Democrat politically. He has served two terms as a member of the county board, has been president of Arcadia village two terms, and a member of the village board for many years. Aside from his lumber business, he is a stockholder in Bank of Arcadia and also in the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company and the Arcadia Brewery. He and his entire family are members of the Catholic church, and since 1914 he has belonged to the Knights of Columbus. The family is one of the most respected in this part of Trempealeau County.

John J. Schneider, the leading furniture dealer of Arcadia, Wis., was born in Montana Township, Buffalo County, Wis., Jan. 17, 1886. He was educated in the district schools of his native township, which he attended until he was 12 years old, and from 12 to 15 continued his studies in the German Catholic parochial school in Arcadia, and later in the Arcadia High School. Until he was 20 years old he worked on his father's farm, subsequently entering the employ of Fugina Bros. & Fertig as clerk in their department store, and remaining with them until 1907. In 1898 his parents moved to Arcadia from their farm in Buffalo County. It was in the winter of 1907-08 that the subject of this sketch entered the Winona Business College, at Winona, Minn., and he remained there until he had completed the full business course. Then returning to Arcadia, he purchased the bakery business of Joseph Bast, which he carried on for one year, and then sold out. In 1909 he went to Chicago and took a course in embalming at the Barnes School, and on his return entered the employ of Caspar Wohlgenant, furniture dealer. Dec. 7, 1910, he bought the furniture stock of Mr. Wohlgenant and has since been the proprietor of the business. June 1, 1914, he bought the building occupied by Mr. Wohlgenant and in the same year

added a one-story brick block, 35 by 80 feet, thus expanding his furniture and undertaking business, which has now reached large proportions. He was now a man of family, having married, Sept. 4, 1912, Anna, daughter of Caspar and Mary Wohlgenant, of Arcadia. They have one child, Bernice, who was born Feb. 26, 1914. Mr. Schneider and his family are members of the Catholic church. Since 1910 he has belonged to the Order of Red Men, and since 1911 to the Knights of Columbus.

Matt. Scow came to Trempealeau County in 1868 and located in Newcomb's Valley, seven miles east of Arcadia Village, where he homesteaded 160 acres in section 33. The land was wild and had to be grubbed and cleared before crops could be planted. The first home was a small structure, 14 by 16 feet, which is now the south wing of the present house. Additions were made from time to time until the home is a pleasant two-story building of eleven comfortable rooms. Beginning under the most primitive circumstances, with a yoke of oxen, and but few tools, he gradually achieved prosperity. To his original claim he added 40 acres, thus making a farm of 200 acres, of which 150 was tilled. After a long life, filled with busy work, he died in 1904 at the age of 72 years. Two weeks later his wife died. They were buried in the cemetery of the Fagerness Lutheran church, of which they were numbered among the founders and liberal supporters. Mr. Scow was born in Norway in 1832, there married Isabella Olson, and with her came to America in 1866, landing at New York, and living near Madison, in Dane County, Wisconsin, before coming to Trempealeau. In the family there were seven children: Tillie, now of Minneapolis; Minnie, now wife of C. W. Cann of Jersey City, N. J.; Josie, now wife of M. J. Skogstad, a farmer of Blair, this county; Olive, now Mrs. C. J. Skogstad of Whitehall, Wis.; Ida, now Mrs. E. K. Stutlien of Blair, Wis.; Albert Mark, who owns the home place, and Emil, an attorney of Bowman, N. D.

Albert Mark Scow is a native of Trempealeau County, born on the homestead in section 33, Arcadia Township, in Newcomb's Valley, Dec. 3, 1875, son of Matt and Isabella (Olson) Scow. He was educated in the district schools, learned farming from his father, rented the home farm in 1901, and purchased it from his co-heirs in 1909. On this place he now carries on general farming and dairying, owning a good herd of Holstein and Redpoll cattle. He has improved the house and has erected a frame barn, 36 by 80 by 14, with full basement and equipped with the James system, stanchions and other conveniences. He has also constructed a granary, cattle stalls, machine sheds and similar buildings. A Republican in politics, he is a public-spirited citizen. His fraternal associations are with the Beavers at Arcadia. Mr. Scow was married Dec. 26, 1910, to Lena Erickson, daughter of Paul and Matilda Erickson of Newcomb's Valley, and this union has been blessed with four children: Palmer, born Nov. 4, 1904; Raymond, born June 30, 1906; Evelyn, born Oct. 16, 1910, and Maurice Leonard, born April 11, 1917.

George Meier, head butter maker for the Farmers Co-operative Creamery Company of Arcadia, and a man who has had a wide experience in his line of work, was born Feb. 12, 1878, at Waumandee, Buffalo County, Wis.



MR. AND MRS. JACOB HOTZ

His parents were Andrew and Catherine (Staum) Meier, the father born at Northstabl, Freiderichstadt, Germany, May 3, 1845, and the mother in Canton Schauffhausen, Switzerland, Oct. 14, 1851. Andrew Meier came to America in 1871, a single man, his future wife coming alone in 1873. Both of them settled in Montana, Buffalo County, Wis., where they were married Nov. 6, 1874. For many years Andrew Meier was engaged in farming, being thus occupied until his death, March 14, 1891, after which his wife came to reside in Arcadia Village, Trempealeau County. Their children, eight in number, were: Elizabeth, born Jan. 25, 1875, who is now the wife of Hiram Hensel of Arcadia; George, the subject of this sketch; Maria, born Jan. 22, 1878, now Mrs. Matt Burnie of Fairchild, Wis.; Katherine, born March 19, 1880, who is unmarried and has resided in New York City for the past 18 years; Andrew, who was born June 12, 1882, and is now living at Wibaux, Mont.; Anna Lena, who died in infancy; Henry, born Nov. 13, 1885, who is living at Fresno, Cal., and John, born Nov. 9, 1890, who is a resident of Linton, N. D. George Meier in his youth attended the district school and the graded school at Arcadia. Relinquishing his studies at the age of 17, he worked out on farms until 1897, at which time he entered the Arcadia creamery as butter maker's helper, and was thus employed until 1900. During the winter of 1899-00 he attended the short term dairy course at Madison, Wis., and in the following spring became head butter maker at the Arcadia creamery. In this position he continued until 1907, when the company sold out. On the eighth of April, that year, Mr. Meier went to Ogden, Utah, where he entered the employ of the Blackman & Griffin Creamery Company as first butter maker. With this concern he remained only until February, 1908, going then to Salt Lake City, in the same state, where he worked as head butter maker with the Cache Valley Condensed Milk Company. In the spring of 1909 he returned to Arcadia, arriving home February 19, and on the following day took the position of head butter maker with the Farmers Co-operative Creamery Company of Arcadia, with which concern he has since remained. Mr. Meier is also a stockholder in the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Masons, belonging to Lodge No. 201 and Chapter No. 76; has been a member of the Modern Woodmen of America since 1901, and also belongs to the Beavers. In politics he is a Republican, but is not active politically. Mr. Meier was married Oct. 6, 1914, to Louise, daughter of Thomas and Oleen Johnson of Osseo, Wis., the marriage ceremony taking place at Arcadia. He and his wife have three children: Wilmar, born Nov. 12, 1905; Nolda, born Jan. 15, 1914, and Oleen, born Jan. 13, 1916.

Jacob Hotz, a resident of Arcadia Village, is a man who has conquered fortune by industry and perseverance in spite of adverse circumstances. He was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, May 24, 1864, son of Adam and Margaret E. (Sior) Hotz. His parents were both born in Germany, the father May 8, 1834, and the mother March 26, 1837. In 1882 the family came to America, landing in New York, from which city they proceeded direct to Arcadia, Wis. They were very poor and the expenses of the voyage had almost depleted their scanty resources. During the first year

in this country Adam Hotz worked at the trade of blacksmith, which he had followed in the old country, going from place to place to find employment. In 1883 he opened a shop in Arcadia, and did general blacksmith work, being handicapped, however, by the fact that he was unable to shoe horses, but his skill as a lock and gunsmith was of assistance to him. He continued in business in Arcadia until his death, which occurred June 26, 1895. His wife died in 1915, aged 78 years. Jacob Hotz, who was an only child, was 18 years old when his parents settled in Arcadia. He soon found work on a farm and was thus occupied during the summers until he had reached the age of 21, attending Arcadia high school in the winters. He then went to work for Dr. George N. Hidershide, in whose employ he continued for five years without the loss of a day. In the spring of 1890 he went to Winona, Minn., where he was employed in a greenhouse, but stayed only a short time, as he found his pay was uncertain. Returning to Arcadia, he again went to work for Dr. Hidershide and was there one year. After the death of his father he was left with the care and support of his widowed mother. In the fall of 1896 he was offered and accepted the position of janitor in the Arcadia public schools, and although now 32 years of age, on small wages and with his mother to support, he determined to improve his education by taking the high school course, and accordingly did so, graduating in 1900 with honor at the age of 36, an example of what may be achieved by courage and determination. A year before he graduated he gave another proof of his courage by marrying, Aug. 17, 1899, Mary Jegi, daughter of Simon and Agnes (Dascher) Jagi of West Arcadia, bringing her to his home. However, he had gained confidence in himself by this time, and it is safe to say that he has never regretted what some people might have regarded as a premature marriage. He was the more confident, as one year after entering the high school he had laid the foundation for future success in a business way by purchasing the old fair ground in Arcadia, a plot of land of 17 acres, with buildings and surrounded by a fence. From the material in the fence and buildings he erected his present buildings—a two-story, brick veneer house of nine rooms, and a frame barn, 24 by 48 by 20 feet, for hay and stock. In 1915 Mr. Hotz added 14 adjoining acres to his property, having now 31 acres, all within the village limits. He does a dairy business, keeping 12 cows and selling the milk, also raises small fruits and keeps 50 swarms of bees, and in addition to all this is a stockholder in the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company. Some of the money for his investments was earned during his high school period by selling nursery stock and old line life insurance. Had not the care of his mother devolved upon him at that time he would have taken the complete agricultural course in the Wisconsin University, as he had taken as his motto, "It is never too late for one to learn." As it is, his present prosperity has been well earned, and is visible in the thrifty and flourishing appearance of his little farm. He and his wife are among the highly respected people of the village. They have no children of their own, but have three boys in their home whom they are taking care of and educating. Mr. Hotz was reared in the German Lutheran faith, but when a young man embraced the German Evangelical doctrines. His wife is also

a German Evangelical in religion. In politics Mr. Hotz is independent, voting for the man rather than for the party.

James Hanson was brought to Trempealeau County as a baby, and has lived on his present farm in Arcadia Township since 1896. During his residence here he has taken his part in the progress of the community by developing a good place, and he is regarded as one of the thrifty men of the neighborhood. He was born not far from Christiania, Norway, April 25, 1870, the son of Hans and Maren (Sorlie) Hanson. The father having died in 1871, the mother brought her baby son to America, a few weeks later, and took up her home with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Sorlie, who had previously brought the other members of the family to America and homesteaded 160 acres of land in Lake's Coulie, Arcadia Township, this county. After living with her parents for a while, the young widow married Hans Tolloken of French Creek, Newcomb's Valley, Arcadia Township. James Hanson was reared in the home of his stepfather and grandparents, helped about the farm and attended the district schools. At the age of sixteen years he started out for himself and was variously employed, working in the forests of Jackson and Clark Counties in the winters, running logs in the spring and working on farms in the summers. When he was twenty-six years old he married and soon thereafter acquired 160 acres in Newcomb's Valley, Arcadia Township. This land had been partly improved and a small frame house, together with a straw-covered shed for stock had been erected. To this home he brought his bride, and began to develop and improve the farm, which now consists of 280 acres, 120 acres having been added on the east side. Soon after moving on the place Mr. Hanson replaced the small house with a slightly twelve-roomed house, which is still the family home. It is connected with the neighbors' houses by the line of the Farmers' Telephone Company, in which Mr. Hanson is a stockholder. Other buildings have been erected as necessity has required, until the improvements now consist of good barns, a granary, tool house, stock sheds and the like, all in the best of condition. Running water from sparkling springs plentifully supplies the house and barns. On this excellent place Mr. Hanson carries on general farming and stockraising, having a good grade of Shorthorn cattle. In addition to this he has operated a threshing outfit for the past twenty-five years. Mr. Hanson was married May 21, 1896, to Anna Christianson, the daughter of Arndt and Caroline Christenson of Preston Township, and this union has been blessed with eight children: Alfred, born Jan. 3, 1897; William, Dec. 29, 1898; Cornelia (deceased); Arthur, Feb. 6, 1904; Isabelle, June 6, 1906; Myrtle, Jan. 23, 1909; Hazel, Jan. 23, 1911; James, May 4, 1914. The family attends the Fagerness Lutheran church, only a few miles away.

August F. Hensel, one of the hardy pioneers of Arcadia Township, now passed away, was born in Prussia, Germany, Oct. 17, 1834. His father, John F. Hensel, was born in Prussia in 1803, his mother being born in that country in 1801. In 1839 they came to America with their family of five children, sailing from Hamburg in the spring and landing in New York after a tedious voyage of three months in a slow sailing vessel. From New York they went direct to Buffalo, where they remained two years, John F.

Hensel finding employment on the Erie canal. In 1841, when the subject of this sketch was seven years old, they migrated to Milwaukee Township, Wisconsin, which place was their home until about 1847, in which year they came to Granville Township, where the father had secured a piece of land, and this, with the help of his sons, he improved. In 1861 the family returned to Milwaukee, where John F. Hensel engaged in the house moving business. That city remained his home for the rest of his life and he died there May 29, 1886, at the advanced age of 83 years. His wife, whose maiden name is not now remembered, died in Milwaukee in February, 1881, at the age of 80. There were seven children in their family: Caroline, Edward, Julius, Matilda, August F., John A. and Charles A. John Alfred was born on the voyage to America and was named after the ship on which he was born. Charles Albert, the youngest son, was born in Milwaukee in 1847. August F. Hensel, while a youth living in Milwaukee, began industrial life as clerk in a store, and was thus occupied until May 5, 1854, at which time he removed to Madison, Wis., and continued as a resident of that county until he came to this part of the state. While on a visit to his parents in Milwaukee he learned something about the natural resources of Buffalo County, and by the advice of his father decided to locate there. His father gave him \$300 with which to purchase land, and with his brother Julius he at once set out for Buffalo County. The journey was made by way of Chicago, thence by rail to Dunleith (now East Dubuque) and from there by steamboat to La Crosse. At the latter place he secured the services of a surveyor and proceeded to Buffalo County, where he made locations. Subsequently he returned to the same county with a wagon and a pair of ponies, then, selling his outfit, went back to Milwaukee, but in the same fall returned to Buffalo County with an ox team and wagon. He was accompanied by his brother, John A., and by Thomas Simpson, William Johnson and two Piper brothers. The Piper brothers, however, left the party at Sparta. All the members of the Buffalo County company were unmarried, and all except John A. Hensel located on land in the county. This trip was made about 1856. The winter of 1856-57 was severe and the pioneers suffered many hardships. Their provisions became exhausted, and the situation became so serious that it was necessary to make a heroic effort to reach Fountain City. Accordingly August F. Hensel started with a sled and three yoke of oxen, accompanied by Henry Wertenberg and James Faulds. The snow was covered with a heavy crust, which was hard to break, this crust continuing for the entire distance of 16 miles. It was so hard that although Mr. Hensel wore three pairs of pants they were all cut through in places before the party reached Fountain City, which they only did after a terrible journey of six days, having left home on the Monday and reaching town on the following Saturday. Their experiences may be more easily imagined than described. Mr. Hensel had to borrow clothes to wear on the return trip. Even after all this trouble and hardship they only succeeded in procuring one barrel of flour, which cost them \$16. Mr. Hensel nearly lost his life on the trip and all the party were much exhausted, succeeding only by force of will and power of endurance. It is well for the young people of the present generation, who are surrounded

by all the conveniences of a high civilization—good roads, steam and electric railroads and automobiles, with convenient stores of all kinds within a mile or two of their homes—to read and ponder on such narratives as these, more especially when they are inclined to be discontented with their lot. They may then realize how much they have to be thankful for. In 1862 August F. Hensel sold out his holdings in Buffalo County and moved to Trempealeau County, settling on land which he had purchased in Arcadia Township. Here he lived until 1874, when, the village of Arcadia having been founded, he moved into it and erected a store, beginning mercantile business in 1876. At this time he had been married 16 years and had a family, and here he passed the rest of his life, dying in Arcadia, July 2, 1902. He was a Republican in politics and cast his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont in 1856, subsequently voting for every Republican President up to the time of his death. His wife died in Arcadia Dec. 17, 1908. Her maiden name was Amelia Hensel. She was a native of Prussia and daughter of Ludwig Hensel, and their marriage took place in August, 1860. They had a large family of children, as follows: Ida, born Aug. 26, 1861, now Mrs. C. Studt of Arcadia; Emma, born March 30, 1863, who died in July, 1890; Alvah, born Aug. 10, 1865, who resides in Minneapolis; Ayris, born June 30, 1867, now Mrs. George A. Schneller of Arcadia; Eunice, born Dec. 19, 1869, wife of William Koenig of Waupaca, Wis.; Almira, born in 1871, who died when six months old; Dexter, born in 1873, who died in 1874; Jesse, born Dec. 20, 1875, who is now living at Green Bay, Wis.; Ivan I., born March 4, 1878, who is now practicing dentistry in Arcadia Village; Myrtle, born March 25, 1886, who is unmarried and lives in Arcadia, and another child, who died in infancy.

Ivan I. Hensel, D. D. S., who is engaged in the practice of dentistry in Arcadia Village, was born in Arcadia, Wis., March 4, 1878, son of August F. and Amelia Hensel. He was educated in the village school and in Arcadia high school, from which he was graduated in 1896. Having decided upon dentistry as his future profession, he entered Marquette Dental School, Milwaukee, and was graduated therefrom in 1900, beginning practice in Blair, Wis. Soon after, however, he removed to Arcadia, his home town, and established himself in practice here, where he is now the leading dentist. Aside from his profession he owns stock in the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company. Sept. 24, 1902, Dr. Hensel was married to Nora, daughter of Jacob and Sarah Kindschy of Arcadia, and they have two children: Marie, born Oct. 23, 1908, and Dwight, born Nov. 3, 1912. Dr. Hensel owns a comfortable home on the west side of the village, and is recognized as one of Arcadia's stable citizens, the Hensels being one of the principal families in the town. In politics the Doctor is independent and is not an incumbent of any public office. Since 1904 he has been a member of the Masonic Blue Lodge, No. 201, and for several years has also belonged to the lodges of Modern Woodmen of America and the Beavers, both of which he has served as secretary. His religious affiliations are with the Evangelical church, in the faith of which he was reared.

Augustus W. Hensel, a retired farmer now living in Arcadia Village, was born in Germany, Nov. 7, 1840, son of Ludwig and Frederica (Kiek-

hoefer) Hensel. The father was born in 1809 and the mother in 1812. In 1856 the family came to the United States, locating in Milwaukee, Wis., where they remained until the spring of 1857. They then came to Arcadia Township, Trempealeau County, where Ludwig Hensel pre-empted 160 acres of land in section 23, range 10 west. The land, of course, was "wild," and their residence was a dugout. Mr. Hensel gradually improved the property and resided on it subsequently until his death in 1886. His wife survived him about nine years, dying on the homestead in 1894. There were five children in their family—two sons and three daughters. Augustus W. Hensel was the second born child of his parents. He was educated in the common and district schools up to the age of 14 years, and remained on his father's farm until 1864. He then became a soldier, serving in the Union army until the close of the war and taking part in the battle of Nashville. Being mustered out at Washington, D. C., he returned home unwounded and became a pioneer farmer, buying 160 acres of wild land in section 14, range 10, Arcadia Township. This land he developed and erected on it substantial buildings, residing there until 1906, in which year he retired and took up his residence in the village. The old home he sold in 1908 to his son Lewis, who lives on the farm. Nov. 28, 1867, Mr. Hensel married Mary, daughter of William and Sophia (Supka) Wagner of Arcadia, who is sharing with her husband the comfortable prosperity of their declining years. The following are the children who have been born to them: Lewis, born Aug. 7, 1868, who is now living on the old homestead, of which he is the owner; William, born Dec. 12, 1869, who is a farmer at Black River Falls, Wis.; Erwin, born March 12, 1871, who is a merchant at Grand Meadow, Minn.; Lillian, born Jan. 11, 1873, and now Mrs. J. W. Kube of Winona, Minn.; Frank, born Jan. 14, 1875, who is a farmer at Burlington, N. D.; Edith, born Oct. 19, 1877, now the wife of A. L. Severence, a banker of Wausaukee, Wis.; John, born Oct. 10, 1879, who is now a railway ticket agent at Eau Claire, Wis.; Helena, born Sept. 19, 1881, who is unmarried, resides at home and is employed as a bank clerk; Edward, born Aug. 17, 1883, who is a farmer at Strasburg, Colo.; Benjamin, born Feb. 4, 1886, also a farmer at Strasburg, Colo.; Emma, born March 15, 1888, who is now Mrs. Lester Kindsehy of Strasburg, Colo. Mr. Hensel is a Republican, but is not active in politics. He has, however, served as a member of the school board of district No. 2, Arcadia Township. He and his family are members of the German Evangelical Association, and all are widely respected in the communities in which they live.

Lars Hanson, who was the first Norwegian settler to locate in Newcomb Valley, Arcadia Township, was born in the northern part of Norway, July 15, 1840, son of Hans and Anna Nelson. In June, 1864, he was married in his native land to Sarah, daughter of Peter and Cassie Peterson, and in 1866 they came to America together. Landing in Quebec, Canada, they came from that city to Winona, Minn., in the vicinity of which place they spent the winter of 1866-67. In the following summer they removed to Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, and in 1868 homesteaded 160 acres of wild land in sections 28 and 29, Newcomb Valley. Their resources were very limited, as they had arrived in Winona with but 50 cents in money,

but during their stay there Mr. Hanson had worked at whatever he could find to do and managed to make a living and also earn enough to enable them to make a start on their Wisconsin farm. Still they had to be extremely economical. One of the first things Mr. Hanson did on taking possession of his homestead was to build a dugout, with sod roof, in the side of a hill, and he then began the grubbing of the farm. At the end of the first year he built a small log house with no floor, into which they moved, and here they lived for a number of years. When they came to the valley Arcadia had but one store and a small grist mill, and Mr. Hanson often carried flour and provisions home on his back—a distance of seven miles. Perhaps the greatest feat he accomplished in this line, however, was carrying their first cook stove across the country, on his back, for three and a half miles. Such energy and perseverance, which he displayed in all his operations, were bound to produce results, which became visible in the gradual improvement of his farm and an increasing prosperity. In 1885 he built the frame house that now stands on the farm, and from time to time he erected barns and other necessary buildings. After residing here until the spring of 1901, Mr. Hanson moved with his family to Blair, Wis., where he resided until the fall of 1902. He then returned to the farm and did not leave it again until 1907, in which year he sold the old home to his son Sam and bought a small house about a mile east, to which he moved and where he is now living. When he left the farm he had about 60 acres under plow. Mr. Hanson was a stockholder in the now defunct co-operative creamery at Blair, its failure causing him a pecuniary loss. On the whole, however, he has been successful and is a man highly respected in this part of the county. He believes in the principles of the Prohibition party, but has never held office. He and his wife have had six children: Louis, who lives at East Grand Forks, Minn.; Sine, now Mrs. Fred Payne of Arcadia Village; Josephine, wife of Louis Gilbertson of Blair, Wis.; Samuel, who resides on the old homestead, and two others, who died in infancy.

Samuel Hanson, son of Lars and Sarah (Peterson) Hanson, was born in Newcomb Valley, Arcadia Township, Trempealeau County, Wis., Nov. 17, 1876. He was educated in the district school, which he attended regularly until the age of 12 years, and from 12 to 16 during the winters only. As soon as he was old enough he began to help his father on the farm, and continued as the latter's assistant until he rented the homestead in 1902, and started in for himself. In 1906 it became his by purchase. He has improved the buildings and built a new granary and a garage. To the 120 acres of the original farm he has added 80 more, thus enlarging the farm to 200 acres. It lies in a fertile region, the surface of the land being rolling, and he carries on both general farming and dairying. Aside from these immediate interests he is a stockholder in the La Crosse Packing Company, the Arcadia Farmers Co-operative Creamery, and the Farmers Telephone Company. Mr. Hanson was married, Sept. 7, 1907, to Minnie, daughter of Olaf and Carrie Moe of Newcomb Valley, and their children are: Celia, born July 17, 1909; Sadie, born Feb. 24, 1910; Milton, born April 23, 1912; and Ivan, born Oct. 30, 1914. In politics Mr. Hanson is a staunch Republican. He has served as township assessor three years, was clerk

of the district school board for a number of years, and took the United States census in 1900. He belongs to Arcadia camp, Modern Woodmen of America and he and his family are members of Fagerness Lutheran church, of which his father was one of the founders. Enterprising and energetic, he is getting along in the world and has won the esteem of his neighbors.

Peter Ekern, merchant, town proprietor, assemblyman, extensive land owner, public spirited citizen, and man of affairs, to whose efforts was due the building up of a flourishing village, was one of the most distinguished citizens of the county, and for many years had an influential voice in controlling its destinies. As a business man he platted Pigeon Falls, erected a store and creamery, rebuilt a large mill and developed extensive tracts of land. As a public citizen he did such splendid work as chairman of the township and member of the county board for many years, that in 1881 he was called upon to serve in the General Assembly, in which position he looked after the interests of his state and district with dignity and distinction. Peter Ekern was born in Norway, Jan. 25, 1837, the son of Henrik Ekern, and oldest of a family of four sons and two daughters, the others being: Even, a merchant of Whitehall; Randine, wife of Edward Klebo of Chicago; Anton, a farmer of Pigeon Township; Mark, a farmer in Moody County, South Dakota; and Maria, wife of Edward Schultz of Des Moines, Iowa. Peter was reared to a life of agricultural endeavor. At the age of eighteen he started operating a farm on his own responsibility, under a guardianship, the law at that time being that a youth could not engage in business for himself under the age of 25, except with a guardianship. As the years passed the young man determined to seek for himself the broader opportunities and superior advantages of the New World. Accordingly he disposed of his holdings in 1867, and accompanied by his wife and children, came to America, and found his way to La Crosse, where two brothers and a sister had preceded him. From there he went to Vernon County, and there remained for several months. In March, 1868, he settled in Trempealeau County, in the affairs of which he was later to take so prominent a part. For a time he lived in section 36, township 23, range 7, in the northern part of Pigeon. With keen judgment he foresaw the favorable opportunity of establishing a village at Pigeon Falls, and when, in 1872, his plans were ripe, he moved to the hamlet with which his name was thereafter to be inseparably connected. At the time of his arrival the village contained the mill of Cyrus H. Hine and the store of Johnson & Olson, as well as several residences. Mr. Hine owned about 160 acres, a part of which he had purchased from George Gale in 1867, and a part of which he had obtained from the government under the homestead act. His residence is still standing, but has been moved to another site. His barn is on its original location, and has been used in connection with the village hotel. His mill has been replaced by the Pigeon Falls flour and feed mill on the same site. Upon his arrival here Mr. Ekern purchased the store of Johnson & Olson. In 1882 he erected another store building, and converted his original store building into a residence which he long occupied, and which was used as the village hotel until 1916. In the meantime, in 1875 and 1880, Mr. Ekern had bought Mr. Hine's land and holdings, as well as a tract from George



MR. AND MRS. PETER EKERN
MR. AND MRS. B. M. SLETTELAND

Gale, so that he owned 280 acres, all in section 34. The store, which he erected in 1882, 60 by 108 feet, two stories and full basement, is still used by his successors and is still in excellent condition. In 1885 he erected a creamery. This he operated until 1892, when he sold it to a farmers' association. The new venture, however, was not successful, so Mr. Ekern took possession, rebuilt the plant, and put in new equipment. Now known as the Pigeon Falls Creamery, the institution is still operated by his successors. In 1894, Mr. Ekern platted the townsite on the southeast quarter of section 34. In 1880 he built a new flour and feed mill on the site of the original Hine mill. This building was shortly afterward destroyed by fire. He then erected the present mill. Since that date the equipment has kept march with the progress of time, the old stone burrs being replaced with a modern roller system, and new machinery and appliances being added as circumstances required. In 1898 the business was incorporated under the name of P. Ekern Company, for the purpose of operating the farms, the general store, the creamery, the flour and feed mill, the townsite property and other real estate. After a long and useful life, Mr. Ekern died in 1899. His widow died in 1911. The owners of the property are now: Dr. Andrew Ekern, who is president of the corporation, and Mr. and Mrs. Ben. M. Sletteland, the former of whom is secretary, treasurer and manager, and the latter of whom is vice-president. Mr. Ekern was married in 1858 to Olive Hovde. This union was blessed with seven children: Ludwig P., Andrew, Minnie, Hannah, Josephine, Emma, Hulda and Hulda. Ludwig P. is a retired merchant of Superior, Wis. Andrew is a retired physician of San Diego, Cal. Minnie is the wife of B. M. Sletteland. Josephine is the wife of Peter Eimon, a wholesale grocer of Superior, Wis. Emma, the wife of H. A. Otto, a Chicago lumberman, died in 1914. Hulda is the wife of Ben. Eimon, who is also in the wholesale grocery business in Superior. Hannah died at the age of 14 years. Hulda (first) also died in childhood.

Ben M. Sletteland, the leading citizen of Pigeon Falls, village postmaster, and manager, secretary and treasurer of the P. Ekern Company, is well known throughout the county. He has been member and at one time treasurer of the Republican County Committee, and a member of the Republican District Congressional Committee; since 1892 he has been treasurer of the Norwegian Lutheran church; in 1917 he was elected one of the trustees of Gale College; and in addition to this he has served on many delegations and committees, both civic and religious. His business holdings include stock in the John O. Melby & Co. bank at Whitehall, in which he is a director, and in the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company. Mr. Sletteland was born in Dale Parish, Sondfjord, Norway, Aug. 19, 1864, son of Ananias and Bergitte (Risting) Sletteland, the former of whom spent many years of his life as a teacher in the state schools of Norway. Ben M. Sletteland received a good education at home and at school, and came to America in 1884, since which time he has lived continuously in Pigeon Falls. For a time he clerked for Peter Ekern. When the P. Ekern Company was incorporated in 1898 he assumed the duties of his present position. A year later he was appointed to his present office of postmaster. Mr. Sletteland was married Oct. 31, 1887, to Minnie Ekern, born in La Crosse

County, Feb. 29, 1868, daughter of Peter and Olive (Hovde) Ekern. Mr. and Mrs. Sletteland have three children: Perrey Arthur, Ernest A. and Oscar B. Perrey Arthur is a graduate of the Scandinavia Academy at Scandia, St. Olaf College, at Northfield, Minn. (B. A.), and the University of Wisconsin (LL. B.). He is now practicing law at La Crosse with Otto Schlabach, under the firm name of Schlabach & Sletteland. Ernest A. has attended St. Olaf College at Northfield, Minn., and Macalester College at St. Paul, Minn., and is assisting his father. Oscar B. has had two years at Macalester College, St. Paul, Minn., and is soon to graduate from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

William C. Bohrnstedt, who is engaged in the hardware business in Arcadia, was born at Trempealeau Prairie, in Trempealeau Township, Oct. 2, 1870. A memoir of his parents, John and Mary (Frohman) Bohrnstedt, may be found elsewhere in this volume. William C. in his boyhood attended the district school and the graded school in Galesville. Completing his literary education at the age of 15, he then took a business course in the old Winona Business College under Professor Lambert. For two or three years after this he resided at home. In 1893 he came to Arcadia and entered the employ of N. Lehrbach, a hardware merchant, for whom he worked until 1896. In the latter year he entered the employ of R. D. Cone Hardware Company of Winona, Minn., and was traveling salesman for them until 1903. Then, leaving the employ of that company, he returned to Arcadia and in 1905, with William E. Muir, purchased the hardware business of N. Lehrbach, his former employer, Mr. Muir retaining an interest in the firm for about a year, when Mr. Bohrnstedt bought him out and has since been sole proprietor and manager of the concern. The latter is also a stockholder in Arcadia Bank and the Bank of Galesville. One of the progressive and enterprising young business men of the village, he is always willing to lend his aid and influence to any practical movement for advancing the public welfare. In politics he is independent. He has never had any strong desire to mingle in politics, but for the last seven years has been clerk of the board of education. Mr. Bohrnstedt is a member of several fraternal orders. He has belonged to the Blue Lodge of Masons in Arcadia (No. 201) for many years, and to the Chapter, No. 76, Arcadia, since 1895; also to the Knights of Pythias since 1892, and to the Independent Order of Foresters for many years. Although reared a Lutheran, he is not a member of any church. Aug. 12, 1898, Mr. Bohrnstedt was married to Elspeth Muir, daughter of John and Ann Muir of Arcadia.

Oliver Busby, who is now living retired in Arcadia Village, after a life of activity in several different avocations, was born in section 21, range 9, Arcadia Township, this county, Jan. 29, 1866. His parents, Thomas and Mary (Knight) Busby, were natives of England, both born at Stowe, near Kimbolton, Huntingdonshire, England, the father Aug. 24, 1828, the mother Feb. 8, 1837. Thomas Busby and wife came to America in 1855, landing in New York and proceeding at once to Waukegan, Ill., in the vicinity of which place Mr. Busby rented a farm. After remaining there about two years they came overland by ox team to Arcadia Township, Trempealeau County, and settled on 160 acres of land he acquired while in Illinois, to

which he later added 20 acres, built a log cabin and began to develop a farm. Here he lived until 1893, in which year he sold the farm to Louie Wojsczik, the latter subsequently selling it to John Wojsczik. In 1879 Thomas Busby had bought 160 acres of wild prairie land near Wakefield, Neb., to which he moved on selling his farm in Arcadia. On this land he built a house and other frame buildings, and remained there 19 years, engaged in developing a farm. He then retired and moved into Wakefield, where he and his wife are still living, in good health and prosperous circumstances. Their children were: Emma, born in Waukegan, Ill., who married W. H. Smith, a farmer of Bakersfield, Cal., and died Aug. 4, 1904; John, also born in Waukegan, and now a farmer in Arcadia Township; Thomas, born in Arcadia, Wis., who is farming at Wakefield, Neb.; Florence, born in Arcadia, who is unmarried and keeps house for her parents in Wakefield, Neb.; Charles, born in Arcadia, also residing in Wakefield, where he is engaged in buying grain and managing an elevator; Andy, born in Arcadia, and now deceased; Mary, born in Arcadia, who is the wife of H. H. Child, proprietor of the electric lighting plant at Wakefield, Neb.; Lilly, born in Arcadia, who married Benjamin Davis, a farmer, and died at Wakefield, Neb.; Mark, born in Arcadia, who is now deceased; William, born in Arcadia, who is now living retired at Wakefield, Neb.; and Oliver, the subject of this sketch.

Oliver Busby began his school life in Arcadia and was graduated from the high school in the class of 1886. In the meanwhile, however, he made a trip to Nebraska, going there in 1882 and returning in 1884. He now spent a number of years in teaching school, beginning this occupation in Arcadia, where he taught for three years, later teaching three years in the graded schools of Chimney Rock, Wis., where he also served one year as principal, one year in Strum and three years in Nebraska, to which state he returned when his parents moved there in 1893. In 1896 he returned again to Arcadia, and on September 1 bought an interest in the hardware business of Mr. Christ of Arcadia, the style of the firm becoming Christ & Busby. This partnership was continued until 1904. In 1902 Christ & Busby bought a farm of 509 acres, two and a half miles north of Arcadia, 225 acres of it being under the plow and the rest in timber and pasture land. Mr. Busby bought Mr. Christ's interest in this farm in 1904, and managed it subsequently while residing in the village until 1914, when he sold it and retired. The buildings on the farm were a two-story frame house, a frame barn, 36 by 80 feet; a granary, 16 by 40 feet; a sheep shed, 12 by 64 feet, all painted and in good condition. Here Mr. Busby did general farming and dairying, keeping from 25 to 30 graded cows. Sept. 8, 1896, Mr. Busby was married to Mary, daughter of John Philip and Barbara (Uhl) Hartman of Arcadia Township. He and his wife had six children: William O., born Nov. 26, 1897, who is a student at Lawrence College, Appleton, Wis.; Fern E., born May 11, 1899, now attending the Arcadia high school; Lynn J., born July 29, 1902, who is also attending the high school; Hazel M., born May 12, 1904, who is residing at home, a student; Florence G., born March 26, 1906, who died Aug. 23, 1914; and one that died in infancy. Mr. Busby in political matters holds by the principles of the

Democratic party, but reserves the right to vote for the best man regardless of party lines, when he sees occasion. He has held no strictly political office, but has been a member of the village board for three years. He attends and supports the Methodist Episcopal church, though not a member of it. He belongs to Lodge No. 201, A. F. & A. M. of Arcadia, and to Camp No. 769, Modern Woodmen of America, which he joined in 1896.

August Evenson was for many years one of the successful and substantial men of the community. He developed a good farm, he reared a large and respected family, and upon his death left a record of hard work, staunch character and sterling worth. His wife, a most estimable woman, who was his helpmeet and inspiration in all his undertakings, still owns the family farm, but in 1915 moved to Pigeon Falls, where she erected a comfortable home, and where she now makes her residence. August Evenson was born in Vardal, Norway, Feb. 1, 1857, son of Mathias and Pernella Evenson, who brought him to America in 1858, and located near Holmen, in La Crosse County, this state, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Reared on the home farm and educated in the schools of that county, August Evenson started out for himself in 1881, and two years later, in 1883, came to Pigeon Township and secured land in section 11, which he proceeded to break and develop, erecting a suitable home and commodious outbuildings. There he successfully carried on general farming until his death Jan. 27, 1915. Taking his deepest joy in his family and his farm, Mr. Evenson did not care to mingle in political life, but was nevertheless deeply interested in public affairs, and kept himself well informed upon current topics. He was a good citizen, a loyal friend and a loving father, and his loss was sincerely and deeply mourned. Mr. Evenson was married April 21, 1881, to Mina Johnson Skogen, who was born in Holmen, La Crosse County, this state, Sept. 16, 1859, daughter of Andrew and Anna Marie (Anderson) Skogen, natives of Vardal, Norway, who came to America in 1850, located in La Crosse County, and there spent the remainder of their days. Mr. and Mrs. Evenson have had ten children: Albert Manley, May Pauline, Albert Manley (second), Selma Luella, Hulda Josephine, Cora Charlotte, Mabel Amanda, Lawrence Ernest, Edmund Melford and Mildred Ovida. Albert Manley, born June 5, 1882, died at the age of thirteen days; May Paulina, born June 19, 1883, died at the age of two and a half years; Albert Manley (second) was born Dec. 25, 1885, and died at the age of one year; Selma Luella was born March 25, 1887, and is now the wife of John H. Johnson of Harshan, Wis.; Hulda Josephine was born Dec. 25, 1888, and is now the wife of Otto Tomter, who farms the home place; Cora Charlotte was born Feb. 6, 1891; Mabel Amanda was born Feb. 26, 1894; Lawrence Ernest was born Feb. 23, 1896; Edmund Melford was born Nov. 17, 1898, and died Sept. 13, 1908; and Mildred Ovida was born June 15, 1906. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church, in the Ladies' Aid Society of which Mrs. Evenson is a prominent member.

Ole T. Stendahl, proprietor of the Fair View farm of 200 acres in sections 13, 14 and 23, Pigeon Township, was born in Trondjem, Norway, June 4, 1857. His father, Thortson Stendahl, was born in Norway Dec. 10, 1822, married Johanna Berg, who was born Oct. 5, 1827, brought his family to



MR. AND MRS. AUGUST EVENSON

America in 1861, lived in La Crosse, Wis., 16 years, and in 1877 settled in Pigeon Township, this county, where he spent the remainder of his life, dying Sept. 4, 1897. Mrs. Thortson Stendahl died in Pigeon Township Jan. 20, 1911. Ole T. Stendahl was brought here by his parents, attended the district schools, and was reared to farm pursuits. For eighteen winters he engaged in lumbering as woodsman and riverman. For the past twenty-four seasons he has engaged in threshing. His farming operations, since he assumed charge of the home place, have been most successful, his good herd of high grade Holstein cattle net him a satisfactory income, and his whole farm presents a neat and thrifty appearance. Mr. Stendahl was married April 4, 1884, to Nettie Amlee, born in Hammer, Norway, Sept. 26, 1859, daughter of Gilbert and Elizabeth (Bokalrud) Amlee, the former of whom was born Dec. 1, 1818, and died in Hammer, Norway, Sept. 4, 1877, and latter of whom was born in Norway, April 14, 1837, and died Feb. 4, 1904, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. O. Madson, in Menominie, Wis. Mrs. Gilbert Amlee and children came from Norway in 1880 to Black River Falls, Wis. Mr. and Mrs. Stendahl have had eight children: Theodore is a farmer of Pigeon Township; Oscar also farms in Pigeon Township; Jennie L. died at the age of nine years; Archie is at home; Abbie married Knelland Simons of Whitehall; Lillie, Walter and Amy are at home.

Albert K. Axness came to his present farm in 1872 with his mother and step-father, and has thus been a resident of this county for forty-five years. He was born in Norway, near Christiania, July 29, 1861, son of Knute and Carrie (Tostenson) Axness. The father died in Norway in 1863, and subsequently four of the sons, Tosten, born in 1844; Julius, born in 1847; Knute, born in 1851, and Ole, born in 1855, came to America in 1867, three locating near Winona, Minn., and one near Madison, Wis. In 1868 the mother, accompanied by the son, Albert K., and a daughter, Mary, born in 1858, came to this country and joined her sons near Winona. In 1870 the mother married Ole Larson. Mr. Larson soon came to Trempealeau County and bought the homestead rights of Hans Talaken to a tract of wild land in section 6, Arcadia Township, within the limits of Newcomb Valley. On this place he built a small shanty, to which in 1872 he brought his wife, and his step children, Albert K. and Mary. In the fall of that year they built a small frame house, which is now the east wing of the present home. Later they erected an upright addition, and since then other additions have been made until the home is now a comfortable eleven-room structure. Barns, sheds and the like have been erected as necessity has required. Albert K. was reared to farm pursuits and finished his education in the schoolhouse of the Penny district near his home. At the age of nineteen he started for himself by securing winter employment in the lumber woods of Clark and Jackson counties, still continuing to do farm work during the summer seasons. In 1898 he brought his bride to the home place and here has since continued to live. He carries on general farming and dairying, 90 acres of his 174 acres being under plow, and the rest being in woodland and pasture. His political affiliations are with the Republican party, and his fraternal relations are maintained with Arcadia Camp, No. 769, M. W. A., of which he has been a member for the past

eighteen years. Mr. Axness was married Jan. 1, 1898, to Minnie Olson, daughter of John and Mary Olson of Homer Township, Winona County. She died Sept. 9, 1914, at the age of 37 years. Mr. and Mrs. Axness have had five children: Cora, who died in infancy; Carl, born in 1900; Ernest, born in 1902; Myrtle, born in 1907, and Orlon, born in 1909, all of whom are at home. The mother of Mr. Axness died in 1907 at the age of 84 years, the stepfather died in 1905.

John Erickson, one of the pioneers of Trempealeau County, was born in Norway, Aug. 24, 1834, and was there reared to manhood. He was married March 25, 1858, to Ellina Hanson, who was born March 19, 1830. Even at the time of their marriage the young people were already contemplating seeking the broader opportunities of the new world. With this end in view they hoarded their frugal income until 1862, when they had sufficient funds to make the great venture. With their two children, Erick, born Sept. 3, 1859, and Hans, born Sept. 8, 1861, they set sail on April 27, 1862, aboard a slow sailing vessel, bound for their new home. Landing at Quebec, July 12, 1862, strangers in a strange land, where language and customs were unknown to them, they started out by rail for Winona, which they reached July 30, 1862. That city was then a flourishing lumber town, ten years old, but just at the dawn of the era which was to make it for some years one of the principal lumber and grain points on the Mississippi. At Winona Mr. Erickson got in touch with several of his countrymen who had settled in Trempealeau County and secured employment in Cedar Valley. While living in that vicinity, Mr. and Mrs. Erickson had another child, Marte, born Dec. 27, 1863. In 1864 the family moved to French Creek, and there the wife died in 1865. In 1867 Mr. Erickson married Bertha Gilbertson, who was born in Norway and came to America in 1863. Soon afterward the family moved to Newcomb Valley, and there Mr. Erickson pre-empted 242 acres of wild land in section 6. Here he experienced real pioneer life. One of his first acts was to build a small log cabin, after which he started the difficult task of developing a farm. The principal trading center was at Trempealeau, twenty miles away. The trip there with an ox team was weary and sometimes dangerous. At some seasons even the oxen could not get through, and Mr. Erickson made the trip afoot, bringing back flour and other provisions on his back. Conveniences were almost entirely lacking, comforts were almost unknown. But the sturdy couple had faith, health and ambition, they desired to see their growing family well placed in the world, and they were willing to toil and sacrifice that success might be assured. Beginning with nothing in the way of worldly goods, they developed a fine farm, erecting commodious buildings, including a frame house, barn and granary, and gradually securing a good equipment of tools and machinery. Mr. Erickson conducted the farm until 1901, when failing health caused his retirement. He died May 30, 1903. In his many years of life here he had attained a recognized position in the community as a prosperous and conscientious farmer, and was highly esteemed as a good family man, a successful citizen, and an accommodating neighbor. A man of strong religious convictions he assisted in organizing the Fagerness Norwegian Lutheran Congregation, and remained an active



EDWARD ERICKSON

member the remainder of his life. Of the five children born on the Newcomb Valley farm two died in infancy; Edward, born Oct. 19, 1873, has been a prosperous farmer and is now sheriff of Trempealeau County; Gilbert, born April 7, 1868, is living on the family homestead, and Anna, born Dec. 26, 1870, is the wife of Olaf Hurberg of Arcadia Township.

Edward Erickson, the popular and efficient sheriff of Trempealeau County, is one of its leading citizens. Coming into office at a time when the war clouds were brewing, and serving at the time of the opening of the actual hostilities, he has given his time, ability and energy in patriotic service to his country at a great personal sacrifice, and his name will live in history as the "war sheriff" of the county. In addition to the many added duties which the raising of the National Army and the conservation of food have placed upon his official work, he has done conscientious work as chairman of the exemption board, his wide and intimate knowledge of the people of the county being of great assistance to the board in its various decisions. Mr. Erickson was born in Newcomb Valley, this county, Oct. 19, 1873, son of John and Bertha Erickson. He was reared on the home farm, attended the district schools, and determined to devote his life to an agricultural career. Accordingly in 1901 he purchased 120 acres of partly improved land, adjoining his father's farm on the west, and in time made it into the well-developed place that it is today. In 1906 he erected a substantial, square, two-story brick house of eight rooms, a good modern farm house in every respect. He later put up a frame barn with a full basement, 28 by 58 by 16 feet above the foundation, a milk house, a milk and tank house, tool sheds, poultry house and cribs. He also put in a running water system for house and barns. The place, which is temporarily rented during his term of office, supports a good grade of Holsteins, a number of horses and a herd of swine, all the work of the farm being conducted along the latest improved methods, with modern equipment, tools and machinery. Aside from his farming interests, Mr. Erickson has taken an interest in community growth and has become a stockholder and earnest supporter of the Bank of Arcadia, the Arcadia Co-operative Creamery, the Arcadia Shipping Association, and the Tamarack Valley Telephone Company. Of fraternal and sociable disposition he has been a member of the Modern Woodmen for twenty years, and for a number of years a member of the Masonic order. Interested in the best education of his children, he had done efficient work for some years as school director of School District 14. His present office dates from Jan. 1, 1917. Sheriff Erickson makes an ideal officer. Thorough and painstaking in his work, he deeply feels his responsibility as the preserver of the peace and dignity of the law, and in this direction he has been most untiring. Stern and unbending as an officer, nevertheless as a man his broad outlook on life and his understanding of human frailties, makes him ever favorable toward giving minor offenders every opportunity possible to repair their mistakes and to make the most of their future careers. As a man the sheriff is genial and popular, a pleasant companion and a loyal friend. Mr. Erickson was married Oct. 25, 1905, to Julia Arnson, who was born May 16, 1875, daughter of John and Olena Arnson of Preston Township. She died March 3, 1911,

leaving three bright boys: Orlen, born May 30, 1907; Erwin, born Nov. 3, 1908; and Basil, born April 20, 1910. Feb. 7, 1913, Mr. Erickson married Minnie Mustad, daughter of Hans and Ingeborg Mustad of Ettrick Township. To this marriage has been born a daughter, Florence, April 30, 1915. Mr. Erickson was reared to the Lutheran faith, and with his family belongs to the Fagerness congregation, which his father helped to establish.

Albert F. Sauer of Arcadia Village was born in Buffalo County, Wisconsin, July 14, 1889, son of William and Frederica (Reglin) Sauer. He was educated in the Arcadia graded school, and in 1909 entered the Universal Chiropractic College at Davenport, Iowa, as a student. Having completed a two years' course in September, 1911, he opened an office in Merrill, Wis., where he practiced his profession until 1913. Then coming to Arcadia he practiced here for a year, returning in the fall of 1914 to Merrill. This time he remained there but five or six months, coming back to Arcadia in the spring of 1915 and opening an office, where he has since continued to practice chiropractic. He has a well equipped office and has built up a practice extending over a radius of 50 miles. Dr. Sauer is among the foremost members of his profession in this part of the state and undoubtedly has a bright future before him. His collegiate preparation was very thorough, the course of study embracing the subjects of symptomatology, chemistry, spinal palpation, clinic adjusting, histology, psychology, ethics, hygiene and public health. Many will undoubtedly ask, "What is chiropractic? It is a new word to me. What does it mean?" Chiropractic (Ki-ro-prak-tic) is a coined word composed of two Greek words, Cheir, meaning "the hand" (in composition Chiro) and Praxis, "a doing." Hence literally Chiropractic means the doing of something by the hand. The chiropractic method applied affords an exact scientific method of determining the location of any vertebra, which on account of its misalignment, is responsible for nerve compression, and also to provide an original, unique and correct means of adjusting or removing this cause more promptly, radically and permanently than by any other known method. Dr. Sauer is energetic and enterprising, with an agreeable personality that inspires confidence in his patients. Like the other members of his father's family, he belongs to the German Lutheran church, and in politics he is a Republican.

William Sauer, now living retired in the village of Arcadia, was born near Kronigreich, Prussia, Germany, May 9, 1842, son of Christ Sauer. In the fall of 1869 he came to America and without lingering in the East proceeded directly to Alma, Wis., where he remained about two years. From there he removed in 1871 to Big Waumandee, Buffalo County, where he found employment in the flour mill of John Ochsner as head miller, continuing to work for Mr. Ochsner until 1875. In the latter year he returned to Alma and resided there until 1877, in which year he bought a custom flour mill at Glencoe, Wis. In this place he remained 29 years, engaged in the milling business, and then retired and took up his residence in Arcadia Village, selling the mill to his son William, who had learned the trade with him, and who now operates the mill. Mr. Sauer's success was the result of his own energy and ability. When he arrived in Alma he had

nothing, but in four years had gained enough to enable him to purchase his mill, and this energy characterized him throughout his business career. He was married Oct. 25, 1873, to Frederica, daughter of Carl and Dorothy Reglin of Big Waumandee, Wis., and he and his bride began housekeeping in a house which his employer, John Ochsner, had built for them near the mill. The children of this marriage were: Otto, William, Jr., Edward, Albert F., Emil, Bertha, Annie and a son who died in infancy. Otto, who was born June 28, 1874, is married and resides at Milwaukee. William, Jr., born Oct. 18, 1879, is also married and is operating his father's old mill. Edward, born March 14, 1887, is married and resides in Arcadia Township on the mail route. Albert F., born July 14, 1889, is unmarried and resides in Arcadia Village, following the profession of a chiropractor. Emil, born July 2, 1894, is unmarried and lives with his parents. Bertha, born Aug. 10, 1881, is now Mrs. John Servais of Buffalo County, Wisconsin. Annie, born July 12, 1883, is the wife of John Wolfe of Arcadia Township, Trempealeau County. Mr. Sauer and his family belong to the German Lutheran church of Arcadia Township. In politics he is a Republican. In the companionship of his wife, and surrounded by his sons and daughters, he is passing the evening of life in a comfortable retirement, the result of his former thrift and industry, and is highly respected in Arcadia and the vicinity.

John F. Gilbertson, who came to Trempealeau County in 1878 and lived on a farm in Arcadia Township from 1889 up to the time of his death, Aug. 27, 1917, was born near Christiania, Norway, Oct. 10, 1854. He was a son of Gulbrand and Ele Jacobson, who reared him to farm pursuits. In 1878, with his chum, Carl Larson, he came to America, landed at New York, and made the trip to Arcadia Village, this county, by rail. Upon reaching here he had but \$1.50. This he at once loaned to a friend, who spent it for drink and never paid it back. Beginning in a strange country, without a penny in his pocket, and with no resources save his own strength and intelligence, he started in to carve his fortune, working as a farm hand in the summers and as a woodsman in the winter. In 1889 he located seven miles east of Arcadia Village, in Newcomb's Valley, where he purchased 80 acres of land in section 29, Arcadia Township, to which he subsequently added the adjoining 160 acres in section 26. When he acquired the original tract no buildings had been erected, and only about ten or fifteen acres had been grubbed and broken. Beginning on a small scale he gradually achieved prosperity, and from time to time erected necessary buildings. The improvements on the place consist of a two-story house, erected in 1891, a good barn, 28 by 58 by 16 feet, a granary, a machine shed, a poultry house and other structures, all in the best of condition. Mr. Gilbertson devoted his time to general farming, having 150 acres under the plow and doing considerable dairying and swine raising. The Republican party claimed his allegiance, and his fraternal affiliation was with the Modern Woodmen of America. With his family he attended the Fagerness Norwegian Lutheran church, three miles east of his home, in the cemetery of which his remains were laid to rest. Mr. Gilbertson was married Sept. 16, 1889, to Julia Braaten, daughter of John and Randi Braaten of Valdres, Norway. She came to America at the age of eighteen, and at the time of her mar-

riage was living with a sister near Arcadia. She and her husband were the parents of four children: Alvilda, Laura F., Anna E. and Allen R. Alvilda was born July 5, 1889, and is the wife of Albert Jager of Castlewood, S. D. Laura F. was born Jan. 4, 1891, and is the wife of Melvin Wangan, who operates a farm in Newcomb Valley. Anna E. was born Sept. 19, 1892, graduated from the Arcadia high school, and is now a successful teacher. Allen R. was born July 4, 1894, and is now operating his father's farm, on which Mrs. Gilbertson still resides.

John Sprecher, president of the State Bank of Independence, is one of the leading citizens of Trempealeau County. Arriving in Arcadia in its infancy, he became a part of the early story of that village, and then, coming to Independence in the first year of its establishment, he was given the opportunity to impress his sterling personality upon its future destinies. Prominently identified with the grain, implement, lumber and banking interests of the village, his work has been woven into the warp and woof of its life, and there is probably no citizen in this region whose name is more widely known or more closely identified with it. By hard work, native shrewdness and keen ability he has achieved more than the usual measure of success, but through these years of culminating prosperity he has remained the same genial, generous, democratic John Sprecher that he was when he first arrived here. Mr. Sprecher was born in Troy, Sauk County, Wisconsin, Nov. 29, 1850, oldest of the five children of John A. and Martha (Schiers) Sprecher. He was reared to farm pursuits, but at the age of twenty-four, having determined to seek his fortune in other endeavor, he turned his attention to the Trempealeau Valley, through which the railroad had just been opened. A favorable opportunity presented itself in Arcadia, and accordingly in 1875 he entered the employ of Krumdick & Muir, grain and implement dealers at that place. When Independence was started, the company opened a branch at the new village, and placed their trusted young employe in charge. In 1878 he purchased Mr. Krumdick's interests in the Independence business, and the firm became Muir & Sprecher. In 1879 he acquired the Muir interests also, and established the firm of John Sprecher. In 1894, the business had grown to such proportions that Mr. Sprecher determined to dispose of the implement department. Accordingly, he sold a half interest in that department to William Steiner, Mr. Steiner becoming the sole owner in 1897. The grain business is still retained, and is conducted by Mr. Sprecher and his son, Walter E., under the name of John Sprecher & Son. In the meantime, in 1888, Mr. Sprecher, in company with Henry Schaefer, engaged in the lumber business under the firm name of Sprecher & Schaefer, a name which upon the incorporation of the firm in 1910 was changed to the Sprecher Lumber Co., with Mr. Sprecher as president. One of his greatest ventures, however, has been the banking institution of which he is the head. In 1897, seeing the need of a banking house in Independence, he formed a partnership with Anton Senty, and on April 1, 1897, opened a private bank, the first bank in Independence, under the name of Sprecher & Senty. The bank was incorporated under its present name on June 1, 1902. He has likewise been interested in the development of the Independence Creamery Co., in



John Sprecher

Leontina Spach





WALTER E. SPRECHER

which he is a stockholder. Reared a farmer, and engaged in the lines of endeavor which most actively touch agricultural life, it is natural that Mr. Sprecher should have turned to farm life as a hobby. Three of the finest farms in the Elk Creek valley are his, and these he rents on a cash basis. In Golden Valley County, North Dakota, he owns 1,000 acres, which he rents on shares, 200 acres being in wheat and the rest in wild grass. In Oregon he is a stockholder in a company owning 9,000 acres of growing timber. His residence in Independence, erected about twenty years ago, is one of the sightliest in the village, and fully modern in equipment. Here also he has three other dwellings, and several vacant lots. Busy as he has been with his numerous interests, Mr. Sprecher has found time for considerable public service, having been chairman of the township of Burnside and president of the village board. His religious faith is that of the Evangelical Association Church, of which he has been a trustee for several years. Mr. Sprecher was married, Feb. 5, 1876, to Carolina Schaefer, born Aug. 15, 1851, the daughter of Christian and Elizabeth (Amda) Schaefer, and this union has been blessed with five children, Lizzie, John H., George, Walter E. and Carrie. Lizzie died at the age of two years and George at the age of six. John H. is in the employ of the Aetna Life Insurance Co. at Milwaukee; Walter E. is cashier of the State Bank of Independence, and a partner in the grain and seed firm of John Sprecher & Son. Carrie resides at home. John A. Sprecher, father of John Sprecher, was born near Kure, in Switzerland, came to America in 1845, and located on a farm in Troy township, Sauk County, this state, where he died in 1890, his wife passing away in 1879.

Walter E. Sprecher, financier, cashier of the State Bank of Independence, and prominent in banking circles throughout the state, is one of the active young men of Independence, and is earnestly taking his part in the development of the village which his father assisted in founding. He is vitally interested in every movement which has for its object the betterment of the village and county, and his voice and influence are ever at the disposal of those causes which he believes to be just and right. As cashier of one of the leading banks in the county he has been an important factor in its success, as a co-partner in his father's grain business he is in close touch with farm life and conditions, as an official of several bankers' groups he has labored earnestly for the greatest stability in the financial integrity of the country, as an accountant he has originated methods which have met with wide favor, and as a church and Sunday school worker he has been faithful and efficient. Mr. Sprecher was born in the village where he still resides, April 10, 1884, son of John and Caroline (Schaefer) Sprecher. He passed through the public schools of Independence, and then entered the Winona High School, from which he was graduated in 1902. In 1906 he was graduated from the University of Wisconsin, having taken his major credits in the department of economics. During his college career he was much interested in all lines of athletics, but especially in football and track work. Upon his return to Independence, he entered the State Bank of Independence as assistant cashier. In 1913 he was promoted to his present position. In this connection he has been interested in the work

of the various bankers' associations. In 1913 and 1914 he was secretary and treasurer of Group 7, of the Wisconsin Bankers' Association, in 1915 he was president, and in 1916 he was made a member of the executive council of the state association, and the representative of his group on the educational committee of that association. In 1917 at the state convention of the association he was elected first vice-president of the State Bank section of the American Bankers' Association, a section which was just organized in 1916 at the Kansas City convention, and whose policies he will have a hand in originating and shaping. In addition to his banking interests, Mr. Sprecher is vice-president of the Sprecher Lumber Co. and a co-partner in the grain and seed firm of John Sprecher & Son. In the cause of the Evangelical Association Church, Mr. Sprecher is especially active as a loyal and enthusiastic supporter, and his work as superintendent of the Sunday School has been productive of much good. Confined as he is to his desk the greater part of the year, Mr. Sprecher has made a hobby of out-of-door life. He is fond of hunting and fishing in all forms, and one of his greatest delights is his annual trip to the northwoods after deer. Mr. Sprecher was married, Sept. 16, 1908, to Florence L. V. Malloy, of Winona, who was born in LaCrosse, Jan. 10, 1887, daughter of Martin and Mary (Nagler) Malloy, the former of whom is a retired merchant of Winona. Mrs. Sprecher, who was a gracious lady of many accomplishments and graces, was killed in an automobile accident on the road between Independence and Whitehall, Dec. 28, 1915, leaving one son, Drexel Andreas, born March 25, 1913.

Henry I. Everson, manager of the Pigeon Grain and Stock Company, of Whitehall, was born in Arcadia Township, Trempealeau County, May 7, 1886. His parents were Knudt and Matilda (Tande) Everson. The father, a native of Norway, came to the United States with his parents in 1856, the family settling in Dane County, Wisconsin, where they remained until 1861. They then came to Trempealeau County, where Knudt Everson engaged in farming, and where he died in 1893 at the age of 56 years. His wife, Matilda, who was born in 1842, is now residing with her daughter, Mary, the wife of A. E. Brandon, a farmer of Pigeon Township. They had a family of nine children: Ever K., who is engaged in the implement and automobile business at Neche, N. D.; Matthes, a resident of Whitehall; Maria, above mentioned; Pauline, who married W. H. Clark, of Seattle, and died in 1912; Alfred T., who is cashier of the First State Bank of Bowesmont, N. D.; Clara, wife of Albert Mattson, a monument dealer of Detroit, Minn.; Ida, wife of William Young, a merchant and postmaster of Lostwood, N. D.; Clarence, a barber, living in Winger, Minn., and Henry I., of Whitehall. About six years after his father's death, Henry I. Everson and his brother, Clarence, rented the home farm, which they operated together under the name of Everson Bros. until the spring of 1906. He also went to school during the winters in Whitehall, and for two years during the period mentioned he was interested with his brother, Alfred, in mercantile business at Stephen and Donaldson, Minn. From 1906 to 1914, Henry I. Everson operated the home farm for himself, buying it in 1911. He still maintains his interest in it, making a specialty of breeding pure Shrop-

shire sheep, and now having a herd of over 200. Feb. 1, 1916, he became manager of Pigeon Grain and Stock Company, of Whitehall, in which position he is now serving. He is a stockholder in this company, also in the State Bank of Independence, the Peoples' State Bank of Whitehall, in the Farmers & Merchants Bank of Independence, and in the Independence Telephone Company, of which in 1914 he was treasurer, secretary and general manager; secretary and treasurer of the same in 1910, 1911 and 1912, and treasurer in 1916. His first connection with the telephone company was in 1909, when he became its secretary. His fraternal affiliations are with the Independent Order of Foresters, Masons, and Modern Woodmen of America.

Warner Brothers, Raymond K. and Rufus C., who are engaged in the implement business at Independence, Wis., are sons of Robert and grandsons of William and Hester (Wolf) Warner. Robert was born at Bantry, County Cork, Ireland, Oct. 20, 1830, and died at his home in Hale, Wis., Feb. 10, 1908, aged 77 years, two months and 20 days. He came to the United States in the spring of 1850. On August 27 of that year he enlisted in the United States Army and went with his regiment to California to protect the frontier from Indians. After serving five years in the army, he returned to Massachusetts, where he was united in marriage to Margaret Sullivan, and together they came in 1857 to Adams County, Wisconsin. In 1864 he removed with his family to Trempeleau County, where his wife died in 1868. In 1870 he married Mary Ann Kershaw, who now, at the age of 75 years, lives with her daughter, Mrs. Albert Wingad, at Strum, Wis. The two brothers, Raymond K. and Rufus C. Warner, were both born in Hale, Wis., Raymond, Jan. 19, 1880, and Rufus, Aug. 31, 1882, being the youngest of their father's ten children. Together they bought the old home farm in 1905, having managed it for some seven years previously, and farmed there until the fall of 1913. They still own 80 acres of the original homestead of Grandmother Warner. In December, 1913, they bought the implement business of Tubbs Brothers in Independence and have since carried it on successfully. They are agents for the new spreader, called the "Independence Special," which has been designed by the Litchfield Manufacturing Company, of Waterloo, Iowa, to meet the conditions existing in this territory, and a number of which have already been sold in Trempeleau County. They are stockholders of the State Bank of Independence, and also dealers in live stock with Tubbs Brothers, under the style of Tubbs & Warner. As practical farmers themselves they are well qualified to succeed in their present business.

Henry Ruseling, owner of the Eleva Roller Mills, with which he has been connected for 37 years, was born in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, June 4, 1856, son of Herman J. and Elizabeth (Jansen) Ruseling. Herman J. Ruseling was born in Holland in 1815, came to America in the fall of 1847, located on a tract of 120 acres in Lima Township, Sheboygan County, this state, and there lived until his death in 1896, his wife having died in 1865. Elizabeth Jansen was born in Holland in 1832. Henry Ruseling was reared on the home farm, and as a young man learned the millers' trade. In 1877 he was employed in a mill at Granite Falls, Minn. Coming to this

county in the fall of 1877, he secured work from Jacob R. Bear, as manager of Bear's Mills, four miles from Whitehall, on Pigeon Creek. In 1880 he came to Eleva, and bought an interest in the Eleva Roller Mills, of which he is now the sole owner, and which, with the exception of three years when he and his brother, William B., operated a stock ranch at Velva, N. D., he has since continued to conduct. He is a useful and respected citizen, has had an important part in the upbuilding of the village and the surrounding regions. As president of the village, and as clerk and treasurer of the school board, he has given good service. His religious affiliation is with the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he is chairman of the board of trustees. Mr. Ruseling was married in 1879 to Flora C. Follett, whose father, G. W. Follett, was a hotel keeper and merchant at Coral City. Mrs. Ruseling died in 1898, leaving two children, Fred F. and Grace C. Fred F. is associated with his father in the milling business. Grace C. married G. A. Perry, a lumber and grain dealer of St. Vincent, Minn., and has two children, Flora and Brooks. July 11, 1905, Mr. Ruseling married Mabel Hibbard, of Milwaukee. One daughter, Henrietta Hibbard, was born March 10, 1912, at La Crosse. The Eleva Roller Mills, of which Henry Ruseling is proprietor and Fred F. Ruseling is manager, were built in 1877 by E. J. Carpenter. The same year he sold the mill to Crocker & Redfield. In 1880, the Crocker interests were sold to Henry Ruseling, and the firm became Ruseling & Redfield. The Redfield interests were sold to G. H. Snoyenbos, in March, 1881, and the firm became Ruseling & Snoyenbos. In 1889 Henry Ruseling became the sole owner, and in 1915 Fred F. Ruseling was made manager. The present mill was erected in 1890. It is 30 by 60 feet, with a porch with projecting roof, 58 by 16 feet, and with an engine room 28 by 44 feet built in 1894. The coal sheds, dynamo room and waterwheel house have been built since then. The mill is operated by water and steam power with a capacity of fifty barrels of flour. The equipment includes three double stands of rolls, six round reels, one purifier, one scalper, one dust collector, one double stand feed roll, one 22-inch Attrition feed mill, a corn sheller and cleaner. Since 1914 Henry Ruseling has operated the village electric light plant and furnished the power therefor.

William Gibson, an early settler of Trempeleau County, was born in the Province of Quebec, Canada, March 7, 1824. From Canada he came to Outagamie County, this state, about 1845, and there remained until 1864, when he came to Trempeleau County and secured a tract of land in Trempeleau Township. Here he remained until his lamented death, Dec. 22, 1907. His wife, Jane McGregor, was born in Scotland in 1830, was brought to this country by her parents in 1833, lived in Outagamie County, Wisconsin, until her marriage, came to Trempeleau County with her husband, and died here in 1895, at the age of 65 years. Mr. and Mrs. Gibson had six children: Thomas, a farmer of Trempeleau Township; Eliza, wife of Andrew Johnson, a farmer of Hale Township; Ann, wife of David Wright, a farmer of Little Falls, Minn.; Jeanette, who died in 1893 at the age of 35, the wife of Frank Johnson, a farmer of Trempeleau Township; Dan. P., superintendent of schools of Trempeleau County, and Robert, a construction engineer now working in California.



DR. AND MRS. C. H. ELKINTON AND FAMILY

Dan P. Gibson, county superintendent of schools, is leaving the impress of his personality and enthusiasm upon the educational life of this region. Since assuming the duties of his present position he has begun the use of the telephone and rural free delivery in the rural schools, has introduced the warm lunch movement, has installed domestic science and manual training departments throughout the county, and has emphasized the importance of the teaching of scientific agriculture. That his standing is recognized outside of the country is shown by the fact that he had charge of the "School Management" section at the 1914 Summer School at the La Crosse Normal School, and by the further fact that he has been a vice-president and a director of the Western Wisconsin Teachers' Association. Dan P. Gibson was born in Hortonville, Wis., Feb. 25, 1863, son of William and Jane (McGregor) Gibson. After passing through the rural schools he obtained his higher education by farming summers, teaching winters, and attending school whenever his funds permitted him to do so. Thus by dint of hard work, perseverance and much home study, he was enabled to graduate from Gale College in 1883, and from the Winona State Normal School in 1893. Since the latter date he has devoted his time exclusively to educational work. After taking charge successively of the schools of Utica, Minn., Elba, Minn., Montgomery, Minn., and Melrose, Wis., he returned to Trempealeau County in the fall of 1908 as the head of the Ettrick Schools. In the spring of 1909 he was elected to his present position and has been successively re-elected every two years since that time. Fraternally, Mr. Gibson is associated with the Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen, in the latter of which he has filled all the chairs. He was married Aug. 15, 1885, to Emma Bowerman, who was born in Gale Township, June 3, 1864, daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Betts) Bowerman, the pioneers. This union has been blessed with three children, Maida, McGregor and Marguerite. Maida, a graduate of the Winona High School, is a teacher of reading and spelling in the Junior High School of New Richmond, Wis. McGregor is a farmer of Pigeon Township, this county. He married Emma Hall, of La Crosse, and they have three children, Maida Harriet, Dorothy June and Ethel Marie. Marguerite graduated from the Galesville High School and is a teacher in the primary grade at Whitehall.

Charles H. Elkinton, M. D., physician and surgeon of Eleva, is a native of this state, born in Dodge County, Wisconsin, April 8, 1862, son of Mark and Nancy (Bush) Elkinton. Mark Elkinton was born in Lincolnshire, England, July 18, 1816, and after his marriage, Sept. 27, 1851, came to America and located in Rochester, N. Y., for two years, locating later at Schleisingerville, Wis., before coming to Lomira Township, Dodge County, this state, where he farmed until his death, Nov. 6, 1899, his wife, who was born Nov. 16, 1826, having died Nov. 24, 1881. They were the parents of nine children, seven of whom are now living as follows: Mark at Winneconne, Wis.; Thomas at Jennings, La.; Evelyn at Glasgow, Mont.; Frank and William at Eleva, Wis., and Lucinda at Brownville, Wisconsin. Charles H. Elkinton was reared on the home farm, attended the district schools and started teaching in 1880 at the age of 18 years. By working as a teacher for eight years he secured the funds necessary for further pur-

suings his studies, and in 1886 he graduated from the Oshkosh Normal School. Thus prepared, he entered the Rush Medical College in 1891, and received his diploma from that institution in 1894. After practicing a few months in Neillsville, Wis., he came to Eleva in the spring of 1895 and has since been in active practice here. His standing in his profession is shown by his membership in the American Medical Association, the State Medical Society, and the Eau Claire County Medical Society. He is health officer of Albion Township in Trempealeau County, and Clear Creek Township in Eau Claire County, and has done considerable work in sanitation in addition to his regular practice. For ten years he has been clerk of the Eleva School Board. His fraternal relations are with the Masonic order. Dr. Elkinton is widely known as a fancier of fine stock. He has a large farm in Clear Creek Township and makes a specialty of raising Guernsey cattle, Hampshire sheep and Berkshire swine. On Feb. 24, 1897, Dr. Elkinton was married to Alice Brown, of Neillsville, daughter of David and Anna (Graham) Brown. Mrs. Elkinton graduated from the Neillsville High School after which she attended Oshkosh Normal School and was a successful teacher for three years. To Dr. and Mrs. Elkinton have been born four children: Carlos, born Jan. 24, 1898; Doras, born Aug. 14, 1900; Graham, born April 6, 1904, and Charles, born Aug. 13, 1909. Carlos is in the United States service, having enlisted June 18, 1917, in Company E, Third Wisconsin Infantry.

Giles Cripps was one of the earliest pioneers of Burnside Township, being preceded only by the members of the John Markham household. He opened a pioneer farm, kept the pioneer postoffice, was an early justice of the peace, and served his township as chairman for several years. Giles Cripps was born in Oxfordshire, England, Nov. 5, 1833, and was but three years of age when he was brought to New York State by his parents. From there, in 1843, the family came to Waukesha County, this state, where, though a youth of but nine years, Giles Cripps assisted his father with his herd of 1,500 sheep. The next move of the family was to Dane County where they acquired a farm of 200 acres. There on June 9, 1853, he married Harriet Wood. For four years they continued to farm in Dane County. In 1857 they came to Trempealeau County and selected a homestead a few miles up Elk Creek, being the first settlers in the Elk Creek valley. At their home the Elk Creek postoffice was established, and the place became a pioneer center. They developed a good farm and took a part in every cause which had for its object the betterment of the community. Mr. Cripps continued to devote his life largely to agricultural interests and for some years he and Noah D. Comstock were interested in the grain and elevator business in Independence. A man of broad sympathies and genial temperament, he early became interested in the leading fraternal societies, and in time joined the Masonic, Pythian and United Workmen orders. After a busy and useful life, he died March 21, 1885, and the entire community joined in its regret, the funeral being conducted under Masonic auspices by Rev. T. Grafton Owen and attended by the members of the orders of which he was a member as well as by hundreds of other friends. An obituary notice in the *Republican-Leader* said: "Mr. Cripps was a man of

unimpeachable integrity, honesty and uprightness in every phase of his daily life. In society he was a truly valuable citizen, and in his family a kind and loving husband and father. His agreeable disposition, pleasing manner, and clearly defined principles gave him a wide circle of friends as well as many personal admirers. The death of no man in the community could be more genuinely or profoundly mourned, his premature decease was the cause of universal regret." He was survived by his widow, his five children, and his aged father. The children are: E. A., of Medford, Ore.; Charles A., of Iroquois, S. D.; G. E. and Frederick E., of Independence, and Mrs. Emma Nicols. Harriet Wood, whom Mr. Cripps married June 9, 1853, was born in Cattaraugus County, New York, June 15, 1836, and was the inspiration and help of her husband in all his undertakings. After the death of Mr. Cripps, she remained on the home farm until Oct. 28, 1898, when she married J. W. Summers, and subsequently moved to Whitehall, where she died July 21, 1915. She was universally beloved and respected, and her gracious hospitality was an important feature of pioneer life in Burnside.

Frederick C. Cripps, a well-known and respected citizen of Burnside Township, operating a farm of 240 acres in Section 1, was the first white child born in this township, the date of his nativity being Nov. 23, 1858, and his parents being Giles and Harriet (Wood) Cripps, the pioneers. He was reared to agricultural pursuits. After his marriage in 1883 he moved into his farm in Section 11, Burnside. It was on Oct. 25, 1891, that he sold out and moved to his present place. It is a well-developed piece of property and is being constantly improved. Its fertile acres are devoted to general farming, a specialty being made of a fine herd of graded Holstein cattle. The residence is a two-story frame house with a full basement. It has been substantially rebuilt, and a furnace and other modern conveniences installed. In 1897 the barn was erected. It is a commodious structure of frame, 40 by 64 by 20 feet above the basement, the basement being of stone, with cement floors. In 1917 a large silo was built of Natco imperishable hollow glazed black tile, the dimensions being 12 by 40 feet, and the capacity 96 tons. Mr. Cripps was married Feb. 25, 1883, to Lillian Dale, of Galesville, who was born in Caledonia Township, this county, May 9, 1863, daughter of Joseph and Albina (Fowler) Dale. This union has been blessed with two children: Arthur L., born June 19, 1888, who is residing at home, and Josephine A., born July 24, 1890, now the wife of Paul Van Horn, the merchant at Elk Creek, Hale Township, this county.

Joseph Dale was one of the earliest pioneers of Caledonia Township, and of Trempealeau County. He was born at Utica, N. Y., June 22, 1825, and was there reared and educated. As a young man he came west and settled in Walworth County, this state. After his marriage in 1850, he came to La Crosse County, and in 1854 settled in what is now Caledonia Township, this county. He acquired a tract of wild land, broke and developed a good farm, and took his full share in the pioneer activities of the community. In 1868 he moved to Galesville, where he died Aug. 28, 1889. He was married at Hart Prairie, Walworth County, Wisconsin, Dec. 8, 1850, to Albina Fowler, who died Oct. 3, 1884.

Nels L. Fredrickson, agriculturist, public official and man of affairs, is one of the leading citizens of the county. He did most efficient service as county sheriff in 1893-94, as under-sheriff in 1895-96, and as county treasurer in 1907-11, and since the spring of 1914 has been a prominent member of the county board, sitting as the member from Whitehall, which village he has served for two years as president. The career that has involved this unusual amount of public work has been a most interesting one. The son of Fredrick Nelson and Isabella Larson, he was born in Christiania, Norway, Jan. 26, 1856, and after the death of his father, at the age of 10 he was brought to this country with the rest of the family, by his mother and step-father, George Reitzel. After a year in Ettrick, he came with the family to Preston Township, and was here reared to agricultural pursuits. In 1877 he started out for himself by securing employment in the lumber and machinery business with C. N. Paine & Co. at Whitehall, remaining two and a half years. For a number of years he was in the hardware business. He had a part in the building of the block on the site of what is now the Model Block, later destroyed by fire. Upon his election as sheriff he moved to the official residence and at the expiration of his term purchased his present farm, where he has since continued to reside. The place consists of nearly a quarter of a section in the southeast corner of the village of Whitehall, and is a modern farm in every particular. He has a fine herd of high-grade Holstein cattle, a good drove of Poland-China hogs, and makes a specialty of breeding Brown Leghorn chickens. His interest in his herd led to his connection with the Whitehall Creamery Association, which he served for a time as president, and of which he has been secretary and manager since 1914. The success of this institution is a strong tribute to Mr. Fredrickson's management. With all his busy work, he has found time for the development of his social qualities, and has taken a deep interest, passing through the chairs of the local order, serving as district deputy, and sitting as a member of the Grand Lodge of the State. Mr. Fredrickson has been excellently described as a useful citizen. Combining a genial disposition with sterling worth and an ability to make friends, he has won his way in the world and has achieved a most satisfactory degree of success. Mr. Fredrickson was married Nov. 6, 1896, to Mary Allen, who died Nov. 3, 1902. Her parents were Martin and Elizabeth (Ackerman) Allen, the former of whom is dead and the latter of whom is proprietor of the Allen Hotel at Whitehall. On Jan. 1, 1910, Mr. Fredrickson married Sigrid Kildahl, who was born in Norway, daughter of Ole and Martha Kildahl. Mr. and Mrs. Fredrickson have four children: Isadora M., born Oct. 6, 1910; Sigrid L., May 27, 1912; Nels L., Jr., May 11, 1914, and Junice Waunita, June 14, 1917.

Fredrick Nelson, father of Nels L. Fredrickson, a leading citizen of Whitehall, was born in Norway, and was there reared and educated. Coming of a long line of seafaring ancestry, he early took up work as a boatman on the sea and lakes, and after several years lost his life in this occupation, being drowned in Lake Mjosen, Norway, in 1861. In early life he married Isabella Larson, and to this union were born two children: Nels L. and Elisa.



NELS L. FREDRIKSON AND FAMILY

George Reitzel, one of the early settlers of Preston Township, was born in Norway, and there grew to manhood. In 1862 he married Isabella Larson, the widow of Fredrick Nelson. Four years later they brought their family to America, and took up their residence in Ettrick Township, this county. After residing there about a year they moved to Preston Township, and homesteaded a farm where they lived two years, from there going to Buffalo County, where they took land on which they remained for about the same length of time. They next spent a year in Ettrick and after that removed to Minnesota. In 1876 they came to Whitehall, where Mr. Reitzel died in 1879. In 1884 Mrs. Reitzel married Ole Larson. Since his death on March 7, 1908, she has lived in Whitehall. Mr. and Mrs. Reitzel had six children: Rosa, Anton F., George and Emil (twins), Frank and Rosa. The two oldest were born in Norway, and with Nels L. and Elisa Fredrickson were brought to this country by their parents.

Daniel Bigham is one of the earliest pioneers of Trempealeau County. Making his first trip to this State with his parents as a boy from his home in New York State in 1856, he became acquainted with some of the leaders among the first settlers in this region, and one of his greatest delights is in recalling incidents and events in the lives of the sturdy frontiersmen of those now far-distant days. His experiences also embraced pioneer lumbering when the great forest wealth of Wisconsin was first being developed, and when the La Crosse sawmills in which he was employed were the rendezvous of many of the early lumbermen since prominent in the industrial history of the State. He was born in Putnam County, New York, Nov. 25, 1843, the son of James and Catherine (McVoy) Bigham, and of Scotch-Irish ancestry. He entered the schools of his native county as a youth, and at the age of 13, in 1856, was brought by his parents to Glencoe Township, Buffalo County, this State, where he assisted in developing a pioneer farm, and at times attended such schools as the time and place afforded. Although he left school at a comparatively early age, he has been a deep reader, and has thus acquired a substantial education. As a young man he worked during the lumbering seasons in the sawmills of La Crosse for ten years. In the meantime he purchased 117 acres in section 1 and section 6, range 9, in Arcadia Township, and in 1864 he took up his home thereon. This was entirely a wild tract, but he set to work with a will, firm in the purpose of developing as good a place as could be found in the community. His first house was a small frame structure, 16 by 22 feet. In 1875 he erected a more modern home, with an upright, 18 by 26 feet, and an ell, 16 by 22 feet, a 12 by 12 kitchen being added later, so that now it is a slightly comfortable structure of 11 rooms. As prosperity increased he erected a fine barn, 30 by 74 feet, with 16-foot posts, and a full basement with 9-foot posts. He also erected a granary 16 by 24 by 12 feet, and other buildings of various descriptions. With the progress of years he developed an excellent farm, and for many years successfully carried on general farming, making a specialty of the dairy type of grade Shorthorns, and Shropshire sheep. In 1875 he rented his farm and moved to Arcadia. Three years later he returned to the place, but in 1909 he retired permanently. He has a beautiful home and two extra lots on the hill in Arcadia, and here

he and his good wife are enjoying the fruits of their many hard years of incessant toil. His public service has been extensive. For six years he was chairman of Arcadia Township, and as such did most efficient service as a member of the county board. For seven years he gave satisfaction as township assessor. For many terms he was clerk of his school district. Now he is justice of the peace, in which position he has served for some time. His business holdings include stock in the Trout Run Farms, of which he is president, in the Trempealeau County Farmers' Mutual Fire-Insurance Company, in which he is a director, and in the Farmers' Shipping Association of Arcadia. Mr. Bigham was married March 24, 1868, to Florence Caldwell, born in Clinton County, N. Y., Feb. 22, 1849, daughter of James and Jane (Stark) Caldwell, the former of whom, a carpenter, brought the family to Fountain City from New York State in 1855. Mrs. Bigham has been her husband's inspiration in all his undertakings, a splendid housewife, a loving wife and devoted mother. Mr. and Mrs. Bigham have three children: Orrie May, Alice Myrtle and Roy E. Orrie May was born March 12, 1869, graduated from the Arcadia High School and the River Falls Normal School, and is now a proficient teacher in the public schools of La Crosse. Alice Myrtle was born July 21, 1871, graduated from the Arcadia High School and taught in the Arcadia schools for several years. Her special interest has been in the public library work in Arcadia. Her husband, Dr. J. A. Palmer, now a first lieutenant in the United States Medical Corps, is one of the county's most distinguished citizens. Roy E. was born May 30, 1879, graduated from the Arcadia High School and from the law department of the University of Wisconsin, and is now practicing successfully his profession near Portland, Ore. He married Tennie Talbot and has two daughters: Florence and Frances.

Ole P. Christianson was born in Norway, Dec. 29, 1846, and was there reared. At the age of 21 he came to America, and located in Dane County, this State. Five years later he came to Trempealeau County and acquired 120 acres in Unity Township. This he successfully worked for a while, but in 1879 sold out and went to North Dakota. A year later, in 1880, he returned, married, and secured a farm of 120 acres three miles north of Strum. There he lived until 1911, when he moved to Strum. His wife, Paulina Olson, was born in Norway, March 20, 1865, and was brought to America by her parents at the age of 7 years. Mr. and Mrs. Christianson have five children: Malner P., the Strum miller; Johanna, who died in infancy; Josephine, the wife of Peter Smengson, of North Dakota; Otelja, who died in childhood, and Olga, a telephone operator.

Malner P. Christianson is the proprietor of the Strum Mill, one of the most important enterprises in the village. Born on the home farm three miles north of Strum, Jan. 7, 1881, he remained with his parents, Ole P. and Paulina (Olson) Christianson, until 1910. Then, after a year in the West, he bought the mill which he now conducts. The mill is a substantial structure, 24 by 46 feet, erected in 1901 by Henry Ruseling, now of Eleva. Power is furnished by a 38-horsepower gasoline engine, and the equipment includes a 20-inch grinder and a cob cracker. The capacity is about 30 tons a day. In addition to doing a general grist-mill business, Mr. Christian-



“RONCEVAL,” THE MARKHAM “CASTLE”



MR. AND MRS. JOHN MARKHAM

son handles Pillsbury, White Rose and Wingold flour, stock feed, flax meal, calf meal, middlings, shorts and bran.

George W. Graul, proprietor of the Maple Lawn Dairy Farm of 320 acres in sections 22 and 26, Burnside Township, has a large and well equipped place which will compare favorably with the best in the county. He is an excellent type of the modern farmer, and conducts his operations along the latest approved lines, taking pride in the appearance of his home, his barns, his farm and his stock. He was born in Fond du Lac County, this State, Jan. 24, 1877, son of Emil and Caroline (Schedler) Graul, the former of whom was born in Milwaukee, Sept. 2, 1845, and the latter in Germany, Dec. 13, 1846. Emil Graul, although born in Milwaukee, was reared in Sauk County, this State. He subsequently lived two years in Fond du Lac and three years in Winona, Minn. In 1881 he bought the farm now operated by his son George W. and conducted it until the spring of 1905, when he and his wife retired and went to live in Independence. George W. Graul was reared from early childhood on his parents' homestead, on which he found abundant opportunity to become acquainted with agricultural methods, finally developing into a good, practical farmer. For a number of years he helped his father and then, in 1905, rented the home farm, operating it on that basis until 1915. In the latter year he bought the quarter section in section 26, but rents the other quarter section in section 22 from his father. The residence on his property was built in 1893, and is a frame two-story and basement dwelling, well constructed and convenient. In 1916 a barn was built, 40 by 140 by 14 feet above stone basement, with cement floors, having room for 100 head of cattle and 20 horses. The south side of the basement is composed entirely of windows, giving an abundance of light. All the buildings on the farm are also lighted with electricity from Mr. Graul's own plant. The silo is of frame construction, 18 by 30 feet in dimensions. Mr. Graul raises graded Holstein cattle, having a herd of 60 head, of which he milks 30. He also has 50 head of Poland-China hogs, feeds 200 head of sheep a year, and keeps Buff Leghorn chickens and Toulouse geese. His farm is all fenced with woven wire fencing 42 inches high. April 7, 1905, Mr. Graul was united in marriage with Annie Loretz, of Buffalo County, Wis., daughter of John and Salome (Loretz) Loretz, the former of whom died in 1915, and the latter in 1904. Mr. and Mrs. Graul have three children, born as follows: Morris, June 12, 1906; Emil, June 6, 1908, and Laura, Oct. 11, 1911. The family are members of the German Evangelical Church, of which Mr. Graul was formerly a steward, also teaching a class in the Sunday school. Since 1898 he has been school clerk of his district.

John Markham was born at "Becca" Hall, near Leeds, Yorkshire, England, on June 6, 1797. The family traces its ancestry from a period immediately anterior to the Norman conquest, down to the present time. The first published history of the family was prepared and the data accumulated by David Markham, a younger brother of John Markham, who had spent some twenty years in the work, but had not completed his task when death overtook him, and the final publication in 1854 was consummated by David's son, Sir Clements Robert Markham, afterward president of the

Royal Geographical Society of England, who again in 1915 published a second and very complete history of the family in two volumes. John Markham's grandfather was Archbishop of York, who was chaplain to King George II and afterward to King George III, and directed the education of the Prince of Wales and Duke of York, and presided over the See of York for 31 years to the time of his death. When but 13 years of age John entered the British navy, where he served several years, attaining the office of lieutenant, but upon sustaining a sunstroke while on the India station he was obliged to retire. In 1834 he was married to Marianne G. D. Wood, daughter of I. B. Wood, Esq., by whom he had five sons, the oldest of whom, John, served in the army and was for years British consul to Hong Kong, China; he married and had two daughters, Florence and May, neither of whom married, and the wife and two daughters surviving him still are living at Rai-Gate, England. The second son, George Henry Markham, was born Jan. 24, 1837, in Yorkshire, England, where he and his brothers received their education under private tutors. He came to America with his father, mother and brother, Arthur Augustus Markham, leaving their then home on the Island of Guernsey on Aug. 13, 1856, and becoming the first settlers at the present site of the village of Independence, Trempealeau County, obtaining from the Government and by purchase a large tract of land north and east of the confluence of Elk Creek with the Trempealeau River. This farm became well known far and near, due to the residence later built thereon located on a considerable eminence at the base of a hill facing the south and east and commanding a magnificent view. This house, commonly known as the Markham castle, was built with eight sides, octagonal, and originally comprised four stories, including an observatory at the top. This house was the home of George H. Markham until 1912, when he sold his half of the old homestead—his brother Arthur still owns and occupies the other half of the farm—and has since resided in the village of Independence. The third son, Frederick, died in youth. The fourth son, Arthur Augustus Markham, was born at Bagnere de Bigorre in the Pyrenees, France, on June 8, 1840. Here also the last son, Albert Hastings Markham, was born Nov. 11, 1841. He entered the navy prior to his parents and brothers coming to America and through rapid promotion finally became admiral of the fleet. His post immediately prior to his reaching the age of compulsory retirement was at Sheerness, England. He made several trips into the Arctic Sea in quest of the North Pole and commanded a sledging expedition from his ship in 1878, establishing at that time the farthest northern record. He wrote several books on the question of Arctic exploration, and also several biographical works, among them "Life of Sir John Franklin" and "Life of Sir Clements Markham," which latter work is now just being published. He was knighted by King Edward, with whom he was quite intimate, there being a great similarity in the facial appearance of the two men. His wife, Dora Jervers, and one daughter, Joy Markham, reside with him in the city of London.

George H. Markham, pioneer, assemblyman and public official, is one of the county's most notable citizens, and has had a most remarkable influence upon its destinies for more than 60 years. Of distinguished ancestry



MR. GEORGE A. MARKHAM



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE H. MARKHAM
MR. AND MRS. ALFRED H. ROGERS



MRS. GEORGE A. MARKHAM

and bearing, he is a genial, courteous gentleman of the old school, and he and his good wife, a most gracious and kindly lady, have delighted in dispensing cordial hospitality for considerably over half a century. George H. Markham was born in Yorkshire, England, Jan. 24, 1837, son of John and Marianne G. D. (Wood) Markham. He led the little group of people who in 1856 settled near the mouth of Elk Creek, and here he has since continued to be a leading citizen. George H. Markham was the first town clerk of the town of Burnside, which then included the present territory of the village of Independence and the town of Chimney Rock, and served as treasurer of the town of Burnside and later as treasurer of the village from its incorporation in 1886 for 30 years or more. He represented Trempealeau County in the Assembly during the 1879 session of the State Legislature and also served his town as member of the county board when the county seat was at Galesville. At an early day he held the office of justice of the peace and frequently officiated at nuptials of the settlers in the absence of a clergyman. He was made a Mason in "Doyles" Lodge No. 99 at the Island of Guernsey in 1854; was a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge at Independence and also held a chair in the Ancient Order of United Workmen, frequently representing his local lodges as delegate to the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin. He was married Oct. 8, 1862, to Fannie M. Bishop, a daughter of Dr. Edmund Bishop, of Portage City, Wis., and to this union one son, George A. Markham, was born on May 7, 1865, who for many years, and until his death on July 16, 1909, edited and published the Independence News-Wave. He was married Oct. 11, 1891, to Ada Rogers, of Osseo, Wis., an only daughter of Alfred H. Rogers, now living at Independence, who was an early settler of the town of Burnside, and left no children. Alfred H. Rogers was born in Dane County, this State, June 4, 1844, and was married at Osseo Dec. 2, 1866, to Abby Buzzell, who was born in Waukesha County, this State, April 28, 1849. Except for a year in Iowa and three years in Missouri their married life has been spent in this county.

Arthur A. Markham, a substantial pioneer of quiet tastes, was born at Bagnere de Bigorre, in the Pyrennes, France, June 8, 1840, the fourth son of John and Marianne G. D. (Wood) Markham, with whom he came to America in 1857, and to the present site of Independence in 1867, he and his parents having spent the preceding winter at Black River Falls, while his brother George H. had located the family estate at Independence. Arthur A. Markham being a younger brother of George H. and of a retiring disposition was not so well known in the community. He had no taste for public life and devoted his time almost entirely to the improvement of the large farm. He did, however, act as treasurer of the town of Burnside, being its first treasurer, and also acted as secretary of the "Grange," a farmers' organization which was quite influential in the early '70s. (The "Grange" obtained supplies from the Montgomery Company, of Chicago, the start of the mail order business.) He belonged to no secret orders, except the Good Templars. He was married June 24, 1874, to Rose C. Bishop, daughter of Collins Bishop, the first settler of Arcadia. They had six children, four boys and two girls: John Albert, born Sept. 6, 1875, and Claron Arthur, born Jan. 3, 1878, are practicing attorneys, the first named

of Independence, and the last named of Beaver Dam, Wis. Marianne Emily Markham, the third child, was born July 21, 1883. She has not married and resides with her parents on the old Markham farm just within the village limits. The fourth child, Fredrick Clements, was born June 13, 1885. He, as did his brothers and sisters, completed the course of study at the high school of Independence, and at once settled upon the old farm, after taking some advanced study at Madison in agriculture. He married Inez Leonard, of Pottersville, Mich., July 4, 1916. The fifth child, William Hughes, was born Dec. 13, 1885. After his graduation at the home schools he attended Appleton College and then completed the law course at the University of Minnesota, and is now practicing law at Horicon, Wis. He married Mae Spencer, of St. Charles, Minn., June, 1915, and has one son. The sixth child, Blanche Fannie Markham, was born Feb. 18, 1890, who after completing the local high school took special training in music and normal work and has taught school several years, at present teaching music and English at the Juneau (Wis.) High School.

John A. Markham, former district attorney, three times president of Independence, and an active worker in the cause of advancement in his native village of Independence, is worthily fulfilling the traditions of a distinguished ancestry. Energetic, keen-minded and capable, he has impressed his personality upon many causes which he has fostered and encouraged, and has been especially active in behalf of the cause of civic righteousness and improvement, good roads and modern schools. His sightly home is one of the most attractive residences in the county, and he and his wife are widely known for their genial hospitality. He was born Sept. 6, 1875, son of Arthur A. and Rose C. (Bishop) Markham, and spent his boyhood on the farm, receiving his education at the Independence High School and the University of Minnesota, from which institution he graduated in June, 1901, with the degree of Bachelor of Law and was admitted to practice law in the Supreme Court of Minnesota and later in the State of Wisconsin. That same year he and his brother, Claron Arthur Markham, who had completed the same course of education, opened a law office in the city of Beaver Dam, Dodge County, Wis., where both brothers were admitted and joined the Odd Fellows' Lodge No. 117. John A. Markham was married to Eleanor Louise Brown, eldest daughter of Capt. William E. Brown, of South Bend, Ind., on May 21, 1904. He has three sons: Arthur William, born at Beaver Dam, Wis., May 31, 1905; George Francis Markham, born Aug. 15, 1909, at Independence, Wis., and Richard Albert Markham, born Dec. 13, 1912, at Independence, Wis. In October, 1905, John A. and Claron A. dissolved partnership and John A. removed to Independence, where he has since continued the practice of law. He served two terms as prosecuting attorney of Trempealeau County from 1909 to 1913 and has held various municipal offices, including justice of the peace and city attorney, and for the past three years has been president of the village of Independence. He was made a Mason at Whitehall Lodge No. 271 and a Royal Arch Mason at Arcadia, Wis.

Phillip Wolfe, an early settler in Buffalo County, long since passed away, was born in Prussia in 1824, and came to America when a young man,

in 1849. He had learned the blacksmith's trade in his native land and after landing in this country settled first in Syracuse, N. Y., where he worked at his trade. After remaining there a year, however, he went to Galena, Ill., where he also followed his trade for a while. He then bought a farm in Cross Township, Buffalo County—a place that had some small improvements on it, including a log house and stable. Except for one more year spent in Galena, he continued to follow general farming in Buffalo County until his death, July 15, 1886. When he started farming here he had 160 acres in his original tract, and later bought 160 more, thus being the owner of 320 acres at the time of his death, of which 170 were under the plow, the rest being in timber and pasture. He had erected good, substantial buildings and was in comfortable circumstances. Although a farmer for so many years, he continued to work at his trade all his life, building a shop when he moved onto the farm. As a skillful blacksmith he was widely known and had a good business. Mr. Wolfe was married in Galena, Ill., to Catherine Reidinger, who died in 1884. They had five children, whose record in brief is as follows: Phillip, Jr., born Feb. 14, 1857, at Fountain City, Wis., is now living retired in Arcadia, and is the owner of a farm in Buffalo County; Henry, born in Glencoe Township, Buffalo County, Dec. 31, 1859, is a farmer in Cross Township, Buffalo County, where he owns 1,000 acres of land; William is a prominent business man of Arcadia; Bertha, born June 11, 1863, is the wife of Christian G. Wenger, and resides in Arcadia Village; Fred, born Oct. 24, 1865, in Cross Township, is proprietor of a hotel in Fountain City.

William R. Wolfe, a well-known business man and popular citizen of Arcadia, has taken a part in many of its important ventures, and has been especially active in fraternal affairs. He was born in Glencoe Township, Buffalo County, this State, July 31, 1861, son of Phillip and Catherine (Reidinger) Wolfe. Reared amid pioneer conditions when his parents were struggling to develop a farm, he had to work hard as a boy, and thus had little opportunity for extensive schooling, though his keen observation and wide reading have since given him good educational training. In the spring of 1888 he left the paternal roof and bought the Behlmer Hotel at Fountain City, which he conducted until 1890. He then came to Arcadia and went into business on Main Street opposite Hotel Cain, remaining there until 1904, when he came to his present location. Since 1905 he has been lessee and manager of the Opera House, which he has made one of the best in the State for a city the size of Arcadia, having refitted and furnished it tastefully and made every effort to secure high-class entertainments. He has for a long time given his active support to practically every local enterprise calculated to be of benefit to the community, showing in this respect a commendable degree of public spirit. He is now in comfortable circumstances, having accumulated a fair competency. At Arcadia Mr. Wolfe is a charter member of Trempealeau Tribe, Independent Order of Red Men, of which he has been treasurer, and a charter member of Maple Brook Camp, No. 24, Woodmen of the World, of which he has been clerk for four years. At Fountain City he joined Steuber Lodge, No. 280, I. O. O. F., in 1882. At Winona he is a member of Winona Aerie, No. 1243, Fraternal Order of

Eagles. Mr. Wolfe was married Sept. 3, 1891, to Paulina, daughter of John and Rose Earney, of Cochrane, Buffalo County, and they began domestic life in Arcadia, where they have ever since resided. They have one child, Leona, who was born May 26, 1892, in Arcadia Village. She is the wife of William Knoop, who is engaged in the shoe business in Arcadia. Mr. Wolfe is a Democrat in politics and has served as treasurer of the Democratic County Committee for four years.

Christian Kolden, an early settler, was born in Gulbrandsdalen, Norway, and was there reared and married Ingri Ramstad, who was born Dec. 3, 1838, and died Aug. 1, 1903. They came to America in 1870, and located near Urne, in Buffalo County, this State, remaining until 1884, when he secured 120 acres in section 10, town 23, range 7, Hale Township. This farm he developed and improved, increasing the property of 200 acres, and successfully carrying on general farming. He now makes his home with his son, Ole, who has the farm lying just across the road on the east. Mr. and Mrs. Kolden had five children: Ole, born Aug. 24, 1867, a farmer of Hale Township; Eldri, born June 13, 1875, in Buffalo County, who keeps house for her brother Ole; Torsten, born Jan. 16, 1878, also in Buffalo County, who died Aug. 27, 1881; Karen Torine, born May 16, 1880, who is the wife of Carl P. Hanson, a farmer near Onalaska, Wis.; and Thea Lydia, born Feb. 6, 1884, who married Orville Evenson, a farmer near Whitehall. She died Nov. 6, 1907.

Ole Kolden, proprietor of the fertile Kolden Stock Farm of 160 acres in sections 9 and 16, town 23, range 7, Hale Township, is doing his full share toward developing the agricultural resources of the county. Energetic and capable, he is a successful farmer, a good neighbor and a useful citizen. He was born in Gulbrandsdalen, Norway, Aug. 24, 1867, son of Christian and Ingri (Ramstad) Kolden, who in 1870 brought him to America and settled in Buffalo County, this State, coming in 1884 to Hale Township, where he grew to young manhood and was trained to farm pursuits, assisting in the cultivation and development of the home farm. He bought his present farm in 1894, and moved onto it in 1908. Here he has since carried on general farming, operating it successfully, and keeping graded Holstein cattle, of which he has 30 head, with a registered sire; about 30 head of Poland-China hogs, and a flock of White Leghorn chickens. Like other enterprising farmers, he has improved his place from time to time by the erection of new buildings, installed with modern conveniences. Thus, in 1910, two years after moving onto this property, he built his present residence, a two-story and basement house of nine rooms, installed with a hot water heating system and other modern improvements. In 1915 he built a barn, 44 by 64 by 14 feet above stone basement, with an ell 32 by 20 feet for horses. The barn has cement floors and steel fixtures all through. His granary and machine shed is a frame building, 16 by 28 feet, with an ell 32 by 34. All the buildings on the farm are well constructed and present a neat appearance. As one of the substantial and prominent men of his township, Mr. Kolden has not escaped public office, but has served cheerfully as township supervisor for four years and as school clerk three years. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. Mr. Kolden



OLE KOLDEN AND FAMILY—CHRISTIAN KOLDEN AND FAMILY

was married, June 3, 1908, to Kari Moe, of Gary, Minn., who was born in Norway, June 18, 1878, daughter of Guttorm and Anna (Lyngve) Moe. She died April 15, 1912, leaving one child, Isabella Alvidia, who was born Nov. 6, 1910.

George A. Coy, an energetic young business man, was born in Independence, Jan. 11, 1892, the son of Elmer and Barbara (Cook) Coy, the former of whom has been a rural carrier on Route 1, out of Independence, since 1902. George A. acquired a good education, passing through the graded schools and graduating from the Independence High School in 1910. Thus prepared he entered the rural mail service as carrier on Route 3, from Independence. Two years later he went to Montevideo, Minn., learned the trade of linotype operator, and followed that line of work for a year and a half, then returning, and becoming a mail carrier on Route 3, out of Independence. In 1916 he entered into partnership with John A. Rumpel in the firm of Rumpel & Coy, and bought out the meat market of Peter Filla at Independence and built up a substantial business in meats, groceries and baked goods, and also renting the building, a substantial two-story brick building with full basement. He was married, June 8, 1915, to Katherine McClone, of Stevens Point, a graduate of Stevens Point Normal School, who was a teacher in the seventh and eighth grades of the public schools for seven years. Her parents were Edward and Sarah (Timlin) McClone, the father being now a retired farmer living at Stevens Point. Mr. and Mrs. Coy have one child, Katherine Loraine, who was born July 29, 1916.

William Van Sickle was one of the earliest settlers. Coming to this county in 1856, he and his family located in Preston Township, where they began life in true pioneer style, living for three months in a tent, while William Van Sickle hauled lumber from Merrillan to build a house. This domicile when completed measured 12 by 20 feet, and besides constructing it he made his own furniture. He had two yoke of oxen, indispensable for pioneer farming, and cut his wheat with a cradle, threshing it the first three years with a flail. His hay he cut with a scythe. For provisions the family depended largely on the game which he killed, of which there was an abundance, including bear, deer, ducks and prairie chickens. Indeed, the family had little occasion for money, as trousers were made from bagging and moccasins from cowhides, Mr. Van Sickle and his sons wearing blue denim shirts, and it was always possible to trade hay, corn, wheat or game for such articles as they could not raise or make themselves. Of course, there were inconveniences and occasional privations in connection with such a life, but these were surmounted or endured until conditions gradually improved.

Levi Van Sickle was born in Will County, Ill., April 3, 1840, son of William and Caroline (Denny) Van Sickle, who brought him to Preston Township in 1856. He was reared amid pioneer conditions, residing on the home farm and assisting his father until he was 25 years old. Then, ambitious of an independent career, he homesteaded land for himself in Preston Township, taking up 160 acres, where he resided until 1879—a period of 14 years. Having during that time considerably improved his place, he

sold it and went to Blue Earth County, Minnesota, where he remained three years. He then returned to Wisconsin and rented the David Wood farm for two years. In 1884 he bought a farm in section 24, Lincoln Township, where he resided until his death. He was married, Oct. 1, 1865, to Mary Wood, daughter of Alvah Wood, and a sister of David Wood. He and his wife had four children: Cora, wife of Erwin Rumsey, who is employed in the freight depot of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway at La Crosse, they having one child, Ethel; Alvah, a farmer in Pigeon Township, who married Grace Thompson and has one child, Ione; Estella, who resides at home, and one that died young. Mr. Van Sickle was for many years a member and trustee of the Presbyterian church at Whitehall.

John Charles Hewitt, pioneer lumberman, successful agriculturist, and gallant soldier, was born in Canada, Aug. 19, 1832. Early in life Mr. Hewitt became a lumberman and riverman. He was still a young man when he came to the United States and was in this country when the Civil War broke out. In that great struggle he took an active part, enlisting at La Crosse in the First Wisconsin Light Artillery, with which organization he served three years and escaped unwounded. At the close of the war he returned to La Crosse County and again took up river work as foreman for the Black River Improvement Company, soon moving from La Crosse to Bloomer, Wis., where he lived for two years. He then moved to Beef Slough, near Nelson, in Buffalo County, as foreman for the Mississippi Logging Company, remaining there about five years, and subsequently returned to La Crosse County, where he purchased a farm. Not long afterward he again entered the employ of the Black River Improvement Company, working on Black River. After spending three years at this familiar work the farm again claimed his attention and he returned to it and followed agriculture until 1890, when he quit that occupation and moved to La Crosse, where he lived retired for about two years. He then came to Gale Township and purchased the farms on which his sons Charles F. and Mark R. now reside, and resumed agricultural operations, being thus actively engaged until 1899, when he retired and moved to Galesville, where he died Dec. 12, 1912. Mr. Hewitt was married Sept. 2, 1867, at Minnesota City, to Margaret Jane Stiltz Rooh. Margaret Jane Stiltz was born near Mansfield, Richland County, Ohio, Jan. 22, 1841, and was brought by her parents to Juneau County, in this State, in 1855. Four years later she married Jacob Rooh, who died in 1865, leaving two children, of whom Fred Rooh, of La Crosse, still survives. Mrs. Hewitt died July 7, 1917. Mr. and Mrs. Hewitt are survived by six children: Charles F., Harry B., Mark R., Frank B., Lottie and Emma. Charles F. is the State oil inspector.

Rev. Emanuel Christophersen was born in Lyngør, Norway, June 23, 1849. Parents: Christopher J. and Margrete Christophersen. At the age of 13 years he entered Drammen's Latin School and six years later matriculated at the University of Christiania. In 1873 he concluded his theological studies and after making a tour of Scotland, England, Germany and Denmark assumed the position of high school director in Gjerstad. Here he received information regarding the spiritual want among his fellow countrymen residing in America, and expressed his willingness to enter



MR. AND MRS. JOHN C. HEWITT



MRS. EMANUEL CHRISTOPHERSEN



REV. AND MRS. FINAR B. CHRISTOPHERSEN



REV. EMANUEL CHRISTOPHERSEN

ministerial work among them. Through Bishop Hench he received a call from Pigeon Falls and affiliated congregations. He was ordained in Vor Frelser's church in Christiania in 1876. The 23rd of March, the same year, he married Inger Nilson, also from Lyngör, Norway, born Oct. 3, 1849, of parents Knut and Helene Nilson. Immediately afterward they emigrated to America and arrived at Whitehall May 30, 1876. Here they lived a few months until the parsonage which was being built half a mile north of Pigeon Falls was ready for occupancy. His call consisted of five congregations and a number of missionary stations. For 33 years he performed his arduous labors in this large field with rare fidelity, traveling about in rain and sunshine, summer and winter, preaching the word of Christ's gospel, administering the sacraments, comforting the sorrowful, and instructing the young. During these many years of continued pastorate in Pigeon Falls he became widely known and respected in this and neighboring counties. His manly bearing, his clean-cut character and his integrity, together with his considerable learning commanded universal recognition and esteem. In his lifework he was ably assisted by his faithful and self-sacrificing wife, whose crowning work it has been to make a home rich with joy, peace and contentment. Their married life was very happy. Eleven children were born to them. The three oldest boys, Christopher, Knut and Gotlob, all died young. The other eight living are: Anna, married to Olaf Mosbo and living at Rembrandt, Iowa; Johannes Björn, married to Eva Brevig and living at Roanwood, Mont.; Einar Björn, successor in the father's call and living at Pigeon Falls, married to Myrtle Peterson, of Trempealeau Valley; Gerhard Björn, married to Addie Dale and living in Superior, Wis.; Johanne Marie, married to Rev. J. C. Johnson and living in Frankfort, Mich.; Knut Johan, at Pigeon Falls; Ragnhild Margrete, graduate nurse of Augustana Hospital, Chicago, living in Fargo, N. D.; Valborg, teacher in North Dakota. On the 23rd of March, 1909, the anniversary of his wedding day, he suffered a paralytic stroke while seated at the dinner table and died a few hours later. The funeral took place on the 29th of March. Right Reverend J. Nordby, the president of the Eastern District of the Norwegian Lutheran Synod, spoke on 1 Peter 5:10, 11. The Revs. Ramberg, Gimmestad, Urberg, Bestul, Hovde, Berrum, Vik and Kvaase delivered brief addresses. The funeral services were attended by a great host of mourners. Floral offerings were sent by many societies and individuals. A number of old parishioners served as pall-bearers from the residence of the deceased to the church. Six brother ministers carried his remains to the grave. Members of his congregations and his family have erected a beautiful monument upon his grave. At the time of his death his call consisted of three congregations: Pigeon Creek congregation, at Pigeon Falls; South Beef River, Jackson County, and Upper Pigeon Creek, Jackson County. During his pastorate at Pigeon Falls he had preached approximately 3,150 sermons, baptized 3,079, confirmed 2,029, married 480 couples and officiated at 1,002 funerals.

Einar Björn Christophersen was born in Pigeon Falls, Aug. 16, 1885. His parents were Rev. Emanuel Christophersen and Inger Christophersen. In the fall of 1900 he entered the preparatory department of Luther College,

Decorah, Iowa, graduated from the preparatory department and continued in the collegiate department in 1902. He was graduated from the collegiate department, comprising a classical course, in 1906, with the degree B. A. The following year he taught school and in 1907 was admitted as a student at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn. Upon completing the theological course at this institution in 1910 he was called to be his father's successor as pastor of Pigeon Creek and affiliated congregations of the Lutheran church at Pigeon Falls. On June 18, 1912, he was married to Myrtle Birdine Peterson, born Nov. 8, 1888, daughter of Bent and Anne Peterson, Trempealeau Valley. Three children have been born to them: Emanuel Björn, born May 9, 1913; Rolf Erling, born Aug. 19, 1915; Paul Gerhard, born May 22, 1917.

Daniel C. Dewey, the pioneer, was born in Delaware County, N. Y., April 16, 1828, of English descent, the son of Aaron Dewey. The original ancestor in this country was Thomas Dewey, who came from Sandwich, Kent County, England, and settled in Massachusetts, where he died April 27, 1648. Daniel C. was but 4 years old when, in 1832, he removed with his parents to Cherry Valley, Ashtabula County, Ohio, where his boyhood was spent, and this early attachment made him always deeply interested in everything identified with the "Western Reserve." He came to Wisconsin when that State was but a Territory, and a few years of his youth were spent in the vicinity of Horicon, Dodge County. Later he went to Clarkson, Monroe County, N. Y., where he married. In the fall of 1852, he settled in Martin, Allegan County, Mich., where for the next five years he labored clearing up and improving a homestead. This was then a heavily-timbered country, and it is characteristic of the conditions consequent upon opening up such lands for cultivation, the felling and burning large quantities of timber, the decaying vegetation, and the steam arising from the drying of the soil heretofore shaded, almost invariably produce a state of unhealthiness, and this young couple, although each possessed of robustness fitly typical of the hardy pioneer, escaped not these malarious conditions. To avoid suffering longer, they sold their homestead and removed to Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wis, where they arrived May 8, 1859. His brother, George D., had settled there five years previously as one of the first in this, until then, uninhabited locality by civilized men. The mother had come here in 1857, after the death of her second husband. Henry W. Dewey and Walter D. Dewey came later. Hence the Deweys must ever be regarded as among the earliest settlers of Arcadia, who made the early development of the place, promoted the welfare of the little community, and assisted in the organization of the town, and its early government. The nearest post-office was at Fountain City, upon the Mississippi River, over 20 miles away. It was also the market place, and where supplies were purchased and drawn to the little community with ox teams over roads of the crudest and most primitive construction. The community grew, prospered and developed rapidly. The Deweys were energetic, public spirited and, it is safe to say, were as potent factors in promoting the interests of the community as any therein. Daniel Dewey was for a long time a school officer. He solicited immigration, procured the establishment of mail routes, carried the mails,

laid out and built roads, nearly swamped himself financially by contributing too liberally to the building of a church. In the War of the Rebellion he enlisted in Company C, Thirtieth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, on Aug. 10, 1862, and served as sergeant of his company. One day when stationed at Camp Randall, while in charge of a squad of men who had been assigned to duty in the removal of some stone, to encourage his men he took a hand with them and, in his enthusiasm, accidentally overdid, the strain producing double hernia, and not long thereafter was discharged for disability incurred. He never fully recovered, and although his death did not occur until July 4, 1889, it is thought that this army service accident may have been the remote cause of his disease, an operation for which at the hospital in St. Paul, whither he had gone for treatment, he did not survive. Like his father, was a great reader and well informed on the political and other events of his day. In politics a Republican, though not a strong partisan. In religious matters his were the most progressive views, very genial in his nature, broad-minded in his conception of humanity, kind as a friend, fearless as an enemy, charitable, public spirited, always entertaining a deep interest in that which was deemed a benefit to the commonwealth. He suffered much pain from his disease for the last five years of life, but bore it well and did not complain. He married, June 5, 1852, at Clarkson, N. Y., Josephine M. Trumbull, daughter of William and Polly (Cropsey) Trumbull. His father was born Oct. 4, 1836, in Rensselaer County, N. Y., and died Jan. 15, 1896. After her husband's death his mother lived with her son Jay on the old homestead, and with her daughter Ida on the farm adjoining. She was of a quiet, sunny disposition, with a tendency to see only the bright side of everything of life. Young and old confided in her, knowing that their secret troubles were safely lodged in the repository of a faithful breast whose heart throbs would beat in sympathy and pour oil of soothing influence upon the troubled waters. There are three children: Ida, widow of D. L. Holcombe, of Arcadia; Ada, widow of J. C. Haigh, of Bismarck, N. D., and Jay I., a leading citizen of Arcadia.

Jay I. Dewey, general manager of the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company, is one of the best known men in the county. For ten years he has been a most important factor in the success of the company of which he has had charge, his wide acquaintance throughout the extensive territory which the service covers, his executive ability and his genial personality, coupled with his genuine interest of all those whom his lines serve, all combining to make him an ideal man for the position. It is not alone in the affairs of this concern, however, that he is assisting in the development of the county. Since 1898 he has been president of the Arcadia Board of Education, in which time he has guided the public school of Arcadia from a small village academy to the magnificent institution which it is today; he was actively interested in the building of the present schoolhouse, and has been a leader in the installation of the vocational and recreational departments. Since January, 1914, his business experience has been of much value to the county in his exercise of his duties as president of the Trempealeau County Insane Asylum. While he has consistently sought to avoid public office, he has nevertheless listened to the call of duty and

has served as chairman of his township for eight years, and in other local offices, besides having been a member of numerous committees and delegations. His business holdings include extensive farming interests at Old Arcadia, and stock in the Bank of Arcadia, of which he is a director. His fraternal relations are with the Masonic order, in the Blue Lodge and Chapter of which he has passed through all the chairs. A native of Kalamazoo, Mich., where he was born Dec. 10, 1858, he is a son and nephew of two of Arcadia's leading pioneer families, his parents, Daniel C. and Josephine (Trumbull) Dewey, having brought him to Old Arcadia in 1859. He attended the public schools of Old Arcadia, and supplemented this training with courses in the Winona Business College at Winona, Minn. His early life was devoted to agricultural endeavor, and farming has since continued to be his hobby. In 1889, after his father's death, he purchased the old home farm of 40 acres, and so successfully conducted it that in time he built up his present splendid place of 298 acres of as good land as is to be found in the county. He developed the farm, remodelled the house, erected new barns and outbuildings, and for a number of years successfully carried on general farming, making a specialty of the dairy type of graded Short-horn cattle. He now rents the farm, but still lives there. Jan. 1, 1907, Mr. Dewey listened to the request of his friends who were vitally interested in the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company and accepted his present position, in which he has since faithfully served, greatly to the credit of himself and the benefit of the community. Mr. Dewey was married, Aug. 6, 1885, to Ella Arnold, daughter of William B. and Clara (Sawyer) Arnold, the former of whom lives in Winona, and the latter of whom died in 1902. Mr. and Mrs. Dewey have had two children: Theron A., who died at the age of 2 years, and Myrrl, who died at the age of 4 years.

John Peterson, one of the early settlers in Preston Township, who did good pioneer work in helping to subdue the wilderness, belonged to that hardy Norwegian race to which the great Northwest owes much of its present civilization and prosperity. Coming to America with his wife, Mary Peterson, and two children, in 1857, he selected the State of Wisconsin as the field on which he proposed in future to fight the battle of life, and after some investigation as to a favorable location, finally purchased 120 acres of land near Blair, in Trempealeau County. He found no subsequent reason to repent of his choice, and he and his wife spent half a century or more on the farm which he developed out of his originally wild tract. The early years were full of hard work demanded by the struggle with nature, but Mr. Peterson had in him the stuff of which successful men are made, and nature was finally conquered, his sons lending him their assistance as they arrived successively at the age of industrial activity. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson spent their latter years in comfort and ease, the former dying in 1902 and the latter in 1904. They were people widely known and universally respected, and their memory will survive for many years to come. Their children were: Hans C.; Martin, who died young; Martin (second), now a farmer in section 3, Pigeon Township; Andrew, Peter and Albert; and Carl, Mary and Oluf, deceased. The father's name of Peterson has been changed to the family name of Johnson by the surviving children.



MR. AND MRS. TOSTEN GUNDERSON
MARTIN JOHNSON AND FAMILY
MR. AND MRS. JENS BERGE

Martin Johnson, a retired farmer now living at Pigeon Falls, was for a number of years successfully engaged in agriculture in Pigeon Township. He was born in Sondreland, Norway, April 9, 1857, his parents being John Peterson and Mary Peterson, both natives of that country, who came to America in 1857, and shortly afterward settled in Preston Township, Trempealeau County. The name of Johnson has since been adopted as the family name by the surviving children. Martin Johnson was educated in the district school and resided on his parents' farm until 1880, assisting his father. He then moved to Pigeon Township, where he worked on a farm for several years, at the end of which period he purchased the farm of his wife's father in section 3, containing 80 acres. To this he subsequently added until he had a farm of 240 acres, well equipped with a good residence, barns and other buildings, on which he was profitably engaged in general farming until 1914, the year of his retirement. The farm is now being operated by his son-in-law, Jens K. Berge. Mr. Johnson was married in 1880 to Beatha T. Gunderson, who was born in Norway, daughter of Tosten and Bertha Gunderson, both of whom are now deceased. Of this union seven children were born: Bettilde Maria, Sept. 15, 1881; Johan Theodore, June 8, 1884; Olga T., Oct. 4, 1887; Clara H., Dec. 26, 1891; Clarence Helmer, June 22, 1895; Clara J., May 24, 1897, and Melvin B., Aug. 10, 1900. Bettilde Maria married Jens Berge, of Pigeon Falls, and they have three children: Ruth, Clarence and Laura. Johan Theodore died in 1886. Olga T. and Clara J. reside with their father at Pigeon Falls. Clara H. died Jan. 5, 1892, and Clarence Helmer July 8, 1896. Melvin B. is residing at home. Mrs. Martin Johnson, in addition to the three deceased children above mentioned, has also passed away, her death having occurred Nov. 15, 1912. The surviving members of the family belong to the United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

Peter Kronschnabl, proprietor of the Arcadia Brewing Company, was born in Bavaria, Germany, June 29, 1870, son of Joseph and Magdalena (Gaschler) Kronschnabl. Both his parents were natives of Bavaria, Germany. The subject of this sketch was reared a farmer. From the age of 7 to that of 14 he attended the public schools and then took a special course of one year, being mentioned for high honors. Having finished his schooling, he worked on a farm until he was 18, and then began to learn the brewer's trade in Regen, a small town in Bavaria. Having learned his trade by the time he was 20, he went to Mainz, in North Germany, as brew master and remained there until June 25, 1892. From that time until Dec. 7, 1902, he traveled over Germany, subsequently returning to Mainz and the people for whom he had formerly worked. March 23, 1893, a big brewers' strike took place and Mr. Kronschnabl, with the others, left his position, he going to Zwiesel. The strike lasted for several months, and ended in defeat for the employees. Remaining in Zwiesel until Oct. 8, 1894, Mr. Kronschnabl then went to Traxelsried, Bavaria, where he superintended the construction of a large brewery. In the fall he went to Munich and attended a brewing school there, after which he accepted a position with the Webber Bros., of Waedensweil, Switzerland, working for them as brewer until June 12, 1896. In the fall of that year he came to America, landing in New York

in the month of September. Making no stay in the East, he proceeded directly to Appleton, Wis., where for a short time he was in the employ of the Munich Brewing Company. From there he went to Milwaukee, where he worked for different brewing concerns and also attended a brewing school, taking No. 4 course. May 26, 1900, Mr. Kronschnabl left Milwaukee for Waukesha and spent some time in working for different companies in order to gain a more extended experience. Feb. 1, 1901, he was sent to Bay City, Mich., to superintend the construction of a brewery. After this work was done he returned to Milwaukee, and spent a year with the Milwaukee Brewing Company, going from there in 1905 to Alpena, Mich., where he remained one and one-half years, then returned to Milwaukee, going from there to Appleton, Minn., to superintend the building of a plant. Then returning to Alpena, Mich., he remained in that city until June, 1908, when he came to Arcadia as brew master and manager of the Arcadia Brewing Company. In May, 1909, he leased the plant and still operates it under the lease. Mr. Kronschnabl was married June 25, 1898, to Anna Schoenberger, daughter of Frank and Anna (Krause) Schoenberger, and a native of Bavaria, who came to America alone in 1898. This marriage was the culmination of an acquaintance begun in the old country. After landing in New York Miss Schoenberger proceeded to Waukesha, Wis., where they were married. Of this union the children born are: Anna, April 23, 1899; Violet, Aug. 15, 1900; Mary, Aug. 6, 1902; Peter Paul, born March 29, 1904, who died Aug. 22, 1911, while accompanying his mother on a visit to Bavaria, and was buried in that country; Catherine, born Jan. 21, 1906; Theresa, June 25, 1912, and Peter Joseph, March 13, 1915. All except Peter Paul are living at home. Mr. Kronschnabl is independent in politics and has held no public office. He belongs to the Eagles, the Catholic Foresters, the Bonneventura and for the past 10 years has been a member of the German verein.

George Haines, who is conducting a prosperous farming business in section 8, Arcadia Township, was born in Scranton, Pa., Oct. 26, 1867. His parents, John B. and Elizabeth (Kuntz) Haines, were both born in Germany, the mother coming with her parents to the United States in 1853. They were married in Utica, N. Y., in 1853, and came by train from that city to La Crosse, Wis., in July, 1868, and then by ox team from La Crosse to Arcadia Township, Trempealeau County. On arriving here they located on what is now the Louis Remlinger farm in section 1, where they remained until the following year. In 1869 they bought 40 acres and homesteaded 160 acres in Myers Valley, section 8, Arcadia Township, and here Mr. Haines built a small house and began to make a home. His efforts were successful and he continued to work the farm for many years, and to make improvements, when he sold it to his son George in 1890. He died Nov. 18, 1908. His wife is still living in her own home in Arcadia Village, her daughter Elizabeth, who is unmarried, residing with her. Their children were: Christiana, Mary, John, Elizabeth, Anton, Margaret, William and George, all of whom are living. Mary and Elizabeth reside in Arcadia Village, Margaret in Pennsylvania, Anton at Rice Lake, Wis., and John and William are with the Massuere Company, general merchants in Arcadia. George Haines



EDWARD HAINES AND FAMILY

had limited opportunities as a boy for acquiring an education, but made the best of those he had. He lived with his parents until 23 years old, at which time he bought the old homestead, where he has since resided, and which he is cultivating with profitable results. He is also a stockholder in the Bank of Arcadia. Jan. 26, 1897, he was married to Mary, daughter of John and Pauline Kostner, of Arcadia Village. He and his wife have a family of eight children: Clotilda, born Sept. 26, 1898, who resides at home; Cyrill, born Nov. 4, 1899, residing at home; Marcellus, born April 29, 1902, who is a student in St. John's University at Collegeville, Minn.; Orlando, born Oct. 9, 1904; Thelma, born Jan. 15, 1906; Eldred, born May 10, 1909; Dolores, born Sept. 19, 1911; Everett, born Aug. 8, 1914, and Brunetta, born Sept. 24, 1917. Mr. Haines is a Democrat in politics and has served as supervisor one term. Since 1897 he has belonged to the Catholic Foresters and to the Knights of Columbus since 1914. He and his family are members of the Catholic church.

Edward Haines has lived in Arcadia Township since early childhood, his parents having brought him here in 1865. Growing up with the county, he has taken his part in its development, and is now one of the solid and substantial men of the community. He was born in Herkimer County, N. Y., March 12, 1858, son of Christian and Margaret Haines. The parents were born in Germany, located in New York State as young people, there married and lived there until coming to Wisconsin. Edward had attended school a short time in New York State, and continued his studies in the school of district 6, Arcadia Township, until about 14 years of age. He was reared to farm pursuits and remained with his parents until his marriage in 1882, when he took his bride to a rented farm in Bill's Valley, now known as the Michael English place. In 1883 he rented the Scholidon farm on the Fountain City Ridge. Misfortune overtook him, and he lost nearly everything that he possessed. But in August, 1884, he acquired 180 acres of partly improved land in Meyers Valley, two and a half miles south of Arcadia Village. Moving into a log house covered with boards, which stood on the place, he and his good wife set to work to establish their fortunes. Gradually they added to their possessions until the farm now consists of 488 acres, and in addition to this they own several residences in Arcadia Village. The log cabin has been replaced with a sightly set of buildings, including a two-story, 11-room modern brick house; a frame barn, 34 by 80 feet with full basement; three poultry houses; a machine shed, 18 by 40 feet; a stone milk house, a garage and other buildings. The place is devoted to general farming and dairying, a good herd of Durham and Holstein cattle being maintained. The equipment, tools, machinery and implements are adequate and ample. Mr. Haines' business holdings include stock in the Arcadia Co-Operative Creamery Company, the Bank of Arcadia, the Farmers' Bank, the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company and other organizations. A Democrat in politics, he has served as supervisor of Arcadia Township two years and has been a member of the school board of district 6 for three years. Mr. Haines was married Oct. 23, 1882, to Julia Woutchik, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Woutchik. Mrs. Haines came to America at the age of 17 years, following a sister who had come

several years before. She and her husband have had 15 children: Margaret, born Oct. 3, 1883, died April 6, 1890; Frank, born Sept. 20, 1884, died Feb. 24, 1913; Elizabeth, born Jan. 14, 1885, is now Mrs. Isadore Meyers; Michael, born July 15, 1887, is now on the Casper Meyers farm, owned by his father; Catherine, born March 20, 1889, is the wife of Henry Fernholz, of Arcadia Village; Edward T., born Aug. 22, 1890, lives at home; Mary, born Nov. 18, 1891, is a clerk in Arcadia Village; Anna, born April 9, 1893, is in the Convent of Notre Dame, at Milwaukee; Rose, born Sept. 28, 1894, lives at home; Agnes, born Feb. 26, 1896, died in infancy; Agnes (second), born April 11, 1897, is in the Convent of Notre Dame at Milwaukee; Florence, born Sept. 19, 1898, lives at home; Raymond, born Sept. 3, 1900, died in infancy; Lenora, born Feb. 28, 1902, is a student in the Arcadia High School; Florina was born Feb. 4, 1905, and lives at home. The family faith is that of the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Arcadia Village, of which Mr. Haines was a member of the building committee when the parochial school was erected.

Andrew Gleason, who is engaged in farming 125 acres of productive land in sections 20, 29 and 30, Arcadia Township, was born in Bill's Valley, this township, June 2, 1866, son of Michael and Mary (Cashel) Gleason. His parents were both natives of Ireland, the father coming to America about 1861, and locating in Buffalo County, Wis. After residing there about five years, Michael Gleason, who had come to this country with some means, purchased 250 acres in Buffalo County. Of this latter farm he subsequently sold 130 acres, and then moved to Bill's Valley, Arcadia Township, Trempealeau County, being one of the first settlers in the valley. The remainder of his Buffalo County farm he retained until 1882, when he sold it. In Bill's Valley he homesteaded 40 acres, and bought 165 acres adjoining the Christ Haines farm. The land was wild and there were no improvements, but he set to work and grubbed and cleared it, having six yoke of oxen, which he had brought with him. The frame house that he built is still standing on the farm. The lumber for it and other buildings that he constructed was hauled from Merrillan, 50 miles, by ox-team. Among these buildings was a good barn, the timber for which he cut and hewed in Tamarack. Here Michael Gleason resided until 1893, and then moved to Arcadia Village, where he purchased a house in which he lived until his death in 1911. His wife died in Arcadia Village March 25, 1915. They had been married in Buffalo County, Wis., in 1858, and had enjoyed a happy married life together of 53 years until death separated them for a while. Their children were: Maggie, now Mrs. J. D. Stevens, of Beecher, Ill.; Mary Ann, who died in infancy; Julia, now Mrs. S. R. Hunter, of Arcadia Village; Andrew, the direct subject of this sketch; Christian, who is a farmer in Buffalo County, Wis.; Katherine, who is an invalid; Elizabeth, unmarried, who is now living in the village home of her parents, which she inherited at their death; May, wife of J. J. Enwright, of Plymouth, Wis.; John L., residing in Gymon, Okla., and Anna, wife of L. F. Messman, of Enid, Okla. Michael Gleason was a staunch Democrat in politics, but never aspired to public office. Andrew Gleason was brought up on his parents' farm, on which he began to make himself useful at an early age,



MR. AND MRS. ANDREW ANDERSON—ELDRIDGE ANDERSON—MR. AND MRS.
MORRIS ANDERSON

gradually acquiring a competent knowledge of agriculture. He was married April 14, 1896, to Mary, daughter of Joseph and Anna (Scholidon) Kostner, of Arcadia Township, and for two years subsequently he and his wife resided on his father's "Bill's Valley" farm. In 1898 he moved to a rented farm at Glencoe, Buffalo County, where he lived until 1902, in which year he purchased 200 acres of land in the same neighborhood. After keeping the latter farm one year he sold it and bought 125 acres of improved land in sections 20, 29 and 30, Arcadia Township, which constitutes his present farm. In 1917 he remodelled the brick house and frame barn. The barn was struck by lightning and destroyed the same year. It was replaced by another barn, which in turn was struck by lightning and destroyed Sept. 6, 1916. It was rebuilt the same fall, on the same foundation. The entire acreage of the farm is now under the plow. Mr. Gleason carries on general farming and dairying, keeping from 10 to 12 grade Shorthorn cows. He is well supplied with all equipment for a modern farm and is doing a prosperous business. His property lies about a mile and a half northwest of Arcadia Village, the land being very rolling, like all in this vicinity, but fertile and capable of producing excellent crops. In politics Mr. Gleason is a Republican, and has served as a member of the district school board and as chairman of the township board. He and his wife have had five children: Gladys, born Oct. 18, 1897, who graduated from the Arcadia High School and is now teaching in Trempealeau County; Clifford J., born Sept. 19, 1900, who is a student in Arcadia High School; Kenneth, born July 31, 1910, who died in 1912; Gerald, born Sept. 27, 1911, and Melvin L., born July 20, 1912, who reside with their parents. Mr. Gleason and family belong to the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Arcadia. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Morris Anderson is a native of Hale Township, this county, and was brought to his present farm by his parents in 1883. He now owns 170 acres in section 1, Chimney Rock Township, and carries on general farming, making a specialty of Durham cattle, Poland-China swine and Rhode Island Red chickens. Mr. Anderson was born July 16, 1877, and with the exception of six years spent as a traveling salesman he has devoted his life to farming. He was married in Minneapolis, Dec. 31, 1913, to Cornelia Carlson, of Chimney Rock Township, daughter of Carl and Anna (Hendrickson) Carlson, and they have one son, Eldridge Rudel, born July 25, 1914; they have also adopted a bright girl, Margaret Meachin, born July 2, 1905. The family faith is that of the United Norwegian Lutheran church. Mrs. Anderson's parents came to America from Varmland, Sweden, in 1887, settling in Chimney Rock Township. Her father died in 1897, and her mother is still living on the old homestead. Five children were born to them: Charles, Emma, Beda, Cornelia and Julia, all living.

Andrew Anderson came to Trempealeau County in 1873, and lived in Hale Township until 1883, when he moved to Chimney Rock Township and purchased 170 acres in section 1, which in 1911 was purchased by his son, Morris. Andrew Anderson was born in Varmland, Sweden, May 20, 1841, and upon coming to America in 1866 located in La Crosse until settling in this county. He died Feb. 3, 1911. His wife, Olivia Jacobson, whom he

married in Chimney Rock Township, was born in Sweden, March 6, 1838, and died Dec. 3, 1911. In the family there were three children: Morris has been mentioned. Amanda is the wife of Ole Storberg, of Albion Township, this county. One is dead.

F. Carl Zeller came to Trempealeau County in 1857, took his part in the pioneer endeavors of this region, and here lived until his death, Nov. 26, 1898, a period of over 40 years. He was born in Bavaria, Germany, Aug. 11, 1831, and at the age of 23, in 1854 came to America, landing in New York, and finding his way directly to Prairie du Sac, Wis., where he lived until coming to Trempealeau County. Here, with his brother, Frank J., he bought 240 acres at the head of Meyers Valley, in section 17, Arcadia Township, the brothers having saved a little money during their residence in Sauk County. In 1861 the partnership was dissolved, F. Carl marrying and moving to what is now the George Haines farm in Meyers Valley, section 8, Arcadia Township. There he and his family lived until 1869, when he purchased the 240 acres of wild land adjoining on the west, which has since remained the homestead. He set at work with a will, grubbed and broke the land, erected a frame house and barn, and gradually achieved success and prosperity. A Democrat in politics, he did not seek public office, but consented to serve as school treasurer, a position he occupied for many years. He was a devout member of the German Catholic church, and was an important factor in the progress of that faith in this community. He was one of the first members in this vicinity, the early masses being said in a log residence on the Nick Myers farm in section 7, adjoining the Zeller place. Later he assisted in building the church at Hartman's Corners, three-quarters of a mile north of the old home. He did not live to see this pioneer structure replaced by the magnificent Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, in which the congregation now worships at Arcadia. Mr. Zeller was married in 1861 to Margaret Frederick, the daughter of Adam Frederick. She still lives on the home place with a daughter, Elizabeth, and four sons, Adam, John M., Charles W. and William. Barbara died at the age of 12, and another Elizabeth died in infancy. Anton farms near Bismarck, N. D.

Adam Zeller has spent his life on the farm where he now lives in section 7, Arcadia Township. He was born March 23, 1865, son of F. Carl and Margaret (Frederick) Zeller, attended the district school, and was reared to farm pursuits by his father. In 1896 he took charge of the home farm, which he now operates. He has made many improvements thereon, including a sightly barn, 52 by 102 feet, with full basement, cement floors, James stanchions and other modern equipment. At the time of his father's death he succeeded him as treasurer of the school district, in which position he is doing most excellent service. In connection with the marketing of his dairy products and stock, he has acquired an interest in the Farmers' Co-Operative Creamery at Arcadia, and in the Farmers' Shipping Association of Arcadia. Like his father before him, he is a Democrat in politics, and his faith is that of the Catholic church.

James Hopkins, for many years a leading citizen of Trempealeau County, came to this region as a youth with the earliest settlers, grew up

with the country, and became an integral part of its life and progress. Born in Leeds, Yorkshire, England, Oct. 5, 1839, he was but 8 years of age when his parents, John and Mary Hopkins, came to America and took up their home in Troy, Walworth County, this State. In 1855 they came to Trempealeau County and located on the north bank of the Trempealeau River, in the western part of Preston Township. In this primitive spot they erected a sod home and later a log cabin, and started to develop the fertile tract which has since been known as the Hopkins farm. Comforts and conveniences were lacking, farm and domestic equipment was of the crudest, marketing and trading facilities were of the poorest, the nearest point at which provisions could be secured being Galesville, far away and over the rugged bluffs. Often, while a mere boy, James Hopkins went to the mill at Galesville and brought back flour and other provisions on his back, or in the winter on a hand sled, trudging his way over the rough and sometimes dangerous trail. With the passing of the years and the growth of the county, conditions changed, and the farm became a beautiful estate in the midst of a thickly-settled community. Here the parents spent the remainder of their years, the father dying Jan. 9, 1888, and the mother Feb. 27, 1875. James Hopkins continued to live on the home farm improving and developing it, and successfully carrying on general farming. He was an important factor both in public service and in the business life of the region in which he lived. As a farmer he was the staunch friend and the earnest advocate of the agricultural interests of the county. A thorough believer in cooperative effort among farmers, he was active in the Preston Creamery Company and the Farmers' Trading Association, both at Blair, and served for a time as president of each. At the annual meetings of the Trempealeau County Agricultural and Driving Association, held at Whitehall, in years past, he was always a prominent figure. He did good service as chairman of his township, and as treasurer and clerk of his school district, also doing excellent work several different terms as deputy sheriff. He was faithful to every public trust committed to his care. He held the conscientious discharge of every public duty above personal or private consideration. He was a firm believer in Prohibition and strove earnestly and persistently to bring it about. His was a positive nature, whatever he believed, he believed with all his might, and he had the courage to avow his convictions, as well as the ability to assert them, yet he was a just man, able to see the other side of public questions as well as his own, and demanding of himself an even stricter standard than he expected of others. In a few words, he had common sense, an honest heart and tireless energy. About a year before his death Mr. Hopkins, accompanied by his wife, went to Seattle, Wash., intending to remain there with their sons. While there he was stricken with paralysis. Realizing that he had not long to live, and desiring to see his old friends again, he returned to Whitehall. Thus it was his good fortune when the end came, April 17, 1913, to be under his own roof, surrounded by family and friends so near and dear to him. Through his illness he was uniformly cheerful and bright, and bore his sufferings, which were at times intense, with remarkable patience. The faithful wife, son and daughter were with him to administer to every want, and to extend him

that sympathy which one's own alone can give. He lies buried in Lincoln Cemetery, at Whitehall, in and near which village he had spent the greater part of his life. Mr. Hopkins was married to Angelina Van Sickle, and their union was blessed with five children.

Florison D. Hopkins, county treasurer, and president of the Auto Sales Co. of Whitehall, was born on the Hopkins homestead in Preston Township, July 12, 1861, son of James and Angelina (Van Sickle) Hopkins. He attended the district schools, and was reared to farm pursuits. As a young man, he purchased a tract of 160 acres adjoining the homestead, and set about developing it, erecting a home, barns and other buildings, and building up a splendid farm. For a time he also rented the homestead. Reared in the home of prominent and influential people, it was natural that his attention should early turn to public affairs. In the old Convention days, he was delegate to many a convention that has helped to make political history in the county and state. For eight years he was chairman of the township, and for one term he was treasurer. His excellent service on the school board extended over a period of fifteen years. Upon the solicitation of his friends he ran for county treasurer in the fall of 1916, and was elected by a comfortable majority. His work in this important office has met with general approval, his wide acquaintance, his knowledge of the county and its people, his genial disposition, and his clear-cut business methods all being factors in favor with which he is held. In 1913 Mr. Hopkins sold his farm and took up his residence in the village. In Whitehall he purchased an interest in the Auto Sales Co. and is now its president. Reared as he was on the farm, he has continued his interest in outdoor life. He is an enthusiastic motorist, and takes especial delight in fishing, seeking both health and recreation at this pastime. Mr. Hopkins was married Aug. 26, 1885, to Nellie Shephard, the daughter of Henry and Phelina Shephard, pioneers of Preston township. This union has been blessed with four children: Goldie, Deva, Margaret and Harley J. Goldie is the wife of E. A. Guyton, M. D., of Eau Claire, Wis.; Deva is the wife of Sidney Jacquist, of Blair, Wis.; Margaret is the wife of Oscar Dahle, of Whitehall, Wis.; and Harley J. is a corporal in the Marine Service, having previously been a student in the University of Wisconsin.

John Maurer, a pioneer of Buffalo County, and one of the founders of Arcadia, is an excellent and typical example of the sturdy Swiss, who though few in number, have had so important a part in the upbuilding of America. Energetic, capable, versatile and generous, he was for many years an active leader among his fellow men, and though modest and unostentatious, his influence has been tremendous. As agriculturist, as hotel keeper, as pioneer postmaster and as merchant, he was the same quiet, genial personality, a pleasant companion, a loyal friend and a good citizen. But his supreme joy has been in his home, he reared his children with the affection and care characteristic of his race, and now in the afternoon of life, as he looks back over a well-spent life, his greatest pride is in the substantial positions in life which each of his children has attained. Born in Oberstammheim, Canton of Zurich, Switzerland, July 27, 1832, he was there educated and reared. Upon attaining his majority, he determined to broaden his oppor-



F. D. HOPKINS

tunities by transferring his scene of activities to the new world. Accordingly, having saved his slender earnings, he was enabled to realize his ambitions by setting sail for America in 1855, reaching Fountain City, in Buffalo County, this state, in June of that year. The next March he homesteaded a farm in Waumandee Township, in the same county. There he remained until 1864, when he sold out to Fred. Schoepp, and moved to Fountain City, where he became landlord of the Eagle Hotel, and for a time served as postmaster. Ten years later, in 1874, he sold out his interests in Buffalo County, and came to Arcadia, where he erected one of the first stores in the village, and whose destinies he had an important part in shaping. From the date of his arrival until 1900 he successfully conducted the general mercantile business, building up a good trade, and winning a high regard in the esteem of his fellow men for his honest dealing. Since 1900 he has led a retired life, still, however, looking after his various interests. Mr. Maurer was married at Milwaukee on July 5, 1855, to Katherine Moos, born in Wihlen, Canton Zurich, Switzerland, April 1, 1833. This union has been blessed with four children: Catherine, now Mrs. John Durisch, of Arcadia; Albert A., a physician, of La Crosse; Emil, banker, of Arcadia, and Edward R., professor of Applied Mechanics at the State University of Wisconsin.

Emil Maurer, president of the Bank of Arcadia, financier and man-of-affairs, has been a leading factor in the life of Arcadia for many years, and the civic movements in which he has not had an active part are few indeed. Coming here as a boy of twelve, he has grown up with the village and has had a share in its growth, having been one of the original supporters of several of the ventures which have contributed most largely to its development and progress. In spite of his substantial success in life, Mr. Maurer is democratic and approachable by nature, a sincere friend to every inhabitant of the village and countryside, and ever willing to give his time, voice and support in behalf of every good and worthy progress. At the prime of his activities he finds himself in an enviable position of respect and honor, satisfied in his work, and happy in his wide circle of friendships. He was born in Waumandee, this state, July 7, 1862, son of John and Katherine (Moos) Maurer, the pioneers, spent his boyhood in Fountain City and Arcadia, and was educated in the schools of Buffalo and Trempealeau Counties. At the age of 17 he entered the employ of G. G. Oppliger at Fountain City where he remained for eighteen months. With this experience, he returned to Arcadia in 1884, and purchased the drug business of James Pierson & Son. This concern he developed into one of the most important commercial ventures in the village, erecting for its occupancy in 1893, the handsome building which now houses the establishment of his successor, and in the upper story of which he still makes his home. While conducting the drug store he became interested in the Bank of Arcadia, and in 1901 he sold out his drug business to become president and active manager of the bank. His personality, integrity, standing, and wide friendships have been the important elements in the success of the institution. He is also one of the moving spirits in the Western Wisconsin Telephone Co., which he helped to organize and of which he has been the only secretary.

The Trempealeau County Bankers' Development Association has likewise found in him a valued member and an efficient secretary. In public life he has been president and member of the village council, and member of the board of education and of the library board. When he was president of the council, some of the village's best improvements were undertaken, and the present library was built when he was a member of its board. In the Masonic order he has served in all the chairs of the Blue Lodge and Chapter. His Elk affiliation is with the lodge at La Crosse. He is also a member of the Independent Foresters at Arcadia. Mr. Maurer was married June 13, 1885, to Magdelina Danuser, born in Buffalo County, this state, May 22, 1861, daughter of Jacob Danuser, the pioneer. This union has been blessed with four children: Erna E., Nettie E., Mae Alice and Merrill E. Erna E. graduated from the University of Wisconsin, and is now a teacher. Nettie E. graduated from the Winona State Normal School, taught school for a while, married Oscar A. Erickson, a merchant of Kasson, Minn., and has one son, William. Mae Alice is a graduate of the Stout Institute at Menomonie, Wis., and is now teaching domestic science at Evansville, Wis. Merrill E. has been a student at the Lawrence University, Appleton, Wis., and is now a student of the State Normal School at La Crosse.

Knudt Leofson Strand, the first settler in Norway Cooley, Arcadia Township, where he is still an honored and respected citizen, is one of the very few men in this county who are still living on homesteads which they selected before the close of the Civil War. He has been an industrious, hard-working man and a good citizen and has had his share in the progress which has changed this region from an unsettled wilderness into one of the best farming countries in western Wisconsin. The second of the six children of Leof Sorenson and Anna Knutsen Aaakre, substantial and God-fearing farming people, he was born in Strand, Telemarken, Norway, Feb. 8, 1834, and was there reared, receiving his education by studying two months each year under a traveling schoolmaster, and spending his youth in assisting his father at farming and lumbering. At the age of seventeen he left home and for several years continued to be employed as a farmer and lumberman. During the latter part of this period he devoted most of his time to hauling timber from great forests, sometimes as a day laborer and sometimes by contract. July 13, 1859, he married Anna, the daughter of Hoover and Margaret Hooverson, and began farming in a modest way in his native parish. Here was born the oldest son, Leof K., now a prosperous Arcadia farmer. But the ambitions of the young man were stirred to seek wider opportunities in the New World, so on April 4, 1861, with his wife and child, he set sail for America. After a tedious trip of ten weeks aboard a sailing vessel, they landed at Quebec, and from there found their way to Detroit, Chicago, and La Crosse, then the terminal of the railroad. Locating in Vernon County he secured such employment as he could at from fifty cents to \$1.00 a day, and the following year pre-empted 40 acres of farm land. Trempealeau County was at that time attracting numerous settlers, and with a friend, John Gunderson, Mr. Strand determined to look over the land with a view to settling here. Selecting a pleasant location in Holcomb Cooley, the two men started cutting hay in the summer of 1863,

with a view of making their permanent home there, but hearing of land to the northward, he and Ole Guttormson started out one day on a further trip of exploration. After a weary march, they reached the mouth of one of the most beautiful cooleys they had ever seen. Here, on the gentle slope, lay rich land, ready to be broken for crops, while water was pure and abundant. No settlers had yet erected cabins in its virgin expanse, and here Mr. Strand determined his future home was to be located. Hastening back to La Crosse he found that the land was still open and immediately filed on 160 acres in Sections 23 and 14. His preparations for moving were made during the winter, and as soon as travel was opened in the spring he came up and built a pole hut in which he took up his residence. The hut had the trodden earth for a floor and was thatched with hay. A small window with one pane of glass admitted the light, while a crude door on leather hinges furnished the entrance. Another pole and hay structure furnished a shelter for the yoke of oxen, two yearling steers, and two sheep which he had brought with him from Vernon County. Thus, with but a dollar in his pocket, began the first settler in Norway Cooley. In June he brought his family, and his happiness was complete. Few people of modern times can realize the difficulties with which the early settlers contended. The nearest neighbor on the east was the George Vernon family five miles away. The nearest on the west was Tolef Bergeson, four miles west. Indians thronged the cooley, and though friendly and harmless, kept Mrs. Strand in a constant state of apprehension by their savage ways. The nearest road was five and one-half miles away. Bishop's settlement, now Arcadia, was six miles away. Trempealeau was fourteen miles away, the trail leading through Dodge Township and over Whistler's Pass. The Big Tamarack Swamp was at that time impassable. Grain had to be hauled over hills and through swamps, the unshod oxen picking their way as best they could. In the winter grain was sometimes taken as far as the mill at Pickwick, in Minnesota. Such a trip was long and cold and filled with dangers. At times the ice on the river and marshes was so smooth and glaring that a trail of hay had to be made to prevent the oxen from falling and breaking their legs. There were no physicians nearer than Trempealeau and Galesville. Life on the Strand homestead was filled with work. By Christmas, 1864, the pole hut had been replaced with a substantial log structure, 14 by 16 feet, one and a half stories high, and well protected against the winter storms. It is interesting to note that the present home was built of hewn logs in the middle seventies. It is 16 by 30 feet, two stories high, with a full basement. In recent years the house has been veneered with lumber, thus making a thick-walled, comfortable home of solid proportions, fully plastered. The original farm has been increased to 280 acres, well divided into cultivated land, timber and pasture. Here, hale and hearty in his old age, Mr. Strand, with his good wife, is spending the afternoon of life, well content with what the years have brought him. Mr. Strand is a man of intense patriotism, a devout church member, and a believer in education and good roads. When the need of men to fight the Civil War was the greatest he was drafted, and walked to La Crosse to enter his command,

but upon reaching that city he found that he was physically disqualified owing to the after-effects of an attack of pneumonia which he had experienced some years previous. He assisted in organizing the first school district in Tamarack, a district which has since been divided into several more districts. He laid out the first road over the hill to Arcadia, and gave liberally of his time and money to further the cause of good roads throughout this region. He was one of the founders of the Norway Cooley Lutheran Congregation, of which he and all his family are members. He was on the building committee when the present edifice was erected, he was a trustee for many years, and has been one of its liberal contributors since its organization. All in all, he has been one of the county's most useful citizens, and justly deserves the high esteem in which he is held. Mr. and Mrs. Strand have been the parents of the following children: Leof K., born in Strand, Norway, March 10, 1860, now a well-known farmer of Arcadia Township; Hoover, born in Vernon County, Wisconsin, December 23, 1861, who resides at Thief River Falls, Minn.; Anna, born in Holcomb Coulie, who died Jan. 18, 1867; Margaret, born in Norway Cooley, Jan. 6, 1866, who is the wife of Ludwig Johnson, of Ossian, Iowa; Sam, born in Norway Cooley, Nov. 8, 1867, who is a farmer there at the present time; Anna (2d), born in Norway Cooley, June 22, 1869, who is now Mrs. John Kasse, of Dane County, Wisconsin; Ellen, born in Norway Cooley, April 23, 1871, who is the wife of A. Emmerson, of Ettrick; Knudt L., Jr., born in Norway Cooley, Jan. 5, 1873, who died May 8, 1911, and Birgit, born in Norway Cooley April 19, 1877, now Mrs. Sam M. Swenson, of Tamarack.

Leof K. Strand, a successful farmer and business man residing in Section 22, Arcadia Township, was born in Strand, Norway, March 10, 1860, son of Knudt and Anna (Hoover) Strand. He was one year old, when, in 1861, he came to America with his parents, pioneers of Norway Cooley, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin. There he attended the district school organized by his father, which was the first school in that section, and grew to manhood, assisting his father on the latter's farm. On Dec. 19, 1885, he was united in marriage with Amelia Amundsen, daughter of Andrew and Agnes (Olsen) Amundsen, of Norway Cooley, and who had been a schoolmate of his. For ten years after his marriage he remained on his parents' farm and then removed to a separate location, buying from his father 40 acres in Section 22, which tract lay in the vicinity of the old home. Here he erected his present residence, a two-story house consisting of upright and two wings, into which he and his wife moved the year he took the farm. He also built a frame barn, 28 by 46 by 16 feet, on full stone basement. Here he has since followed general farming and dairying with good success. His farm is well watered by springs and is provided with a full equipment of teams, tools and machinery. Mr. Strand in 1885 became interested in the first farmers' co-operative creamery in Trempealeau County, known as the Ettrick Farmers' Creamery Association, of which he became a stockholder. In this enterprise he took a very active part, working up the cream routes and hauling two routes himself for ten years, daily in summers and four days a week in winters. In 1896 he withdrew from the association, selling his stock. In company with Peter Larson,



MR. AND MRS. LEOF K. STRAND
MR. AND MRS. KNUDT L. STRAND

Mr. Strand in 1891 bought the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 27 in Tamarack. Later Mr. Larson sold his interest to Ole A. Olson and Mr. Strand, but afterwards bought back an interest. Later Strand, Olson and Larson built the main part of what is now the Tamarack store at the head of Norway Cooley, which they rented to Levi Henderson, of Ettrick, who put in the stock. After remaining one year, Mr. Henderson sold his stock to Iver C. Myhre, who conducted the business to 1898. He then sold out to C. L. Boleng, who now operates the store. Mr. Boleng rented the building from the company until February, 1902, when he bought it. Mr. Strand is a stockholder in the Farmers' Shipping Association of Arcadia, the Arcadia Farmers' State Bank, the Tamarack Telephone Company, of which he has been president for the last twelve years. In this enterprise he has ever taken an active part to perfect its service and equipment. In politics he has always been a Republican and was chairman of his township board for six years. Mr. and Mrs. Strand are the parents of ten children, all of whom are living, their record in brief being as follows: Annetta, born Nov. 20, 1886, is now Mrs. A. O. Severson, of Norway Cooley. Clara, born March 18, 1888, is unmarried and resides at home. Hilda, born Dec. 12, 1898, is now Mrs. C. W. Peterson, of Buffalo, S. D. Elmer, born Dec. 26, 1891, is operating a homestead farm in Lavinia, Mont. Clarence, born Jan. 25, 1894, is residing at home unmarried. Margaret, born Oct. 7, 1896, is now Mrs. A. M. Olson, of Thompson Valley, Arcadia Township. Laura, born Sept. 17, 1898. Henry, born Dec. 3, 1900; Milton, born March 19, 1903, and Mildred, born May 4, 1905, are all living at home. Mr. Strand and his family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church at Norway Cooley, which he helps to support. Through enterprise and industry, backed by intelligence, he has gained a position among the prosperous and respected citizens of his township and has never forfeited their good opinion.

John Durisch, a well known and highly esteemed citizen of Arcadia Village, now living retired after a long and active career, was born in Switzerland, June 21, 1846. With his parents, Thomas and Anna Durisch, also natives of Switzerland, he came to America in 1852, landing at New York. From that city the family came west to Prairie Du Sac, Wis., where they lived until 1856. They then migrated to Buffalo County, making the trip overland by ox team and driving before them twenty-one head of cattle. Arriving after a twelve-days' journey, they settled in Danuser's Valley, Montana Township, where Thomas Durisch bought 160 acres of new land from the government. With the aid of his son, John, he grubbed and cleared the land, building of tamarack a comfortable log house, 16 by 20 feet, hewn inside and out, which was the pride of all that region. Mr. Durisch continued to cultivate and improve his farm until his sudden death while plowing in the field in 1861. The mother, Anna Durisch, was born Sept. 4, 1810, and died at the home of her son in Arcadia at the age of 100 years. John Durisch was six years old when he accompanied his parents from Switzerland. He had attended the common and parochial schools in his native land and had but little further education after coming to America. At his father's death he was sixteen years of age and he

subsequently operated the farm for his widowed mother up to 1869, breaking about forty acres more of the land. His father had built a substantial log barn, 20 by 24 feet, which added to the value of the property. In 1872 Mrs. Durisch rented the farm and with her family moved to Fountain City. The family included, in addition to the subject of this sketch, a daughter, Agnes, who was born in Switzerland, and who married Christ Mauele, a farmer of Montana Township. She died at Arcadia in 1893. The subject of this sketch and his mother resided in Fountain City up to 1874. He married Lucy, daughter of Christ and Elizabeth Kindschy, pioneer settlers of Buffalo County, in 1870. In the spring of 1874 he arrived in Arcadia Village with his wife. Building a small house on what is now Deer Park Street, he entered into the teaming and livery business, and was thus occupied until 1898. He then traded the business for an improved farm of 160 acres in Lewis Valley, Arcadia Township, but remained in town and rented the farm. In 1876 the big flood came and wrecked Mr. Durisch's house in Arcadia. He then built his present brick veneer residence on Main Street, a nice-appearing and comfortable dwelling. His first wife died in 1893. They had one son, Thomas C., who was born February 10, 1872, died in 1884. Mr. Durisch remained a widower for a short time and then, in 1895, married Katherine, daughter of John and Katherine Maurer, of Arcadia. A Republican in politics, he was elected sheriff in 1894, and served one term, retaining his residence in Arcadia, and having a deputy, N. L. Fredrickson, in charge at Whitehall. For many years he served as village marshal, a member of the village board and as street commissioner. In 1914 he retired from active business life and in the same year sold his Lewis Valley farm. A number of years ago he invested in lands in the state of Montana, his interest in which he still retains. He is also a stockholder in the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company. Among his earlier activities may be mentioned the fact that, with J. I. Dewey, Charles Miller and James Gaveney (father of John C. Gaveney), he made the first canvass of Arcadia Township for 500 cows to stock the first creamery in this section, which creamery was built at Arcadia, west of the Trempealeau River. For a number of years Mr. Durisch hauled cream and butter from this creamery, often taking as many as sixty 60-pound tubs at one load. Mr. Durisch was reared in the faith of the German Evangelical Church and is an active member of St. John's Church of that denomination at Arcadia, of which with A. F. Hensel, Herman Cloug and Jacob Schneller, he was one of the founders. He was treasurer of the church for twenty-two years and for a number of years superintendent of the Sunday School. He and his wife are members of the best society in the village.

Collins Bishop was a type of the noblest ideal of the American pioneer. Lofty of purpose, keen of mind, kindly of heart, rugged of body, strong of personality, resourceful of disposition, he represented those noble traditions which are infused into the very soul of our national life, and in defense of which so many a noble patriot has given his all. His contemporaries whom he met in the stress and toil of every-day life delighted to do him reverence and honor, they regarded him as the possessor of every moral and manly excellence, with character and life that were well nigh flawless.

The spirit of the whole community which took his name, also took on something of the aspect of his high worth, and his excellencies and influence were woven into the very warp and woof of the community's growth. Citizen, friend, patriot, pioneer, soldier, farmer, official, husband and father, in every capacity of life he did his highest duty, and nobly fulfilled his loftiest destinies. The halo and heritage of honor which he left has been passed on not only to his family, but also to the entire population of that prosperous county in whose founding he had so important a part. Collins Bishop was born in Nelson Township, Portage County, Ohio, January 9, 1822, one of a family of four sons and three daughters born to Ebenezer and Annie Bishop, all of whom lived to adult years, and all but two of whom became residents of the Trempealeau Valley. He was reared in his native state, and as a young man came to Wisconsin and located in Dodge County. From there, in 1855, accompanied by James Broughton, George Shelley and George Dewey, he came up the river from La Crosse to Fountain City, and found his way over the ridge to the present site of Old Arcadia, where he founded the colony long known as Bishop's Settlement. Thus located, he devoted his life to agricultural pursuits, living upon the same place for some fifty-five years. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he assisted in the raising of Co. C, 30th Wis. Vol. Inf., that famous company commanded by Captain Alex. A. Arnold, and recruited from the flower of fearless and heroic young manhood of Trempealeau County. Owing to disability, Mr. Bishop was soon transferred to Co. A, Veteran Reserve Corps, but he was as lion hearted in his patriotism and fealty to the Union as though baptized in fire like his comrades in the gallant Company C. As the years passed he was blessed with prosperity and success. He changed a wild tract of land into a rich, fertile, modern farm, he passed through the strenuous endeavor and hardships of pioneer life and lived to see his little settlement the metropolis of a great county. After a long and useful life he died Jan. 19, 1911, surrounded by the love and care of his large family. At that time it was said of him: "He died as he lived, with a clear mind, a clean conscience and without a fear of going into the Great Mystery. In his death his children lost a worthy parent, his friends lost a genial, kind-hearted and companionable fellow, his community and county lost an upright citizen and a soldier-patriot. His character and repute may be commended as most worthy of emulation. The virtue and excellence of such a man deserve to be recorded in the archives of history. Mr. Bishop was married July 24, 1844, at Cherry Valley, Ohio, to Emily A., daughter of Obed and Delight Warren, and this union was blessed with eight children: Florence, Rose, Emily, Blanche, May, Hiram, Howard W., and Winfred E. Florence married George W. Webb, and is now deceased. Rose married Arthur A. Markham, of Independence. Emily died in infancy. Blanche is the widow of Martin Woodhull. May is the wife of Frank Warren, of Black River Falls, Wis. Hiram died in 1868. Howard W. lives in Whitehall. Winfred E. lives in Arcadia. A book might be written of the life of Collins Bishop, and it would be replete with interest from cover to cover. A few stories of his experiences are still preserved in the traditions of the county. In the early days there were no physicians in

the vicinity. A new family moved into the adjoining town of Glencoe. Soon after that a visit of the stork was expected. Having received a medical education through a two years' course in a medical college in the East, Mr. Bishop had acquired, through pioneer necessity, considerable skill and reputation as an obstetrician. On this occasion, after a hard day's work on the farm, he walked several miles to the sick woman's house, performed his duties as an obstetrician, and cared for the mother and child until the next day, when he was relieved by a neighbor woman. He never asked nor took pay for such errands of mercy. His resourcefulness in the most trying circumstances is shown in the story of his dead ox. One hot summer day he was on his way to obtain provisions at Fountain City, twenty or more miles away, with an empty wagon drawn by a pair of oxen. Over on the ridge, four or five miles from Fountain City, one of the oxen became overheated. Mr. Bishop unyoked him and went down in the valley afoot and brought a pail of water. But on his return the ox was dead. So Mr. Bishop rolled him aside and gave the water to the other ox. By means of ropes and chains he harnessed up this remaining ox so that he could pull the wagon to town, while Mr. Bishop himself put his own head through the other bow, and thus held up the yoke as he walked beside the ox and continued his journey.

Winfred E. Bishop, one of the leading agriculturists and seed-corn growers of this county, is known far and wide for his character as a man, his usefulness as a citizen, and his worthy efforts in the cause of rural betterment. The son of the county's most distinguished pioneer, he lives on Arcadia's pioneer farm, and is worthily following the high traditions of his family, combining an intensely modern spirit of progress with the stability of the foundation upon which his career is based. Born on the historic place where he now lives, Jan. 25, 1869, the son of Collins and Emily Bishop, he was reared in an atmosphere of piety and culture, and received his education in the district, graded and High schools of Arcadia, supplementing this with a course in the Lambert Business College at Winona. Trained throughout his boyhood as an agriculturist, he became his father's partner at the age of 20, and this arrangement continued until his father's death, when he bought the interests of the other heirs and became sole owner and proprietor of the farm which he had assisted so materially in developing and improving. This development and improvement has since continued. The character of this farm, and the care with which it has been conserved during the sixty years that it has borne crops, is shown by the fact that it contains the first piece of land broken in Arcadia, which bore its first crop in 1857, and in 1917 yielded 85 bushels of oats to the acre. The two houses on the place are surrounded with a beautiful wooded lawn, the barns and outbuildings are commodious and modern, the farm is well fenced, and the tools and equipment are in every way adequate to the demands made upon them. Mr. Bishop makes a specialty of raising seed corn of the Golden Glow Yellow Dent Wisconsin No. 12 variety, with which he has won many prizes at the county and state exhibitions, and for which the demand is so great that it is only by refusing many orders that Mr. Bishop is able to keep enough for his own use. The industry was



COLLINS BISHOP, W. E. BISHOP

inaugurated several years ago on a small scale, when Mr. Bishop started the preparation of his first seed by drying and ripening it by the fire. Now he has a hot-air fan system, and raises some twenty acres each year, sixteen acres being for seed purposes exclusively. The pride of the neighborhood is Mr. Bishop's fine herd of Holstein-Friesian cattle, all high grade. While not the largest herd in the county, these creatures are acknowledged to be the sleekest and best cared for in every particular. Farming, as he does along such modern lines, it is natural that Mr. Bishop should take an active part in the work of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Association, and that he should have been chosen to his present position as president of the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery of Arcadia. He has not cared for public office, but has listened to the call of duty and for two terms has done most excellent service as town treasurer. His fraternal relations are with the Masonic and Independent Forester orders. Mr. Bishop was married Jan. 25, 1890, to Hattie E. Wheeler, who died in March, 1891, leaving one son, Glenn, who is now a telegraph operator for the Northwestern Railroad in South Dakota. Nov. 30, 1893, Mr. Bishop married Ruth Weeks, and they have one child, Florence M., who is soon to graduate from the Arcadia High School. The family faith is that of the Christian Science Church.

John F. Brom, one of the successful farmers of Dodge Township, residing in Section 6, was born in Pine Creek Valley, this township, May 23, 1875, a son of Frank and Katherine (Pribyl) Brom. Both parents were born in Bohemia, the father in 1850. Frank Brom came to America in 1861 or 1862, with his parents, they settling first in Winona, Minn., but soon the father of Frank homesteaded 160 acres of wild land in Section 6, Range 9, Township 19 (Dodge), and Frank was brought up on this farm, having abundant opportunities to make acquaintance with hard work. In course of time he succeeded to the property. He cleared and developed the land, adding 49 acres to the farm, which increased its size to 209 acres. He also built a two-story frame house, two large barns, a granary, machine-shed and poultry house. All the buildings are painted and in good shape, while of the land, 125 acres are under the plow, the balance being in pasture and timber land. Frank Brom was engaged in general farming and dairying, keeping grade cows and selling cream at Arcadia and later at Dodge. He died at Winona, Minn., in 1911. His wife died in Pine Creek Valley, Dodge Township, in 1887, and is buried at Winona. John F. Brom remained on the farm with his father until his marriage, his education having been acquired in the district and parochial schools. January 24, 1899, he was married to Frances, daughter of Joseph and Susan (Weir) Brizinski, and took his wife to his father's home, where they resided until the fall of that year. They then moved to the Pribyl farm, adjoining the Brom homestead on the northeast, which farm had been bought by Frank Brom, who gave it to his son. On this place the present residence had been built in the summer of 1899. The house is a two-story upright with two wings and is modern in its furnishings, having bath, hot and cold water and everything desirable except electric lights. The barn is a frame building with hip roof, 36 by 60 by 20 feet; the granary is 20 by 28 feet, with a lean-to,

20 by 28 feet; the other buildings being a wood shed, 14 by 20; buggy shed, 14 by 24, with shop lean-to, 10 by 20; poultry house, 12 by 24; machine shed, 24 by 60, and a cement block silo, 12 by 26 feet, all painted and in good condition. Mr. Brom has 120 acres of land under the plow, the balance of 242 acres being in pasture and timber land. In 1912 he bought the old homestead of 120 acres from his brother, Martin, who had inherited it at the father's death. He is engaged in general farming and dairying, keeping 18 grade Shorthorn cows, 25 grade Duroc Jersey hogs and 160 Shropshire sheep. He also has a small orchard of three acres. His farm is 16 miles from Winona, 15 from Galesville and 9 from Arcadia. In politics Mr. Brom is a Democrat. He has taken part in the government of his township, having served as supervisor two terms, being chairman of the board one term, and clerk of School District No. 2 for nine years. Aside from his farming interests, he is a stockholder in the First State Bank of Dodge, in the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company and in the Dodge Shipping Association. He and his wife have had eight children: Benjamin, born March 24, 1900, who is assisting his father on the farm; Theodore, born August 24, 1902, who died October 15, 1908; Richard, born September 2, 1906; Florence, August 7, 1908; Cyril, May 25, 1910; Clarence, April 14, 1912; Alvin, January 23, 1914, and Isadore, October 17, 1915. Mr. Brom, with his wife and family, are members of the Catholic Church, attending Sacred Heart Church at Pine Creek.

Edward B. McWeeny, town chairman of Arcadia, prominent member of the county board, and enthusiastic road builder, is one of the leading citizens of the county. Coming of a family of which several members have gained national prominence, he has preferred to devote his life to this vicinity, and his work has been productive of much good. His voice on the county board has ever been raised in behalf of those things which he believes to be for progress and betterment consistent with consideration for the tax payer, and his work in behalf of good roads is widely known. He successfully farms on Section 29, Arcadia Township, and has a pleasant and attractive place. Edward B. McWeeny was born at Glencoe, Buffalo County, this state, March 28, 1874, son of James and Catherine (Scanlon) McWeeny, thrifty farmers. James McWeeny is now dead, having passed away in 1900, but his wife is still living. They had a family of eight children: John, who resides in Chicago, Ill.; Nellie, unmarried, who is a trained nurse at South Bend, Ind.; Mary, wife of Adam Ziegweid, of Beach, N. D.; Elizabeth, who is the widow of Joseph Boyle and resides in Chicago; Patrick, of Chicago; James, who is a foreman in the Illinois Steel Company's plant at South Chicago; Edward B., subject of this memoir, and Frank, a cattle buyer, who resides in Arcadia. Edward B. McWeeny acquired his education in the district school, which he attended from the age of eight years to that of 17. He remained on the McWeeny farm at Glencoe until he was 27, except for one summer which he spent in North Dakota. April 8, 1902, he was married to Sophia, daughter of Engelhart and Elizabeth (Bills) Doelle, of Cross Township, Buffalo County. Previous to this event he had purchased a 200-acre farm on Independence Road, two miles north of Arcadia Village, and here he and his wife began housekeep-

ing in the two-story frame house on the property. Since then he has erected a good frame barn, 36 by 84 feet, with half basement. He does general farming, having at present 125 acres under the plow. He has an ample equipment of teams, wagons and tools for the profitable cultivation of his land, and his property presents a neat and thriving appearance. Aside from these interests, he is a stockholder in the Arcadia Shipping Association and the Farmers Co-operative Creamery of Arcadia. A Democrat in politics, Mr. McWeeny has been chairman of the town board for four years. He and his wife have had eight children: James, Leo, Lenore, Bernard, Albin, Henry, Eleva, and Elizabeth, of whom the last mentioned is now deceased. All were born on the farm. The family are members of the Catholic Church at Arcadia, and Mr. McWeeny has been a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters for the past twenty years, and of the Knights of Columbus since 1913.

Lorenzo D. and Frank Tubbs, livestock dealers and real estate agents, constitute the firm of Tubbs Brothers, for many years intimately connected with the business life of Independence. They came to Burnside Township from Hixton, this state, in 1874, with other members of the family, and engaged in farm pursuits on the home farm. Later they engaged in the livestock business. In this connection Lorenzo D. had charge of the Dakota interests of the firm. For a while they engaged in the implement business in Independence, but later sold out to R. Warner Brothers. The Messrs. Tubbs now handle considerable real estate, and deal extensively in livestock, making a specialty of buying and selling horses. The parents of these gentlemen were Lorenzo and Mary Jane (Colwell) Tubbs, both now deceased. After the death in 1856 of the father, who was an Ohio farmer, the care of the family devolved upon the mother, who in 1872 brought them to Hixton, this state, and in 1874 to Burnside. Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzo Tubbs had nine children: James, Mary L., Elma, Elizabeth, Frank, Adelle, Lorenzo D., Sarah Jane, and Alice. James, Mary L. and Elma are dead. Elizabeth is the widow of Lee Hutchins, of Independence. Frank is in the real estate and livestock business. Adelle is the wife of Robert Watson, a farmer of Buena Vista, Colo. Lorenzo D. was born Oct. 18, 1852, was educated in the district schools and in Gale College, was married in October, 1894, to Lydia L. Grout, is engaged in the real estate and livestock business and has been a member of the village council of Independence since 1910. Sarah Jane is the widow of George Walker and lives in Detroit, Mich. Alice is the wife of J. M. Hall of Detroit, Mich.

John Schmidt was one of the early settlers of Buffalo County, this state, and by developing a good farm took a part in its progress and growth. He was born in Langwies Canton, Graubuen, Switzerland, in 1817, there grew to sturdy manhood and married Mary Roth. She died in her native land, leaving four children—George, Dorothy, Nicholas and Ursula—and in 1867 Mr. Schmidt with his children set out for the United States, embarking at Hamburg on the steamship "Saxonia." Landing at New York after a voyage of nine days, they came directly from that city by train to La Crosse, Wis., and then by boat up the Mississippi River to Fountain City, where they landed May 29, 1867. Mr. Schmidt lost no time

in getting settled, as he immediately took up 180 acres of partially improved land in Cross Township, Buffalo County, and set to work to develop it. There was much hard work to do, but he persevered, and in time his efforts were rewarded, and he found himself the owner of a good farm with substantial buildings. This place was his home until 1883, in which year he went to North Dakota, where he spent ten years, dying in Cass County in that state in 1893.

George Schmidt, educator, agriculturist and public official, is doing most efficient service as assessor of incomes for Wisconsin District No. 28, comprising Buffalo, Pepin and Trempealeau Counties, and has to his credit a long term of office as superintendent of schools in Buffalo County, as well as considerable other public work. Born in Langwies Canton, Graubuen, Switzerland, June 26, 1857, the son of John and Mary (Roth) Schmidt, he was brought to Buffalo County by his father in 1867, and remained on the paternal farm until he had grown to manhood. He first prepared himself in the district schools of Cross Township and in the Fountain City graded school, after which he attended Gale University (now Gale College) for one year. When he was 18 years old he began teaching school in District No. 1, Buffalo Township and County, and taught subsequently for 11 years in different schools of the county. That he made a good record may be inferred from the fact that in the fall of 1886 he was elected to the office of superintendent of schools in Buffalo County, commencing his duties Jan. 1, 1887, at Alma, the county seat. He remained superintendent of the Buffalo County schools for eight years, maintaining a high standard of efficiency. Then, in the fall of 1895, he moved to Trempealeau County, locating on the Hiram Tracy farm of 276 acres, which he had previously purchased. He later increased the acreage of the farm by additional land purchases until it now contains 440 acres, having two sets of commodious buildings. In 1905 Mr. Schmidt purchased the Henry Dewey farm of 63 acres, situated one mile east of the village of Arcadia, the location being known as East Arcadia. The first store in Arcadia was built on this place in 1857, but after the Green Bay Railroad was constructed in 1873 the population moved into the valley, thus changing the location of the village. Mr. Schmidt removed to the Dewey farm in the spring of 1906, preferring this place for a residence in order that his children might enjoy the advantage of attending the Arcadia high school, and here he has since made his home. He was married May 14, 1888, to Lina, daughter of John and Louisa (Waely) Ochsner of Waumandee, Buffalo County, Wis., and he and his wife are the parents of six children: Erwin R., Walter E., Oscar J., George A., Louisa M. (first) and Louisa M. (second), whose record in brief is as follows: Erwin R., born Dec. 26, 1889, in Alma, Wis., graduated from the Arcadia high school in 1913, and from Washington University at St. Louis, Mo., in 1915, receiving the degree of M. D. He is now an interne at Barnes Hospital, St. Louis. Walter E., born at Alma, Wis., April 2, 1891, is a graduate of the Arcadia high school and of the Wisconsin University (agricultural department), in the class of 1913, and is now engaged in farming at Spring Grove, Va. Oscar J., born at Alma, Wis., June 5, 1895, is a graduate of the Arcadia high school



GEORGE SCHMIDT

and also took a two years' course in agriculture at the Wisconsin University. He is now residing at home. George A., born at Arcadia, Wis., Dec. 7, 1896, graduated from the Arcadia high school and is now a student at the Wisconsin University. Louisa M. (first), born in Arcadia Township in 1898, was accidentally drowned at the age of 18 months while playing on the farm. Louisa M., the second of the name, was born in Arcadia Township, May 30, 1903, and is now living at home and attending the Arcadia schools. Mr. Schmidt is a Republican in politics. In addition to his service as school superintendent, already mentioned, he served two terms as clerk of Cross Township, Buffalo County, was alderman for several terms at Alma, Wis., treasurer of Arcadia Township two terms, superintendent of assessment of Trempealeau County for six years, and is now serving his second term as district assessor of incomes. Aside from his personal farming interests and public employment he is a stockholder in the Bank of Arcadia, the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company and the Farmers Co-operative Creamery at Arcadia. He and his family are Protestants, though not affiliated with any particular church.

Ellis G. Bigham, manager and secretary of the Farmers Co-operative Creamery of Arcadia, was born Nov. 11, 1878, in Arcadia Township, son of John and Grace (Gardner) Bigham, his parents being farmers in that township. He was educated in the graded school and high school of Arcadia Village, graduating from the latter in June, 1898. During the following winter he taught district school in the Smith district, Arcadia Township. In the fall of 1899 he began teaching in the Galesville school, having charge of the seventh and eighth grades and also taught for a while in the Galesville high school. The next summer, 1900, he went back to his father's farm and remained there for ten years. While living on the farm, in 1904, he was made manager and secretary of the Farmers Co-operative Creamery of Arcadia, but remained on the farm until the fall of 1913, when, with his family, he moved into the village, and has since given his undivided attention to the creamery. Under his management the business has steadily increased until in 1916 a new and larger plant became necessary, and accordingly a new building, with full modern equipment, was put up on a site adjoining the old one. Mr. Bigham is a stockholder in the creamery and also in the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company. He is one of the enterprising young business men of the village, and is a member of the village board, though he has held no other public offices. In politics he is independent. Mr. Bigham was married Oct. 18, 1902, to Alice, the daughter of George and Katherine Kindchy of Montana Township, Buffalo County, Wis., and he and his wife have three children: Katherine, born Nov. 10, 1903; Mona, born Feb. 28, 1907, and Margaret, born July 27, 1911. All the children were born on the Bigham farm and all are attending school. Mr. Bigham was reared in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church, and his wife in that of the German Evangelical church. In 1908 he joined the Masonic order, in which he has advanced as far as the Chapter, and in 1916 was junior deacon of the lodge. Since 1901 he has belonged to the Independent Orders of Foresters, and since 1906 to the Beavers.

John Busby, a well known and successful farmer of Arcadia Township, was born in Waukegan, Lake County, Ill., Sept. 27, 1857, son of Thomas and Mary (Knight) Busby. His parents were born and married in England and came to America in 1854, later settling on a farm one mile north of Arcadia Village, on the east side of Trempealeau River. They are now living retired at Wakefield, Neb., their unmarried daughter, Florence, keeping house for them. Thomas Busby was 89 years old Aug. 24, 1917, and his wife 80 years Jan. 1, 1917. John Busby was less than a year old when he accompanied his parents to Wisconsin. He was brought up on the home farm and remained with his father until he was 30 years old. At the age of 22 he bought a threshing outfit with which he threshed for the neighboring farmers every fall. In 1888 he bought a farm in Korpal Valley, six miles north of Arcadia and four south of Independence. It consisted of 120 acres and was partly improved, having a small house but no barn. That same year he was married to Gertrude Lewis, daughter of John D. and Charlotte (Maybury) Lewis of Lewis Valley, Arcadia Township, and they settled on the Korpal Valley farm, where they resided until 1903. Mr. Busby then traded his farm for the Lewis homestead of 240 acres, a well improved piece of property, with frame house, a full basement barn, 30 by 66 feet and 16 feet above basement. He has since built a granary, machine shed and garage building and has put every part of the property into excellent condition. One hundred and seventy-five acres of his land is under the plow. Mr. Busby carries on general farming and dairying, keeping 25 grade "Red Poll" cattle, all young cows. He has a full equipment of machinery, teams and everything necessary to carry on a modern farm. The land in this valley is extremely fertile and is among the best farming sections in the county. Mr. Busby is a stockholder in the Glencoe Co-operative Creamery of Arcadia Village. In politics he is independent, voting for the man rather than for the party. He has served for a number of years as treasurer and clerk of the school district. He and his wife have two children—Benjamin and Irene. Benjamin, born Feb. 2, 1890, who is unmarried and lives at home, was graduated from the district school and the Arcadia high school, and attended for one year the department of Letters and Science at the University of Wisconsin. Irene, born March 24, 1897, resides at home with her parents. Mr. Busby has had four sisters and six brothers: Emma, Thomas, Florence, Charles Andrew, Oliver, Mary, Lilly, Mark and William. Of these Emma, Andrew, Lilly and Mark are deceased.

Andrew Losinski, Sr., an early pioneer, was born in West Prussia, Poland, Nov. 13, 1832, and was there reared. He came to America in 1861 and found his way to Winona, where several of his countrymen had preceded him. For a time he worked at what he could find to do in the vicinity of Rollingstone and St. Charles, in Winona County, and for one or two seasons was employed on steamboats on the Mississippi River. He also worked for Andrew Hamilton, proprietor of a lumber yard at Winona, being employed both in the lumber yard and about his residence. Mr. Hamilton had but one horse at that time, which he used both as a carriage horse and for delivering lumber, so that Mr. Losinski's work in looking

after the stable was not arduous. In 1865 Andrew Losinski came to Dodge Township, Trempealeau County, and bought the Wright farm of 133 acres in section 19. Only two acres of the farm had been cleared, and there was neither house nor barn. One of the first things he did, therefore, was to erect a log house and a log barn and then he set to work to clear and improve the land. He resided there until 1899 and then moved to a farm of 180 acres situated a little east of the old home in the same section, which is the farm now owned by his son, Andrew, Jr. It was not until 1892, however, that he purchased the property. Here he resided until his death, July 29, 1911, when he was 78 years old. During his active years he improved the property, erecting a two-story brick house, with upright and wing, and a barn 24 by 84 by 14 feet. A man of sincere religious convictions, Mr. Losinski helped to build the first Catholic church in Pine Creek and was for many years a trustee in that congregation. He and his wife were hard workers and in the early years endured many privations and hardships, but succeeded in acquiring a competency for their old age. For a number of years previous to his death the farm was operated by his son, Andrew, Jr. His wife is still living and resides with her son Andrew, enjoying remarkably good health for one of her years. She was born in West Prussia, Poland, in 1847, and came to America as a child about 1860. Andrew Losinski, Sr., and his wife had nine children: Stanley, born in Dodge Township in 1867; Lorenz, born in 1869, who died in 1883 as the result of blood poisoning from a gunshot wound; Phela, born in 1871, wife of Joseph Poehler, a farmer of Arcadia Township; Vincent, born in 1873 and now living on the old homestead; Andrew, Jr., proprietor of the homestead; Frances, born in 1878, and now Mrs. Vincent Bambenek, living near Dodge Village; Mary, born in 1880, now the wife of Tony Walski, a farmer of Trempealeau Township; Jacob, born in 1882, now a farmer of Arcadia Township, and Frank, born in 1885, who is proprietor of a general store at St. Philip, Mont., and also postmaster.

Andrew Losinski, Jr., who is engaged in farming in section 19, Dodge Township, was born on the place where he still lives, Sept. 7, 1875, son of Andrew and Anna (Rudink) Losinski. He was reared on the home farm, and under his father's instruction gained a good knowledge of agricultural methods. As his father grew old the management of the farm fell more and more into his hands until at last he had the entire management of it. Three years before his father's death, or in 1908, he bought the property, since which time he has built a new barn and a silo of good capacity, besides a tool shed. His education was obtained in the district and parochial schools. Like his father before him he is a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic church at Pine Creek. In politics he is a Democrat.

Emil F. Roterling, county highway commissioner, is leaving a permanent record of his work in the magnificent system of public roads which the county is developing under his able supervision. As a contractor he was the pioneer builder of macadamized roads in Buffalo and Trempealeau County, and he is thus familiar with the technical details of road building in all its departments. In his present position his experience, his diplomacy

and his ability to inspire others with his enthusiasm are all finding their reflection in the work which he is accomplishing. Thoroughly democratic by nature, he is of genial and pleasant temperament, and being still a young man, and having already worthily achieved much of merit, his friends predict for him a brilliant future of wide influence. He was born in Glencoe Township, Buffalo County, Oct. 4, 1886, son of Henry and Mary Rotering. Henry Rotering was born in Germany, came to the United States in 1878, married Mary, a native of Buffalo County, this state, farmed in that county for a number of years, and later operated a livery business in Arcadia. Emil F. Rotering acquired a district school education, and also took a course in the Arcadia high school. He farmed at home until attaining his majority, and then became a rural mail carrier on Route 2, out of Arcadia, Wis. Five years later he associated himself with his father in the livery business. It was thus that he became interested in the good roads movement, and in 1911, the State Road-Aid Law having been passed, he engaged in the road contracting business. In this capacity he built the first macadamized roads in Buffalo and Trempealeau Counties, and also did considerable road grading, receiving practically all the important contracts that were let under the State Aid Law while he was in business. So highly did his work in this capacity commend itself to the people of the county that in 1915 he was appointed to his present position as county commissioner of highways. Taking hold of his new work with a vim, he has followed a consistent plan of improvement, and in spite of the difficulties of road building in Trempealeau County, owing to the inequalities of the surface and the scarcity of good road material, he has evolved a splendid system and accomplished good results. After taking office he disposed of his livery and traded his road-building outfit for a fertile tract of 200 acres near Osseo, which he still owns and which he has fenced and improved in various ways. He also owns a pleasant home in Arcadia, and considerable other real estate, and his business holdings include stock in the Trempealeau Lime Products Company of Trempealeau, the Farmers & Merchants State Bank at Independence, and the Ettrick & Northern Railroad at Ettrick. His fraternal relations are with the Knights of Columbus, the Woodmen of the World and the Red Men. Mr. Rotering is one of the most active and wideawake young men in the county, and he is always willing to give his time and influence in behalf of every movement which he believes to be for the best interests of the county and its people. He is an out-of-door man, an able motorist and an enthusiastic hunter. Mr. Rotering was married Dec. 30, 1913, to Isa Faulds, daughter of John and Margaret Faulds and five years postmistress of Arcadia. John Faulds was born in Baillieston, Scotland, and came to America with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Faulds, in 1847. They settled in Hazelton, Pa., and in the spring of 1855 came to Glencoe, Wis., they being one of the pioneer settlers of that place. He enlisted in Company F, Seventh West Virginia Cavalry, Nov. 4, 1864, and served to Aug. 1, 1865, when he received his honorable discharge. In 1871 he was married to Margaret Wright of Tollcross, Glasgow, Scotland, making their home on the farm in Glencoe until 1880, afterwards moving to Arcadia.



EMIL F. ROTERING

where they resided until they died. Margaret Faulds died Jan. 15, 1907; John Faulds died Sept. 6, 1908.

John D. Lewis, the first permanent settler in Lewis Valley, Arcadia Township, and now one of the oldest and most esteemed residents in the township, was born at Syracuse, N. Y., Feb. 19, 1828, son of Morgan and Lydia (Comstock) Lewis. The father was born in DeRuyter, a small village in Madison County, New York, June 29, 1805, and died in the same place July 1, 1855. His wife survived him over 40 years, dying at the home of her son, the subject of this sketch, in Arcadia Township, June 14, 1896, at the age of 90. She was buried in Arcadia Village. The Lewis family is of Welsh origin. John D. Lewis was brought up in his native state, where he learned the carpenter's trade. At the age of 23 years, Aug. 5, 1851, he married Charlotte Maybury. Three years later, in 1854, he set out for the great Northwest, reaching Winona, Minn., July 8, that year. Here he found work at his trade, and on September 5 was joined by his wife, his son Kossuth and daughter Inez. The family resided in Winona until Jan. 1, 1855, Mr. Lewis working as carpenter for Mr. Sowner, who was then postmaster of Winona. On the date last mentioned he moved with his family to Fountain City, Wis., where he continued to follow his trade. While residing here his little son Kossuth was accidentally drowned, July 8, 1857, which calamity came as a sudden shock and caused great grief in the family, but in October of the same year another son was born, and the name of his dead brother was bestowed on him. On the breaking out of the great Civil war, in April, 1861, Mr. Lewis enlisted promptly in the Sixth Wisconsin Infantry, and obtained the rank of lieutenant in Company H. Going south with the regiment, he remained in the service until Dec. 22, 1861, when he was discharged and returned home. March 29, 1865, he re-enlisted as captain, but this time served only one month, when the war ended with the surrender of General Lee. Early in 1866, a Mr. Davis, a surveyor and a friend of Mr. Lewis, told the latter of the value of the land in section 8, Arcadia Township, Trempealeau County, especially in what was then called Niffin Valley. He and his wife decided that this was a good opportunity for them to acquire a homestead, and accordingly, May 26, 1866, Mr. Lewis bought a piece of land in the valley and he and his family moved onto it. Lewis Niffin, who had been a resident there for awhile, had moved away, and the valley now took the name of Lewis Valley, which it bears to this day. Mr. Lewis was very poor when he began farming, and had many difficulties to struggle with. Provisions had to be brought overland from Fountain City, 22 miles away, and there was an immense amount of work to be done on the farm. Mr. Lewis hastily erected the most necessary buildings and began the cultivation of the land. His children were all young and could be of little assistance, so the burden of toil for the first few years fell upon himself and wife. As fast as he was able he increased his improvements on his property, in time erecting a frame house and barn and adding to the number of acres under cultivation, in the meanwhile practicing habits of strenuous industry and economy. Prosperity came gradually but surely. Occasionally there were hard times, as in the years of financial depression, but general conditions continued

to improve; other settlers came in, farm machinery was introduced more extensively, lightening the farmer's burdens and increasing the size of his crops; better roads were constructed, and with the general rise of prices the value of Mr. Lewis's farm increased. His children grew up, the boys helping their father on the farm and the girls their mother in the work of the household, until some of them married and moved away. In the meanwhile Mr. Lewis has become prominent in the community, and well known not only in his own neighborhood, but also throughout the county. Elected to the office of county clerk, he served in it efficiently for five years, and was also a member and chairman of the county board three terms. He was also a justice of the peace for many years, and for 25 years was school director, also serving for years as clerk of the district. In 1903 Mr. Lewis, then 75 years old, sold his farm to John Busby, a son-in-law, who has since operated it, and with whom, and his daughter, Mrs. Busby, he now resides. Although 89 years old, he retains his faculties in a remarkable degree, being quite active for one of his age, and is quietly enjoying his declining years. His wife died April 1, 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis had a large family, of whom the following is a brief record: Kossuth (1), born in New York state, Feb. 4, 1852, died from drowning at Fountain City, Wis., July 8, 1857; Inez, born in New York state Aug. 7, 1853, who is now Mrs. John Burt of Myers Falls, Wash.; Charles, born in Winona, Minn., Dec. 24, 1854, who died in infancy; Kossuth (2), born at Fountain City, Oct. 4, 1857, who is now living in Topeka, Kans.; Blanche, born Dec. 1, 1860, who married Frank Ducker of Green Bay, Wis., and died in 1913; Gertrude, born at Fountain City, Jan. 1, 1863, who is now the wife of John Busby, owner of the Lewis homestead; Clive, born at Fountain City, Dec. 9, 1864, and now living at Beach, N. D.; Delos, born in Arcadia Township, Jan. 4, 1867, who resides at Glendive, Mont.; Adelbert A., born in Arcadia Township, June 28, 1869, who resides in Minneapolis, Minn.; Archie, born in Arcadia Township, who died at Fridley, Mont., in 1914, and Hugh, born in Arcadia Township, Oct. 6, 1876, who is now living in Korpall Valley, this township. Mr. Lewis, though reared a Baptist, has never united with any church. He is one of the best known and most highly esteemed citizens of Trempealeau County and has attained his present position in life through honest industry, fulfilling his obligations to all men and doing whatever he could to advance the interests of the general community. His surviving children are also prosperous and respected.

Stephen Richmond was born in St. Lawrence County in the state of New York in the year 1848. His father, John Richmond, was an Englishman, and his mother, Margaret Hoy, was of Irish nativity. He received his education in the common schools of his native village, Louisville, and in the Lawrence Academy and Potsdam State Normal school. After completing his academic schooling he taught school for several years in the state of New York with marked success. About the year 1870 the "call of the West" reached him and bent his course toward the Badger state, and settling in Trempealeau County he became one of the pioneer schoolmasters. He was a strict disciplinarian, yet withal possessed of infinite kindness of heart—not that kind which finds its only expression in a sentimental

demonstration, but rather of that character which looks to final results and the building up of better citizenship. The motto of his life, and the one that he sought to impress upon his pupils was, "Hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may." For five years he was principal of the schools of Galesville, during which time he carefully instructed and became an important factor in moulding and forming the characters of many who today are among Galesville's best citizens, people who justly attribute much of their success and happiness to his untiring vigilance during those all but forgotten school days. In 1878 Mr. Richmond, feeling that he could be of greater use to his fellows in a new and untried field, moved to Arcadia, the village that was thenceforward to become his permanent home. Here for some years longer he pursued the noble profession of instructor, devoting all his moments of leisure to the study of the law, to such good purpose that in the following year he was duly admitted to practice that honorable profession. At about the same time, recognizing his unusual talent and ability as an instructor and organizer of schools the people of Trempealeau County elected him to the office of County Superintendent of Schools, which office he honorably filled for some time. Mr. Richmond married Ida Merwin of Centerville in 1871, and seven children were born to them, two daughters who died in infancy and two daughters now living, Gertrude and Lulu, and three sons, Frank C., Ben F. and William M. The two sons, Frank C. and Ben F., following in the footsteps of the father, pursued the study of the law, were admitted to the bar and became members of the law firm of Richmond & Richmond. Frank C. Richmond is also a graduate physician. Ben Richmond enlisted in the Spanish-American war and died soon after being mustered out from disease contracted in the army. The unusual brilliancy of this son was the source of continual pride to the father, and the shock of his untimely death was almost more than the fond parents could endure. This crushing blow seemed to affect the health of the father and marked an apparent decline in his previous robust health. It shattered his great hopes for the future of the firm he had so carefully launched; but with his usual undaunted courage he buried his sorrow in his great heart and manfully took up the added burden. As a lawyer he was deeply conscious of his duties to his client, making the sorrows and passions of his client his own so that all enemies of his client were his enemies during the time he was engaged. These cares and duties were with him both day and night. To have put them aside during his hours of rest and diversion would have been to him a grave wrong to his client—an unforgivable sin. Mr. Richmond was a man of true friends, men of worth and character, who were drawn to him by the depth and sincerity of his nature, who loved the man for what he was—a friend not in prosperity alone, but as well in the dark day of adversity. In the course of nature a well rounded life, rich in those achievements which distinguish one from his fellows, reached its close, Sept. 4, 1912; the distinguished and respected citizen, the loved and loving father and husband, with every earthly obligation fulfilled, lay down to his last sleep. Mr. Richmond was deeply interested in historical matters, especially in the history of pioneer times in Western Wisconsin. It was his aspiration to

prepare a History of Trempealeau County. He died before his task was completed, but he left behind many valuable manuscripts, which have been used as the base of much of the material in this present history.

Frank R. Paine, a prosperous business man of Arcadia Village, dealing in farm loans, was born at Cascade, Sheboygan County, Wis., Oct. 29, 1862, son of Reñsselaer C. and Laura (Bigelow) Paine. The father was a native of Vermont, who came west and married Laura Bigelow at Cascade, Wis., in 1860. They settled near Winona, Minn., where in the spring of 1862 he was killed by a kick from a horse. After her husband's death Mrs. Paine returned to Cascade, and there the subject of this sketch was born in the following fall. In 1865 Mrs. Paine contracted a second marriage with H. T. Miller of Cascade, and she and her husband resided there until her son Frank was nine years old. Then, in 1871, the family moved to Sheboygan Falls, Wis. In the fall of 1874 they came to Arcadia, Trempealeau County, and here Mr. Miller bought a half interest in the flour mill of Broughton & Thomas, Mr. Broughton withdrawing from the firm, which then became Miller & Thomas. Soon after this Jacob R. Bear bought out the interest of Mr. Thomas, and the style of the firm was changed to Miller & Bear. In the meanwhile Frank R. Paine had grown to manhood. He had been educated in the common schools of Cascade, Sheboygan Falls and Arcadia, and at the age of 18 became clerk on a Mississippi River steamboat. Some time after the firm of Miller & Bear was formed, having now some means, he bought a half interest in the flour mill and was concerned in its operation until 1886 or 1887. In 1890 the entire property, including the mill dam, was destroyed by a great flood, but in the same year Mr. Paine organized a stock company and rebuilt the mill and property, managing it subsequently until 1910. Since then he has been engaged in selling farm loans. These have not been his entire activities, however, as in 1883, with Mr. Bear and his brother Fred he opened a general store at Durand, Wis. Mr. Bear died the same winter at Durand and Frank R. and Fred Paine continued the business up to 1886, when they sold out and Frank went to La Crosse, Wis., where he conducted a grocery store for about a year. In 1887 his health failed and for three years he was an invalid. May 22, 1885, Frank R. Paine married Kate A., daughter of Albert R. and Adeline Rathbone of Arcadia, the ceremony being presided over at the bride's home by Rev. T. G. Owen. Of this union two children have been born, Ina L., May 29, 1886, who is now Mrs. Ralph W. Danuser, her husband being a druggist in Arcadia, and Adeline, born Jan. 17, 1888, who died March 20, 1889. Mr. Paine is an independent in politics and has served as president of the village board of Arcadia two terms, having been a member of the board for a longer period. He is a member of the Masonic order, having belonged to the Blue Lodge at Arcadia since 1886, to the Chapter at Arcadia since 1887 and to the Eastern Star. He has belonged to the Modern Woodmen of America for many years, being a charter member of his lodge; also to the Independent Order of Foresters, of which lodge he is also a charter member, and to the Elk Lodge at La Crosse, of which he has been a member since 1904. Mr. Paine has a brother, Fred, who was born at Winona, Minn., in August, 1861, and who is now living in Arcadia;

also a half sister and a half brother. The half sister, Laura, born in 1872, is now Mrs. G. O. Banting of Chippewa Falls, Wis.; the half brother, Charles Miller, born in 1866, resides at Stoughton, Wis., where he is superintendent of the electric department of the Mandt Wagon Works. Mr. Paine's mother is still living and resides at Chippewa Falls, with her daughter Laura, whose husband, G. O. Banting, is superintendent of city schools.

Christian G. Wenger, who is now living retired in Arcadia Village, after a successful career as an agriculturist, was born in Ohio, Aug. 18, 1852, son of Christian and Magdalena Wenger. When a boy he accompanied his parents to Buffalo County, Wisconsin, they settling on a farm in Cross Township. There he was reared, acquiring his education in the district school, and also becoming familiar with farm work on the homestead. On April 29, 1884, he was united in marriage with Bertha Wolfe, daughter of Phillip and Catherine (Rudeiger) Wolfe, who lived on a neighboring farm. Mr. Wenger and his wife had known each other from childhood, having attended the same school. In the spring in which they were married they took a rented farm in Cross Township, near the old home, and in the following year Mr. Wenger purchased the farm. After operating it until 1890 he was attacked by rheumatism, which compelled him to give up farming for awhile, so he rented out the place and took up his residence in Fountain City, where he made his home for a year and a half. He had recovered from his rheumatism, however, at the end of a year, and during his last six months in Fountain City he was engaged in a brick yard. In the fall of 1892 Mr. Wenger went back to his Buffalo County farm and resumed agricultural operations. It contained 160 acres, mostly improved, and he operated it for ten years longer. Then in 1902 he sold it and purchased the Meili farm, two miles north of Arcadia on Independence road. This also was a farm of 160 acres, well improved. In 1908 Mr. Wenger bought the Winkel farm of 113 acres, all improved with good buildings, and situated one mile north of Arcadia on Independence road. These two farms he operated until the summer of 1917, when he retired and, building a beautiful residence in Arcadia Village, has since resided here in the enjoyment of an ample competency gained through his own efforts as a general farmer and dairyman, in which branch of industry he achieved a marked success. He has rented his farms to his two sons, Alvin operating the Meili farm and Walter the Winkel farm. Mr. Wenger is a Republican in politics. He served one term as a member of the township board and was for a number of years a member of the district school board. For many years also he has belonged to the Modern Woodmen of America, being a member of Camp No. 769 of Arcadia. Mr. and Mrs. Wenger are the parents of four children: Oscar C., Alvin E., Olivia Ida and Walter H. Oscar C., born in Cross Township, Buffalo County, Nov. 29, 1886, is residing in Arcadia and is a rural mail carrier. He married Lena Ulbrecht of Courtland, Wis. Alvin E., born Feb. 25, 1889, in Cross Township, is a farmer, as mentioned above. He married Marie Shunk of Union Grove, Wis. Olivia Ida, born May 14, 1891, was graduated at the Arcadia high school and for some time was a teacher. She is now the wife of Rev. C. H. Kolander, pastor of the Evangelical church at Madison, Wis. Walter H.,

born Nov. 22, 1894, in Cross Township, is unmarried, and, as already mentioned, is operating the Winkel farm, residing with his brother Oscar and wife. The family are members of the Evangelical Association, being active in its good work and aiding in its support. They are good representatives of the best agricultural class in this part of Trempealeau County.

Leonard E. Danuser, well-known merchant of Arcadia, was born in Sauk County, Wisconsin, April 18, 1849, son of Florian and Celia (Buehler) Danuser, the pioneers. Florian Danuser was born in Canton Grisons, Switzerland, came to America in 1848, lived for some years in Sauk County, Wisconsin, and in 1855 came with other members of the family to Buffalo County, where they settled in the ravine that has since been known as the Danuser Valley. Leonard E. Danuser was reared to farm pursuits, and early turned his attention to merchandising. In 1877 he engaged in the hardware business in Independence, and thus continued until he came to Arcadia and purchased the business of Emil Maurer. The store is conducted under the name of L. E. Danuser & Son, and the son Ralph W. is the active manager. The company occupies a slightly brick building on Main street, compounds prescriptions, conducts a soda water fountain and deals in drugs, cigars, stationery, toilet articles, rubber goods, china, cut glass, jewelry and silverware. Mr. Danuser was married Dec. 6, 1877, to Hannah E. Lehman of Naperville, Ill., daughter of Henry M. and Sarah (Huber) Lehman. Mr. and Mrs. Danuser have four children: Ralph W., his father's partner; Sadie, wife of O. B. Strouse, cashier of the State Bank of Arcadia, and Lulu, who died at the age of seven years; Lillian, who is at present clerking in the store.

Ralph W. Danuser, licensed pharmacist and active manager of the store of L. E. Danuser & Son, Arcadia, was born in Independence May 14, 1880, passed through the graded schools and graduated from the Independence high school in 1896 and the Arcadia high school in 1898. Then he took a course in pharmacy and chemistry at the University of Wisconsin, with the degree of Ph. G. Since then he has been connected with his present concern. Fraternally Mr. Danuser is a member of the Masonic order, the Elks and the Independent Foresters. Mr. Danuser was married May 22, 1909, to Ina L. Paine of Arcadia, daughter of Frank R. and Kate A. (Rathbone) Paine, and this union has been blessed with four children: Donald, born April 12, 1900; Eileen, Aug. 12, 1911; Adeline, Nov. 13, 1914, and Bruce, May 26, 1917.

William H. Selck, manager of the electric light plant at Whitehall, Wis., and proprietor of the W. H. Selck Electric Company, was born in Arcadia, Trempealeau County, 1877, son of Timothy and Anna (Ehlers) Selck. Timothy Selck, who was born in Germany, came to America in 1860, residing for a few years in Winona, Minn., and Trempealeau, Wis. He then moved to Arcadia, where for over 30 years he followed the tailor's trade, dying in 1894 at the age of 52. His wife Anna, whom he married in Winona, now lives in Fargo, N. D., with her daughter Cora, who is the wife of Thomas Sullivan, a newspaper man. There were three elder children in the family, which numbered four in all, namely: Lena, wife of John

Danuser, an electrician living in Arcadia; Lydia, wife of Henry Schroeder, a barber of Arcadia, and William H., of Whitehall. William H. Selck, after acquiring his elementary education, attended the Arcadia high school, and subsequently the University of Wisconsin. He then found employment as a bookkeeper, first at Pittsburgh, Pa., where he remained one year, and later in St. Paul, Minn., of which city he was a resident for two years. Returning to Arcadia he entered the employ of the Arcadia Telephone Company, and was with them for one year, during which time he helped to install the electric light plant at Independence, which he operated for one year subsequently. In 1903 Mr. Selck assumed the duties of his present position and has been thus employed up to the present time. In February, 1915, he bought from the village of Whitehall the electrical supply business which he is now operating under the name of the W. H. Selck Electrical Company, doing all kinds of electrical construction work. This business and his official duties as manager of the local light plant keep him busily employed in remunerative work. He is a member of the German Lutheran church and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. May 12, 1902, Mr. Selck married Ellen Michaels, daughter of John Michaels, a liveryman of Ackley, Iowa. He and his wife have had six children: Harold, who died at the age of 12 days; Miles, who died at the age of four years; Rolland, Norman and Warren, who are living, and one other who died at birth.

Daniel Scholz, who for many years was one of the best known and most respected citizens of Lincoln Township, was born in Schlesan, Germany, May 4, 1863, son of Gottlieb and Annie (Reuter) Scholz. The parents, both of whom are now deceased, came to America with their children in 1874, locating in section 7, Lincoln Township, this county, from which place they removed subsequently to a homestead in section 11. On this latter farm they spent the rest of their lives. Daniel Scholz was eleven years old when the family settled in Trempealeau County. At an early age he assisted his father in the work on the farm, and after the death of his parents came into possession of the homestead, where he followed farming until his own death from drowning, March 24, 1913. His sudden removal while in the prime of life was a great grief to his family and a shock to the whole community. He had served as school clerk for nine years, and was a member and for most of his life had been an official of the German Lutheran church. Daniel Scholz was married Oct. 5, 1886, to Augusta Strege, who was born in Pomerania, Germany, Nov. 27, 1861, daughter of Herman and Caroline Strege, and who came to America in 1835. Mr. and Mrs. Scholz had nine children: Carl F. C., who manages the farm for his mother; Bertha, the wife of Henry Underwood, who assists Carl on the farm; Annie, who married Carl Woychik, a carpenter living near the Scholz farm, and has two children, Raymond and Adeline; Ella, wife of Albert Fromm, also living in the neighborhood, who has one child, Evelyn; Emma, a graduate of the La Crosse normal school, who has been teaching for four years in Hale Township; Clara, Rudolph, Paul and Otto, all of whom reside at home.

Martin Gunderson, Jr., who owns and operates the old Gunderson farm in Hale Township, was born April 1, 1882, son of Martin, Sr., and

Olea (Olson) Gunderson. The father was born in Soler, Norway, in 1834, and came to the United States in 1862, settling in Blair, Trempealeau County, Wis., where he remained two years. In 1864 he homesteaded a farm in section 6, range 8 west, township 22 north, Hale Township, and devoted the rest of his active period to its cultivation, his death taking place in October, 1881. His wife Olea, who was born in Soler, Norway, in 1842, after her husband's death contracted a second marriage with Brede Ramstad of section 1, Chimney Rock Township. She died Jan. 8, 1906, her second husband surviving her and being still a resident of his farm in Chimney Rock. Martin Gunderson, Sr., was an industrious, capable man and during his career as an agriculturist in Hale Township did much to improve his farm. He is still remembered by the older residents of the township, among whom he had many friends. Martin Gunderson, Jr., who was the youngest of eight children, acquired a good knowledge of agriculture and on the death of his mother purchased the old homestead, which he has since carried on with profitable results, doing general farming. His two-story frame residence, having seven rooms and basement, was erected in 1910 and is a neat and substantial dwelling. In 1915 he built a frame barn, with basement of cement blocks, 36 by 70 by 16 feet above basement, the latter having cement floors. It is equipped with steel stanchions and other necessary or useful appliances, furnishing ample accommodations for his stock. Dec. 25, 1908, Martin Gunderson, Jr., was united in marriage with Amelia Anderson, who was born in Whitehall, Wis., Feb. 20, 1872, being the eldest of the 12 children of Gilbert and Mary (Matson) Anderson. Her father, who was born in Norway in 1849, came to this country in 1860 and engaged in farming in Rosko's Coolie, Hale Township. He died March 8, 1911. Her mother, born in Soler, Norway, Jan. 19, 1854, is now a resident of Eleva, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Gunderson have no children of their own, but are rearing a son of Mrs. Gunderson's brother, Otto, Roy Anderson, who was born Nov. 20, 1903.

Olof C. Olson. Among the model farms of Unity Township is that of Olof C. Olson in section 19, containing 200 acres, and which is one of the old established farms of the township, its development having occupied a period of over 40 years. It was settled in 1873 by Christ Olson Poajakka, father of the subject of this sketch, who, born in Norway in 1834, emigrated to the United States in 1872, first locating in La Crosse County, Wisconsin. There, however, he remained only a year, at the end of that time coming to Unity Township, Trempealeau County, where he bought from the railroad company the land which now constitutes the above mentioned farm, and which is now known as Beef River Valley Stock Farm. Here Christ Olson Poajakka resided subsequently until his death in 1894, actively engaged in the development and improvement of his property, in which enterprise he made considerable progress. His wife, whose maiden name was Marie Flatten, is still living and resides with her son Olof C., the present proprietor of the farm, being now 76 years old. Olof C. Olson was born on the farm he now owns, July 21, 1873, soon after his parents had moved onto it, and here he has passed all his subsequent years. Until March, 1901,

he worked for his parents, and then purchased the farm, since which time he has made some important additional improvements on it. In 1912 he built a barn, 36 by 100 by 16 feet above the basement, which is constructed of cement blocks, having cement floors, steel stalls, stanchions and mangers, cement water troughs and steel calf pens, with room for 75 head of cattle. He has also a side barn, 16 by 48 by 8 feet, and another, 16 by 24 by 9 feet; two stave silos, 14 by 32 and 14 by 30 feet, and a hog house, 20 by 30 feet, with cement floor. His residence is a good substantial frame house of six rooms. The farm is well fenced with woven wire fencing. Mr. Olson keeps and raises pure-bred Shorthorn cattle, having a herd of 50 head, all registered, the head of his cattle herd being the five-year-old bull Roan Duke, weighing 2,250 pounds. His hogs are of the large type Poland-China breed, all full-blooded, registered animals, of which he has 200 head, selling 150 head in the season of 1916. The heads of the hog herd are King Jumbo, two years old and weighing 850 pounds, and Big Type Jim, which weighed as a pig in March, 1916, 250 pounds, and has won several prizes at various important fairs. Mr. Olson also raises Percheron horses, having two stallions, has a flock of 60 pure-bred Mammoth Bronze turkeys and flocks of Toulouse geese and Black Minorca chickens. June 6, 1899, Mr. Olson was united in marriage with Paulina Thomasgaard, who was born in Unity Township, Sept. 16, 1872, daughter of Ole and Marie (Kleven) Thomasgaard, of whom a memoir appears elsewhere in this work. He and his wife have five children: Colonel, Edwin, Mabel, Melvin and Julia. The family are members of the United Norwegian Lutheran church, and Mr. Olson belongs also to the Order of Beavers. He is a stockholder in the Unity Co-operative Creamery at Strum. His present prosperity affords a strong contrast to the conditions which prevailed when his parents first settled on this farm, as the house in which he was born was a dug-out in the hill, roofed over with marsh hay, and with a dirt floor and sod walls. In his boyhood days luxuries were unknown except that game was more often seen on the table than it is today, but often had to be eaten when other food would have been more palatable. As the son of early settlers, and himself a native of Unity Township, he is widely acquainted throughout this and neighboring townships, and he and his family stand high in public esteem.

Louis N. Larson, M. D. C., who is engaged in veterinary practice in Whitehall, Wis., was born in Norway, Aug. 30, 1874, son of Bernt and Johanna (Nelson) Larson. The father, also a native of Norway, came to America with his family in 1880, settling in Berton, S. D., where he followed farming until 1909. He then removed to Pearson, Wash., which is his present place of residence. At the age of 62 he retired from farming. His wife Johanna died in 1889 at the age of 39 years. Louis N. Larson, after acquiring his elementary education, spent two years in the high school of Spring Valley, Minn., and afterwards one year at Minneapolis Academy. He then entered the Chicago Veterinary College, from which he was graduated in 1905. Locating in Whitehall in the spring of the same year, he has since followed his profession here successfully. He has made special studies in bacteriology and histology, espe-

cially as applied to veterinary science, and is rapidly becoming recognized as an expert in his line. He is a member of several medical associations, the Society of Graduate Veterinarians of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association. One of the stockholders of the Peoples State Bank of Whitehall he takes an interest in the success of that institution. His fraternal affiliations are with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Independent Order of Foresters and the Modern Woodmen of America. In politics he is a Republican. Dr. Larson was married May 23, 1906, to Tina Gusk of Preston Township, who was born in that township Nov. 23, 1881, daughter of Bernt and Jonena (Strate) Gusk. Her father, who still lives on the Gusk homestead, was born in Norway and came to America in 1870. Dr. and Mrs. Larson have a wide circle of friends and acquaintances in and around Whitehall.

Clarence J. Van Tassel, county surveyor of Trempealeau County, was born in Hale Township, this county, July 5, 1879, son of James and Clara (Wegner) Van Tassel. The father, who was born in Kenosha, Wis., came to Trempealeau County with his parents in 1863. They located in Hale Township, where he spent the rest of his life, dying in 1898 at the age of 40 years. His wife Clara, to whom he was married in Whitehall, is living at the age of 62 years. Clarence J. Van Tassel after acquiring an education took up the occupation of school teacher in 1895 and was thus engaged four years. Then, having learned the trade of photographer, he followed it in Whitehall till January, 1916, when he sold out. In the meanwhile he studied civil engineering at home, devoting a part of his time to it from 1907 to 1912, since which time he has followed it exclusively. He was elected county surveyor in the fall of 1910 and re-elected in the fall of 1914, having held the position continuously up to the present time. He also does engineering work for the Ettrick & Northern Railroad from Ettrick to Blair. His fraternal connections are with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he has passed all the chairs. Mr. Van Tassel was married Nov. 1, 1899, to Anna Stanley of Onalaska, who was a public school teacher, daughter of Lyman and Diana Stanley. Her mother is now a resident of North Yakima, Wash. Mr. and Mrs. Van Tassel have been the parents of five children: Wilma, who died at the age of six months; Thurman, Howard, Gerald and Olive. The family reside in Whitehall, where they have a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

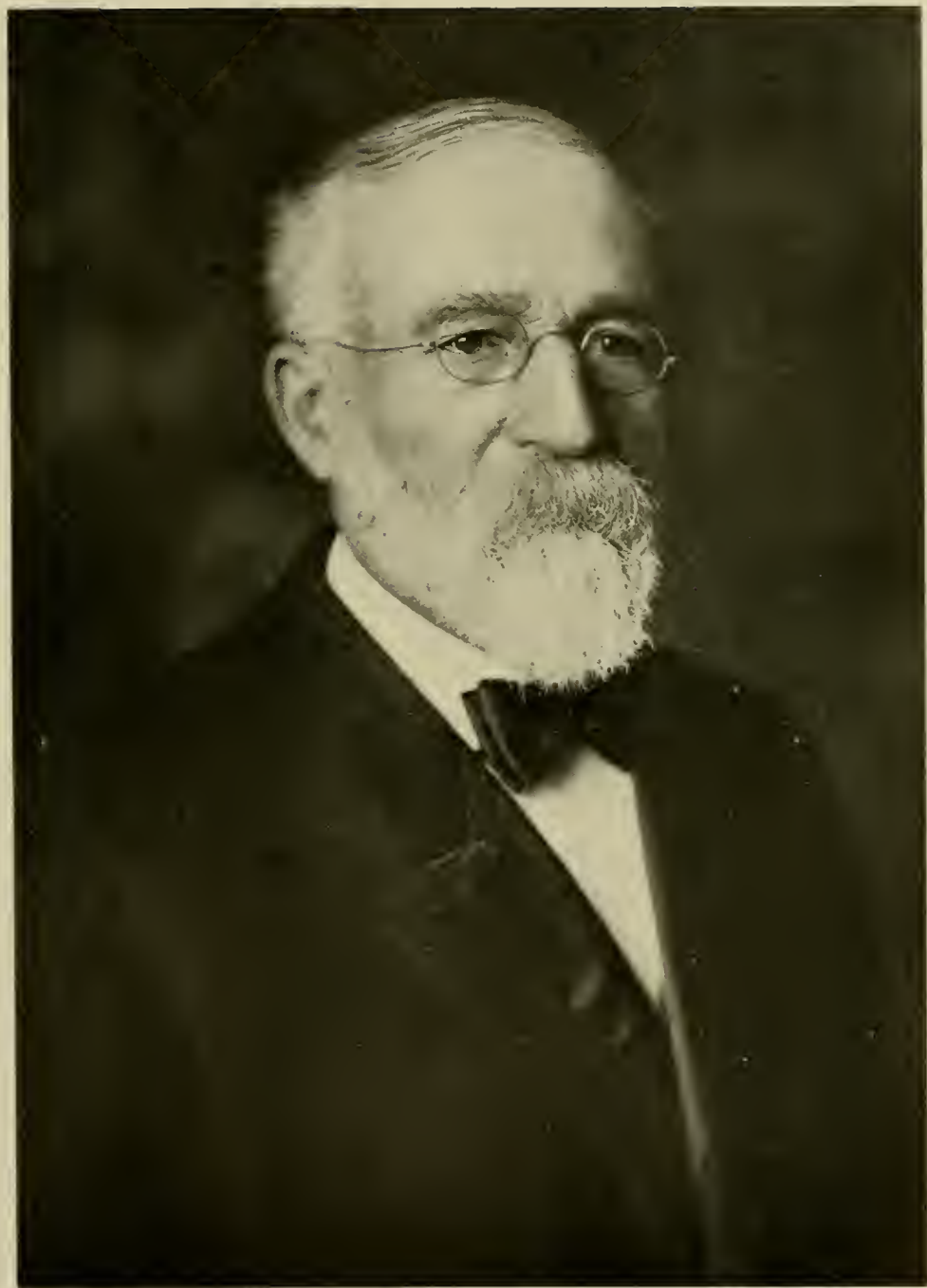
Edward Torgerson, popular and efficient sheriff of Trempealeau County, from Jan. 1, 1915, to Jan. 1, 1917, is a native of this county, having been born in Independence July 2, 1885, second of the eight children born to Christ and Martha (Bidney) Torgerson, the former of whom is a hardware merchant in Independence. He passed through the public schools, and as a boy began work in his father's general store at Whitehall. There he remained until his father sold out in 1912. In the fall of 1914 he was elected sheriff. As sheriff he did excellent work and won the admiration of all the people of the county. Mr. Torgerson's fraternal affiliations are with the Masonic order and the Modern Woodmen. He was married April 28, 1911, to Stella Torson, daughter of Ole and Anna (Skogen) Torson, the former of whom is a meat dealer in Whitehall.

Frank L. Koepke, who is engaged in business in Whitehall as horse trainer, and as manufacturer and distributor of the Koepke controller bridles and the Koepke leading and subduing bridle, was born in Pommern, Germany, July 14, 1868. His parents, William H. and Albertina (Geffe) came to the United States with their family in 1869, settling in south-eastern Pennsylvania, where the father engaged in railroad work. In 1885 they came to Wisconsin, and for two years resided in La Crosse. Then coming to Trempealeau County, William H. Koepke took a farm in Burnside Township, which he operated five years. Subsequently buying a farm in Hale Township he made that place his residence for the rest of his life, dying in 1911 at the age of 76 years. His wife died in 1913 at the age of 78. Frank L. Koepke was employed in railroad work for two years in early manhood. He then worked on his father's farm until 1898, in which year he took up the business of horse breaking, in which he has become an expert, having handled successfully all kinds of vicious horses. For some time he worked on horse ranches in Western Nebraska, handling as many as 83 horses for one ranch. He was employed on the Spade ranch, the largest ranch in Nebraska, and also on the Ostrander ranch at the same place. In 1906 he came back to Whitehall and in 1911, in company with his brother Carl, he conducted his father's farm, afterwards operating part of it for himself until 1914, since which time he has lived in Whitehall. Mr. Koepke was married Nov. 2, 1910, to Frances Gibson of Whitehall, a daughter of James and Alice (Bateman) Gibson, and who for some 12 years before her marriage was engaged in teaching. Mrs. Koepke's father, who was a pioneer settler in this region, died in Whitehall in 1902 at an advanced age. Mr. and Mrs. Koepke have three children: William James, born Oct. 26, 1913; Fern Majorie, born Jan. 16, 1912, and Donald Richard, born June 13, 1916.

Theodore B. Olson, proprietor of the Whitehall Cement Block Factory, at Whitehall, Wis., was born in Moe Cooley, Pigeon Township, Dec. 25, 1884, son of Brede and Tina (Peterson) Olson. The father was born in Norway in 1829 and came to America in 1871, buying a farm in Pigeon Township, this county, where he remained until his death in September, 1912. His wife, to whom he was married in Norway, was born there in February, 1841. She is still living and resides with her son Brede in Pigeon Township. Their living children are four sons and one daughter: Johanna, who is now Mrs. B. P. Moe of Pigeon Township; Ole, a retired farmer living in Whitehall; Brede B., a farmer of Pigeon Township; Martin, a farmer in Sumner Township, and Theodore B. of Whitehall. Theodore B. Olson was the youngest member of his parent's family, which numbered in all 11 children. He remained at home until he was 20 years old, working during the last four years of that time for his brother Brede. In 1907 he began learning the carpenter's trade, and worked at it subsequently in various places until August, 1912. Then taking up his residence in Whitehall, he entered the employ of A. E. Wood, a contractor, for whom he worked until December, 1915, at which time he bought an interest in the Whitehall Cement Block Factory, of which he is now the proprietor. The business is carried on in a one-story frame building, 36 by 90 feet, which is equipped

with one press machine for making ell-blocks, a tamping machine for 8-inch blocks and a brick machine. The factory has a capacity of 500 blocks a day, and employs three men, having a ready sale for all the product they can turn out. Mr. Olson at first bought a one-third interest in the business, but purchased the remaining two-thirds May 4, 1916. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

George N. Hidershide, M. D., dean of the medical profession in Trempealeau County, pioneer physician, retired army officer, useful citizen, and man-of-affairs, came to Arcadia in 1875, less than eighteen months after the railroad was opened, and his experiences were typical of that heroic band of medical practitioners who had so important a part in the development of the Northwest. The story of his career presents him as working out the destinies of pioneer life hand in hand with the other forces for the common good. He was an integral part of the pioneer social fabric. As such he shared the aims and ambitions of his companions. Only rough outlines can be given of the heroic and adventurous side of his long and honored life. The imagination cannot, unaided by facts, picture the primitive conditions with which he had to contend. Long and dreary rides by day and night, in summer's heat and winter's cold, through flood and drought, through snow and mud, through rain and hail, were his common lot. Often he went for a week without being out of his clothes, and sometimes he went days without sleep. He trusted himself to the wilderness, crossed unbridged streams, made his way over untrodden ridges, and traveled the roadless wilderness. What few roads there were, were in the worst of condition. Often he took routes which showed not a single trace of human travel. Some roads consisted merely of parallel wheel tracks, from which the rain had washed the earth, leaving ruts whose stones made travel a constant succession of jolts. The present generation cannot realize the difficulties of a physician's travels in those days. Oftentimes the traveler had to make a temporary bridge across the swollen streams with planks or logs or poles. Sometimes in a dangerous place the horses had to be unhitched and led for a distance and tied, and then the vehicle hauled over the same route by the driver. Sometimes the patient was in a cabin so inaccessible that the physician had to leave his horse in a sheltered nook and find his way to the cabin on foot. But Dr. Hidershide was not unaccustomed to pioneer life and conditions. He had settled in Mt. Vernon Township, in Winona County, when that township was a wilderness; he was not only in active sympathy with pioneer life, but was prepared by his own experiences to cope with its conditions. It was indeed particularly fortunate for the pioneers of Trempealeau County that a man of Dr. Hidershide's type was the one who should have cast his destinies in this county at the time he did. There was much sickness and much suffering. The people were poorly nourished and poorly housed. Sanitary conditions were of the worst. No quarantine restrictions were observed. Contagion was carried from family to family, and within the families there was no opportunity for isolation. To lay four or five contagion-stricken children in a single grave under the prairie sod was no uncommon experience. Physicians were few. The resources of the best



Gen. N. Hidershede M. D.

physicians were limited. The doctors were without any of the modern equipment for fighting disease. The doctors at Black River Falls, Merrillan, Whitehall, Fountain City, Galesville, Trempealeau, Arcadia and Winona, who served this entire district, were greatly overworked. They were without our present means of physical diagnosis, without our laboratories and experiments, our medical journals, our chemistry, our bacteriology, our Roentgen rays, our experimental pharmacology and our antitoxin serums; abdominal surgery was considered almost an impossibility, the Dr. McDowell case in Kentucky being the only one on record at that time. Many diseases which now yield to treatment were considered fatal. But Dr. Hidershide had his eyes, his ears, his fingers, his native vigor and resourcefulness, his kindness of heart, and his adaptability. He learned much for himself, he kept pace with modern discovery, he readily adjusted himself to changing conditions, he put his heart and sympathies into every case. Up to the time of his serious illness six years ago he never refused a call. He always responded to the poor and gave as freely to those who could not pay as to those who were able to recompense him. In the early days the only income of the farmers came from small grains, and this money did not come until late fall. Many a farmer had hardly a single dollar during the spring and summer months. Business was done on credit. Often without funds himself, Dr. Hidershide year after year worked through winter, spring and summer, waiting until fall for the meager pay for his faithful services, only to find even then that many of the patients were unable to pay, and that he would have to wait until another fall, or sometimes forever. The long and exhaustive rides, the exposure to contagions, the heartaches and discouragements, the patient vigils by bedsides of agony when his own body was exhausted by exposure and racked with pain of fatigue, the kindly deeds of charity, the reassuring messages to the despondent, the shielding of the innocent, the guarding of secrets, the numberless self abnegations of such a man cannot be chronicled. He became almost a member of the families to whom he ministered. He was the adviser in matters not always purely medical. How welcome was his coming in the stormy midnight to a lonely cabin miles from the nearest neighbor. Earnest, cheery, capable, confident, his presence lightened the burden, shouldered the responsibility and brightened the gloom. From the toils and exposures of his professional life the doctor has found surcease in his love of the beautiful in nature. Passionately fond of flowers, he has laid out his lawns in a profusion of shrubbery and plants, and his estate, situated on the slope of land which separates the flats from the table lands on the principal street in Arcadia, represents the loving care which he has devoted to its arrangement and perfection. George N. Hidershide was born in Luxembourg, June 13, 1850, son of Nicholas and Anna M. (Salenting) Hidershide. They were well established there, but willing to sacrifice the comforts of their position and the companionship of their friends that their family might escape from the shackles of militarism, they determined upon cutting loose from old traditions and establishing themselves in the new world. Accordingly in 1857, with their four children, Peter, now a retired farmer of Mt. Vernon Township, Winona County, Minn.; Mary

Jane, now of Brown's Valley, Minnesota, widow of John Rodenbour; George N., the subject of this sketch; and Mary A., now the wife of Henry D. Stevens of Winona; (Louisa, who like her husband, Joseph Meyers, is now deceased, having been born later in this country), they set sail, and reaching Minneiska, Minn., in July of that year, they settled on a farm in Mt. Vernon Township, Winona County, in that state. There the father died, and in later years the mother moved to Arcadia, where she was given loving care and attention by her devoted son, the subject of this sketch. George N. grew to sturdy young manhood on the Mt. Vernon farm, attending the district schools, and rounding out his preparatory education with a course in the Winona State Normal School. In the meantime he had spent a year learning English in the home of Dr. George F. Childs, in Minneiska, and this had inspired him to adopt medicine as a profession. In due time he entered the Louisville Medical College at Louisville, Ky., and was graduated therefrom in 1875. This education he has supplemented by extensive reading and study, and by post-graduate courses in the Rush Medical College at Chicago, the Vienna University at Vienna, Austria, and in other institutions, so although the whole tenor of medical practice has changed since his entering the profession, he has nevertheless kept fully abreast of the latest discoveries and the most modern methods. After a short practice in Chicago he was called home by the death of his father, and it was while home on the farm that he was induced to cast his destinies in Arcadia, with whose history his name has since been inseparably connected. His professional duties have taken him as far as Tacoma, Wash., Davis City, Iowa, and Jamestown, N. D. In Arcadia, where he is deeply loved and respected, he has been president of the village, president of the board of health, and president of the library board, of which last named body he is still the head. He was one of the founders of the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company, of which he is vice-president, and installed the first telephone in the Trempealeau Valley in this county. His financial interests also include stock in the Bank of Arcadia, in which he is a director, and whose destinies he has helped to shape. An active Republican in politics, he was chairman of the Republican County Committee for two terms, and in the old convention days was a delegate to many a political gathering, and the center of many a hot contest. For a time he was a member of the county board and has also served in other offices. He is a Thirty-second degree Mason and also associates fraternally with the Modern Woodmen, the United Workmen and the Beavers. He is a member of the American Medical Association, the State Medical Association and the Trempealeau, Jackson and Buffalo County Medical Association, and was first president of the Trempealeau County Medical Association, and at one time president of the Western Wisconsin Medical Society, now superseded by the individual county societies. He is also an active member of the Trempealeau County Historical Society. As a patriot he has given loyal service to this state and country. At the outbreak of the Spanish-American War he offered his services to the state, and became assistant surgeon of the First Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, with the rank of first lieutenant, serving through the war and being mustered out with the regiment at the close of the conflict.



MR. AND MRS. RICHARD PROCTOR

His kindly services so endeared him to the members of the regiment that upon the request of several of them the adjutant general recommended him to the governor for reappointment when the National Guard was reorganized. Accordingly he became assistant surgeon with the rank of first lieutenant on the staff of the Third Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, being promoted to captain in the same regiment in 1903. In 1912 he received his commission as major, and became chief surgeon of the Second Regiment. He was retired from military life June 13, 1915. Dr. Hidershide was married in September, 1892, to Joseph Agnes, daughter of Michael and Margaret (Pfeiffer) Agnes. Michael Agnes, a merchant, was the original proprietor of the townsite of Minneiska, Minn.

Mrs. Sophia Proctor, proprietor of a lumber yard in Arcadia, with a branch at Dodge, is an excellent type of a modern business woman. She was born in Waumandee Valley, Buffalo County, this state, April 28, 1861, daughter of William and Grace (Muir) Robertson. Educated in the village schools of Arcadia, she made good progress in her studies and at the age of 18 years engaged in teaching. In this occupation she continued for three terms in the rural schools and four years in the Arcadia Village schools. She made a most proficient teacher, had unusual success in instilling knowledge, and is still held in loving regard by those who were then her pupils. July 19, 1883, when she was 22 years old, she was married to Richard Proctor. She entered thoroughly into his life and work, assisted him with his books in the lumber and grain business, and in 1896 became his partner. Since his lamented death Sept. 3, 1904, she has carried on the lumber business alone. She is the only woman member of the Wisconsin Retail Lumbermen's Association, and the only woman retail lumber dealer in Wisconsin. In public, fraternal and church affairs she has taken an active interest. For some years she did excellent service as trustee of the Arcadia Cemetery Association and as a member of the public library board. In Golden Rod Lodge, No. 100, Order of Beavers, she was worthy queen two years and secretary five years. In Coral Rebekah Lodge, I. O. O. F., of Whitehall, she is likewise a faithful member. The Methodist Episcopal Church has found her a faithful member as treasurer, trustee and steward, and for many years she has been a teacher in the Sunday school. Energetic, capable and public spirited, Mrs. Proctor enjoys a wide popularity both in business and social circles.

Richard Proctor, for many years a lumber dealer and grain buyer in Arcadia, was born in England in 1844, and at the age of nine years was brought to this country by his parents, who settled on a farm near Old Arcadia. He was there reared, and for a short time attended school, but was largely a self-made man. He became interested in the lumber and grain business, was grain buyer for the Cargill Company at Arcadia, and conducted a lumber yard of his own. He died Sept. 3, 1904. He was married July 19, 1883, to Sophia Robertson, and this union was blessed with two children, Lloyd R. and Mabel G. Lloyd R. was born Sept. 21, 1884. He passed through the Arcadia schools, graduated from the Arcadia high school, attended Morgan Park Academy, a preparatory branch for boys of the University of Chicago, and completed in the University of Wis-

consin. He is now engaged in the retail grocery and bakery business at Grangeville, Idaho. He married Nora Johnson. Mabel G. was born Sept. 6, 1886, passed through the Arcadia schools, graduated from the Arcadia high school, attended Downer College at Milwaukee for two years, and in 1909 was graduated from the Northwestern University at Evanston, Ill. She then taught for two years at Biwabik, Minn. She is now the wife of W. C. Schaefer, a dentist at Dallas, Ore., and they have one child, a daughter, Jean.

Christian Haines, a pioneer of Bill's Valley, Arcadia Township, was born in Hohenzollern, Germany, Oct. 11, 1835, and in 1856 came to America with his parents, who settled at Herkimer, N. Y. Two years later the father died, and in 1858 the family moved to Canastota, N. Y., where Christian Haines engaged in the mercantile business until the close of the Civil War. He was unfortunate in business, however, and lost all he had, so to retrieve his fortunes he came west, locating first at Fountain City, Buffalo County, this state. A little later he came to Arcadia Township, this county, settling in Bill's Valley on a farm. He was a skilled apiarist, keeping numerous colonies of bees, and producing as much as 7,500 pounds of honey in one year, also taking first premiums at county and state fairs. A prominent citizen of the community in which he lived, he took part in local government, serving a number of years on the Arcadia town board. His wife, Margaret Bill Haines, to whom he was married at Herkimer, N. Y., in 1856, was born in Wilsenrode, Germany, Aug. 22, 1840, and came to America as a child with her parents, who settled at Utica, N. Y. She shared all the hardships and privations of pioneer life with her husband and also shared in his successes, being a true and worthy helpmeet. She died May 3, 1916. Mr. Haines died Dec. 26, 1914. Both were members of the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Arcadia. Of their family of 14 children nine are now living.

Joseph W. Haines, proprietor of the Pleasant View Farm, in section 16, Arcadia Township, was born in Herkimer, N. Y., July 7, 1863, the son of Christian and Margaret (Bill) Haines, who brought him first to Buffalo County and then to Trempealeau County. He resided at home until he was 21 years old, during which time he had some schooling, though his educational opportunities were limited. On attaining his majority he went to Utica, N. Y., where he entered the employ of the New York Central & Hudson River Railway, but finding the work too dangerous, he stayed but a few months, then returning to Wisconsin. In the winter of 1886 he entered the employ of the Goodyear Lumber Company, near Mather, Wis., and remained with this firm for three years, in 1889 returning to his parents' homestead. In the same year he purchased his present farm. Jan. 7, 1890, he was married to Anna K., daughter of Jacob and Mary George of Glencoe, Buffalo County. This homestead, where the young couple began housekeeping, was a tract of 200 acres, partially improved, there being a small frame house on the property. Here Mr. Haines has resided ever since, engaged in general farming, and also in honey production, being, like his father, a skilled apiarist and putting up for sale the best honey that can be obtained in the market. He has made many improvements on the farm, including the erection of new buildings. His present

residence is a two-story frame house, consisting of upright and wing, and piped for both soft and hard running water, the house being heated by furnace. He has also a full basement, frame barn, measuring 34 by 72 by 14 above the basement; a granary, machine sheds, double corn crib, and a combined ice and milk house, all the buildings being in good condition. Aside from his own farming interests Mr. Haines is a stockholder in the Arcadia Co-operative Creamery, the Arcadia Shipping Association and the Trout Run Farming Company. In politics he is a Democrat, and has been director on the Cortland school board for many years. He and his wife had a large family of 18 children, whose names are respectively: Herman, Elmer C., Leo J., Minnie E., Christian J., Henry E. (deceased), Joseph M., Elsie L., Margaret A., Henry E. (second), Norbert, Jerome J., Armilla E., Arthur F., Clarence A., Frank N., Alfred M. and Virginia A. Their record in brief is as follows: Herman, born Dec. 3, 1891, graduated from the Cortland grade schools, from the Alma (Buffalo County) Training School for Teachers, and from the Winona Business College. He has been in the employ of the Interstate Packing Company of Winona and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad at Owatonna, Minn., and is at present teller of a bank at Owatonna, Minn. He served as corporal and clerk with the Minnesota State Guard on the Texas border during the recent disturbances in Mexico. Elmer C., born March 1, 1892, graduated from the Cortland graded school, taught school for some time, and is now at Amidon, N. D., where he is foreman of the Farm Land & Coal Company. Leo J., born Aug. 17, 1893, graduated from the Cortland graded school and the Alma Training School, and has taught at Amidon, N. D., where he purchased a quarter section of land. He is now preparing at Ft. Dodge for service in the great war, with Battery E, Field Artillery, being kitchen and dining room orderly in charge of the food supplies in his barracks. Minnie E., born Aug. 20, 1894, graduated from the Cortland graded school, the Arcadia high school, and the Alma Training School, and has been a teacher for four years. Christian J., born Dec. 31, 1895, is living on the homestead with his parents. Henry E., the first of the name, was born April 25, 1896, and died July 25, 1899. Joseph M., born Sept. 24, 1898, resides on the parental homestead. Elsie L., born Feb. 4, 1900, is a student in the Arcadia high school. Margaret A., born July 26, 1901, and Henry E., second, born Oct. 7, 1902, are both students, residing at home. The other children living at home are: Norbert J., born Jan. 16, 1904; Jerome J., born Oct. 30, 1905; Armilla E., born Dec. 10, 1906; Arthur F., born April 14, 1908; Clarence A., born Jan. 31, 1910; Frank N., born Oct. 5, 1911; Alfred M., born Dec. 13, 1912, and Virginia, born Jan. 25, 1917. Mr. Haines and his family are Catholics in religion and attend the church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Arcadia. He and his wife have been fortunate in rearing their large family, as they have lost but one child. Their other children are all well trained in religion and morality and give promise of growing to useful manhood and womanhood.

Albert Bautch, a pioneer miller and millwright, was born in Germany, was there educated and reared, and became an adept in various lines of mechanics and woodworking. In 1854 he and his wife Josephine set out

for the United States aboard a sailing vessel, the long and tedious voyage taking nearly three months, and entailing many hardships. Landing at Quebec, strangers in a strange land, and with their trunk lost, containing not only a part of their baggage, but also a letter of directions from their cousin Joseph Bautch, who had preceded them, they made their way down the lakes to Milwaukee, and thence to Watertown, landing at New Lisbon, in Juneau County, this state, Dec. 24, 1854. There Mr. Bautch opened a farm, also working as a mechanic, as a broad-axe hewer and as a logger on the Wisconsin River. Later he located in Trempealeau County. Here in 1862 he helped to build the mill at New City, near what is now Independence. Later he moved to Arcadia. In 1869 he moved to a farm in section 26, Burnside Township, which has since been the family home. There he built a flour mill, which is still in existence, having been owned for some fifteen years by a son, Albert J., and now by another son, John L. Mr. Bautch was a pioneer in the true sense, a public spirited man, and a most estimable and useful citizen. He was a member of the Catholic church and one of the organizers of the North Creek Congregation. He and his wife both died in Trempealeau. They had a family of eight children: John L., Peter, Albert J., Anna, Mary, Julia, Kasper and Thomas, of whom the three last mentioned are now deceased.

Albert J. Bautch, municipal expert, promoter, contractor, geologist and linguist, is widely known in Wisconsin and Minnesota, and has extensive interests in Canada and Texas. As a well driller and waterworks expert he has bored wells along the right of way of the Green Bay & Western from Green Bay to Winona, he has installed the extensive waterworks systems of Winona, Minn., Independence, Wis., and Spring Valley, Wis., as well as in smaller places scattered throughout Western Wisconsin. As a telephone promoter he has installed telephones in Western Wisconsin and Eastern Minnesota, and founded several leading systems in these regions. As an auctioneer he has been successful and popular, and has served more years than any other man in the county. As a business man he established the first Independence jewelry store. As a man of scholarly attainments he is well versed in mathematics, science, geology, general history and the classics, and is the master of three languages: English, German and Polish. As a lecturer he has addressed audiences in all three of these languages, one of his favorite topics being "Natural Experiences." As a musician he has a deep appreciation of harmony and has done considerable musical teaching. With all of these broad experiences he is genial and approachable, a pleasant, courteous, deep thinking man in every respect. At the present time, though he makes his home in Independence, much of his attention is given to his holdings in Canada. Albert J. Bautch was born in New Lisbon, Juneau County, Wis., Jan. 13, 1859, son of Albert and Josephine Bautch, and was brought to this county by his parents. He attended the public schools of this county and the Northwestern Business College at Winona, and remained for a number of years with his father. For a while he operated the mill on his father's place, but in 1895 disposed of it to his brother, John L., and bought the mill at Independence. Mr. Bautch was married in Winona, Minn., to Paulina Rozek, who is now deceased. They



Eben D. Purce

became the parents of seven children: Carl F., Thomas, Della, Albert, Esther, Josephine and Sylvester, the last mentioned of whom was drowned. All the children were well educated by their father and are well qualified to make their own way in the world.

Eben Douglas Pierce, M. D., physician, historian, poet and nature lover, is a native of this county, having been born at Williamsburg, Aug. 13, 1874, the son of Henry E. and Mary M. (Morrow) Pierce, the pioneers. He lived on the home farm until ten years of age and was then taken to Arcadia, where he was reared on a small fruit farm owned by his father. As a child he attended the district school of Williamsburg, and then passed through the public schools of Arcadia, graduating from the Arcadia high school in June, 1895. With this preparation he took a two-year course in the University of Michigan, and completed his medical course in the University of Oregon in 1899. In the fall of the same year he started practice in Pickwick, Minn. In the summer of 1900 he toured Scotland, and returned to Winona, Minn., in the fall. In 1901 he moved back to his old home in Arcadia, and did journalistic and other literary work until 1904. The following two years he practiced his profession at Arcadia in partnership with Dr. George N. Hidershede. The years 1906-1907 found him practicing at Hillsdale, Wis. But for some time he had been impressed with the possibilities of the west, and in 1907 he went to Vancouver, Wash., where he continued his practice. There, in 1911, he married Hettie M., the daughter of G. A. and Samaria (Grant) Carsley, an artist and newspaper illustrator. Together the young couple settled in a beautiful spot at Trempealeau. Both lovers of Nature and of the out of doors, they have enhanced the natural charms of the place, and there they are now making their home, the Doctor devoting his time to his practice, to his research work, and to his literary and historical writings, while Mrs. Pierce, as time permits, follows her art career and takes charge of the village library. Dr. Pierce is the author of a number of historical papers, which are preserved in the published collections of the Wisconsin Historical Society and in the published collections of other societies, as well as in the unpublished collections of the Trempealeau County Historical Society. He is the author also of numerous poems, and has ready for early publication a book of verse called "Wild Flowers and Woodsy Ways." His newspaper and magazine contributions are widely known. Dr. Pierce has been honored with membership in a number of learned and historical societies and associations. He is a member and curator of the Wisconsin Historical Society, and a member of the Trempealeau County Historical Society, the Wisconsin Archaeological Society, the Mississippi Valley Historical Association and the American Historical Association. The people of Trempealeau are indebted to him in a measure for the beautiful Trempealeau Mountain Park, his enthusiasm having been the basis of the interest which has been taken by the donor, John A. Latsch. He has also been interested in a number of other projects for the progress of Trempealeau along all civic, commercial and patriotic lines, and he has been the moving spirit in several homecoming and historical celebrations there.

Much of this public work has been done as secretary of the Trem-

pealeau Commercial Club. The officers of this club are: President, George G. Gibbs; vice-president, C. S. Ford; secretary, Dr. E. D. Pierce; chairman of the executive committee, L. M. Pittenger; chairman of the finance committee, L. S. Sanders; chairman of the entertainment committee, A. A. Holmes. Through the Commercial Club the Farmers' Shipping Association was organized, a stock company was organized to take over the Lime Products Plant, the village has been supplied with electric service, the village library has been started, and a publicity campaign conducted.

Mrs. Pierce has mothered the public library, carrying the project on her own shoulders when there seemed little encouragement, and devoting her spare time to its care and growth at considerable personal sacrifice. A lady of literary and artistic tastes, and coming of a family that has been prominent in this region since the earliest pioneer days, she at once upon her taking up her residence here after her marriage, became imbued with the idea of establishing a library. Her constant endeavor was to interest her friends in the project, and her husband carried her enthusiasm to the meetings of the Commercial Club, until the members of that club were convinced of its desirability and possibility. The library came into existence in the fall of 1914, as a reading room in the little village hall, with a few books bought by the Commercial Club and a number of periodicals donated by interested residents. In a short time, for greater convenience, the books were moved to Dr. Pierce's office, and the Commercial Club had shelves made and partially furnished a room. Arrangements were made for the securing of boxes from the Traveling Libraries at Madison and Whitehall. A special effort was made to get good children's books. The library was well patronized from the first. Jan. 1, 1917, a library board was elected, and the village took charge instead of the Commercial Club, making a yearly appropriation to furnish new books and to pay the running expenses. There are now about 400 books permanently in the library, and about 200 additional from the traveling libraries. Mrs. Pierce is the librarian, as she has been from the first.

Henry E. Pierce, the pioneer, was born in Whitehall, N. Y., March 3, 1836, and when about six years of age was brought to the present site of Milwaukee, in the then territory of Wisconsin, by his parents, who kept the Buck Horn Tavern there. He was educated in the pioneer schools and as a young man crossed the plains on a gold seeking expedition to Pike's Peak. Then he filed a claim on the present site of Denver, and traveled over the old Santa Fe trail to New Mexico. While in the West he had many interesting adventures, and was accorded the pleasure of meeting Kit Carson. He retained in after life vivid memories of the West in the early days, and often described his adventures, telling with particular relish of the vast herds of buffalo that were then to be seen. At the outbreak of the Civil War he went to Cattaraugus County, New York, where his father was then living, and there he was married March 26, 1861, to Mary M. Morrow, who was born in that county, Aug. 15, 1840, daughter of John D. and Harriet (Simmons) Morrow. The young couple came to Wisconsin, and after living a time at Sparta, came to Trempealeau County and pre-empted a tract of land at Williamsburg, five miles up the Trempealeau

Valley from the present site of Arcadia. Here he acquired in state and other lands 300 acres, and gained the reputation of being one of the most scientific farmers in Wisconsin. He later moved to a fruit farm at Arcadia. He died Feb. 27, 1894. Mr. and Mrs. Pierce had four children: Hattie E., now Mrs. Moseley, was born at Sparta, Feb. 25, 1862. Etta M. was born at Williamsburg, June 30, 1868, and died at the age of five years. Ira Frank was born at Williamsburg, June 27, 1872. Eben Douglas was born at Williamsburg, Aug. 13, 1874. Mrs. Pierce, Mrs. Moseley and Ira F. live in Vancouver, Wash., while Eben D. practices medicine at Trempealeau, Wis.

George Asbury Carsley, veteran and pioneer, was born in Springfield, Maine, April 21, 1840, and subsequently was taken by his parents to Portland, and then to Westbrook, in the same state. He attended school in all three places. He also had the advantages of study in the Westbrook Seminary, for though he was not far enough advanced for this institution, the friendship of the principal of the institution with his family made possible his taking courses there. From Westbrook the family moved to New Gloucester, in the same state, where they remained for five years. Then they decided to seek their fortunes in the West. Making their way by steamboat to Boston they went to Dubuque, Iowa, by way of Chicago, and then took a boat up the Mississippi. The scenes along the trip are ones never to be forgotten. At Boston they noted the ships of the world's trade lying at anchor, and from the Boston Monument a vast expanse of land and sea spread before them. In New York state they saw the old Erie canal, with its picturesque tow boats. At Niagara they crossed the suspension bridge and viewed the falls. It was April when they reached the Mississippi, which was then full of floating ice. But the boats were running, and, in due time, the family reached Winona County, Minnesota, where the father took government land on the ridge three miles directly south of Pickwick. George A. helped construct the large log house, and assisted his family in meeting the new conditions of pioneer life. Of those far distant days he has many an interesting tale to tell. He attended a few winter terms of school near Pickwick, and received a teacher's certificate, but never cared to take up the teaching profession. In 1862 he enlisted in the Civil War, served through the conflict and was mustered out at the close of the war at Ft. Snelling. In 1870 he moved from Pickwick to the Big Tamarack Valley in Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, where he built a mill and remained eight years. Then he built a mill at Pine Creek, in the same county, but this was washed out by the high water two years later. For a while he was employed in the car shops at Winona, and in 1880 he moved to St. Paul, where he became a general contractor and builder, in which capacity he was assistant superintendent during the building of the old State Capitol. In 1887 he went to Helena, Mont., where he assisted in erecting many beautiful residences, and where he lived until about 1900, when he moved to Portland, Ore., where he and his wife are still living. Mr. Carsley was married Aug. 27, 1865, to Samaria M. Grant of Trempealeau, and this union was blessed with seven children: Ella A., now Mrs. C. W. Clark of Portland, Ore.; Benjamin F., who died at the age of eighteen months; G. Hollis of Helena, Mont.; Hettie M., wife of Dr. F. D.

Pierce, of Trempealeau; Glen W. of Zion City, Ill.; Myrtle A., wife of George Lewis of Hoquiam, Wash., and Ruth S., wife of W. A. Hicks of Portland, Ore. Mrs. Carsley was the daughter of G. W. T. Grant, the first settler in Pickwick, Minn., coming from Dubuque, Iowa, in 1853, choosing the site for the mill, then returning home, and the next year bringing his family and building the first house in the village, afterward building the mill with Webster Davis.

John Brownlee, an enterprising and successful farmer, whose homestead is located in section 30, Arcadia Township, was born at Court Bridge, Scotland, May 28, 1841, son of William and Isabella (Cummings) Brownlee. He had to aid in supporting himself at the early age of nine years, as his parents were people of little means, but he was made of the right stuff and got along, so that when he was only 20 years old he found himself able to marry, taking as his wife Margaret, daughter of John and Sarah (Lindsay) Robertson. By this marriage he had seven children, the first four of whom were born in Scotland. These six children were: John, whose whereabouts is unknown; William, residing in Mondovi, Buffalo County, Wis.; Thomas, an attorney who died in Boulder, Colo., in 1907; James, a merchant living in East Arcadia, who is now clerk of Arcadia Township; Isabella, who was born in Chicago, married Helmer Smart of Hillsdale, Wis., and died in 1913, and Robena, born in Arcadia, who was a teacher, but who died in 1906. In April, 1871, Mr. Brownlee, with his wife and four eldest children, left their native land for America. Landing at Philadelphia, they proceeded to Chicago, Ill., where they had the misfortune to be burned out in the great fire of October, 1871, which destroyed the greater part of the city. In 1872, having found Chicago too hot a place for them, they came overland in a canvas-covered wagon to Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, locating on a homestead of 160 acres in Lewis Valley. It was all new land and on it Mr. Brownlee built a log house. The fire fiend still pursued him, however, as this first residence burned down, but, not discouraged, he erected a frame house, together with a small barn and granary, and went on with his agricultural operations. Here on this farm his wife died in 1880, and three years later he sold the property and for the next two years rented a farm on the "bottoms." In 1885 he purchased his present homestead, which then consisted of 308 acres. This property is situated at the head of Trout Run Valley and the land is fertile and well adapted to the plow. Since buying it Mr. Brownlee has increased its size by adding 40 more acres. When he bought it it was slightly improved, and he erected on it a comfortable log house, hewn inside and out, which is still standing, and in which he lived until 1900. He then built his present residence, a two-story, 11-room frame house, also erecting a frame barn, 36 by 60 by 16 feet above full basement, a granary 18 by 26 by 14 feet and a machine shed 18 by 24 feet. He is engaged in general farming and for years has been a breeder of fine grade horses and cattle. In 1885 he married for his second wife Sarah, daughter of Thomas and Margaret Harvey Broehead. She died in 1907, having been the mother of six children: Robert, now living at Sentinel Butte, N. D.; Alexander, a resident of the same place; Minnie, now Mrs. Frank Hess of Livingston, Mont.; Florence, wife of

Edward Hess of American Valley, Arcadia Township; Margarite, a graduate of Arcadia high school, who is unmarried and is keeping house for her father; and Raymond, living at home with his father and working on the farm. Mr. Brownlee is independent in politics, voting for the man rather than for the party. He is a stockholder in the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company. Religiously he was reared in the faith of the Scottish Presbyterian church. His success in life has been well earned and he and his family are both widely known and respected.

Albert C. Kiekhoefer, a well-known agriculturist of Arcadia Township, proprietor of a flourishing farm in section 24, is one of the estimable men of the county, who by diligently developing his farm is doing his full share toward the growth and progress of the community at large. Coming of a family widely known in agricultural, religious and educational circles, he has added substantially to the high regard in which the family name is held. His parents, William and Caroline (Tisch) Kiekhoefer, were born in Prussia, Germany, and were there married. In 1857 they bravely set out for the new world to establish their home among the broader opportunities of America. The voyage across the water aboard an old style sailing vessel occupied four months and entailed many hardships. But in time they set their feet on land, found their way to Milwaukee, and thence came to Trempealeau County, where they homesteaded 160 acres of wild land in Trout Run Valley. Here the son, Albert C., the subject of this sketch, was born Oct. 29, 1859. Beginning work with an ox team, after the fashion of the pioneers, William Kiekhoefer grubbed and cleared his land, which had a very rolling surface, and built a log house as his first dwelling, subsequently replacing it by a two-story frame residence. After continuing his work on the farm until 1879, he died, having previously willed it to his son Albert C. Albert C. Kiekhoefer, who had one brother and five sisters, remained at home with his mother, assisting the latter on the farm until it came into his own possession, at which time he was 30 years of age. He had in the meanwhile acquired some education in the common school of the district, although able to attend only occasionally. The frame house built by his father was a building 16 by 30 feet in dimensions, and he has since added a wing to it, making it into a good ten-room house. He has also erected a silo, 14 by 28 feet; a granary, 18 by 30; a machine shed, 30 by 50; a hog house, 26 by 50, and a corn crib. The barn built by his father was 32 by 90 feet. Mr. Kiekhoefer does general farming and breeds high grade Holstein cattle, having a herd of 35 head, as well as a herd of Hampshire hogs. His farm is well equipped with machinery and teams, and presents a thriving appearance, the land being well cultivated and the buildings kept in good shape. Mr. Kiekhoefer usually votes the Prohibition ticket, though reserving the right of independent action as he sees occasion. Since 1904 he had belonged to the Order of Beavers, and since 1891 to the Arcadia Lodge of Modern Woodmen of America. He is a stockholder in the Glencoe Co-operative Creamery, of which he is vice-president. March 11, 1890, Mr. Kiekhoefer married Augusta, daughter of Robert Luli and Henrietta Sitzman of Germany, her parents being natives of Germany. The children of this marriage, 13 in number, are:

Ralph, born Dec. 24, 1890, now a carpenter, residing at Arcadia; Leafe, born in 1892, who is a professional nurse; Floyd, born in 1893, who lives at home, assisting his father on the farm; Orpha, born in 1894, now a student in the Winona Normal School; Alta, born in 1896, who is residing at home; Beatrice, born in 1897, who is a public school teacher residing at home; Elsie, born in 1898, now a student in the Arcadia high school; Lillian, born in 1900, also a student in the high school; David, born in 1902, Frederick in 1903, Wilton in 1905, Doris in 1907 and Albert, Jr., in 1908, all living at home. Mr. Kiekhoefer was reared in the faith of the Evangelical church, to which he and all the members of his family belong. They are well known throughout this part of the county; the older children are successfully making their way in the world and the younger ones are showing that application to their studies that will enable them in time to uphold the credit of the family name. All have received a sound moral and Christian training.

E. Scott Hotchkiss, pioneer, business man, agriculturist, former sheriff and former United States consul, is one of the most prominent men in the county. In commercial life he has assisted in the development of the mercantile, milling and lumber business since his first arrival in 1859, and he has been actively identified not only with rural progress, but also with the intimate life of two prosperous villages. In public service, within the county, he most efficiently occupied the office of sheriff for a term, he was a valued member of the county board for four years, he was a capable town clerk for twelve years, he was justice of the peace and court commissioner several terms, and in addition to this has held numerous local offices, and has been a member of various committees and delegations. As United States consul to two Canadian cities he assisted materially in exploiting and promoting American trade interests within the Dominion. As a Mason he has taken a deep interest in the Ancient Rites, and cherishes a number of important mementoes which have been handed down in his family from generation to generation. E. Scott Hotchkiss was born at Cairo, Green County, N. Y., March 27, 1837, son of Henry E. and Alice (Smith) Hotchkiss, and a grandson of Lemuel Hotchkiss, who served from Connecticut in the Revolutionary War, was a personal friend of DeWitt Clinton, governor of New York, and a prominent leader in Master and Royal Arch Masonry. The subject of this sketch was educated in the district schools, and has supplemented this training by wide reading and observation. He was designed to follow his father's occupation as a cabinet maker, but deciding to seek the broader opportunities of the west, he left his old home in 1856, and located in Richland County, this state. In 1859 he joined a colony, and set out for Osseo, where he homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 14, Sumner Township. He broke, improved and developed this land, until 1868, when he sold out, and engaged in the general mercantile business at Osseo with W. H. Thomas. In 1870 he and Mr. Thomas, together with William Fuller, built the Sumner Mill at Osseo, now owned by J. N. Lee. Soon after this he traded his interest in the store for Mr. Fuller's interest in the mill, and took over its active management. In 1872 he and J. L. Linderman built the Linderman Mills, one mile west



of Osseo, on the Beef River. The mills were destroyed by fire in 1880, but were a once rebuilt, and are still operated by members of the Linderman family. In 1876 Mr. Hotchkiss was elected sheriff of Trempealeau County, and so excellent was his record in this capacity that he was retained as under sheriff under K. K. Hagestad, his successor. In 1880, upon the expiration of this service, a favorable business opening presented itself at Independence, so, coming here, he purchased a lumber yard in the village, and a farm on the village limits. He still owns the farm, and he and his son Frank A. operate it, though both live in the village. The lumber yard was sold to John Sprecher and is now operated by the Sprecher Lumber Company. It was in 1902 that Mr. Hotchkiss received his greatest opportunity for public service. In that year, through the influence of Senator John C. Spooner, he was appointed by President Theodore Roosevelt as American consul at Brockville, Ontario, Canada. When that consulate was abandoned in 1906 he was sent to establish the consulate at Calgary, Alberta, Canada. When he went there American business represented but 45 percent of that city's imports. The official records show that owing to the work of the consulate during his administration the American business was increased until it represented 90 percent of the imports. In the fall of 1913, Mr. Hotchkiss retired, owing to the change of administration. In the meantime he had been offered, but had refused, the consulate at Hobart, Tasmania. Since then Mr. Hotchkiss has led a retired life at Independence, looking after his numerous holdings and interests. Mr. Hotchkiss' career as a Mason dates from 1872, when he joined the Blue Lodge at Augusta, Wis., being raised in March, 1873. He is now a member of the Blue Lodge at Whitehall, has served as its senior warden, and has been presented with a beautiful token in acknowledgment of his long fidelity in the work. He belongs to the Chapter and Commandery at La Crosse, having originally joined the Chapter there and the Commandery at Brockville, Ontario. Mr. Hotchkiss was married Dec. 16, 1862, to Harriet A. Field, a daughter of Robert C. and Mary (Stoddard) Field, intimately associated with the early history of Osseo and Sumner. After a long and useful life, filled with good deeds and gracious kindness, she died Nov. 6, 1915, leaving two children: Alice and Frank A. Alice lives in Milwaukee, and is the mother of two children, Claude and Albert Maurer. Frank A. is president of the Farmers & Merchants State Bank of Independence.

James Muir, a pioneer of Buffalo County, was for many years intimately connected with the life of this region. He was born in Franklin, Scotland, July 14, 1833, and was there reared and educated, coming to America in May, 1853. For a time he was employed as a miner in Pennsylvania, coming to Buffalo County in 1856, landing at Fountain City, April 1, and homesteading a farm, where he spent the remainder of his days. He first erected a shack, then improved and developed the land, and in time had as good a farm as was to be found in the county. He died Sept. 2, 1916. His wife, Martha Faulds, to whom he was married in Glencoe Township, Buffalo County, June 2, 1860, died Nov. 5, 1906.

Frank A. Hotchkiss, banker, public official, farmer, horse fancier and man-of-affairs, is well known throughout the county, and his advocacy

of good roads, during his term of office as chairman of the county board, places him in the ranks of the county's most useful and constructive citizens. With keen business insight he combines a genial temperament, with a nature of unbounded enthusiasm in good work he combines a proper conservatism, and with a thorough belief in progress he combines the sincere conviction that all progress must be founded upon the firm ground of expediency and common sense. A native of this county, and connected with several of its most prominent pioneer families, he was born in Osseo, this county, Oct. 18, 1866, the son of E. Scott and Harriett A. (Field) Hotchkiss. He received a good education in the schools of Osseo, Arcadia and Independence, and early in life determined to devote his life to agricultural pursuits. As he grew to manhood he devoted his time and attention to the improving and developing of his father's farm at Independence, and as a hobby became more and more interested in the breeding of pure-blooded Pêrcheron and Belgian horses, and developed a string of trotters and pacers that won many a prize at fairs and racing meets. Of late years, however, his attention has turned more and more to public and commercial life. In 1916 he with others organized the Farmers & Merchants State Bank, of which he became president. He is likewise president of the Independence Grain & Stock Company. Both of these institutions are important factors in the business and financial life of Independence, and under his fostering care are constantly growing in size and importance. In 1900 he became a member of the village council and served for several terms. It was in 1904 that he was elected to the county board, of which he was chairman in 1914, 1915 and 1916. He has served on numerous committees on the board, and his work is acknowledged as having always been for the best interests of the people of the county at large. Being of a fraternal disposition, he has affiliated himself with the Blue Lodge and Chapter of the Masonic order, and he is likewise a popular member of the Independent Order of Foresters. Mr. Hotchkiss was married Oct. 18, 1893, to Agnes Muir, born in Buffalo County, this state, June 25, 1870, daughter of James and Martha (Faulds) Muir. This union has been blessed with three children: Ina A., born May 28, 1896; Eldridge Scott, born April 13, 1906, and Robert Addison, born April 7, 1912.

Philo J. Linderman, in the United States mail service at Osseo, was born near Troy, Bradford County, Pa., moved to Rockford, Ill., in 1859, and there lived until 1868, when he moved with his parents to Eau Claire, Wis., where he lived until 1872, then removing to Osseo, where his father, James L. Linderman, built the Linderman Mills in 1872. James L. Linderman died in 1905, and since that time Philo J. Linderman has been employed as a mail carrier. He married Stella Tracy, who was born in Richland County, Wisconsin, in 1855, and they have three children: Glenn O., a prominent attorney of Eau Claire; Phylancia, who married Dr. F. S. Maxson of Milwaukee, and has one child, Josephine; and Marion, who died at the age of six years.

Glenn O. Linderman, prominent attorney of Eau Claire, is a native of Trempealeau County, and was for a number of years actively identified with the life and progress of this region. He was born in Osseo, Sept. 29,

1875, son of Philo J. and Stella (Tracy) Linderman. As a youth he attended the schools of Osseo. Later he entered the schools of Augusta, in Eau Claire County. In that city also he studied law for three years in the offices of Attorneys I. B. and E. M. Bradford. The education thus obtained was rounded out with a summer course in the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. Mr. Linderman was admitted to the bar in 1898, and at once opened an office in Osseo. Here he successfully practiced for many years. His worth was soon recognized and he was called upon to serve in a number of important public positions. For thirteen years he was a member of the county board, three years of which time he was its chairman. While serving on the Osseo school board he assisted in erecting the slightly building which is now the pride of the village. He helped to organize the Osseo Telephone Company, which is still successfully operating. He was president of the Citizens State Bank of Osseo during its entire existence. Mr. Linderman moved to Eau Claire in the spring of 1916. Deeply interested in Masonry, Mr. Linderman has passed through the thirty-two degrees of the Scottish rites, and he is also a member of the Commandery and of the Shrine. The Knights of Pythias also count him as a valued member. Mr. Linderman was married Aug. 6, 1897, to Bertha H. Bradford of Augusta, who died June 18, 1902, daughter of Rev. E. and Cynthia Bradford. Sept. 17, 1907, he married Hilda O. Halverson, a trained nurse, who was the daughter of Gilbert and Ingeborg Halvorson of Sumner Township, and died Nov. 2, 1913, leaving two children: Marion Abigail, born June 20, 1910, and Glenn Otis, born Aug. 8, 1908. Mr. Linderman was married April 5, 1916, to Jessie M. Stillman, daughter of Charles Wesley and Bertha Stillman.

John Bigham, for many years one of the stury farmers who helped to develop the agricultural resources of Trempealeau County, but who now resides in the village of Arcadia, was born in Putnam County, New York, Aug. 27, 1838, son of James and Catherine (McVoy) Bigham. Both his parents were born in Ireland, the father being of Scotch descent. He was reared in his native state, attending district school there until the age of 14 years, and subsequently learned the mason's trade. At the age of 19 he began working away from home, and in June, 1855, he came west alone, traveling by rail to Dunleith, Ill., and from there by boat to Fountain City, Wis. His father was already located in Glencoe, Buffalo County, having arrived there in the preceding April. John Bigham remained with his father about a month and then went to La Crosse, Wis., where he worked in a mill until 1859. While thus employed, however, he was making plans for future independence and took the surest way of doing this by investing, in 1857, in a small tract of land in Buffalo County. In the following year he bought 80 acres in Arcadia Township, two and a half miles south of the village. The Buffalo County tract he held for some years. All this land was wild and there were plenty of Winnebago Indians in the vicinity. In the fall of 1859 Mr. Bigham began breaking his land, using ox teams. Two years later he purchased 80 acres more and from time to time added to the size of his farm, continually improving it, until it now contains 253 acres in a high state of cultivation, and well equipped with good buildings and all needed accessories. In 1902 Mr. Bigham quit the farm and moved into

Arcadia Village, where he and his wife are enjoying the fruits of their industry and thrift in days gone by. Mr. Bigham was married, Jan. 9, 1867, to Grace K., daughter of Henry and Miranda (Shelby) Gardner, who died Sept. 8, 1917. Their children, five in number, are: Bertha, born April 16, 1868, who is the widow of Clifford Baumbach, and is now engaged in teaching school at Whitehall; Minnie, born Sept. 9, 1870, now the wife of John McKivergin, of Whitehall, Wis.; Elmer, born March 6, 1873, living on the old farm; Ellis G., manager and secretary of the Farmers' Co-Operative Creamery in Arcadia Village, and Byrd, born Nov. 27, 1879, who is a druggist in Chicago, Ill. Mr. Bigham is a staunch Republican in politics and cast his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1860. Religiously he was brought up in the faith of the Scotch Presbyterian church.

Peter Myers, one of the elderly residents of Arcadia Village, who may justly lay claim to being one of the pioneer settlers of Trempealeau County, was born in France, Oct. 8, 1836. When a boy of 10 years he came to America with his parents, who settled on a farm eight miles from Syracuse, N. Y., and here young Myers was reared and resided until he was 25 years old. Then, in 1861, he was married to Lena Kraner, daughter of George Kraner, a neighbor. In 1864, with his wife and eldest child, George, he came West, journeying by train to La Crosse, Wis., from there by boat to Trempealeau, and then by ox team to Arcadia Township. Here he homesteaded 160 acres of land in one of the beautiful valleys three miles south of Arcadia Village, which took its name from him and his family and is now known as Myers Valley. The land on which he settled was wild and there were no buildings on it, so his first work was to erect a small log house and barn. There were plenty of Indians in the vicinity, but they gave him no trouble, and he grubbed and cleared his land without interference. After awhile he bought an additional tract of 80 acres, and still later on other land until the farm contained 330 acres. He also built a substantial frame house, a stone barn, 36 by 60, and a stone granary, 24 by 40 feet in dimensions. His farming operations were conducted with intelligence and industry and proved successful, so that in time he became prosperous. Mr. Myers resided on this farm until 1888, at which time he retired and moved to Arcadia Village, which place has since been his home. He has always been a Democrat in politics, but was never politically active and has held no public offices. Reared a Catholic, he has been true to his faith and is a member of the German Catholic church of Arcadia. Though grown somewhat feeble with advancing years, he is a man highly respected and his neighbors took a warm sympathetic interest in his celebration of his eightieth birthday, on Oct. 8, 1916. He is now a widower, his wife having passed away in December, 1899. They were the parents of eight children: George, Anna, Anton, Agnes, Clara, Rosa, Otto and Isadore. George, who was born in New York State, Feb. 14, 1862, remained on the home farm when his father moved to the village, and operated it for 15 years. He is now on one of the other farms of his father. Anna, now Mrs. John Whiffler, is residing in Arcadia and keeps house for her father. Anton, born in 1867, died in 1915. Agnes, born Jan. 6, 1869, later Sister Wilfreda, of Notre Dame, died Jan. 3, 1917. Clara is the wife of Peter Dahm, of

Arcadia. Otto is living in Arcadia with his father. Isadore, born Sept. 13, 1881, is living on the old family homestead, where he has been since 1904. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Edward and Julia Haines, who reside on an adjoining farm. His marriage took place Sept. 26, 1905, and he and his wife now have six children: Hildegard, Irene, Wilfred, Ethelreda, Evangeline and Aurelia.

Louis Remlinger, proprietor of a good farm in Arcadia Township, about two and a half miles southeast of the village of that name, was born at Mauley Station, N. Y., Oct. 6, 1863. His parents were John and Mary (Seibert) Remlinger, who were married at Mauley Station about 1851, the mother having been born at that place in 1839. The father, John Remlinger, was a native of Germany, born in 1832. In 1865 he came West with his wife and family, making the journey by rail to Dunleith, Ill (now East Dubuque), from which place they took boat to Trempealeau Village, where they remained about a week. Then they came by ox team to Arcadia Township, this last trip taking a day and a half. Here Mr. Remlinger settled on 160 acres of wild Government land in Meyers Valley, on which he built a log shanty, and began improving his land. In 1875, having by this time made fair progress on his farm, he put up a more pretentious and commodious log house, together with a barn. Later he sold this property and moved to Dodge Township, near Pine Creek, where he spent practically the rest of his life, dying at Arcadia in 1894. He was then, and had been for some time, a widower, his wife having passed away at Arcadia in 1886. They had a family of nine children: John, born in New York State, in 1853, who is a resident of Eau Claire, Wis.; Polly, born in New York State, in 1855, who is now Mrs. Fred Wenzell, of Arcadia Township; George, born in New York State, in 1857, whose present whereabouts is unknown; Jennie, born in 1859, in New York State, who is the wife of John Thompson, of Winona, Minn.; Louis, the subject of this sketch; Nicholas, born in 1867, in Arcadia Township, where he died in 1892; Frank, born in Arcadia Township, in 1869, who is living at St. Mary, Idaho; Mary, born in Arcadia Township, in 1871, who is now Mrs. George Sentz, of Red Wing, Minn.; and Joseph, born in Arcadia Township, in 1873, who is living in Winona, Minn. Louis Remlinger was educated in the common and parochial schools, but never reached advanced studies, as he had to assist his father on the farm at an early age. He resided at home until he was 21 years old and then worked out five years for others. He was married Sept. 9, 1887, to Eliza, daughter of Louie and Eva Fischer, of Arcadia Township. He subsequently rented and worked farms in Trempealeau County until 1895, in which year he bought 72 acres in section 1, township 20, range 10, situated about two and a half miles southeast of Arcadia Village, which place is his present home. Here he does general farming and dairying, keeping graded cows, and having an ample supply of teams and other equipment. He built his present residence, which is a very comfortable one-and-a-half-story brick house, consisting of upright and wing. He has also put up good barns, a granary, tool sheds and other necessary buildings. His wife, Eliza, died July 18, 1911, and on April 12, 1915, he married for his second wife, Barbara, daughter of John and Anna Maier, of Arcadia Township. His children, by

his first marriage, are: Gertrude, born June 29, 1888, who is the wife of Henry W. Werner, a contracting electrician and prominent citizen of Winona, Minn.; Frank, born Jan. 8, 1889, who is a farmer in Arcadia Township; William, born March 23, 1891, who resides on the old Remlinger homestead; Albert, born May 8, 1892, who served with the Wisconsin State militia on the Texas border; Elizabeth, born Oct. 4, 1895, who is residing at home; Leo, born March 12, 1897, who lives at home and assists his father on the farm, and Raymond, born March 28, 1900, who resides at home. Mr. Remlinger is a Democrat in politics, and for one year was a member of the township board, but otherwise has not been active in public affairs. He and his family are members of the German Catholic church at Arcadia, and he belongs also to St. Joseph's Catholic Society at Winona, Minn.

Ole Gulbrandson Eid, one of the pioneers of Hegge Cooley, spent many years of his life in developing a farm in this county, and was numbered among the substantial and successful citizens. He was born in Blakjar, Norway, and was there reared on a farm. In 1871, hoping to better his condition and to seek the broader opportunities of the New World, he brought his family to America, and while looking about for a location, established himself in Minnesota for six months. Then he came to Trempealeau County and purchased 160 acres in Hegge Cooley, Pigeon Township, and began his career as an American farmer. He broke and developed a fine place, and became one of the representative men of the county. After many years of hard work and successful endeavor, he retired, but continued to live on the homestead with his son, Gilbert, O. He died there Aug. 26, 1904, and his wife passed away Dec. 21, 1893. They were the parents of six children: Ole and Marius, who are dead; Gilbert O., on the old homestead; Andrew, a merchant at Merrillan, Wis., and Hans and Ole, farmers in Northfield Township, Jackson County.

Gilbert O. Eid, of Hegge Cooley, Pigeon Township, has one of the best developed farms in this region, and is regarded as one of the most modern and progressive agriculturists in this part of the county. Since young boyhood, he has devoted his efforts to improving his present place, and the results, bearing testimony on every side to thrift, foresight and appreciation of beauty, have fully justified his endeavor. Born in Blakjer, Norway, June 14, 1858, son of Ole Gulbrandson Eid and Marte A. (Thoreid) Eid he came with them to America in 1871, lived six months in Minnesota, and then with them came to Hegge Cooley. He assisted his parents with the farm duties, and in 1884 purchased the home place. Previously he had purchased two 40-acre tracts adjoining, and later he bought other adjacent property, until he now owns 420 acres of as good land as is to be found in the county, all being in section 2, except 40 acres in section 3. Upon acquiring ownership of the homestead, Mr. Eid continued its improvement. He remodeled and enlarged the dwelling, barns and other buildings, and in 1900 he erected his present sightly home. This is an ideal farmhouse in every way, beautiful, comfortable and convenient. It is heated with hot air system, equipped with modern plumbing, furnishing a continual supply of hot and cold water, and is provided with an electric light plant, illuminating both house and barns. The other farm buildings are fully in keeping with the residence.



MR. AND MRS. OLE (GULBRANDSON) EID



GILBERT O. EID AND FAMILY

The whole place is beautified with a well-kept lawn, dotted with flowers and shrubbery, and sloping in grassy sweeps from the building to the highway. The farm is a fertile one and produces the usual crops; diversified farming and stock raising being conducted along the latest approved methods, and a specialty being made of a fine dairy herd of Holstein cattle headed by a full-blooded sire. In addition to his farm holdings, Mr. Eid is a stockholder in the Pigeon Grain & Stock Company, the People's State Bank, of Whitehall, and the Whitehall Community Hospital. Mr. Eid was married July 2, 1882, to Karen Koxlien, who was born in Faaber, Gulbrandsdahlen, Norway, on Nov. 25, 1859, and died Sept. 20, 1907. Throughout all her married life she proved a faithful wife, a loving mother and a kind and charitable woman, and her death was not only a great loss to the family, but a matter of sincere grief to the community wherein her worth was known. She left seven children: May, Olga Nora, Clara, Ella, Anna, George A. and Orvel. May was born May 28, 1883, and is the wife of Charles Borreson, a farmer of Rat Cooley. Olga Nora was born May 22, 1885, and is the wife of Albert Johnson, who helps operate the Eid farm. Clara was born Sept. 30, 1886, and lives at home. Ella was born Feb. 7, 1891, and is now the wife of Edward Goplin, of Hale Township. Anna, born Sept. 22, 1892; George A., born March 12, 1895; and Orvel, born Dec. 25, 1897, are at home. March 27, 1913, Mr. Eid married Mrs. Amelia (Christopherson) Foss, born Feb. 12, 1860, daughter of C. Christopherson and Christine (Peterson) Christopherson, and widow of Anders Foss, who died April 26, 1900, leaving four children: Anna, now Mrs. Richard Lieske; Carolina, Mabel and Josephine.

Henry R. Trowbridge, a successful farmer of section 20, Trempealeau Township, was born on the homestead on which he now resides, Oct. 20, 1877, son of Hiram I. and Eliza (Brown) Trowbridge, a memoir of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. In his boyhood he attended the district school, also spending two seasons in the schools of Winona, Minn. He was trained to agriculture from his early years, and has always remained on the home farm. Sept. 29, 1902, he was married to Tillie, daughter of Gilbert and Auline Gooden, of Holland Township, La Crosse County, Wis., the marriage taking place at the home of the bride's parents and the ceremony being performed by the Rev. W. C. Hill, pastor of Galesville Presbyterian church. Mr. Trowbridge brought his wife to the farm just before Christmas, 1902. Their family circle has since been widened by the birth of two children: Grace, born Aug. 2, 1903, and Gerald, born April 2, 1909, both of whom are living. Mr. Trowbridge is engaged in general farming and dairying. His farm contains 250 acres, of which 140 are plowed land, the balance being in pasture and timber. The buildings are in good condition and the farm is well stocked. Mr. Trowbridge is also a stockholder in the Farmers' Co-Operative Packing Company, of La Crosse. He is not active in politics, but votes the Republican ticket and has served as treasurer of the school district. Since 1898 he has been a member of Camp No. 2813, Modern Woodmen of America, Trempealeau Village, and he and his wife belong to Trempealeau M. E. church, of which he is a steward, Mrs. Trowbridge being active in the Ladies' Aid Society.

Hiram I. Trowbridge, in former years one of the leading citizens of Trempealeau Township, and known and respected throughout the county, was born in Meadville, Crawford County, Pa., May 15, 1837. Subsequently he accompanied his parents to Belvidere, in the northern part of Illinois, and just before the Civil War the family came to Trempealeau County, Wis., where the father bought a tract of prairie land. Hiram, with two of his brothers, Edward and Henry, purchased the farm in Trempealeau Township, which included a portion of the old mission grounds. On April 20, 1875, he was married to Eliza (Brown) Johnson, widow of Samuel A. Johnson, who had served as a soldier in Company C, Thirtieth Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers. She was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., July 30, 1848, and at the age of 7 years came West with her parents, the journey being made by train to Dubuque, Iowa, and from there by boat to La Crosse, Wis. Her marriage to Mr. Trowbridge took place on the latter's farm in Trempealeau Township, where their son Henry now lives, and there they began house-keeping, Mr. Trowbridge continuing to improve his farm. In this work he was successful and in time became not only one of the prominent men of his township, but a representative citizen of the county. He and his wife had children as follows: Robert D., born March 17, 1876, and now living in Trempealeau Township; Henry R., born Oct. 20, 1877, residing on the home farm; Guy E., born Aug. 14, 1880, who is a resident of Great Falls, Mont.; Irenus, who died in infancy, and Myrtle A., born May 31, 1889, who resides with her mother in Winona, Minn. Hiram I. Trowbridge died Nov. 23, 1900, the news of his death being received with sorrow by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances, by whom he was esteemed for his many sterling traits of character.

Julius Hensel, a pioneer, was born in Prussia, Jan. 7, 1833, and was brought to this country by his parents at the age of 5 years. His wife, Sarah E. Simpson, whom he married at Cross Plains, Dane County, Wis., was born in England, Dec. 25, 1835, and came to America at the age of 5 years. In 1856 he came to Buffalo County, in this State, and two years later brought his wife here, overland by ox-team. Together they started to carve their fortunes in the wilderness. So well and faithfully did they labor that their original tract of 160 acres had in 1861 been increased to a whole section of land. Loyal to his adopted country, he listened to the call of duty in 1862 and enlisted in Company F, Twenty-fifth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. After doing valiant service for about a year he was wounded at the battle of Atlanta and as a result was confined in the Alfred Harvey Hospital, where, after his partial recovery, he was retained as an assistant for a while before his honorable discharge. Upon his release he returned to his farm, where he successfully carried on farming operations until the summer of 1876, when he retired and moved to Arcadia, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of 11 children: Phalana, of Whitehall; Frederic W., of Hay Creek, Ore.; Frank (deceased); Alfred Harvey (deceased); Hiram E., of Arcadia; Leroy (deceased); Ruth E., the wife of Robert Pedder, of Arcadia; Charles, of Sheyenne, N. D.; Earl F., of Whitehall; Herman T. (deceased), and Fannie J. (deceased).



MR. AND MRS. EARL F. HENSEL

Rev. Thomas Grafton Owen, clergyman, poet and philosopher, was born in Champaign County, Ohio, July 30, 1830, and at the age of 7 years was taken to McDonough County, Ill., where he received a common school education. At the age of 28 he entered the service of the Methodist Episcopal church, being ordained deacon at Hannibal, Mo., in 1858, and elder at Hudson, Mo., in 1860. Mr. Owen took charge of his first church in Illinois. The principal part of his work was in Missouri until the outbreak of the Civil War. In that conflict he did volunteer service as a chaplain. As a member of the Christian Commission he came North, and spent the remainder of his life here. In 1870 he left the Methodist church and entered the Congregational church. As pastor of that denomination he came to Trempealeau. Later he moved to Arcadia, where he resided for many years. During his latter years he was a clergyman of the Unitarian faith, serving numerous congregations throughout the Trempealeau Valley and elsewhere. Much of his time was devoted to philosophical and poetic writings, many of which are embodied in his "Drippings from the Eaves," a book worthy of a high place in American literature. After a long and useful life, he died April 26, 1912. He was married in Bushnell, Ill., in 1858, to Isabell Provine, who died in October, 1873. In 1874 he married Margaret Craig, who was born in England in 1839.

Earl F. Hensel, attorney, journalist and public speaker, former county judge and former county attorney, has been prominent in political and public affairs in Trempealeau County for many years, and being still a young man, his friends predict for him a still more brilliant future. He is a native of this State, having first seen the light of day in Glencoe Township, Buffalo County, Feb. 2, 1875, son of Julius and Sarah E. (Simpson) Hensel, who brought him to Arcadia, in this county, as an infant. As a youth he passed through the public schools of Arcadia, and was graduated from the high school there with the class of 1892. With this preparation, he became a teacher for seven terms, three in Buffalo County, one in Trempealeau County, and three in Lamoure County, N. D. In 1897 he entered the law department of the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and was graduated therefrom, with the class of 1900, receiving the degree of LL. B. At Blair he hung out his shingle, and there began his professional career. While at Blair he was for a while one of the editors of the Blair Press. His practice soon assumed proportions of importance, his legal ability commanded attention, and when the death of Robert Christianson in July, 1904, left a vacancy in the office of district attorney, he was appointed to the position and moved his family to the county seat. So faithfully and ably did he serve that he was elected to the office that fall and re-elected in the fall of 1906, serving until the close of 1908. In 1912 he was again elected, serving until the close of 1914. In the meantime, July 3, 1909, he had been appointed county judge to serve out the term of Robert S. Cowie, giving universal satisfaction to the attorneys and to the people. Since retiring from county office, Judge Hensel has devoted himself to the practice of his profession, as well as to journalism as local editor of the Whitehall Times-Banner. In addition to the offices mentioned, Judge Hensel has been village attorney of Blair for four years, village attorney of Whitehall eight

years, township attorney of several towns at various times, president of the village of Whitehall one term, and member of the county board one term. His fraternal relations are with the A. F. & A. M. and the B. R. F. F. Of commanding physique, compelling voice, brilliant oratory and broad kindness, Judge Hensel is a man of marked personality, and it is natural that he should be a leader in local and county affairs. His abilities as an orator are widely known, and in the dark days of the entrance of the United States into the Great War he has been of valuable service on the side of loyalty and patriotism. Judge Hensel was married March 19, 1902, to Eunice G. Owen, daughter of Rev. T. Grafton Owen. This union has been blessed with two children: Alfred Harvey and Margaret C. Alfred Harvey was born Dec. 31, 1902, endeared himself to all of those with whom he came in contact during his brief life, and died Dec. 24, 1916. Margaret C. was born Dec. 20, 1909. Mrs. Hensel is one of the leading women of the community. She is prominent in all society and charitable work, was one of the founders of the Ladies Chautauqua Circle, has been very active in Red Cross work, and has been an important factor in the daily life of Whitehall for many years.

August Reck, now living retired in Arcadia Village, after a busy life devoted to agricultural pursuits, was born in Poland, Aug. 26, 1844, son of Matt and Chrestena Reck. In 1870 he came to the United States with his parents and other members of the family. Journeying by train to La Crosse, Wis., they took boat from that place to Trempealeau, and from there the party, consisting of father and mother, August, with three sisters and a brother, walked to American Valley, where another brother of our subject, Veto Reck, had already settled. On their arrival, August, then 26 years old, found that he had but 35 cents left of his pecuniary resources. However, the family got together money enough to purchase 80 acres of land in American Valley, which they obtained from Dan Dewey. There seems to have been no improvements on the place, for Mr. Reck at once built a dugout in the side of the hill, with sod roof, for a residence, in which primitive dwelling the family lived for two years. The work of grubbing and clearing followed immediately after and furnished him and his sons with strenuous work for some time to come. Until they were able to raise a crop, August had to carry provisions from Trempealeau, a distance of 17 miles, on his back. In 1872 August erected a small log house. By 1874 things were in more promising shape and he began a separate domestic life by marrying Mary Ressel, daughter of Martin and Katherine Ressel, of Arcadia Township. He purchased the farm in his own name and continued to develop it, gradually increasing its value by cultivation and the addition of needed improvements, including the building of a stone house to replace the old log structure, this more substantial dwelling being inhabited up to 1913. In 1905 August Reck sold the farm to his son George, who now owns it, and who in 1913 replaced the stone house by a modern two-story, square, frame house of nine rooms. At the same time, or in the same year, he bought 160 acres in Korpall Valley, to which farm he moved, and where he resided until 1915, when he sold it to his son Joseph and took up his residence in Arcadia Village, where he is now living retired, with his

wife and two daughters, being 72 years old, and his wife 68. During his active career Mr. Reck was widely recognized as one of the most thrifty and prosperous settlers of Polish origin in the county. In company with Charles Hess, who came to the valley about the same time that he did, he owned and operated one of the very first threshing outfits owned in the township. He is a member of St. Stanislaus Congregation of Arcadia; also of St. Stanislaus Society. In politics it has been his custom to vote the Democratic ticket, which was the limit of his activities in the political field, as he never sought a place in local government, being too busy in developing his farm. He and his wife have had eight children: George, born in 1879, who is now proprietor of the old family homestead; Paulina, born in 1881, now Mrs. J. F. Kokot, of Korpall Valley; Victoria, born in 1883, wife of Peter Gondara, of North Creek, Trempealeau County; Haittey, born in 1885, who resides with her parents in Arcadia Village; Frances, born in 1887, now the wife of Valanty Misch, of Arcadia Village; Estella, born in 1889, who is the wife of Valentine Stetmach, of North Creek; Joseph, born in 1891, now a farmer in Korpall Valley, and Rosa, born in 1893, who resides with her parents in the village. Mr. Reck is a man of good record, whose life and labors not only resulted in his own advancement, but added to the sum total of the wealth of the community in which he lived, and while he is now indulging in well-earned repose, his sons are continuing the good work which he began.

George Reck, a farmer residing in section 1, Arcadia, Township 20, range 9, was born in American Valley, this township, Nov. 16, 1879, son of Augustus Reck. In the old log house, which was his birthplace, he resided until it was replaced by a stone house, helping his father on the farm and attending school at intervals until reaching the age of 12 years, when his services being needed all the time, he had to lay aside his school books, and never resumed them. The farm consisted of 160 acres, and he assisted his father in its cultivation until 1905, at which time he purchased it from his father. The next year he married Mary Pampuch, daughter of Thomas and Mary Pampuch, of Independence, Trempealeau County. In 1913 he tore down the old stone house, which was inadequate to his needs, and erected a modern, square, two-story, 9-room residence. He has also provided himself with a good barn and other out-buildings. He carries on general farming and dairying, keeping 35 head of cattle, 20 hogs and six horses, besides having a good supply of tools and farm machinery and keeping an automobile for rapid transit purposes. He is a charter member of St. Stanislaus Society, having been one of the founders in 1910. For nine years also he has been treasurer of St. Stanislaus Congregation, of which he and his family are members. In politics Mr. Reck is a Democrat and has been clerk of the school district for two years. He is recognized as one of the thrifty and prosperous young farmers of the county. He and his wife have five children: Ignatz, born in 1907; Tracy, in 1909; Mary, in 1911; Stanley, in 1913, and Elanora, in 1917.

Wheat Brom. In 1868 a farmer of the dorf or village of Todne, near the city of Budweis, in the county of Swegnje, Bohemia, Wheat Brom, the father of Mathias and "Big Wenzel"

Brom, sold his lands of nearly 100 acres there and with his wife and family, married son Frank, unmarried son John and unmarried daughter Mary, immigrated to America, leaving Bohemia July 21, 1868, and arriving at Bremen Haven took passage to New York, where they arrived Aug. 7 and immediately left for Winona, Minn., where they arrived Aug. 15, 1868. Wheat Brom settled in Pine Creek, in Trempealeau County, purchasing of John Pehler the farm later owned by Joe Eichman, on which farm Wheat Brom died, and is buried in the cemetery at Pine Creek. Mrs. Brom survived her husband and for many years made her home with her son, Frank Brom, and where she died. At the end of the first year in the cooley Mr. Brom had about five acres of lands under cultivation, but continued to make improvements from year to year, as did his neighbors, until many excellent farms are in the cooley. John Brom, the youngest son of Wheat Brom, married in Winona, and later than 1868 homesteaded lands in the cooley, which he sold in 1881 and went to Kansas, where he still resides. Big Wenzel sold his farm in the cooley and moved to Kansas in 1885, where he died a few years ago. Frank Brom purchased the farm of Little Wenzel in 1904, Wenzel removing to Winona, Minn., where he died in 1908.

Mathias Brom, for many years a resident of Pine Creek, in Dodge Township, was born in September, 1828, in the village of Todne, near the city of Budweis, in Swegnie, Bohemia, his father, Wheat Brom, being a farmer in that locality. Mat Brom was the oldest child of his father's family, and was married in his native village to Elizabeth Marisech prior to his immigrating to America in 1861. His brother, Wenzel Brom, known as "Big Wenzel," and a cousin, Wenzel Brom, known as "Little Wenzel," immigrated with him. They landed in New York and immediately journeyed to Winona, Minn., where they had Bohemian acquaintances. Mat Brom settled in Winona and for nearly two years worked in a grain warehouse. In the latter part of 1862 he purchased 80 acres of land from the United States Government at \$1.25 an acre, and moved onto these lands in 1863, improving and cultivating them. In 1869 he deeded these lands to his son, Frank Brom, and purchased 120 acres in section 11, town 19, range 10 west, from John Shonat, who had for several years resided upon them and who upon a sale of them removed to Decorah Prairie, where he long was a prominent and prosperous citizen. This 120 acres, with additions, constituted the Mat Brom farm at Pine Creek. Mr. and Mrs. Brom retired from farming and for years lived quietly in a small home on a tract of land near the Pine Creek church. They reared a family of two daughters—Eva and Mary—both of whom married, Eva dying some years ago and three sons—Frank, Martin and John.

Frank Brom came to America with other members of his family, reaching Winona, Minn., Aug. 15, 1868. The following day Frank Brom and his wife, whom he had married in the old Bohemian home early in July, started on foot to Pine Creek under the guidance of Mathias Brom, Jr., a son of Mathias Brom, to the home of his father, where they arrived and partook of dinner, and then on foot crossed the hills into the Tamarack Valley, which they crossed and journeyed to the home of the brother, "Big Wenzel," where they made their home during the remainder of the summer, thus their set-

tlement in Holcomb Cooley dates from the 16th day of August, 1868. Frank Brom was born Oct. 27, 1841, at No. 14, Todne, Bohemia, grew to manhood there and married Eliza Tasick, who immigrated with him as a member of the family of Wheat Brom. Frank Brom and his wife lived with Wenzel, who in the course of a month aided him in making a homestead claim on 160 acres of lands on section 26, township 20 north, range 9 west, upon which he made final proof and cultivated. Mr. Brom purchased other lands from time to time until he owned a few years ago 784 acres in the cooley. When Frank Brom and his wife reached Holcomb Cooley they had \$3 in money, no team and a scant amount of clothing. They were not daunted, nor often weary and discouraged, but worked and saved and reared a family of five daughters and four sons, so that at the time his wife died, Oct. 30, 1903, they had a comfortable home, a valuable farm with barns and out-buildings. Their first house was a rough unbarked log house with a single room, made from the forest about them. For many years Frank Brom has enjoyed good health and prosperity, and has always been respected by his neighbors and acquaintances as a man of great industry and thrift, of integrity and fine neighborly qualities, and he is in good health at 76 years, weighing 220 pounds and standing 6 feet 2 inches in his stocking feet. Mr. Brom has been and is a man of good habits, a kind father and was a good husband, thoroughly American in his notions. He and his wife had a family of 10 children: Katherine, now Mrs. John Kruger, residing in Winona County, Minn.; Thomas, who resides in Arcadia Village; John, who also lives in Arcadia; Martin, the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth; Estella, who is now Mrs. August Tonditzke, of Holcomb Cooley; Rose, the wife of Michael Herrick, of Arcadia; Mary; and Frank, now deceased.

Martin Brom, one of the prosperous agriculturists of Trempealeau County, whose well-cultivated farm lies in section 26, Arcadia Township, was born in Holcomb Valley, this township, Nov. 12, 1884, son of Frank and Eliza (Tasick) Brom. In his boyhood he attended the district school up to the age of 12 years. He then assisted his father on the farm and remained with him subsequently until the latter's retirement, with the exception of a short period of four months in 1909, which he passed in Jamestown, N. D. In 1913 he purchased the home farm of 260 acres from his father, and in the following year, Feb. 17, 1914, he married Mary, daughter of Paul and Elizabeth Ressel, of Lewis Valley, Arcadia Township. Beginning housekeeping in the old log house on the farm, he and his wife lived there until 1916, in which year he built a modern, cement block residence, also erecting a frame barn, 30 by 60 by 12 feet in dimensions, with full basement. The homestead lies 13 miles southeast of Arcadia Village, and the noticeable improvements attract attention and give evidence of industry and thrift. Mr. Brom is a Democrat in politics, but has held no public office. He and his wife are members of the German Catholic church of Arcadia, and have many friends throughout this vicinity.

Charles J. Gibson, one of the leading citizens of Blair, is widely known for his progressive spirit, and the part he is having in every move which has for its object the upbuilding of the village and county. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, June 24, 1872, the son of James and Catherine (Kutcher)

Gibson, who brought him to Trempealeau County at the age of 9, arriving here Jan. 3, 1881. He was reared to farm pursuits and attended the district schools, supplementing this later with special courses in embalming. In 1895 he moved to Blair, where he has a large and successful furniture store, and where he is practicing his profession as a licensed embalmer and funeral director. He has been president, trustee and treasurer of the village, he has been prominent in educational affairs, and has been one of the moving spirits of the annual Chautauqua course. Mr. Gibson was married March 30, 1896, to Mary Elizabeth Ellison, and they have had four children: Merle, James (who was drowned at the age of 13), Evelyn and Lertha.

Rev. A. J. Orke, a clergyman of the Norwegian Lutheran faith, and pastor of four congregations with headquarters at Pigeon Falls, is a splendid representative of that faithful body of clergy who have made his faith so highly honored throughout the civilized world. Fulfilling the old ideal as a father of his people, he combines a deep and sympathetic understanding of human nature with much scholarly ability, and his work has resulted in a most decided uplift to the community. Modest as to his personal achievements, he places his church and the welfare of his congregations as above everything else in his life, and the results he has achieved, with the assistance of his Divine Master, have been far reaching and permanent. At Northfield and at Whitehall churches have been built under his leadership, and the spiritual life of all his congregations has been greatly quickened. Rev. Orke was born in Skjold, Stavanger, Norway, Sept. 26, 1857, of a long line of God-fearing people who had lived on the same place for several generations. The father, John Orke, and the mother, Anna Roaldsvik, are both dead, the former having died in 1897 and the mother in 1899. They were the parents of 11 children. The subject of this sketch, as a youth, attended the common schools, and in 1881 was graduated with honors from the Koppervik Normal School. In 1882 he came to America and secured employment as teacher in a parochial school at Kenyon, Minn., while perfecting himself in the English language. In 1883 he entered the Breckenridge Institute at Decorah, Iowa. Then in 1884, having decided to devote his life to the service of the church, he took up his studies at the Augsburg College, and in 1886 entered the Theological Seminary. Graduating in 1889, he was ordained to the ministry by the Rev. G. Hoyme. His first charge was at Chetek, in Barron County, this State, where he had charge of five congregations. In 1895 he came to Pigeon Falls, taking charge of the congregations at Pigeon Falls and Smithfield, organizing the one at Whitehall in 1899 and taking charge of the one at Independence in 1913. Of these, the one at Pigeon Falls is the largest, having about 800 members. Rev. Orke was married May 6, 1891, to Olga Peterson, born in Colfax, Wis., daughter of Peter and Olava Peterson. This union has been blessed with seven children: Agnes O., Mildred P., Selma, Hazel R., Hjelm A., Beatrice S. and Gerhard.

The Pigeon Falls Norwegian Lutheran Congregation was organized in 1878 by Rev. C. J. Helsem, of Strum, with about 60 members, a number which has since increased to about 830. Early services were held in the schoolhouse for several years. In 1888 a church edifice was started and



REV. AND MRS. A. J. ORKE

in 1893 completed. Rev. Helsem served until 1892, then Rev. M. Gulbrandson took charge and moved to Pigeon Falls. He was an energetic and successful worker, and the congregation prospered. About this time Our Saviour's Congregation was united with it, and it became a strong organization. Rev. A. J. Orke took charge in 1895. The congregation has considerable valuable property. The church and cemetery are valued at \$10,000. The parsonage, built in 1892 and rebuilt and enlarged in 1907, has a value of about \$6,000. A Young People's Hall, built in 1896 and rebuilt and enlarged in 1914, has a value of about \$4,000. There is no indebtedness on the property, and the congregation has contributed liberally to missions, schools and different charitable institutions. There are two Ladies' Aid Societies, a Young Ladies' Aid Society and a large and active Young People's Society, Sunday school and choir.

The Immanuel Norwegian Lutheran Congregation at Whitehall was organized in 1899 by Rev. A. J. Orke, with a membership of 50, which has since been increased to 200. The church, having a value of about \$5,000, was built in 1901. The congregation has one Ladies' Aid Society, a Sunday school and choir.

The Independence Norwegian Lutheran Congregation was organized in 1879, with a membership of 80, now increased to 150. The church, valued at \$5,000, was built in 1883. There is also a fine cemetery. The congregation has supported missions and schools. The pastors have been: Rev. H. A. Meyer, 1879-1884; Rev. A. Hauge, 1884-1898; Rev. Halbert Rasmussen, 1899-1913; Rev. A. J. Orke, 1913.

The Northfield Norwegian Lutheran Congregation at Northfield, in Jackson County, was organized in 1889 by Rev. C. J. Helsem, of Strum, with a membership of 50, which has since been increased to 370. The original officials were: Knut Olson, L. Johnson, Sam. Thompson, trustees; L. E. Larson, secretary; C. A. Severeide, treasurer. The first pastor, Rev. Helsem, served until 1892, followed by Rev. M. Gulbrandson, who in 1895 was succeeded by Rev. A. J. Orke. In 1896, with a membership of only about 70, a church was built, having a value of \$5,000. In 1914 the church was struck by lightning and destroyed. In 1915 a larger and modern church was built, having a value of \$12,000, absolutely without indebtedness. There is a Ladies' Aid Society and a Young People's Society, very active. The congregation has contributed to missions, schools and different charitable institutions.

John Manning, one of the pioneer farmers of Trempealeau Valley, who passed away some 21 years ago, was born at Fedamore, County Limerick, Ireland, in 1838. In 1855, when only 17 years of age, he came to the United States, landing at New York. The next few years of his life were spent in the Eastern States, as in 1859 he removed to Philadelphia and was there until 1862, in which year he located in Cleveland, Ohio. It may have been here that he heard of the opportunities for self-advancement in the Northwestern State of Wisconsin, but however that may be, just three days before Christmas, 1864, he made his appearance in La Crosse, Wis., where he spent the next six months. June 27, 1865, he arrived in Arcadia, riding in the ox-team wagon of J. H. Gleason, who had preceded him to this

county by two years, and who furnished him transportation from La Crosse. He had been married in Philadelphia Nov. 1, 1859, to Mary McGrath, daughter of Michael and Ellen McGrath, and she accompanied him to this new country. After looking over the ground, Mr. Manning decided that Trempealeau Valley possessed advantages of beauty, together with fertility of soil, that made it a desirable place for settlement, and he accordingly took up 160 acres of wild Government land in section 12, township 20, range 9, and set to work to develop a farm. Building a small log house and barn, he began the arduous work of clearing the land. For years, while primitive conditions lasted, he made use of ox teams, oxen being hardier than horses and able to survive under conditions impossible for the more noble animal; but in time he had plenty both of horses and cattle, together with a good basement barn, and a substantial frame house to replace his primitive log dwelling, besides a granary, tool shed and other necessary buildings, all of which he erected. When he died, March 19, 1895, he had cleared and broken 120 acres of his land. He was survived by his wife, who is still living, being cared for by her daughters, Mrs. Michael Crawford and Mrs. Manning. She is, however, in feeble health, having suffered a stroke of paralysis in 1912 and a second stroke subsequently. Their family consisted of six children: Cornelius, born in Philadelphia, Pa., Aug. 9, 1858, who was a railway employee and was killed at New London, Wis., Dec. 9, 1890; Michael J., born at Philadelphia, Pa., July 6, 1861, who died at the old home in Arcadia, June 10, 1898; James, born in October, 1862, at Philadelphia, who died in that city, July 15, 1864; Joseph, born at Arcadia, Wis., Sept. 15, 1865, who died Aug. 25, 1871; Ellen, born in Arcadia, Wis., Sept. 27, 1867, who is now the wife of Michael Crawford, and resides on the old Manning farm; and Agnes, born in Arcadia, Aug. 25, 1869, who died Aug. 15, 1871. In 1893 the daughter Ellen, with her husband, Michael Crawford, came from their home in Superior, Wis., so that she might care for her mother, her husband taking care of the farm, of which he is now the manager. In politics John Manning was a Democrat, but contented himself with casting his vote, never seeking or holding public office. He was a member of the Catholic church in Arcadia, to which all the family belong. As one of the hardy pioneers of this county his memory deserves perpetuating.

Walentine Pietrek, proprietor of a large and flourishing farm of 560 acres in section 15, Arcadia Township, was born in Posen, Germany, Feb. 9, 1863, son of Andrew and Frances (Susa) Pietrek. In 1870 the parents came to the United States with their family, locating in section 15, Arcadia Township, this county, their farm lying about four miles north of the village. This property, which was known as the O'Rourke farm, consisted of 200 acres and was partially improved. Here Walentine Pietrek was brought up and trained to farm work, and here he has resided ever since, having added 360 acres to the farm. June 6, 1890, Mr. Pietrek was married to Barbara Sluga of Independence Township, and he and his bride set up housekeeping on the Pietrek homestead, Andrew Pietrek and wife moving across the railroad to a location east of the old home. The father died in 1899 and was buried at North Creek; his wife survived him and is

still living, being now 84 years of age. In 1902 the subject of this sketch built a modern, two-story, brick-veneer house of 10 rooms; also a frame barn, 38 by 78 feet in dimensions. The latter burned down in 1898, but was rebuilt the same summer. Mr. Pietrek has also built a third barn, together with woodsheds, hog house, granary and garage, all the buildings being substantially constructed and in good shape. He has now 350 acres of his farm under cultivation, the balance consisting of post and timber. The property is located on Independence road, midway between Independence and Arcadia, just at the foot of Lewis Valley. Aside from general farming, he is engaged in dairying, having a fine herd of 18 graded Holsteins, with 45 to 50 head of young cattle. His equipment is all modern and in first class condition, and his horses and wagons the best of their kind. Mr. Pietrek is a stockholder in the Glencoe Co-operative Creamery Company of Arcadia. Politically he is a Democrat, but has held no public office. He and his wife are the parents of ten children: Sophia, now Mrs. John Gondora of North Creek, this county; Roman, unmarried, who is employed on the Chicago & Northwestern Railway; Theresa, unmarried, residing at home, and Paul, Andrew, Joseph, Martha, Mary, Benjamin and Anna, all of whom reside with their parents. The family belong to St. Michael's (Polish) Catholic church.

Louis Leterski, for many years a highly esteemed citizen of Trempealeau Township, but now living retired in Winona, Minn., was born in Butuf, Germany, Aug. 19, 1852, son of Joseph and Josephine Leterski. When he was six years old his parents emigrated to America, accompanied by their four children, the other three being a son, John, and two daughters, Alice and Lena. The family landed at Ottawa, Canada, but six months later arrived in Milwaukee, Wis., where they remained for one year. In 1859 they settled in Winona, Minn., where Joseph Leterski found employment with R. A. Foster, an egg dealer. Moving to Dodge Township, Trempealeau County, in 1864, they settled on a partially improved farm in section 18 (then Trempealeau Township), which Mr. Leterski had previously purchased. The buildings consisted of a log cabin and a log shed for a barn. Twenty acres of the land were already plowed. Here the family remained until the fall of 1889—a period of 25 years—during which time Mr. Leterski made many improvements on the place and increased the acreage of tilled land. On this farm were born four more children: Mary, Josephine, August and Joseph, who lives on the old homestead. In the meanwhile Louis had grown to manhood. He had little chance to obtain an advanced education, but acquired a good knowledge of agriculture in its various branches. About 1882, when 30 years of age, he began business for himself, buying a farm and in 1889 a store at Dodge. After conducting the store for about eight years he sold it and bought a farm in Clay County, Iowa. In the spring of 1902 he sold that farm and returned to Wisconsin, buying the Herman Carey farm of 244 acres of improved land in sections 29 and 30, Trempealeau Township, this county. The farm included an orchard of seven acres and the ten-room residence now standing, and 170 acres of the land were under plow. He also repurchased his former store at Dodge, which he still owns. During the following summer

Mr. Leterski built a frame barn, 32 by 60 feet in size, and in 1911 he erected a silo of cement blocks, 12 by 38 feet inside. He continued to develop and improve the property and it was in fine condition when, on June 22, 1914, a cyclone passed over this region, devastating this farm and two others. Mr. Leterski having a granary, corn crib, machine shed, three barns and a windmill swept away. The only buildings left standing were the house and silo. By the next day Mr. Leterski had a force of 30 men at work repairing the damage, and by July 4 new barns had been built on the old foundations, the other buildings being speedily restored. In the spring of 1914, having decided to retire from active work, he turned over the management of his farm and store to his son, Leo H., and took up his residence, May 16, at No. 626 East Sanborn street, Winona. He received the rent of his farm from his son and is also a shareholder in the telephone company. During his active career Mr. Leterski took a more or less active part in public affairs. While in Dodge Township he served six terms as assessor and five years as township treasurer. He was also chairman of the county board two years and constable for one year. A member of the Catholic church, he served as secretary of the church for 15 or 16 years. Louis Leterski was married Jan. 13, 1880, to Louisa Maraszewski, who was born in Winona, Minn., Dec. 9, 1852, daughter of Anton and Veronica Maraszewski, her parents being natives of Germany, who came to the United States in the fifties and were married in Winona. The father, who was a farmer of Trempealeau County, is still living, being now 87 years of age. To Mr. and Mrs. Leterski were born eight children, seven sons and one daughter: Frank, Leo H., Louis, Jr., Millie, Daniel and Jerome, living, and John and Edward, deceased.

Thomas Truog, Sr., came to America in 1856 and for several years worked at the carpenter trade in Iowa, Tennessee, Missouri and other southern states. During the Civil War he was employed by the government to help in the construction of bridges in Tennessee and Kentucky. In 1866 he located on a tract of land in Buffalo County, this state, in that locality which is now called Glencoe. This tract of land, which consisted of 120 acres, he grubbed and broke and brought under cultivation, erecting such buildings as were necessary. In 1881 he moved to the village of Arcadia. Leaving his family there he traveled westward through the states of Iowa, Colorado, the Dakotas and Montana, but not being favorably impressed with the west he returned and bought a tract of land partly in section 2, Arcadia Township, and partly in section 25, Lincoln Township. To this he has since added until he now has 226 acres. This tract of land was but partially improved and the buildings thereon consisted of a board shanty and straw shed. He developed it fully, erecting a good home and barns. The place is located two miles south of Independence, and commands a beautiful view of the surrounding hills and valleys. Here Mr. Truog continued to reside until his death Sept. 25, 1906. He was born in Switzerland in 1834, where he spent the first 22 years of his life. It was there that he learned the carpenter trade. His wife, Magdalena Keller, was born in Switzerland July 1, 1845, came to America in 1854 and was married Sept. 1, 1866. They had ten children, four sons and six

daughters. Two sons and two daughters preceded their father in death. Thomas, Jr., farms the home place, while the youngest son, Emil, is an instructor in the agriculture department of the University of Wisconsin.

John A. Latsch, philanthropist, public benefactor and leading wholesale grocer, is a native of Trempealeau County, having been born in Latsch Valley, Aug. 15, 1860, son of John and Anna (Buol) Latsch, the pioneers. He left Trempealeau County with the family in 1867, and has since spent his life in Winona. In 1874 he started working for his father in the retail grocery business in Winona, and since 1887 he has been connected with the large wholesale grocery firm of Latsch & Son, of which he is now the head. A lover of the out-of-doors, Mr. Latsch has long dreamed of presenting to the general public tracts of land for public recreation. Already he had presented for public use a strip of land extending from Winona nearly to Minneiska, along the Mississippi river, which will be used as a game preserve and general recreation tract. He is now planning to present Trempealeau Mountain to the state of Wisconsin. The John A. Latsch public baths, across the Mississippi River from Winona, are another boon to the people from Mr. Latsch's generosity. And his friends declare that this is but the beginning of an elaborate project which he has under way for the establishing of reserves, which will be open to the public for all time for recreation, health and sport. Trempealeau County has benefited directly by his benefactions, and is proud of having given birth to this distinguished and generous citizen, whose name will be honored in gratitude for countless generations. As modest as he is big hearted, Mr. Latsch shrinks from public expressions of gratitude, and lives an active life of quiet modesty, taking his greatest delight in his business through which he realizes the money for his gifts, and in spending his time out in the open, enjoying those delights which he has now made possible for the general public.

John Latsch, founder of the firm of Latsch & Son, Winona, Minn., and the first settler in Latsch Valley, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, was born in Wald Canton Zurich, Switzerland, March 18, 1832, and was educated in the public schools of his native country. After completing his schooling he was employed for about six months in the drug business at Frankfort-on-the-Main. Later he was engaged in Paris at the Chocolet Menier factory. He remained in Paris three years and then decided to emigrate to America. He had heard of the wonderful opportunities in the new country, and had planned to cross the mighty Atlantic and cast his lot with the great republic whose form of government appealed to the liberty-loving native of the free land of lofty mountains. Therefore, in 1854, he sailed for this country, coming by way of the Great Lakes to Green Bay. From there he went south, determined to look the country over before making a permanent settlement. The new country thrilled him with its prospective enterprise, and the horizon loomed large with undeveloped resources, while the atmosphere was vibrant with the spirit of adventure. The wanderlust seized the Swiss youth and he went from place to place, drinking in the strange sights of the land and seeking an opportunity for his brain and muscle in the rich regions of the Gulf states. During his

first year in America he traveled some ten thousand miles, and at last found desirable employment in the cyprus swamps of Louisiana cutting timber for barrel staves. He had been at work but a few months when he was taken down with malarial fever and was removed to a hospital in New Orleans, where he was confined for some time. When he was convalescent he returned north in 1855 and located in Dakota, Winona County, Minn. After remaining there about a year he decided to look over Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, with a view to locating land, as the new country was being rapidly settled by homeseekers from the East, and by people from southern Wisconsin. In 1856 he pre-empted government land in Trempealeau County, in a valley three miles northeast of Dodge. He settled near a creek at the mouth of this valley, and purchased some state land adjoining his claim, in the same county, as well as some state land in Buffalo County. After his marriage in 1859 he continued to improve his farm land in Trempealeau County. He also taught a few terms of school and served for a while as justice of the peace. Feb. 27, 1864, he enlisted in Company C, Twenty-fifth Wisconsin Infantry, was mustered in at La Crosse, and was transferred the following spring to Company E, Twelfth Wisconsin Infantry, in which command he participated in Sherman's famous march to the sea. At the close of the war he was mustered out at Louisville, Ky., and resumed farming in Trempealeau County. But in 1866 he met with an accident, which compelled him to abandon agricultural pursuits. His foot was badly cut with a breaking plow, and the injury left him a cripple for several years. In 1867 he moved his family to Winona and there engaged in the retail grocery business, which he conducted until 1887, when he, T. J. Preece and John A. Latsch established the wholesale grocery business of Preece & Latsch Company. This was the beginning of the business which is now one of the largest of its kind in the Northwest. In 1892 he purchased Mr. Preece's interest and the firm became Latsch & Son. Mr. Latsch's activities were not confined to this business, which he was instrumental in building up, but extended to other lines. For many years and up to the time of his death he was director of the First National Bank. He also served a term as alderman of Winona. He revisited his native country three times—in 1873, 1882 and in 1900. Mr. Latsch was highly esteemed by all in his wide circle of acquaintances and his death was sincerely mourned by many. The subject of this sketch was married in Buffalo County, Wisconsin, in 1859, to Anna Buol. Four children were born: John A. Latsch; Nettie, who died in 1887; Emma, who died in 1873, and Edward G. Latsch, who died in 1909. Mrs. Anna Latsch died in 1898. In October, 1899, Mr. Latsch married Mrs. Ursula Ruedy of Bangor, Wis., the wedding taking place in Minneapolis. Mr. Latsch passed away May 21, 1909. An extract from a former history of Trempealeau County, regarding Latsch Valley, is well worthy of preservation in this sketch. The history says: From 1865 to 1870 a number of Polish and Hungarian settlers located in the main portion of Latsch Valley, and in honor of these Hungarian pioneers the valley was called Hungary Valley, from their native land. But this long narrow valley that sets back from the Trempealeau River will live in history of Latsch Valley, and the Trempealeau County Historical

Society is glad to honor the memory of a man whose life history reads like a romance—a man who came here and used his energetic brain and capital in wresting a part of our fertile territory from the wilderness. The wild rough country did not discourage this Swiss youth; he was used to the mighty Alps, and could see the great possibilities in agriculture in this land of cozy valleys and wooded hills. With the energy characteristic of his race he set to work and accomplished things. Others followed, and today we can look out upon farms rich with the promise of harvest, and if there used to be anything in the saying that a person would get hungry wandering through Hungary Valley (on account of its length and meager settlement), it is not true today, because there is abundance written on every farm in this sequestered glen.

Perry Heath, proprietor of a good farm of 320 acres in section 16, Arcadia Township, was born at Marengo, McHenry County, Ill., Oct. 26, 1843, son of Joel and Margaret (Miller) Heath. His parents, who were natives of New York state, migrated to Illinois about 1842, buying 80 acres of land at Marengo. After residing there until 1853 they moved to La Crosse County, Wisconsin, locating not far from where the village of Holmen now stands. Here the Heaths began farming on 160 acres of land, for which Mr. Heath had traded his Illinois property. In 1856 they returned to Illinois and remained three years, coming back to Wisconsin in 1859. The father came first, however, in order to get a settlement for the La Crosse county farm, for which it seems he had not been fully paid, and while here was taken sick and died, his body being returned to Illinois for burial. The widowed mother and her family then took up their residence on the La Crosse County farm, the subject of this sketch being then 16 years old, and here she lived until her death in 1868. There were eight children in the family: Lusetta, Oscar, Lydia Ann and Permelia, all of whom are now deceased; Perry, Barnabas, who is now residing at Strum, Trempealeau County; Emmett, deceased; Matilda, now Mrs. Charles Hilliard of Fargo, N. D. Perry Heath acquired his education in the district schools. After his father's death he remained at home with his widowed mother until he was 22 years old, at which time he purchased 40 acres adjoining the home farm in La Crosse County. Aug. 13, 1865, he married Jennie Briggs, daughter of Thomas and Phoebe Briggs of La Crosse County, and, building a house on his 40-acre farm, took his bride there and began housekeeping. After operating his farm for about four years, in 1869 he bought 160 acres of wild land in Lewis Valley, section 16, Arcadia Township, and built a small house on it, to which he moved his family, then consisting of his wife and two children, in addition to himself. The journey was made overland by horse team. Here Mr. Heath has since remained. He has greatly improved his property, the size of which he increased by purchasing 160 acres more, making a farm of 320 acres, 200 of which are under the plow, the balance consisting of timber land and pasture. In 1879 he built a comfortable frame house and in 1902 a good frame barn. In September, 1888, his first wife died. She had borne him eight children: Lusetta, born in 1866, who is now Mrs. John Busby of Fridley, Mont.; Elsie, born in 1869, now Mrs. Henry Smith of Whitehall,

Wis.; Alonzo, born in 1871, who is now living in Osseo, Trempealeau County; Lela, born in 1874, wife of Frank Horsey of Utica, Minn.; Alvah, born in 1876, who is deceased; Lester, born in 1878, now living on the old farm; Chauncey, born in 1881, now residing in Arcadia Village, and Pearl, born in 1885, who is the wife of Grant Smith of Roundup, Mont. March 27, 1891, Mr. Heath married for his second wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Malcolm and Margaret Malles of Fountain City, Wis., and of this marriage there has been one child, Ervin, born in 1892, who is living at home. Mr. Perry is a Republican in politics and for many years has served as school director in his district. Aside from his own farming interests he holds stock in the Glencoe Co-operative Creamery of Arcadia Village. Though reared a Methodist, he is not at present a member of any church.

Francis Asbury Goodhue in former years was one of the leading merchants of Trempealeau Village, where he was highly esteemed as a man and citizen. His father was one of those itinerant preachers of the Methodist denomination known as "circuit riders," who had so much to do with civilizing the frontier settlements at various stages of this country's history. Francis early learned the trades of millwright and cabinet-maker. On Oct. 29, 1852, he married Alsina Manning, who was born in Russeltown (now Frankfort), Canada, June 23, 1835, daughter of Abram and Anna Manning. Abram Manning had died in 1841, when she was six years old, and she had then come to the states, going to live with a cousin at Moores, Clinton County, New York, which place was her home up to the time of her marriage and for two years after that event. Her mother, on coming to the states, located in Springfield, Ill., later moving to Chicago. Francis A. Goodhue and wife resided at Moores until 1854 and then went to Jericho, Vt., which was his old home town. In 1856 they joined the tide of westward emigration, locating in Trempealeau Village, Trempealeau County, Wis., where Mr. Goodhue followed the trades of millwright and cabinetmaker until 1862. During that time he built several mills on Black River, near La Crosse. After 1862 he confined himself to carpenter and cabinet work, and later entered into partnership with A. P. Ford and opened a furniture business on Front street, Trempealeau Village. This partnership was continued for about four years, at the end of which time Mr. Goodhue sold his interest in the business to Mr. Ford. He then opened a book and stationery store, and though burned out in the "big fire" he reopened the store and continued in the business until 1888, when his health failed. On June 29, 1900, he passed away and was buried in the family lot in Trempealeau Cemetery. Mr. Goodhue was an active and useful member of the Congregational church, which he had joined in his youth, serving it as deacon for a number of years and taking a leading part in all its affairs. He was also warmly interested in the growth and development of the village, which he could remember in its early stages, as he had often killed bear and deer immediately in front of where the family residence now stands. His aid and influence as a business man and well-to-do citizen were always to be depended upon on behalf of any feasible project for the public good. His life was unselfish and there were few



LONE MOUND FARM; WILLIAM NICHOLLS, PROPRIETOR

men in Trempealeau, if any, who were more highly esteemed or whose loss was more deeply regretted. Mrs. Goodhue was a member of the Congregational church, to which her husband belonged, almost since its organization. She and her husband were the parents of six children: Sarah Eunice, who died in infancy; Edwin Francis, Elbert Newton, Beard, Alletta D. and a babe, unnamed, that died in infancy. Edwin F., who was in the railway mail service for a number of years, is now living in Helena, Mont., being retired from active work. Elbert N., who was for a time editor of the Trempealeau Herald and for 18 years district court stenographer in Winona, Wabash and Rochester, Minn., died in Winona, Jan. 10, 1916, and is buried in Trempealeau Cemetery. Beard, also deceased, is buried there. Alletta, who is editor and proprietor of the Trempealeau Herald, resides at home with her mother.

Alletta Dixon Goodhue, editor and proprietor of the Trempealeau Herald, is a native of this village. She received a high school education, which was supplemented by instruction in painting and music. Afterwards she became identified with the business interests of the town in the book and stationery line, in which she has since continued. Later she entered the field of journalism by purchasing the Herald from her brother. While others sought new and, as they thought, more promising fields elsewhere, she has remained in her home town, and now has the satisfaction of knowing that she has been fully as successful as most of those who have tried other locations. In its infancy the Herald was published under a leased roof, as are most of the papers in the county today, but is now issued every week from its own building and is operated on a paying basis. This happy result has been achieved by devotion to clean journalism and close attention to business on the part of its proprietor, who not only edits the paper and attends to its business management, but also superintends its mechanical production, and, if necessary, can set type and get out the paper alone. By reason of her artistic ability she can also illustrate local or general events, doing all the work herself. The Herald is Republican in politics and is on the high road to prosperity.

William Nicholls, Sr., a pioneer, was born in Kingsbridge, Devonshire, England, June 11, 1824, and was there reared and educated. He came to America in 1848, and lived two years in Montreal and Quebec, before locating in Whitewater, Wis. From there, in 1851, he came to Trempealeau, and homesteaded 145 acres in section 36, Caledonia township, about one mile and a half east of Trempealeau village. There he built a shanty and started to develop a farm. As time passed he achieved prosperity, and became one of the leading men in the community. For many years he did most admirable service as a member of the town board, and he also occupied other positions of public honor and private trust. He continued in active work until he reached the age of 70 years, when he had the misfortune to fall and break his hip. From that time he was able to do but little work. After a long life filled with worthy endeavor, he died November 11, 1910. Mr. Nicholls was married July 9, 1863, to Charlotte Dunham, then of Trempealeau Village, who was born in New Haven, Vermont, Feb. 17, 1833, and came to Wisconsin with her parents. Mr. and Mrs.

Nicholls were the parents of three children: One who died in infancy; William, who was born July 18, 1870, and is now a prominent man of Trempealeau, and Nellie, who was born Sept. 24, 1874, and is now the wife of C. H. Growt of Trempealeau.

William Nicholls, one of the leading agriculturists of Trempealeau County, carries on farming operations in Caledonia Township, not far from Trempealeau Village, and has as good a farm as is to be found in this region. Born on the homestead of his parents, William and Charlotte (Dunham) Nicholls, July 7, 1870, he has spent his life on the home place, and has established for himself an excellent reputation among his fellow men. Until 12 years of age he attended the school of district 3, near his home, then he entered the Trempealeau schools, and was graduated from the high school there at the age of 17 years. During the winter of 1887-88 he was a student in the agricultural department of the University of Wisconsin, at the time when that department was still in its infancy. With this preparation he took over the active management of the home place, and here he has since remained. This he has improved in every way, adding to its value year by year through careful cultivation, building operations, fence construction, and the purchase of tools, implements and machinery. The original home has been remodelled until it is a large commodious structure, modern in many ways, and well furnished throughout. Three new barns, 28 by 64 feet, 40 by 72 feet, 20 by 46 feet, a swine house, 20 by 46 feet, and many other buildings have been constructed. To the original tract he has added 255 acres, and now has a place of 400 acres, 150 acres of which are under the plow, and 250 acres in pasture, hay and woodland. The cattle on the place are Guernseys, his herd containing about 60 head. From this herd he secures some 15,000 quarts of cream annually, which is shipped to Winona and sold at retail. His cattle are widely known and are shipped from coast to coast. In addition to stock raising and dairying he specializes in pure blood Chester White swine. He likewise successfully carries on general farming. Mr. Nicholls is a public-spirited citizen, and while not actively interested in political affairs, has consented to serve for several terms as a member of the town and school board. He helped to organize the Citizens State Bank of Trempealeau, and has been its president since 1912. He is a stockholder as well in the Western Wisconsin Telephone Company, the Trempealeau Lime Products Company, the Galesville Creamery and other organizations. In the Congregational church, of which he and his family are all members and active workers, he is a trustee. His fraternal relations are with the Masonic order, the Eastern Star, the Modern Woodmen and the Independent Foresters, in all of which local lodges he has held office. Mr. Nicholls was married June 22, 1893, to Elizabeth Carr, daughter of Thomas and Regina Carr, of De Soto, Wis., and born in Winona, March 1, 1872. Mr. and Mrs. Nicholls have had three children: Auline, William Carroll and Charlotte Elizabeth. Auline was born March 25, 1895, graduated from the Trempealeau high school and the La Crosse normal school and is now a teacher. William Carroll was born May 13, 1897, graduated from the Trempealeau high school, and is at home with his parents, assisting with the work of



WILLIAM NICHOLLS, SR.—WILLIAM NICHOLLS AND FAMILY—MRS. WILLIAM NICHOLLS, SR.

the farm. Charlotte Elizabeth was born June 12, 1901, and is still attending school.

Peter Johnson, who is successfully farming 160 acres of land in section 15, Gale Township, his place being known as Rolling Prairie Farm, was born in Toten, Norway, April 3, 1880. His parents, Johanas and Josephena (Christensen) Johnson, natives of Norway, are both living, the father being a stone mason by occupation. Peter Johnson was the fourth born in a family of eight children. He began to work when he was 12 years old and remained in his native land until 1908, when he came to the United States, locating in Trempealeau County, Wisconsin. He was at this time ignorant of the English language, but applied himself to learn it as speedily as possible, and with good success. After arriving in the county he found employment with Mr. Hardie, with whom he remained about 18 months. Then, ambitious to be his own master, and have chances for advancement which he could never have working for others, he rented his present farm and began agriculture on his own account. Not long afterwards he purchased the farm, consisting of 160 acres, and is now engaged in operating it, doing general farming, including stock raising and dairying. He is gradually improving the place and is doing a profitable business. Mr. Johnson was married in Norway in 1899 to Hannah Evenson, who was born in Vordval, Norway, daughter of Even and Eliza Evenson. Her parents came to the United States many years ago, settling near Deer Park, St. Croix County, Wis., where they followed farming. Both are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have five children: John, Alfred, Ingvald, Paul and Hannah, all residing at home. With the thrift and energy characteristic of most Scandinavian people, Mr. Johnson has made good progress since coming to this country, and with good health and prolonged life he can hardly fail of further self-advancement.

Andrew J. Klundby, who is engaged in farming in section 26, Gale Township, was born in Biri, Norway, April 24, 1861, son of Jens and Martha (Nelson) Klundby, both parents being natives of the same place. They came to the United States at some time between 1886 and 1888, locating on a farm in Jackson County, Wisconsin, where Jens Klundby died about 1904 and his wife in 1914. They had a family of nine children, Andrew J. being the fourth born. Andrew J. Klundby acquired his education in his native land, where he resided until he was about 19 years of age. Then, in 1880, he came to this country, and from that time until his marriage in 1895, he made his home with John Johnson in Gale Township. Oct. 31, 1895, he married Bertha Johnson, who was born in Gale Township, daughter of Hans and Gulena Johnson, her parents being natives of Norway, who came to America in the early seventies. They located first on Half Way Creek, in this township, but afterwards moved to Hardie's Creek Valley, where Hans Johnson followed farming, and where he still resides, though now retired from active work. His wife died in the fall of 1916. They had a family of five children. At the time of his marriage Mr. Klundby moved onto a farm in Skunk Coolie, near the Grant school house, where he was engaged in agriculture for eight years. He then came to his present farm, which contains 80 acres of land in one piece, while he

has 20 acres more across Black River in La Crosse County. His buildings are modern and substantial and his farm is equipped with all necessary machinery and implements. Mr. Klundby carries on general farming and dairying and devotes all his time to his business, having taken no part in local politics. He and his wife have had two children: Ella, who resides at home, and Nels, who died at the age of 12 years.

Alexander B. Flemington, who for many years was a leading farmer of Trempealeau Township, was born in Renfrewshire, Scotland, May 31, 1826, son of James and Mary (Dove) Flemington. He was descended from an honorable and worthy ancestry. His parents had but two children, he being the younger, and the elder being a sister. In 1842 he came to America to establish a home for his family and first located in Rhode Island. The following summer he traveled west as far as Michigan and finally made a settlement in East Greenwich, R. I. In 1844 the father was followed to the new country by his wife and son, with whom he went in the following year to Taunton, Mass., where, being an engine driver by occupation, he found employment running an engine for a manufacturing company. The parents came to Trempealeau County to join their son, but after remaining one year they returned to Rhode Island, where they subsequently remained until their death. Alexander B. Flemington was about 18 years of age when he came to America with his parents. He worked in the muslin de laine print works at Taunton, Mass., and then returned to East Greenwich, R. I., going thence to Southbridge, Mass., where also he was employed in the print works. In 1848 he came west to Milwaukee, where he remained five years and during that time learned the trade of carriage making. He was married in that city Aug. 20, 1851, to Mary Taylor and subsequently removed to Walworth County and engaged in wagon making. In 1855 he came to Trempealeau County and engaged in agricultural pursuits. Here his death occurred in July, 1911. For the last eight years of his life he had been a widower, his wife having passed away in May, 1903. Their children were: Alexander D., Elizabeth F., Jessie, Allen J., Andrew F., Mary and Ada. Alexander D. took a course of instruction at the high school of Trempealeau, and also a literary course at the Wisconsin State University. He was also for some time teacher in the intermediate department of the Trempealeau school and went thence to Whitehall, where he was principal for one year. He studied law with Judge Newman and was graduated from the law department of the State University of Wisconsin. In July, 1874, he located in Ellendale, Dakota, and was there honored by being chosen a delegate for circuit judge. Elizabeth F. is the widow of Louis Tatro and resides at Thompson Falls, Mont. Jessie is now Mrs. George Cummings. Allen J. resides at Finlayson, Minn. Andrew J. is deceased. Mary is now Mrs. William Suttie of Trempealeau County, Wis. Ada, who is now deceased, was the wife of William Walker.

Willis W. Suttie, a well known member of the agricultural community in Caledonia Township, whose farm—the old Suttie homestead—is located in section 8, was born on this homestead Nov. 24, 1866, son of William J. and Eliza (Weston) Suttie. The birth of William J. Suttie took place near Edinburgh, Scotland, Nov. 11, 1834, and eighteen months later, in the

spring of 1838, he accompanied his parents to the United States. Settling first in New York state, they remained there until 1841 and then removed to a location near Ypsilanti, Mich., which was the home of the family until 1856. Then, following the stream of western emigration, they continued onward until in that year they arrived in Caledonia Township, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, taking land in section 9. William J. was by this time 22 years old and was of material assistance to his father in the hard pioneer work which fell to their lot in this then wild country. About three years later, in 1859, he felt prosperous enough to marry and chose for his wife Eliza J. Weston, daughter of Jesse and Hester Weston, who resided near Ypsilanti, Mich. Of this union were born Charles A., Elliva and Willard and Willis (twins). Charles now lives at Lake Forest, Ill.; Willard at Glasgow, Wis., near North Bend, and Elliva is the wife of Philip Kribs, residing in West Prairie, Trempealeau Township, near Centerville. The first of the two parents to pass away was the mother, her death occurring May 22, 1873. Her husband survived her 13 years, dying in 1886. Willis W. Suttie was educated in the district school, which he attended during the winters only after he was 14 years old. At 18 he became a pupil in the grade school at Galesville, Wis., but attended only one term. On Dec. 16, 1890, he was married at La Crosse by the Rev. J. W. Winder, pastor of the Presbyterian church, to Mary, daughter of Alexander and Mary (Taylor) Flemington of Trempealeau Township, and began housekeeping on the homestead in Caledonia Township, of which he is now the owner. It consists of 100 acres, of which he has 80 acres under the plow and 20 in pasture. His buildings include a two-story house, upright and wing; two good barns, a corn house, a machine shed, a milk house and a silo of 100 tons capacity, the buildings being all painted and in good condition. Mr. Suttie is engaged in general farming and keeps only grade stock. He has attended every fair held at Galesville during his life, taking a particular interest in everything relating to his business. He and his wife have been the parents of six children, whose record in brief is as follows: Donald A., born Jan. 5, 1893, is unmarried and is renting a farm near Trempealeau Village. Ada F., born April 11, 1894, is a graduate of the Galesville high school, class of 1913, and of the La Crosse Normal School, class of 1916, and is now engaged in teaching grades three and four in the schools of Norwalk, Wis. John A., born Aug. 11, 1898, died in infancy. Floyd W., born May 10, 1900, resides on the farm and is assisting his father. Lawrence, born Oct. 8, 1901, is helping on the farm. Cedric A., born Oct. 1, 1903, is a student living at home. In politics Mr. Suttie is independent. He has served one term on the district school board, but has not otherwise been politically active.

George W. Knutson. One of the best and most highly improved farms in Lincoln Township is that of George W. Knutson, in section 36, and which contains 232 acres of good fertile land. Mr. Knutson was born in West Salem, La Crosse County, Wis., May 20, 1873, son of Even Knutson and his wife, Mary Anderson Knutson. The father was a native of Norway, who came to America in 1870, locating at West Salem, where he farmed until 1903, subsequently removing to Holmen, La Crosse County, where

he died in 1913 at the age of 68 years. His wife, now 73 years old, is now residing in Holmen. George W. Knutson remained on the home farm until reaching the age of 16 years. He then went to work on the farm of James McEldowney at West Salem and was employed there for 14 years, only taking one week off in all that time, which was when he visited the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893. At the end of that period he rented Mr. McEldowney's farm and operated it on his own account for 15 years with profitable results. Being now ready to purchase a farm of his own, he selected that which he now owns and operates, and has since resided here. The residence is a good frame structure of 10 rooms, with furnace heat, bath, electric light and other modern conveniences. Mr. Knutson owns his own electric light plant by which his other buildings are similarly illuminated. In 1915 he rebuilt his barn, which is now a substantial frame structure, with cement block basement and cement floor, in size 32 by 108 by 20 feet. It is provided with Loudon stanchions and litter carrier. In the same year he built a cement block silo, 16 by 35 feet. Among his other buildings are a good machine shed—a frame building 24 by 80 feet and an ice house and milk house combined, 15 by 24 by 12 feet. The farm includes an orchard of two acres. Mr. Knutson at this time keeps about 60 head of Holstein cattle, 20 being registered, and milks 30 cows. Of Duroc-Jersey hogs he feeds 200 a year. In his farming operations he follows the three years' rotation plan, planting corn and clover. As a farmer he has been highly successful, a result due to his thorough training in early life and his habits of industry and intelligent application to his self-appointed tasks. Mr. Knutson was married Nov. 1, 1900, to Mary Anderson of West Salem, who was born in Sweden. He and his wife have six children: Raymond, LaVerne, Margaret, Clarence, May and Glen.

Haines Brothers.—Five miles south of Arcadia Village, in section 15, Arcadia Township, lies one of the best farms in Trempealeau County. Its proprietors, John and Adam Haines, are sons of Christian C. and Margaret Haines, who came to Bill's Valley, Arcadia Township, about the close of the Civil War, their former home having been in New York state. Both John and Adam Haines were born in Bill's Valley, the former Oct. 26, 1867, the latter March 2, 1872. They were early trained in everything pertaining to agricultural work and dairying, and the farm of 372 acres which they bought from their father is a well productive farm. It was partially improved since that time; on it stood a small house and a small barn. In 1895 they entered into a partnership to carry on the farm and since then have made numerous valuable improvements, among them a large two-story brick house, well supplied with running water and electricity throughout the barn and house. They erected in 1901 a full basement barn, 34 by 64 by 16 feet, above the basement. They have also built a machine shed, 20 by 50 feet, and other necessary buildings. Carrying on general farming and dairying, they keep a number of cows and horses. Adam Haines was united in matrimony Nov. 5, 1895, to Elizabeth Pam-puch, daughter of a prosperous farmer near Arcadia. They have nine children, whose names with dates of birth are: Clarence, born Oct. 15, 1896 (died in June, 1899); Mathilda L., March 17, 1898; Della I., Dec. 18,

1901; Clara A., Dec. 13, 1902; Ervine, Oct. 2, 1904; Gilbert C., Dec. 16, 1906; Amanda E., Nov. 8, 1908; Benzell, Feb. 7, 1912, and Eugene, Nov. 30, 1917. All except Clarence are living and are yet in district, parochial and high school, but will latter attend higher institutions. John and Adam Haines are patriotic American citizens, who are very active in the district, the father for some years was a member of the school board. They are also stockholders in the Arcadia Co-operative Creamery, John also holding stock in the Arcadia Bank and Adam Haines owns property in town. They were reared as German Catholics and are members of the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Arcadia.

Thomas Truog, Jr., is a native of this vicinity, having been born in Glencoe, Buffalo County, two miles west of Arcadia Village, Jan. 3, 1872, son of Thomas Truog, Sr. He attended school in the neighborhood of his home and in Arcadia Village, and as a youth went to Minnesota and worked on farms in Lewiston and Kasson. At the age of 21 he went to Devils Lake, North Dakota, and there lived a year. Upon returning to Wisconsin he and his brother John rented the farm which his parents had acquired in section 1, Arcadia Township, and section 25, Lincoln Township. A year later he took charge of the farm alone. From 1896 to 1904 he lived in Independence, at the end of which period he again returned to the home farm, which he rented for several years. In 1915, with his brother Emil, a professor in the agricultural department of the University of Wisconsin, he purchased the place from the other heirs, and has since continued to reside thereon. Here he carries on general farming and dairying along the latest approved methods, and makes a specialty of breeding registered Guernsey cattle. The buildings are a feature of the place. The home is roomy and comfortable, the barn is a large frame structure, 36 by 122 feet, with full basement, cement floors, West Bend stanchions, box stalls, and all other modern equipment. The tile silo has a capacity of 155 tons, and the tile ice house is a valuable adjunct to the dairying activities on the place. The farm is unusually well provided with tools, implements, machinery and other supplies. The plow land consists of some 180 acres, while about fifty acres are in pasture and timber. An experienced, well-read farmer himself, Mr. Truog has the advantage of his brother's advice, and the farm is one of the model places of the county. A thorough friend of the cause of education, Mr. Truog has done good service on the school board for the past twelve years. His fraternal affiliation is with the Modern Woodmen of America. April 28, 1897, Mr. Truog was married to Maggie, the daughter of Paul and Martha Bautch of Wickham Valley, Arcadia township, and this union has been blessed with seven children: Mabel, born Dec. 26, 1898; Edith, born Oct. 1, 1901; Lloyd, born May 7, 1904; Murel, born Jan. 26, 1907; Blanche, born June 29, 1909; Laura, born Jan. 10, 1911; and Wesley, born Dec. 26, 1913.

Christ and Edward Halverson, two brothers who own and operate a fine farm in Norway Coulie, Arcadia Township, were born in this valley, Christ June 13, 1875, and Edward March 22, 1881. They are the sons of German and Jennie Halverson, both of whom were born in Norway, the father in December, 1842, and the mother in October, 1844. German and

Jennie Halverson came to America in 1864, locating first in Dane County, Wisconsin, where they resided one year. Arriving in Trempealeau County in 1865, Mr. Halverson homesteaded 160 acres of wild land in Norway Coulie, Arcadia Township, it being situated in sections 13 and 24. The first residence of the family here was a dugout in the side of a hill, and it was in this humble dwelling that their first child, Ella, was born. Later on Mr. Halverson built a frame house, one and a half stories high, with upright and wing, which building is now standing, being occupied as a dwelling by the subjects of this sketch. He also built a frame barn, which, though delapidated, is still standing. In 1900 the property came into possession of Christ and Edward Halverson, and nine years later the father died. His wife is still living with her two sons, the joint proprietors of the farm, but since 1915 has been an invalid. She is now 71 years of age. The two brothers have built a frame barn with hip roof, 24 by 67 by 16 feet, together with machine sheds, granary, hog house and poultry house, corn cribs and all necessary buildings, which are kept in first class condition. They carry on general farming and dairying, having at this time 50 head of cattle, with hogs, horses and poultry. They are stockholders in the Arcadia Shipping Association, the Arcadia Co-operative Creamery and the Farmers Telephone Company. Their religious affiliations are with Norway Coulie Lutheran church, of which their parents were among the founders. Edward Halverson was married June 21, 1913, to Carrie, daughter of Ole and Helena Olson of Norway, she coming to America alone in 1911. They have one child, Josie, now three years of age. The brothers and sisters of Christ and Edward Halverson are as follows: Ella, born in 1867, who is now Mrs. Carl Haagen of Fosston, Minn.; Ole G., born in 1869, who is a farmer at Big Tamarack, Arcadia Township; Halvor, born in 1871, and now living at Valley City, N. D.; Maline, born in 1872, now Mrs. Jens Lee of Valley City, N. D.; Mary, born in 1876, now the wife of Carl Lee of Valley City, N. D.; Minnie, born in 1878, who is the wife of Louis Nelson of Koba, N. D.; Julius, born in 1883, whose present whereabouts is unknown, and Julia, born in 1885, who is now Mrs. Oscar Olson, now of Valley City, N. D. The Halverson farm lies in one of the most beautiful coulies of Trempealeau County. The land is very rolling but fertile, and the labors of the two brothers, Christ and Edward, have greatly increased its value.

G. C. Nelson, who is successfully engaged in general farming and dairying in section 3, Arcadia Township, was born in Norway March 27, 1865, a son of Christ B. and Maria Nelson. When he was three years old his father came to America, homesteading 160 acres of land in Newcomb Valley, Arcadia, this county. A year later the father sent for his family to join him, which they did, and for many years thereafter were industrious members of the farming community in Arcadia Township. Christ B. Nelson is still living, though now much advanced in years. His wife died in 1915 at the venerable age of 96. G. C. Nelson resided with his parents until he was about 30 years of age. In 1894 he married Anna M. Olsen, daughter of Andrew and Caroline Olsen of Arcadia Township. He now conducts the Olsen farm, doing general farming and dairying, which indus-

tries he carries on successfully. In 1907 he bought 64 acres of land in North Dakota, near Sentinel Butte, and removed to that place with his family. He returned with them, however, in 1911, though he still owns the Dakota property, and is also a stockholder in the Farmers Co-operative Elevator Company of Sentinel Butte. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have had four children of their own, and have an adopted daughter, Hazel, born Dec. 5, 1906. Their own children were: Aymaar, born July 9, 1895, who is a graduate of the Arcadia high school, and is financially interested with his father in the North Dakota farm; Ernest D., born March 13, 1897, also a graduate of Arcadia high school, who is now a student at Wisconsin University at Madison, and Henry and Spencer, born in 1901, who died, one when ten months and the other when 11 months old. In politics Mr. Nelson is a Democrat. He served as township assessor one term and as township treasurer two terms. Since 1904 he has belonged to the Order of Beavers at Arcadia. Religiously he was reared a Lutheran.

William C. Thompson, who owns and operates a farm of 187 acres in section 6, Preston Township, was born in this township, Nov. 29, 1869, son of William and Laura (Hine) Thompson. He was reared to agricultural pursuits and worked on the home farm until his marriage Dec. 26, 1912, to Emma Kremers, daughter of William and Bertha (Joeris) Kremers. Her father was a native of Germany, who came to Trempealeau County in 1881 and was engaged in farming in Preston Township until his death, which occurred March 26, 1901. Mrs. Bertha Kremers, who was born in Germany May 22, 1839, is now living in Whitehall, this county. There were three children in the family: Lydia, who graduated from the Winona Normal School and is now a teacher; Carl C., now a retired farmer, and Emma, wife of William C. Thompson. Mrs. Thompson was born in Manitowoc, Wis., Oct. 25, 1873. She acquired a good education, graduating from Stevens Point Normal School in 1904. She, however, taught school previous to that, as she followed that occupation 15 years in all, including five years in the Whitehall schools as teacher in the fifth and sixth grades. At the time of his marriage Mr. Thompson rented the Kremers farm and operated it until the following year, 1913, when he purchased his present farm from his father. He keeps Shorthorn cattle, having now 35 head, of which he milks 12; he also raises Chester White hogs and Rhode Island Red chickens. In 1915 he erected his substantial frame barn 40 by 80 by 12 feet in dimensions, with basement and concrete floor, well provided with modern equipment. As an enterprising and successful farmer he is well known in Preston Township and his family hold a respected place in the community. They are affiliated religiously with the Presbyterian church.

William P. Mailer, D. D. S., who has been engaged in the practice of dentistry in Galesville, Wis., for the last 18 years, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, April 8, 1869, son of John and Joan (Peddie) Mailer. His parents were born in the same locality, the father Nov. 26, 1842, and the mother Oct. 29, 1843. John Mailer, who was a master mechanic, came to the United States with his family in 1871, locating in Buffalo County, Wisconsin, where until 1887 he followed the occupation of machinist,

working on his own account, though without having a regular establishment. He then entered the employ of the Chicago, Burlington & Northern, now a part of the "Burlington" system, and continued with that road until 1893, when he went to Winona. There he was master mechanic for the Winona & Western Railway until that road was sold, when he went to Scanlon, Minn., and became master mechanic for the Minnesota & Northern. About 1898 he went to Ft. Smith, Ark., where he was master mechanic for the Ft. Smith & Western road. In 1907 he retired and took up his residence in La Crosse, where he was elected alderman and served in other local office. Two years later he moved to Onalaska, Wis., where he died July 17, 1913. His wife died in Onalaska, July 13, 1916. William P. Mailer was one of the eldest children in a family of 13. He attended school in Buffalo County and in La Crosse County, Wis., and when 14 years old was employed on the Chippewa River at logging. One year later he taught school in Buffalo County one term, then returned to logging, in which occupation he continued until 1887. He then took a course in the pharmacy department of the University of Wisconsin, with which preparation he obtained a position as drug clerk in La Crosse and was thus engaged until 1890. Subsequently entering the American Dental College at Chicago he was graduated from that institution in the class of 1892, and began the practice of his profession in St. Paul, where he remained about four years. From there he went to Durand, Wis., where he continued in practice for a while, but on account of an injury to his hand went back to the drug business at Pepin, Wis. In 1898 he returned to his profession, practicing in Winona, Minn., a short time, and coming to Galesville in March, 1899. Here he has since remained, having built up a good clientele and become known all over the county as a skillful and reliable dentist. He is also a stockholder in the Bank of Galesville and has other interests in the village, besides owning his own residence. Dr. Mailer was married Sept. 20, 1897, to Sarah A. Perry, who was born in St. Paul, Minn., daughter of William Perry, a coal and fuel merchant. Both parents are now deceased. Mrs. Sarah A. Mailer died July 9, 1906, leaving no children. Dr. Mailer married for his second wife, July 22, 1908, Sidel Lee, who was born at Stevens Point, Wis. Of this marriage there are two children, Ann P. and Jean. In politics a Republican, Dr. Mailer has held various local offices, and is at present serving as alderman and as secretary of the board of education. He and his family attend the Presbyterian church. The Doctor's fraternal society affiliations are with the Blue lodge of Masons at Galesville, of which he is treasurer; the Eastern Star lodge, of which he is worthy patron; the Chapter and Commandery at La Crosse, and the Knights of Pythias. He is a member of the county, state and national dental associations. He attends the Presbyterian church.

Adam Smith, a well known and respected resident of Galesville, was born in Scotland, Oct. 16, 1842. He came to America with his parents in 1855, locating with them in Maryland, where his father worked in the coal mines one year. In 1856 they came to Jackson County, Wisconsin, where Adam Smith was married, July 18, 1865, to Jane D. Love. She was born in Scotland July 29, 1846, and came to this country with her parents

in 1849, they also locating in Maryland, where her father became a foreman in the coal mines. The Love family came to Jackson County in 1864. Following agriculture in Jackson County until 1893, Adam Smith then came with his family to Trempealeau County, purchasing a farm of 120 acres in section 17, Gale Township. Later he added to this a 20-acre tract of timber land, thus enlarging his property to 140 acres. This farm he operated until 1908, when he retired, renting it to his son, Edward D., and he and his wife taking up their residence in Galesville. They were the parents of eight children: John Thomas, a ranchman at Panhandle, Texas; Arthur Love of Keokuk, Iowa; James W., deceased; William James, a farmer of Caledonia Township, this county; Margaret Clark, now Mrs. Hugh Baird of Red Deer, Alberta, Canada, her husband being a contractor; Janet Minus, wife of Milton Butman, a farmer of Gale Township, Trempealeau County; Edward D., residing on the old farm in Gale Township, and Flora Elizabeth, now Mrs. John Twesme of Galesville.

Edward D. Smith, who is engaged in operating a stock farm of 120 acres in section 17, Gale Township, was born near Melrose, Jackson County, Nov. 1, 1884, son of Adam and Jane D. (Love) Smith. He acquired his education in the district schools of Gale Township and his industrial training on his father's farm, where he obtained a good knowledge of agriculture. At the age of 22 years, being still a single man, he rented the home farm of 120 acres and has since operated it continuously as a stock farm, breeding Jersey cattle, and also keeping a number of high class horses. He is also a stockholder in the La Crosse Packing Company and in the Industrial Harvester Company at Plano, Ill. Mr. Smith was married June 3, 1913, to Bertha Nordstrum, who was born in Jackson County, near North Bend, Wis., daughter of Carl and Bertha (Olson) Nordstrum. Her parents were married in the United States, the father being a native of Sweden and the mother of Norway. Carl Nordstrum learned the carpenter's trade early in life and followed it for many years, also devoting some time to agriculture. He is still actively engaged in the vicinity of North Bend. His wife died 13 years ago. Their daughter Bertha, who was the youngest of five children, was educated in Jackson County. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are the parents of one child, Leolah Dorine. Mr. Smith is affiliated in membership with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Beavers. He attends the Presbyterian church, though not a member, and in politics is independent. He is doing a profitable business in stock raising and is well to do.

Clarence J. Van Tassel, civil engineer, is having an important part in the road work which is giving to Trempealeau County its justly-famed system of public highways. The new roads over some of the most difficult ridges in the county owe their location and grades to his skill, and his efficiency is highly praised throughout the state, being in constant demand over a wide territory. His work in locating the route of the new Ettrick & Northern Railroad has permanently established his record among the successful engineers of the state. Mr. Van Tassel is a native of this county, having been born in Hale Township, July 5, 1879, son of James and Clara (Wegner) Van Tassel. James Van Tassel was born in Kenosha, Wis., came

to Trempealeau County with his parents in 1863, married Clara Wegner, and devoted the remainder of his life to agricultural pursuits, dying in 1898, since which time his wife had made her home in a comfortable residence in Whitehall. Clarence J. Van Tassel was reared to farm pursuits and received a solid foundation for an education which he has since supplemented by wide reading and close observation. For several years he was a teacher, after which he was a successful photographer. But he was a man of resource and ambition, and determining to become a professional man he took up the study of civil engineering at home, and found it not only to be an occupation which he found congenial, but one for which he had great natural aptitude. He devoted a part of his time to this profession for several years, and in 1912 adopted it as his life work. For several terms he has been county surveyor. A popular genial man of many friends, Mr. Van Tassel has allied himself with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in the local lodge of which he has passed through all the chairs. Mr. Van Tassel was married Nov. 1, 1899, to Anna Stanley of Onalaska, Wis., daughter of Lyman and Diana Stanley, a former school teacher, and a gracious lady of many accomplishments. Their pleasant and hospitable home is blessed with the presence of four children: Thurman, Howard, Gerald and Olive. The family has a wide circle of friends and is highly regarded and respected.

Rudolph and Henry Kube, who are prosperously engaged in farming in section 17, Arcadia Township, are sons of Gustave and Ernestine Kube, and were born, Rudolph in Arcadia Township May 1, 1887, and Henry in Arcadia Township Oct. 28, 1893. Their parents came to America from Germany in 1883, locating first in West Salem, Ill. where they remained nine months, and then coming to Arcadia Township, this county, where they purchased 80 acres of land from John G. Greiner. There were some improvements on it, but none very important, a one-room house with a log barn and granary being the only buildings. Water had to be carried or hauled for about a mile, but after a few years a 340-foot well and steel windmill were put in. Whenever time and money would permit land was bought adjoining the 80 acres until the farm now contains 396 acres. A quarry of limestone was also opened and is today one of the finest in the county, being operated by steam and drill. The father and mother had built a commodious two-story brick upright to the house, a basement barn, 36 by 96 feet, and a machine shed and granary. The sons have since added a poultry house, 16 by 36 feet, and a silo. Mrs. Kube was born May 30, 1850, in Rohrsdorf, Province of Pommern, Germany, and died July 15, 1912, in this township. Mr. Kube was born Sept. 13, 1849, in Gebersdorf, Province of Pommern, Germany. They were married Nov. 28, 1878, in Rohrsdorf, at the Lutheran church, with which church the family is affiliated. Nine children were born of this union, namely: Julius, Frederick, Martha, Gustave, Rudolph, Ida, William, Henry and Edward, the last mentioned of whom died in infancy. All are engaged in farming in this township, with the exception of William, who is operating a farm at Alma Center, Wis., and Martha, who is now Mrs. Percy T. Veto of Sanish, N. D., also living on a claim. Their father sold the old home Dec.

15, 1913, to the two sons, Rudolph and Henry, who have since operated it together in partnership. The father, who became a naturalized American citizen Oct. 4, 1915, lives with them, and Ida attends to the house-keeping, since neither of the sons is married. Rudolph and Henry had but little opportunity for schooling, but attended the district school whenever they could and thus picked up the rudiments of knowledge. They remained at home with their parents and worked on the farm, acquiring in good time a knowledge of agriculture. The subjects of this sketch are among the energetic and prosperous young farmers of Trempealeau County and are respected both for what they are and for what they have done.

Robert Van Tassel, an enterprising and successful farmer of Sumner Township, having a fertile farm of 185 acres in section 3, was born in Adams County, Wisconsin, near Kilbourn, June 18, 1861. He is a son of Jacob and Harriet (Bradford) Van Tassel. Jacob Van Tassel was born in New York state in September, 1821. Mrs. Harriet (Bradford) Van Tassel died in 1863, and three years later Jacob Van Tassel married Catherine Costello, who now resides at Madelia, Minn. They came to Trempealeau County in 1868, homesteading a farm in Hale Township, where Jacob Van Tassel spent the rest of his life. Robert Van Tassel was the youngest of the six children by his father's first wife. He acquired a knowledge of agriculture in his youth and early manhood and after his father's death rented the home farm in Hale Township for two years. He then went to Verdi, Minn., where he resided until 1888. Subsequently returning to Hale Township he rented farms until 1898, in which year he bought the old home farm in Hale Township. There he remained until 1913, after which he sold it and bought his present farm, which is a well improved piece of property. The residence is a good two-story frame structure, with basement, and containing nine rooms. The barn measures 34 by 64 by 20 feet, with cement floors and steel stanchions, and in addition there is a stave silo, 12 by 32 feet, and a machine shed, 22 by 40. The property was purchased from E. J. Matchett and is well fenced with woven wire. Mr. Van Tassel was married March 31, 1889, to Dora Bailey of Verdi, Minn., who was born near Melrose, Jackson County, Minn., Jan. 4, 1871, daughter of Zaccheus W. and Catherine (House) Bailey. Her father, born in New York state in 1842, died Sept. 9, 1902; his wife Catherine died Dec. 19, 1897. Mr. and Mrs. Van Tassel are the parents of seven children: Ethel, born March 17, 1891, who married Elmer Wood, railroad agent at Alma Center, and has one child, Muriel; Vern, born Aug. 30, 1893; Ruth, born March 26, 1897, and now a teacher; Bessie, born Sept. 2, 1899; Cecil, born May 30, 1902; Alfred, born Dec. 19, 1909; and Dolores, born Sept. 4, 1914.

CHAPTER XVI

BANKS AND BANKING

There are sixteen State Banks and one National Bank in Trempealeau County, as follows: John O. Melby & Co. Bank of Whitehall, People's State Bank of Whitehall, Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of Independence, State Bank of Independence, Farmers' State Bank of Arcadia, Bank of Arcadia, Bank of Galesville, Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of Galesville, State Bank of Osseo, Farmers' Exchange Bank of Osseo, Citizens' State Bank of Trempealeau, Bank of Eleva, First State Bank of Strum, Bank of Ettrick, Home Bank of Blair, First State Bank of Dodge, and the First National Bank of Blair.

The first bank in the county was the Trempealeau County Bank, established at Whitehall, May 10, 1878, by James and Frank C. Allen. June 1, 1879, it was moved to Arcadia. The oldest bank in the county is the Bank of Arcadia, which dates from June 6, 1883. The second is the Bank of Galesville, established July 30, 1883, the first incorporated bank in the county. The next is the John O. Melby & Co. Bank of Whitehall, established Oct. 28, 1888. The next is the State Bank of Independence, established April 3, 1897.

The Bank of Arcadia had its beginning as early as 1855, when John Gillispie began dealing in notes and loaning money at Arcadia. He established the Bank of Arcadia June 6, 1883. Associated with him was J. M. Higbee. In October, 1898, the bank was purchased by Joseph Ruth, J. M. Fertig and Emil Maurer, and Mr. Ruth, who had long been cashier, was placed in charge. Aug. 1, 1901, there was a reorganization as a State bank, with Emil Maurer as president, Joseph Ruth as cashier, and J. M. Fertig as the third member of the board. The capital was increased to \$25,000 and Mr. Maurer, who for many years had been a leading citizen and prosperous business man, entered into active participation in the management of the institution. Sept. 4, 1901, John C. Gaveney and G. N. Hidershide became stockholders, and other stockholders were admitted the following year. Aug. 12, 1907, John C. Gaveney and N. Lehrbach were added to the list of directors. On April 21, 1908, Mr. Ruth was succeeded as director by G. N. Hidershide, and as cashier by O. B. Strause, a rising young business man of Winona, who has since been an active factor in the bank's progress. At the same time, J. I. Dewey was added to the directorate. Mr. Fertig was succeeded July 25, 1910, by F. C. Richmond. The new bank building, started in 1913 and occupied Jan. 1, 1914, is one of the most sightly and imposing banking houses in the county. The structure is of brick, and a facade of Bedford rock, with Greek Ionic pillars and cap. The interior is finished in mahogany, marble and stucco-work and is equipped with all the latest equipment for banking sightliness and safety. Aside from the

private offices and directors' rooms, there is a consultation and rest room for the use of the patrons. The officers are: President, Emil Maurer; vice-president, John C. Gaveney; cashier, O. B. Strouse; directors, Emil Maurer, John C. Gaveney, Nicholas Lehrbach, J. I. Dewey, Frank C. Richmond, George N. Hidershide. Statement May 1, 1917: Capital, \$25,000.00; deposits, \$538,595.01; surplus and undivided profits, \$12,961.18; loans and discounts, \$366,777.94; cash and due from banks, \$171,870.78. Statement June 20, 1917: Resources—Loans and discounts, \$361,883.40; overdrafts, \$7,909.20; bonds, \$29,000.00; bank building, \$8,750.00; furniture and fixtures, \$7,665.05; due from banks, \$113,814.67; cash, \$14,478.49; total, \$543,501.81. Liabilities—Capital stock, \$25,000.00; surplus fund, \$10,000.00; undivided profits, \$3,333.78; deposits subject to check, \$93,350.17; certificates of deposit, \$353,059.02; savings deposits, \$57,983.84; cashier's checks, \$775.00; total, \$543,501.81.

The John O. Melby & Co. Bank of Whitehall has for nearly three decades been a leading factor in the financial stability and business and agricultural development of the county. Starting as a private bank in 1888, it has gradually increased its scope and influence, and has woven its history into the warp and woof of Trempealeau County life. In 1887 John O. Melby became cashier of the Bank of Galesville, this and the Bank of Arcadia then constituting the only two banks in the county. In this relation, he came to see the advantages of opening a financial institution in Arcadia, the county seat. Accordingly on Oct. 28, 1888, he started business under the name of John O. Melby, Banker. Its success was assured from the start. With an increased volume of business, Mr. Melby was influenced by the tendency of many of the leading bankers of the State to incorporate their institutions, and accordingly he decided to associate himself with a number of other business men and enlarge the field of the bank by incorporating. This step was taken during the summer of 1894, and in the fall the new firm received its charter from the State of Wisconsin, the business of Mr. Melby being merged in the present corporation on Oct. 1, 1894. The John O. Melby & Co. Bank was incorporated Sept. 22, 1894, and started business under that name Oct. 1, with a capital of \$25,000 and a charter to operate for twenty years. The incorporators were John O. Melby, O. P. Larson, A. W. Newman, Anton O. Melby, J. B. Beach, H. A. Anderson, David Wood, E. N. Trowbridge, C. P. Thompson, J. C. Lamberson and Peter Ekern. The first officers and directors were: John O. Melby (president), O. P. Larson (vice president), Anton O. Melby, E. N. Trowbridge, O. P. Larson. Anton O. Melby and Peder Ekern. July 7, 1896, E. N. Trowbridge was elected assistant cashier, and in July, 1897, was made a vice-president, which position he held until his death, Jan. 1, 1900. Feb. 21, 1900, H. A. Anderson was elected vice-president to succeed Mr. Trowbridge. July 2, 1901, O. P. Larson became vice-president. July 3, 1906, H. A. Anderson succeeded him. April 3, 1909, C. B. Melby was elected as assistant cashier. May 10, 1909, O. P. Larson again became vice-president. July 6, 1909, H. A. Anderson was elected president to succeed John O. Melby, deceased. P. H. Johnson was elected second vice-president. July 5, 1911, Anton O. Melby was elected president and C. B. Melby cashier. July 8, 1913, David Wood

was elected a vice-president. The composition of the present staff is as follows: Anton O. Melby, president; P. H. Johnson, vice-president; David Wood, vice-president; Charles B. Melby, cashier. In 1892 the bank erected a two-story brick building, which was destroyed by fire in March, 1894. The present structure was started at once and completed the same year, 1894. Extensive remodeling was done and a two-story addition built in 1914, which provides a commodious room for the bank officials and directors, and which is also given over to the use of its customers and the public. This institution has ever been conducted along lines of conservatism, safety being the watchword from the beginning. Its policy has been to conduct a banking business strictly, in a manner that will best serve the needs and requirements of the people of the community, bearing in mind that to do this one must be progressive, keeping pace with the changes in methods and service which time imposes. Its service, treatment and courtesy extend to all uniformly. It has stood for the best that goes to build up any locality and has interested itself in all movements and endeavors which have tended to better the vicinity in which it operates, whether moral, social or religious. The bank's statement issued May 1, 1917, showed the following items: Capital, \$50,000.00; deposits, \$660,618.09; surplus and undivided profits, \$25,909.18; loans and discounts, \$567,478.93; cash and due from banks, \$159,935.01. The statement showing the condition of the bank at the close of business Sept. 11, 1917, is as follows: Resources—Loans and discounts, \$556,689.87; overdrafts, \$472.13; bonds, \$34,100.00; banking house, \$4,000.00; furniture and fixtures, \$3,600.00; due from approved reserve banks, \$131,317.77; due from other banks, \$10,441.10; checks on other banks and cash items, \$568.83; exchanges for clearing house, \$10.00; cash on hand, \$9,605.40; total, \$750,805.10. Liabilities—Capital stock paid in, \$50,000.00; surplus fund, \$15,000; undivided profits, \$7,572.75; individual deposits subject to check, \$181,503.28; time certificates of deposit, \$394,898.56; savings deposits, \$94,402.17; cashier's checks outstanding, \$4,088.41; reserved for taxes, \$2,739.93; Liberty bond account, \$600.00; total, \$750,805.10.

The Bank of Galesville was organized and opened for business in July, 1883, as a private bank by Isaac Clark and Walter C. Brooks, with a capital of \$10,000.00, of which each partner contributed \$5,000.00. For two years the business was carried on very successfully as a private bank. In 1885 it was incorporated under the Wisconsin laws, with a capital of \$25,000.00. It was the first incorporated bank in Trempealeau County. The stock was distributed among the leading business men in Galesville and vicinity. The first officers were: Isaac Clark, president; A. W. Newman vice president; W. C. Brooks, cashier. The first board of directors were Isaac Clark, J. O. Melby, A. W. Newman, Wilson Davis, Iver Pederson, W. C. Brooks and Daniel Kennedy. In 1887 W. C. Brooks sold his interest in the bank and J. O. Melby was elected as cashier, which office he held for one year, resigning so as to organize the bank at Whitehall known as The J. O. Melby Co. Bank. Upon the resignation of Mr. Melby in 1888, C. M. Kellogg was elected as cashier and continued as such until July, 1896, when he resigned and Mr. J. F. Cance was elected to fill the vacancy. Isaac Clark was president continuously from the time of the incorporation of the bank until his death

in 1894, when his son, E. F. Clark, was elected to the office, which he has held ever since. The present officers of the bank are: E. F. Clark, president; S. C. French, vice-president; Ben W. Davis, vice-president; J. F. Cance, cashier; R. H. Ashley, assistant cashier; J. A. Hammer, assistant cashier. The present directors of the bank are: E. F. Clark, Ben W. Davis, S. C. French, L. N. Hammer, F. A. Kellman, W. S. Wadleigh and J. F. Cance. As stated above, Mr. Clark is now president of the bank and has occupied that office since 1894. The cashier, J. F. Cance, has been with the bank since 1889 and has held the office of cashier since July, 1896. He is the active managing officer of the institution. The bank owns its building—one of the best structures in Galesville. The policy has always been as liberal as is consistent with safety. It has always been foremost among the citizens of Galesville to promote any worthy enterprise for the benefit of the town. Statement May 1, 1917: Capital, \$50,000.00; deposits, \$683,868.15; surplus and undivided profits, \$26,583.40; loans and discounts, \$542,604.23; cash and due from banks, \$151,929.80.

The Home Bank of Blair was incorporated March 20, 1903, the incorporators being H. C. Hjerleid, O. B. Borsheim, W. G. Hyslop, J. B. Ellison, K. K. Hagestad, Reier Thompson, John McKivergin, K. S. Knutson, A. Anderson, O. Gulbrandson, P. T. Herreid, Morris Hanson, G. L. Solberg and L. L. Grinde. The first officers were H. C. Hjerleid, president; W. G. Hyslop, vice-president, and O. B. Borsheim, cashier. The directors were H. C. Hjerleid, Reier Thompson, K. K. Hagestad, J. B. Ellison, John McKivergin, W. G. Hyslop and O. B. Borsheim. The bank was opened for business as a private institution Oct. 7, 1899. The building was erected in 1901. The present officers are: O. B. Borsheim, president; G. L. Solberg, vice-president; G. L. Hjerleid, cashier. Statement May 1, 1917: Capital, \$30,000.00; deposits, \$431,651.38; surplus and undivided profits, \$10,427.13; loans and discounts, \$413,492.66; cash and due from banks, \$52,305.78. Statement May 7, 1917: Capital, \$30,000.00; surplus and undivided profits, \$12,300.00; deposits, \$440,000.00; loans and discounts, \$443,000.00; building, furniture and fixtures, \$3,500.00; cash and exchange, \$65,000.00.

The State Bank of Osseo was established Jan. 12, 1900, and was incorporated as a State bank May 11, 1903. The officers are: President, F. M. Smith; vice-president, A. E. Bradford; cashier, T. J. Thompson; assistant cashier, C. Pupikofer; directors, E. Hagen, F. M. Smith, Paul Christopherson. Statement May 1, 1917: Capital, \$30,000.00; deposits, \$350,000.00; surplus and undivided profits, \$1,500.00; loans and discounts, \$112,000.00; cash and due from banks, \$36,000.00.

The Farmers' and Merchants' State Bank of Galesville was incorporated Sept. 17, 1908, by J. A. Berg, A. O. Nelson, H. F. Claussen, John Dick and L. M. Gimmetstad. Its first officers were: A. O. Nelson, president; H. F. Claussen, vice-president; J. A. Berg, cashier, and G. O. Sagen, assistant cashier. The directors were A. O. Nelson, H. F. Claussen, J. A. Berg, A. T. Twesme, G. H. Lawrence, John Dick and J. M. Benrud. The bank opened for business Nov. 9, 1908. It is located in a rented building, but the building is controlled by a corporation composed mainly of directors and stockholders of the bank, which has been in its present quarters for

five years. A. O. Nelson, who was neither an active officer nor a resident of Trempealeau County, saw the advisability of resigning, for the best interest of the bank, which he did Jan. 13, 1913, and on the same date the present president, G. O. Gilbertson, was elected. Mr. Gilbertson is one of the oldest business men in the village, having conducted the largest mercantile store in town for more than 40 years, and is one of Galesville's most reliable citizens. The present officers of the bank are: G. O. Gilbertson, president; John Dick, vice-president; J. A. Berg, cashier; G. O. Sagen, assistant cashier. Directors: A. J. Baardseth, J. M. Benrud, John Dick, J. O. Hovre, F. J. Stellpflug, G. O. Gilbertson, S. D. Grover, C. C. Wason and J. A. Berg. Statement March 5, 1917: Resources—Loans and discounts, \$233,467.89; overdrafts, \$826.25; furniture and fixtures, \$2,000.00; due from approved reserve banks, \$24,336.79; checks on other banks and cash items, \$491.51; cash on hand, \$6,767.80; total, \$267,890.24. Liabilities—Capital stock paid in, \$15,000.00; surplus fund, \$6,000.00; undivided profits, \$2,683.50; dividends unpaid, \$8.00; individual deposits subject to check, \$60,808.58; time certificates of deposit, \$134,003.79; savings deposits, \$49,386.37; total, \$267,890.24. Statement May 1, 1917: Capital, \$15,000.00; deposits, \$244,712.96; surplus and undivided profits, \$9,300.00; loans and discounts, \$231,770.46; cash and due from banks, \$36,660.00. Statement Sept. 7, 1917: Total deposits, \$265,426; loans and discounts, \$230,500; cash and due from banks, \$57,285.

The Bank of Ettrick was incorporated Aug. 28, 1911, by H. F. Claussen, O. E. Runnestrand, John Raichle, M. T. Pederson and E. E. Runnestrand. The first officers were: Iver Pederson, president; E. J. Brovold, vice-president; H. F. Claussen, cashier; directors, Iver Pederson, E. J. Brovold, H. F. Claussen, J. E. Cance, A. P. Ofsdahl, A. J. Ekern and L. K. Underheim. The bank opened for business Dec. 21, 1911. It occupies its own building, which was remodeled in 1911. On May 13, 1914, K. A. Knutson was elected vice president in place of E. J. Brovold, deceased, and on Oct. 20, the same year, H. F. Claussen was elected president in place of Iver Pederson, deceased. The present official staff is composed as follows: H. F. Claussen, president; K. A. Knutson, vice-president; H. F. Claussen, cashier; Lucile Claussen, assistant cashier; A. M. Pederson, secretary; directors, H. F. Claussen, K. A. Knutson, A. M. Pederson, J. E. Cance, A. J. Ekern, L. K. Underheim and A. P. Ofsdahl. Statement May 1, 1917: Capital, \$15,000.00; deposits, \$198,539.68; surplus and undivided profits, \$3,382.89; loans and discounts, \$144,140.82; cash and due from banks, \$67,011.31. Statement Sept. 7, 1917: Resources—Loans and discounts, \$153,856.05; bonds, \$4,000.00; banking house, \$3,750.00; furniture and fixtures, \$1,750.00; due from banks, \$35,074.40; cash on hand, \$2,986.97; overdrafts, \$466.29; total, \$201,883.71. Liabilities—Capital stock, \$15,000.00; surplus, \$2,500.00; undivided profits, \$1,507.02; deposits, \$182,876.69; total, \$201,883.71.

The Citizens' State Bank of Trempealeau was established Dec. 6, 1912. The officers are: President, William Nicholls; vice-president, F. W. Graves; cashier, L. S. Sanders; assistant cashier, Carroll Nichols; directors, William Nichols, F. W. Graves, L. S. Sanders, N. H. Carhart, W. A. Bright. State-

ment May 1, 1917: Capital, \$10,000.00; deposits, \$112,000.00; surplus and undivided profits, \$1,500.00; loans and discounts, \$90,700.00; cash and due from banks, \$21,000.00.

The Farmers' State Bank of Arcadia was established Aug. 15, 1913. The officers are: President, Dr. J. A. Palmer; vice-president, Robert Ashton; cashier, D. G. Wieland; directors, Dr. J. A. Palmer, Robert Ashton, Joseph Danuser, M. N. Lehnerts, A. C. Stielow, H. E. Hensel. Statement, May 1, 1917: Capital, \$15,000; deposits, \$150,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$800; loans and discounts, \$151,000; cash and due from banks, \$17,000.

The First State Bank of Dodge was incorporated Oct. 3, 1914, by Frank J. Rohn, M. D. Brom, J. B. Literski, M. J. Kulas, S. Losinski, J. K. Rezab and J. F. Brom. The first officers were: M. J. Kulas, president; M. D. Brom, vice-president; Frank J. Rohn, cashier; directors, M. J. Kulas, M. D. Brom, Frank J. Rohn, J. B. Literski, S. Losinski, J. K. Rezab and J. F. Brom. This institution opened for business Dec. 4, 1914. On Oct. 2, 1916, Harry J. Satka, formerly with the First National Bank of Winona, Minn., was elected cashier to succeed Frank J. Rohn, who resigned. The present staff is as follows: M. J. Kulas, president; M. D. Brom, vice-president; Harry J. Satka, cashier. The policy of the bank is to treat all its customers alike, whether large or small, and give them prompt and courteous treatment. Its motto is "Safety, service and courtesy." This bank is a new one and has had many difficulties to overcome. There had never been a bank in Dodge, and the people naturally tributary to this village have been accustomed to do their business elsewhere, so that there is strong competition on all four sides. Obligations for financial accommodations in time of need are not easily forgotten, and there is a reluctance to break long-established connections. The establishment of the bank here, however, is a strong move toward bringing other business to Dodge, and is proving an important factor in increasing Dodge's advantages as a trading center. While progress in developing the bank was at first slow, the present cashier has won the confidence and esteem of the people, and under his management the business has nearly doubled. Statement May 1, 1917: Capital, \$10,000.00; deposits, \$37,978.12; loans and discounts, \$41,612.14; cash and due from banks, \$6,654.70. Statement June 20, 1917: Resources—Loans and discounts, \$43,498.27; overdrafts, \$142.54; furniture and fixtures, \$1,624.49; due from approved reserve banks, \$3,351.13; checks on other banks and cash items, \$22.50; cash on hand, \$2,586.69; total, \$51,225.62. Liabilities—Capital stock paid in, \$10,000.00; surplus fund, \$2,000.00; undivided profits, \$200.75; individual deposits subject to check, \$9,773.14; time certificates of deposit, \$7,609.25; saving deposits, \$18,785.38; cashier's checks outstanding, \$357.10; bills payable, \$2,500.00; total, \$51,225.62.

The Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of Independence, with its clever slogan, "The Bank That Banks the Farmer," is one of the youngest banks in the county, but has some of the oldest citizens of the county as its stockholders. The bank was incorporated May 9, 1916, and opened for business Nov. 27, 1916, the incorporators being William L. Lambert, Paul Sura, A. C. Stielow, Robert S. Cowie, Peter Nelton, J. P. Libowski, William

H. Meyer, Math Elstad, Ole H. Berg and Peter C. Skroch. The officers and directors are: President, Frank A. Hotchkiss; vice-president, Peter Nelton; cashier, Paul T. Schultze; directors, F. A. Hotchkiss; James N. Hunter, P. M. Lambert, Peter Nelton, William H. Meyer, Mike Skroch and F. G. Theisen. The institution is doing business in a rented building, but expects soon to erect an edifice in keeping with its growing business. Mr. Hotchkiss and Mr. Schulze are giving their personal attention to the bank, their motto being "To serve, and help build up Independence and the surrounding community." Statement May 1, 1917: Capital, \$20,000.00; deposits, \$62,705.43; surplus and undivided profits, \$2,852.50; loans and discounts, \$69,936.06; cash and due from banks, \$12,782.68. Statement, Sept. 13, 1917: Resources—Loans and discounts, \$91,820.76; bonds, \$1,000; furniture and fixtures, \$1,583.20; due from reserve banks, \$9,031.09; cash on hand, \$5,669.67; total, \$109,104.72. Liabilities—Capital, \$20,000.00; undivided profits, \$2,378.25; bills payable, \$3,000.00; deposits, \$83,726.47; total, \$109,104.72.

The **Farmers' Exchange Bank of Osseo** was incorporated May 22, 1916, the incorporators being Dr. Oscar Knutson, George Gjuul, C. S. Van Gorden, S. H. Van Gorden, B. L. Van Gorden and M. P. Skogstad. The first officers were C. O. Dahl, president; William J. Fisher, vice-president; M. P. Skogstad, cashier; directors, C. O. Dahl, S. C. Van Gorden, William J. Fischer, George Gjuul, William Stubbe, H. M. Olson, Ludvig Person, Oscar Knutson and M. P. Skogstad. The bank opened for business July 10, 1916, in the Van Gorden Building, in small quarters, and immediately started the erection of its handsome bank building on Seventh Street, into which it moved in January, 1917. No change in officers has been made. The bank is progressing, having total resources of \$160,000.00 at the close of the first year's business. Its policy is always to help promote the welfare of this locality, rendering service to the farmers and business men of northern Trempealeau County. Statement May 1, 1917: Capital, \$25,000.00; deposits, \$130,000.00; surplus and undivided profits, \$1,500.00; loans and discounts, \$112,000.00; cash and due from banks, \$36,000.00.

The **First State Bank of Strum** was incorporated Dec. 2, 1904, by Severt Rekstad, H. N. Robbe, William Peterson, J. C. Johnson and J. A. Call. The first officers were: H. A. Warner, president; William Peterson, vice-president, and J. A. Nelson, cashier; directors, H. A. Warner, J. A. Nelson, Severt Rekstad, J. A. Call, T. J. Johnson, H. N. Robbe and William Peterson. The bank, which owns its own building, erected in 1905, opened for business on January 24 of that year. The following changes in officers have since taken place: H. N. Robbe was elected assistant cashier in 1906, president in 1912 and cashier in 1916. Severt Rekstad was elected vice-president in 1912 and president in 1916. M. P. Skogstad was elected cashier in 1911 and resigned in 1916. J. M. Olson was elected vice-president in 1912. The present official staff is composed of Severt Rekstad, president; J. M. Olson, vice-president; H. N. Robbe, cashier. The directors are Severt Rekstad, H. N. Robbe, J. M. Olson, J. J. Dahl, O. H. Dahl, Even Holte and J. P. Hanson. The statement of this institution for Sept. 11, 1917, was as follows: Resources: Loans and discounts, \$179,870.99; over-

drafts, \$769.16; bonds, \$10,500.00; banking house, \$2,000.00; furniture and fixtures, \$1,600.00; due from resident banks, \$42,543.80; checks on other banks, and cash items, \$1,660.29; cash on hand, \$2,905.52; total, \$241,849.76. Liabilities: Capital, \$20,000.00; surplus, \$3,000.00; undivided profits, \$442.80; individual deposits, \$63,168.04; time certificates, \$117,041.46; savings department, \$36,590.91; cashier's checks, \$1,606.55; total, \$241,849.76.

Peoples State Bank, Whitehall. The articles of incorporation of this institution were drawn May 13, 1913, the incorporators being Ludwig L. Solsrud, E. A. Sorenson, C. Q. Gage, R. H. Holtan, E. F. Hensel, J. E. Wilberg, Anton Vold, F. A. Caswell, Geo. Larson and Ludvig Hammerstad. The charter was granted Sept. 29, 1913, and the bank opened for business on the same day, with the following officers and directors: Officers: Ludwig L. Solsrud, president; R. H. Holtan, vice-president; J. E. Wilberg, cashier; S. N. Hegge, assistant cashier. Directors: Ludwig L. Solsrud, P. K. Risberg, E. F. Hensel, Ludvig Hammerstad, J. E. Wilberg, R. H. Holtan and C. A. Adams. At the annual stockholders' meeting held Jan. 6, 1914, the following directors were elected: Ludwig L. Solsrud, R. H. Holtan, C. A. Adams, Ludvig Hammerstad, E. A. Hegge, Claude E. Everson and F. W. Lowe. Following this meeting the directors appointed the following officers: Ludwig L. Solsrud, president; R. H. Holtan, vice-president, and S. N. Hegge, cashier. Examining committee: E. A. Hegge, E. A. Sorenson and G. O. Eid. On June 2, 1914, R. H. Wiezorek was appointed an assistant cashier. There have been no further changes in officers or directors, those selected Jan. 6, 1914, being in charge at the present time. A condensed statement of condition, as reported to the commissioner of banking Sept. 11, 1917, shows as follows: Resources: Loans and discounts, \$235,182.78; banking house, \$4,527.74; due from reserve banks, \$25,419.89; cash on hand, \$12,207.10; total resources, \$277,337.51. Liabilities: Capital stock, \$15,000.00; surplus, \$1,500.00; undivided profits, \$2,338.16; deposits, \$258,499.35; total liabilities, \$277,337.51. The policy of this institution is to aid in every way possible in the growth and development of this community, including the introduction into the community of high grade live stock and pure bred seeds. The bank has 60 stockholders, all of whom are residents of this community.

The First National Bank of Blair is the only National bank in Trempealeau County. It was organized in 1914 chiefly through the efforts of Albert B. Peterson and his son Ernest A. Peterson, assisted by leading business men and farmers. It has grown in importance during its brief existence. With a capital stock of \$25,000 it has now (July 20, 1917) a total of \$129,937.78 in deposits, and its surplus and undivided profits amount to \$5,064.46. The officers are: John Thompson, president; Frank G. Richmond, vice-president; Gabriel Anderson, vice-president; Basil I. Peterson, cashier, and Omer Houkom, assistant cashier. The board of directors consists of A. B. Peterson, E. B. Christopherson, Byron R. Curran, John Thompson, Frank C. Richmond, Gabriel Anderson and Thos. Mattison. The cashier of the institution, Basil I. Peterson, has the honor of being chairman of the Liberty Loan Committee for the county. The membership of this bank in the Federal Reserve Bank gives it the necessary machinery

for securing funds with which to finance legitimate agricultural, commercial and industrial enterprises, and thus develop the resources of this part of the county.

State Bank of Independence. This institution was started April 1, 1897, by John Sprecher and Anton Senty, as a private bank, with a capital of \$10,000, and was carried on under the firm name of Bank of Independence. In 1902 the business was incorporated as a state bank under the name of State Bank of Independence, with a capital of \$25,000, John Sprecher and Anton Senty being the incorporators, the new organization taking over the business of the old company June 2, 1902. In January, 1914, the capital was increased to \$50,000.00. The bank owns a good substantial brick building, which was erected in 1901, the first story being used by the bank, while the second is rented for offices. John Sprecher was elected president at the first organization and has served in that capacity continuously. Anton Senty was the cashier from its organization to January, 1913, at which time he was elected vice-president, in which capacity he has served to the present time. O. A. Sprecher was appointed assistant cashier in January, 1905, and W. E. Sprecher in January, 1907, the latter being appointed cashier in January, 1913. The present officers are: John Sprecher, president; Anton Senty, vice-president; W. E. Sprecher, cashier, and O. A. Sprecher, assistant cashier. This bank has always been conservative, but mindful of the best interests of the community and its patrons, and has always tried to assist in the development and upbuilding of the surrounding territory. The deposits have steadily increased and at this time are \$580,577, while the total assets are \$645,960.93.

The Bank of Eleva was organized in 1901 as Larson-Melby Company, Bankers, by O. P. Larson, John O. Melby and Even Bratberg. It was incorporated as a state bank under the name, Bank of Eleva, June 17, 1903, the incorporators being O. P. Larson, John O. Melby, Even Bratberg and George Esbensen. The first officials were: O. P. Larson, president; J. O. Melby, vice-president; E. Bratberg, cashier, and George Esbensen, assistant cashier. The bank was located in the Larson-Melby Company store until its own building was erected in August, 1910. The first change in the official staff occurred Aug. 24, 1907, C. P. Larson taking the place of O. P. Larson as president. Even Bratberg, the cashier, died in April, 1910, and since that time the offices of president and cashier have both been filled by C. P. Larson. The present staff is composed of C. P. Larson, president and cashier; Chas. B. Melby, vice-president, and L. Nicholson and H. A. Moltzau, assistant cashiers. The bank's statement of Sept. 11, 1917, showed its condition as follows: Resources: Loans and discounts, \$169,153.19; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$4,947.06; due from banks, \$22,667.23; cash on hand, \$6,063.79; total, \$202,831.27. Liabilities: Capital stock, \$10,000.00; surplus, \$3,500.00; undivided profits, \$702.95; deposits, \$188,628.32; total, \$202,831.27.

CHAPTER XVII

DAIRY INTERESTS

The dairy industry is one of great importance in Trempealeau County. In 1916 the 14 creameries had an output valued at \$1,191,950.33, the two cheese factories had an output valued at \$10,648.71, and the value placed upon butter made on the farms was \$118,321.75, thus giving an aggregate value of \$1,320,920.79 to Trempealeau County butter and cheese, in addition to the milk and cream sold, and fed to stock.

The Eleva Co-Operative Creamery Company is located in Albion Township; the Farmers' Co-Operative Creamery Company in Arcadia Township; the Glencoe Farmers' Co-Operative Creamery Company at Arcadia Village; the Dodge Valley Creamery Company in Dodge Township; the Ettrick Creamery Company in Ettrick Township; the Arctic Springs Creamery Company in Galesville Village; the Elk Creek Creamery in Hale Township; the Independence Creamery Company in Independence Village; the Whitehall Creamery Association in Lincoln Township; the H. H. Solie Creamery in Osseo Village; the Williams Creamery Company in Osseo Village; the P. Ekern Company (Pigeon Falls Creamery) in Pigeon Township; the Preston Creamery Company in Preston, and the Unity Co-Operative Creamery Company in Strum, all manufacturing butter.

The H. H. Solie Company at Osseo and the Little Elk Cheese Association in Chimney Rock each conduct cheese factories.

Several small cheese factories were started in Trempealeau County in the '60s, the most important of which was that of James Gaveney and Noah Comstock, located on the Comstock farm south of the present village of Arcadia.

But the making of cheese in the '60s in this county did not reach any considerable proportions.

The production of milk was not regarded with high favor. Wheat was the big crop, and while the farmers all had a few cows for the purpose of providing milk and meat for family use, stock raising was looked upon merely as a side line, and dairying was of not much more importance than kitchen gardening.

Here and there were housewives noted in nearby villages for their ability as butter-makers, and their product met with a ready local sale, but for the most part the butter made on the farms of the county was of poor quality.

Storekeepers took butter "in trade," and by charging a good price for the goods sold "in trade" usually came out even on the transaction, though much of the butter which they thus took in was suitable only for lubricating purposes, and was in fact often shipped by the merchants to makers of axle grease in the larger cities.

This condition is not to be wondered at, as the farms had few facilities for making butter or for caring for dairy products. On many of the farms there was not even a well. Icehouses were almost unknown. The milk was left to "set" in shallow pans, the cream skimmed off by hand, and saved until a sufficient quantity was collected, when it was put in a wooden keg or earthen crock, and beaten into butter with a wooden paddle. The tumbling barrel churn did not come until later, and was never in extensive use in this county.

Corn was raised only in small tracts. Even as late as 1864 there was probably not 100 acres of tame grass in the whole county.

Wheat was the staple, and on this the farmers depended for their living. But with the passing of the years, the land refused to repeat its heavy crop of wheat. The cynch bugs also came to work their havoc. At first appearing only in spots, they gradually increased their ravages.

In 1878 came an almost total failure of the wheat crop. For three days, when the wheat was in milk, there were alternating hours of rain-storms and periods of extreme heat, which resulted in baking the kernel and stopping further growth. When the wheat was harvested it weighed but about 30 pounds to the bushel, instead of the 60 pounds which wheat should weigh when fully matured. Only about \$3 an acre was realized, and great distress followed.

This failure was almost coincident with the rush to the Dakotas, which affected all the Northwestern States, and many farmers left the county.

It was at this juncture that the people began to turn their attention to dairying.

Not long after, the creameries were established. Those at Galesville and Arcadia were started in 1883, and the papers of those villages expressed great surprise that butter could actually be made by machinery. In 1885 K. K. Hagestad, of Ettrick, interested the farmers and business men in starting a creamery, and the first co-operative plan creamery in the county was the result.

These three places have since continued to be important creamery points.

Creamery operations in Arcadia, as noted, date back to 1883, when a creamery, the old Arcadia Creamery Company, was erected near the Arcadia Mineral Spring. After the creamery had been in operation for some time the Koenig Brothers started a creamery south of the village. The Koenig concern went into bankruptcy and was in time acquired by J. M. Fertig. April 9, 1909, it was incorporated as the Arcadia Co-Operative Creamery Company and absorbed the Arcadia Creamery Company. Later the name was changed to the Arcadia Farmers' Co-Operative Creamery Company. It had been in operation for several years when the Glencoe Farmers' Co-Operative Creamery Company was organized, and the village now supports two creameries.

The Arcadia Farmers' Co-Operative Creamery Company is managed by Ellis G. Bigham. The report for the year ending April 30, 1916, was as follows: Value of property, \$4,200; number of patrons contributory, 310; number of cows contributory, about 10 per patron; pounds of cream received, 1,820,250; pounds of butter made, 441,127; amount of money

received for products sold, \$119,307.81. This creamery was incorporated April 23, 1904.

The Glencoe Co-Operative Creamery Company is managed by J. J. Fernholtz. The report for the year ending April 30, 1916, was as follows: Value of property, \$6,000; number of patrons contributory, 170; pounds of butter made, 210,755; amount of money received for products sold, \$53,038.59.

Galesville dates its creamery operation from Nov. 1, 1883, when a private concern was organized and started operations. Editorial writers at that time expressed wonderment that butter could actually be made by machinery. The Arctic Springs Creamery was organized as a co-operative association May 3, 1899, with G. O. Gilbertson, M. J. Scarseth, D. D. Chappell Francis Stellpfling, L. L. Odell, John Bohrnstedt, L. O. Moe, C. M. Kellogg and George Uhl as directors. Isaac Clark was chairman of the committee and L. L. Odell secretary. The profits the first year were \$2,111.87. This company took over the old creamery and as soon as possible erected the present building. The present officers are: W. F. Raichle (president), John Norgaard (vice-president), O. S. Bergquist (secretary) and J. A. Berg (treasurer), Will Stellpfling, J. R. Barge, F. J. Stellpfling, J. M. Bibby and John Dick. The cream is gathered and 13 routes are maintained.

The report for the year ending April 30, 1916, is as follows: Value of property, \$5,000; number of patrons contributory, 300; number of cows contributory, 2,800; pounds of butter made, 525,168½; amount of money received for products sold, \$158,734.90.

The Ettrick Creamery Association was organized by farmers and business men of the vicinity, and incorporated Oct. 23, 1885, with officers as follows: K. K. Hagestad, president; Johannes A. Hogden, vice-president; Iver Knutson, treasurer; C. F. Ringlee, secretary. This association served its patrons successfully on a co-operative basis until 1907, when most of the stockholders having quit tilling the soil, or moved away, it was thought advisable to reorganize, so that its patrons could have an active voice in its management. With this in view the Ettrick Creamery Company was organized by about 200 stockholders, with a capital stock of \$3,000, March 25, 1907. This company bought the stock of the old association. It is now doing a business amounting to nearly \$150,000 yearly. The present officers are as follows: A. J. Ekern, president; A. C. Hagestad, vice-president; R. J. Cantlon, treasurer; A. P. Ofsdahl, secretary; directors, Ed. Quammen, Ole Mustad and M. B. Hilten. The report for the year ending April 30, 1916, is as follows: Value of property, \$6,500; number of patrons contributory, 400; amount of money received for products, \$119,439.35.

The Pigeon Falls Creamery is located at Pigeon Falls, in Pigeon Township, and is owned by the P. Ekern Company. The report for the year ending April 30, 1916, was as follows: Value of property, \$3,500; number of patrons contributory, 210; number of cows contributory, 2,520; pounds of butter made, 356,324.8; amount received for products sold, \$121,058.52.

The Pigeon Falls Creamery was established by Peter Ekern, the building being erected in the fall of 1885 and operations started Dec. 8,

the same year. Mr. Ekern operated the creamery up to May 1, 1892, at which time he sold the institution to a farmers' organization, the Pigeon Creamery Association, incorporated April 9, 1892. This association operated the creamery until the middle of October, the same year, or for about five and a half months, when it burned. It was promptly rebuilt on the same premises by P. Ekern and opened again for business Dec. 1, 1892, Mr. Ekern conducting the creamery from that date to April 19, 1898, when this branch, together with other business interests of P. Ekern, was incorporated as the P. Ekern Company. The present officers are: Andrew Ekern, president; Minnie Sletteland, vice-president; B. M. Sletteland, secretary, treasurer and manager. The butter-maker is John A. Houkom, who has held this position since April 1, 1895. The Holstein and Durham cattle are the principal breeds raised by the patrons. For a number of years there were two large separators run at the creamery, taking in only milk at that time. A skimming station was also run in connection at Northfield, Jackson County, whence the cream was hauled by the company's own teams to the creamery. These separators were removed years ago when the individual farm separators took their place. An exchange station is still maintained at Northfield. In 1897 an addition was built and equipped for a cheese factory, but was discontinued as such after being operated one season.

The first creamery in Dodge was operated by the Dodge Creamery Company. This company was organized in 1902, with M. J. Kulas as president, J. K. Rezob as treasurer, and Joseph Jeriski as secretary. This company sold out, in 1907, to F. J. Rohn. He was the sole owner, but operated the concern under the name of the Rohn & Kulas Creamery Company. In the spring of 1909 the wooden building was burned, and Mr. Rohn erected the present adequate edifice of solid brick on the old foundation, resuming operations in August, 1909. On Feb. 14, 1914, W. O. Berthol and B. C. Kreher acquired the creamery under the name of the Dodge Valley Creamery and have since successfully conducted it. For the year ending April 30, 1917, the company took in \$28,120.78, and of this paid the patrons \$23,646.22. There are 96 patrons, averaging about 20 cows each. The favorite breeds are the Polled Durham and the Wisconsin natives. The report for the year ending April 30, 1916, is as follows: Value of property, \$4,000; number of patrons contributory, 96; number of cows contributory, 600; pounds of milk received, 1,900,000; pounds of butter made, 100,000; amount of money received for products sold, \$26,000. This creamery is a thriving and growing company under excellent management and ownership, both of the owners being substantial citizens in every respect.

The Eleva Co-Operative Company is located in Eleva, Samuel Bollinger being the manager. The report for the year ending April 30, 1916, was as follows: Value of property, \$2,800; number of patrons contributory, 190; number of cows contributory, 1,312; pounds of cream received, 1,245,454; pounds of butter made, 327,478½; amount of money received for products sold, \$87,093.86.

The Elk Creek Creamery is located in Hale Township, H. H. Solie being

the owner. The report for the year ending April 30, 1916, was as follows: Value of property, \$2,500; number of patrons contributory, 90; number of cows contributory, 800; pounds of milk received, 336,000; pounds of butter made, 90,720; amount of money received for products sold, \$26,116.

The Independence Creamery Company is located at Independence Village, its manager being Jacob Jackson. The report for the year ending April 30, 1916, was as follows: Value of property, \$4,000; number of patrons contributory, 200; number of cows contributory, 1,000; pounds of milk received, 916,896; pounds of butter made, 224,364; amount of money received for products, \$58,168.38. This company was incorporated Feb. 6, 1894.

The Whitehall Creamery Association is located in the township of Lincoln, its manager being N. L. Fredrickson. The report for the year ending April 30, 1916, was as follows: Value of property, \$3,000; number of patrons contributory, 450; number of cows contributory, 4,050; pounds of butter made, 397,600; amount of money received for products sold, \$110,000. This creamery was incorporated May 27, 1892.

The H. H. Solie Creamery is located at Osseo Village and is owned by H. H. Solie. The report for the year ending April 30, 1916, was as follows: Value of property, \$3,000; number of patrons contributory, 82; number of cows contributory, 800; pounds of milk received, 312,300; pounds of butter made, 77,850; amount of money received for products sold, \$23,356.

The Williams Creamery Company is located at Osseo Village, and is owned by Charles A. Williams. The report for the year ending April 30, 1916, was as follows: Value of property, \$2,390; number of patrons contributory, 100; number of cows contributory, 700; pounds of butter fat received, 106,625.28; pounds of sweet cream, 40,643.40; butter made, 133,793; amount of money received for butter, \$37,393.06; for sweet cream, \$16,306.05.

The Preston Creamery Company is located at Blair Village, its manager being Thomas Mattison. The report for the year ending April 30, 1916, was as follows: Value of property, \$2,800; number of patrons contributory, 300; number of cows contributory, 3,000; pounds of butter made, 423,845; amount of money received for products sold, \$116,613.62. This company was incorporated Jan. 23, 1899.

The Unity Co-Operative Creamery Company is located in Strum, Unity Township, J. P. Hanson being the manager. The report for the year ending April 30, 1916, was as follows: Value of property, \$5,000; number of patrons contributory, 325; number of cows contributory, 2,000; pounds of butter made, 438,374; amount of money received for products sold, \$119,324.19.

The Little Elk Cheese Association is located in Chimney Rock Township, the president being H. Weum. The record for the year ending April 30, 1916, was as follows: Value of the property, \$700. Number of patrons contributory, 16; number of cows contributory, 250; pounds of milk received, 450,398; cheese made, 45,694; amount of money received for products sold, \$6,158.71.

The H. H. Solie Cheese Factory is located at Osseo Village and is owned

by H. H. Solie. The report for the year ending April 30, 1916, was as follows: Value of property, \$3,000; number of patrons contributory, 82; number of cows contributory, 800; pounds of milk received, 312,300; cheese made, 77,850; amount of money received for products sold, \$23,356.00.

The totals for the creameries for the year ending April 30, 1916, are as follows: Number, 14; value, \$54,690.00; number of patrons contributory, 3,241; number of cows contributory, 26,922; number of pounds of butter made, 4,176,398; amount of money received for products sold, \$1,191,950.33.

The totals for the cheese factories for the year ending April 30, 1916, are as follows: Number, 2; value, \$1,700.00; number of patrons contributory, 42; number of cows contributory, 520; number of pounds of milk received, 815,398; pounds of cheese made, 79,314; amount of money received for products, \$10,648.71.

The 450,030 pounds of butter made on farms for the year ending April 30, 1916, and valued at \$118,321.75, were distributed among the various townships as follows: Albion, 22,836 pounds, valued at \$6,850; Arcadia, 16,200 pounds, valued at \$3,240; Burnside, 31,800 pounds, valued at \$9,483; Caledonia, 16,970 pounds, valued at \$5,090; Chimney Rock, 21,675 pounds, valued at \$5,481; Dodge, 16,000 pounds, valued at \$4,800; Ettrick, 41,200 pounds, valued at \$12,360; Gale, 53,580 pounds, valued at \$10,805; Hale, 60,000 pounds, valued at \$15,000; Lincoln, 10,305 pounds, valued at \$3,000; Pigeon, 31,490 pounds, valued at \$9,447; Preston, 54,275 pounds, valued at \$13,568.75; Sumner, 10,000 pounds, valued at \$3,000; Trempealeau, 54,270 pounds, valued at \$13,567; Unity, 8,729 pounds, valued at \$2,435.

The only village in which butter was made in any considerable quantity outside the creameries was Independence, where 700 pounds, valued at \$195, was made in homes.

No cheese is made on the farms or in the homes in Trempealeau County, with the exception of sour milk cheese made for immediate use.

CHAPTER XVIII

NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCHES

The people of Norwegian blood in Trempealeau County constitute about seven-tenths of its population, the German and Polish people constituting about one-fifth, and a scattering of nationalities the other tenth.

These Norwegians are the descendants of that fearless race, the Vikings, who peopled the coast of Norway, and swept the oceans with their swift craft, venturing to Iceland, then to Greenland, and then, it is believed, even to the Atlantic coast of North America as far south as Long Island. It is stated that Bjarni Herjulfson, while driven about in a storm, sighted the coast of Labrador in 986. Eric, the Red, was one of the pioneers of Iceland and Greenland, and his son, Leif Ericson, or Leif the Lucky, as he was called, was early filled with the spirit of adventure. In the year 1000, this Leif with a company of 35 men set out for Greenland and started down the North American coast, landing on the Island of Newfoundland and on the peninsula of Nova Scotia. Continuing their voyage, they reached the vicinity of what is now Massachusetts and Rhode Island, in the fall of the year. The wild grapes were hanging heavy on the vines, and Tyrker, a German, who accompanied the expedition, called the place Vineland. Norwegian historians have declared that Leif landed and settled near what is now Fall River, Mass. Even to the present day there exists in New England a stone believed to have been the work of these Norsemen.

In 1003, Leif's brother, Thorwald, was killed by the savages while leading another expedition in about the same locality. In 1007 came a larger expedition, headed by Thorfinn Karlesfin, who had married Gudrid, a widow of Thorstein, a brother of Leif. This expedition consisted of 600 men and possibly some women. They landed near what is now Buzzards Bay. Three years later this settlement was abandoned and the party sailed back to Greenland with hides and timber.

Other expeditions followed (see P. DeRoo, *History of America Before Columbus—Philadelphia and London, 1900—Vol. 88, pp. 174-282*). A stone has recently been unearthed at Kensington, Minn., bearing what purports to be Runic characters, which if genuine, apparently furnishes evidence that eight Swedes and 22 Norwegians penetrated Wisconsin and Minnesota in 1362.

In 1619, a Norseman, Jens Munk, visited America at the head of a Danish expedition, the intention of which was to take possession of a part of the country in the name of the King of Denmark. He returned to Norway in 1620, the only survivor of the attempt.

In 1633, a Norwegian shipbuilder by the name of Hans Hanson Bergen, who had for some time resided in Holland, came to New Amsterdam, as New

York was then called. It is also believed that there were some 20 other Norwegian settlers in that early colony. Claus Vam Sande, the Indian interpreter of the New Amsterdam colony, was a Norwegian.

July 4, 1825, a party of Norwegian Quakers left Stavanger, Norway, and in due time reached New York. What subsequently became of the party has never been positively established.

In 1839 a large colony came to Wisconsin. The first Norwegians came to Trempealeau County in 1854, with a colony that settled over the line in Jackson County. There is considerable difference among Scandinavian writers and investigators as to the first Scandinavian in Trempealeau County. Possibly Gullick Olson, a member of a colony which located over the line in Jackson County, settled in this county in 1854. Possibly Sever Johnson settled here that year. Both were in the vicinity of what is now Blair. In 1855 a considerable colony settled in the same vicinity.

Rev. H. A. Stub organized the Trempealeau Valley Congregation, over the line in Jackson County, in 1857, and this was the parent church of many of the churches of the county. Later he organized churches in Beaver Creek Valley.

The history of all the congregations in Trempealeau County, past and present, has been gathered by O. M. Norlie, and is embodied in a work called "Norsk Lutherske Menigheder I Amerika, 1843-1915," which is being published this year by the Augsburg Publishing House of St. Paul. Dr. Norlie's material is here reprinted.

North Beaver Creek Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. (Beaver Creek) Ettrick (six miles east). Independent (Ns.), 1859-61; Norwegian Synod, 1861-89. Organized Sept. 11, 1859. Divided 1889 on doctrinal grounds. (The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of North Beaver Creek—Ns.; Beaver Creek—Fk.). Four hundred seventy-nine souls in 1875, 654 in 1885. Pastors: H. A. Stub, 1859-60; P. L. Larson, 1860-61; J. B. Frich, 1861-66; O. Waldeland, 1866-69; E. Jensen, 1870-73; A. O. Alfsen, 1871-73; A. L. Lobben, 1875, 78; B. Hovde, 1878-93; S. S. Urberg, 1893. Officials in 1859: Ivar Troblaa, Siver Nilson, Nils O. Herreid, Nils Haugland, Ole Dale, Tosten Solfest. "Kirketidende," 1891, 455-57; 1892, 453-54; 1909, 1,042-47. Church, 1862. Church 2, 1877. (3,386-650.)

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation (Synod) of North Beaver Creek. From 1859 to 1889 was part of The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of North Beaver Creek, Ettrick. Norwegian Synod, 1889 (1861). Organized 1889 (Sept. 11, 1859). 161 souls in 1889, 450 in 1914. Pastors: H. A. Stub, 1859-60; P. L. Larsen, 1860-61; J. B. Frich, 1862-66; O. Waldeland, 1866-69; E. Jensen, 1870-73; A. O. Alfsen, 1871-73; A. L. Lobben, 1875-78; B. Hovde, 1878-93; S. S. Urberg, 1893. Officials in 1915: a, T. T. Odegaard; b, Gunleik Myrland; c, Thomas P. Herreid; d, Arne C. Stone, Carl J. Hagestad, Andrew C. Hagestad; e, T. T. Odegaard, R. Lewis Thorkelsen, Hans Anderson; f, J. S. Hovelsrud; g, J. E. Hovelsrud. Church 1, 1862. Church 2, 1877. Church 3, 1891, \$5,000. Schoolhouse, 1902, \$400. Parsonage 1, 1866, \$3,000. Parsonage 2, 1902, \$5,000. Cemetery, two acres, \$100. Land, six and a half acres, \$500. Ladies' Aid Society. Young

Peoples' League. Choir. Pastor's salary, \$233 (1914). "Menighetshistorie," 1909, Severin Nelson, K. K. Hagestad, S. S. Urberg; "Kirketidende," 1891, 455; 1892, 455; 1909, 1,042, S. S. Urberg (1328-651).

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Beaver Creek. (From 1859 to 1889 was part of North Beaver Creek. Ettrick (six miles east). Antimissouri, 1889-90; United Church, 1890. Organized 1889 (1859). 432 souls in 1890, 631 in 1914. Pastors: N. O. Brandt, 1858; H. A. Stub, 1859-60; P. L. Larsen, 1860-61; B. J. Frich, 1861-66; O. Waldeland, 1866-69; E. Jensen, 1870-73; A. O. Alfsen, 1871-73; A. L. Lobben, 1875-78; B. Hovde, 1878-88; O. Waldeland, 1890-95; Ole Gulbrandson, 1895-14; A. J. Boe, 1914. Officials in 1915: a, Anton Strand; b, Syver Herreid; c, Lars Underheim; d, Jacob Selgstad, John Brovold, Lewis Herreid; e, Anton Strand, Ole Sylfest, Mathias Anderson; f, Syver Herreid. Church 1, 1862. Church 2, 1877. Church 3, 1905, \$12,500. "Konstitution," 1864. A. J. Boe (3387-652).

Hardie's Creek Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. Ettrick (six miles south). Independent (Ns), 1862. Organized 1862. About 60 souls in 1862, 273 in 1914. Pastors: J. B. Frich, 1862-69; S. Svennungsen, 1869-74; L. O. Sherven, 1874-80; G. A. Lunde, 1880-90; O. A. Myhre, 1890-1900; G. I. Breivik, 1900-01; C. B. Bestul, 1901. Officials in 1862: b, Marthinus Scorseth; c, Ole Hemma; e, M. J. Scorseth, O. Gryhte, Mikkel Spedalen; f, Ole Hemma. In 1915: b, I. B. Scorseth; c, C. M. Scorseth; e, Bernt O. Evenson, Mathias Pederson, Idius Johnson; f, A. Oksnee; g, Miss Helen Olsen. Church 1, 1876, \$1,000. Church 2, 1915, \$10,884. Schoolhouse, 1894, \$600. Cemetery, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres, \$350. Ladies' Aid Society, 1890, \$1,707. Young Peoples' League, 1914, \$264. Pastor's salary, \$100 (1915). "Konstitution," 1904. C. B. Bestul (1339-654).

French Creek Norwegian Lutheran Congregation. Ettrick (three miles west). Independent (Ns), 1862. Organized 1862. About 35 souls in 1862, 517 in 1914. Pastors: L. Larson, 1862; J. B. Frich, 1862-66; O. Waldeland, 1866-69; S. Svennungsen, 1869-74; L. O. Sherven, 1874-70; G. A. Lunde, 1880-90; O. A. Myhre, 1890-1900; G. I. Breivik, 1900-01; C. B. Bestul, 1901. Officials: g, O. J. Engen, 1868-85. In 1915: a, H. B. Nilsen; b, O. J. Engen; c, I. B. Enghagen; e, H. B. Nilsen; Carl Breiningen, John Holstad, Emil Benrud, Ibert Engeliien; f, A. Oksnee; g, A. Oksnee. Church 1, 1878, \$4,000. Church 2, 1904, \$9,085. Parsonage 1, 1875. Parsonage 2, 1894. Cemetery, two acres, \$50. Land, 38 acres, \$1,243. Four Ladies' Aid Societies, 1890, \$2,600. Young Peoples' League, 1896, \$2,500. Missionary society, 1910, \$320. Pastor's salary, \$242 (1914). "Konstitution," 1880. C. B. Bestul (1336-653).

Ettrick Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. Ettrick. Independent (Ns) 1897. Organized 1897. 90 souls in 1897, 200 in 1914. Pastors: S. S. Urberg, 1897. Officials in 1897: a, Iver Pedersen; b, H. J. Hagestad; c, O. E. Runnestrand; d, Hans Christiansen, C. F. Ringlie, O. S. Folkedal; e, Iver Pedersen; h, O. S. Folkedal. In 1915: a, A. M. Pedersen; b, A. G. Tjofflot; c, O. A. Ask; d, M. T. Pederson, Hans Christiansen; e, A. M. Pederson, Elling E. Runnestrand, S. W. Swendson. Ladies' Aid Society, 1898, \$2,000. Pastor's salary, \$100 (1897), \$125 (1914), \$1,875 (1897-

1914). Church, 1898, \$7,000. Cemetery, three acres. "Konstitution," 1898; "Kirketidende," 1898, 664; 1902, 1066. S. S. Urberg (1326-655).

Tamarack Valley Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. Tamarack. Norwegian Synod, 1863. Organized 1863. About 45 souls in 1863, 198 in 1914. Pastors: J. B. Frich, 1863-66; O. Waldeland, 1866-69; S. Svennungsen, 1869-74; L. O. Sherven, 1874-80; G. A. Lunde, 1880-90; O. A. Myhre, 1890-1900; G. L. Breivik, 1900-1901; C. B. Bestul, 1901. Officials in 1915: b, A. O. Syversen; c, O. A. Olsen; e, Olaf O. Syversen, Oscar H. Olsen, Halfdan Olsen, Ole T. Thompson; f, A. Oksnee; g, A. Oksnee. Church, 1878, \$6,500. Cemetery, one and a half acres, \$150. Ladies' Aid Society, 1889, \$3,100. Young Peoples' League, 1897, \$1,179. Missionary Society, 1907, \$566. Pastor's salary, \$100 (1914). "Konstitution," 1867. C. B. Bestul (1335-656).

Tamarack Preaching Place. Tamarack. Conference, 1880-81 (?). Started 1880 (?). Discontinued (?). Pastor: E. M. Midtbo, 1880-81 (3399-657).

Fagernes Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. (Plum Creek Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, Plum Creek, 1868-85.) Blair (six miles west). Independent (Ns), 1868-1912; Norwegian Synod, 1912. Organized in fall of 1868. About 90 souls in 1868, 219 in 1914. Pastors: O. Waldeland, 1867-69; S. Svennungsen, 1869-74; L. O. Sherven, 1874-80; G. A. Lunde, 1880-90; O. A. Myhre, 1890-1900; G. I. Breivik, 1900-91; C. B. Bestul, 1901. Officials in 1915: b, Ole Arnesen; c, H. C. Fagernes; e, C. M. Larsen, Halvor Hansen, James Hansen; f, Ole Arneson. Pastor's salary, \$120 (1914). Church 1, 1875, \$540. Church 2, 1892, \$2,700. Church 3, 1901, \$5,500. Cemetery one and a half acres, \$29; donated, one acre. "Konstitution," 1907. C. B. Bestul (1337-658).

Silver Creek Valley Congregation. Frenchville (five miles southeast). Norwegian Synod, 1869 (?)-78 (?). Organized 1869 (?). Dissolved 1878 (?). Sixty souls in 1872, 30 in 1877. Pastors: S. Svennungsen, 1869-74; L. O. Sherven, 1874-80 (3394-659).

Our Saviour's Congregation. (French Creek.) Ettrick (three miles west). Conference, 1875 (?)-90; United Church, 1890-98. Organized 1875 (?). Dissolved 1898. Forty-seven souls in 1876, 70 in 1897. Pastors: E. H. Midtbo, 1873-81; N. Heierman, 1881-84; O. H. Stenson, 1884-88; O. Waldeland, 1890-94; O. Gulbrandson, 1894-98. Church (3393-660).

Trempealeau Village Congregation. Trempealeau. Norwegian Synod, 1869 (?)-74 (?). Organized 1869 (?). Dissolved 1874 (?). Eighteen souls in 1873. Pastor: S. S. Svennungsen, 1869-74 (3397-661).

Trempealeau Congregation. Trempealeau. Conference, 1871 (?)-73 (?). Organized 1871 (?). Dissolved 1873 (?). Fifty souls in 1871, 96 in 1872. Pastor: Ole Amundson 1871 (?)-73 (3396-662).

Kongsberg Congregation. Hamlin (10 miles ?). Norwegian Synod, 1879 (?). Organized 1879 (?). Dissolved (?). 157 souls in 1879, 168 in 1883. Pastors: H. A. Heyer, 1879-84; A. E. Hauge (?), 1884 (?) (3398-663).

Big Creek Congregation. (North of Eleva ?.) Norwegian Synod,

1872 (?) -74 (?). Organized 1872 (?). Dissolved 1874 (?). 85 souls in 1873. Pastor: L. O. Sherven, 1871-74 (3400-664).

Galesville Congregation. Galesville. Norwegian Synod, 1878 (?) -90 (?). Organized 1878 (?). Dissolved 1890 (?). 30 souls in 1878, 40 in 1886. Pastors: L. O. Sherven, 1871-80; G. A. Lunde, 1880-90. Church (3392-665).

Eden Congregation. The New Norwegian Lutheran Congregation in Galesville and the Community. Galesville. Independent (Kf). 1886-90; United Church, 1890. Organized Oct. 9, 1886. 18 souls in 1886 (1 Swede), 100 in 1914 (1 Swede). Pastors: O. H. Stenson, 1886-88; Chr. K. Ytrehus, 1891-99; R. Anderson, 1899-14; O. C. Myhre, 1915. Officials in 1886: a, Theodor Larson; b, A. J. Quarberg; c, O. N. Sagen; e, L. O. Moe, Theodor Larson, L. W. Hammer; f, Theodor Larson; h, A. J. Quarberg. In 1915: b, P. J. Enghagen; c, D. H. Strand; d, L. N. Hammer, Nils Rosewald, A. J. Quarberg; e, D. H. Strand, S. H. Dale, Iver Herreid; f, A. J. Quarberg; h, Alice Fetton. Ladies' Aid Society, 1893. Choir. Pastors salary: \$100 (1886), \$260 (1914). "Konstitution," 1886. O. C. Myhre (1049-666).

Trinity Congregation. Galesville. Norwegian Synod, 1894. Organized 1894. 31 souls in 1894 (four Germans, two Americans), 224 in 1914 (two Germans, one American). Pastors: L. M. Gimmetstad, 1894. Officials in 1894: a, Ole Hemma; b, Benjamin Dale; c, Ole Hemma; e, Benjamin Dale, P. Sauers, A. J. Scarseth; f, Ole Hemma. In 1915: b, Einar Olson; c, A. J. Berg; e, L. Gilbo, Hans Benrud, Chr. Braaten; f, Andreas J. Scarseth; h, Louise Scarseth. Church, 1909, \$6,000. Ladies' Aid Society, 1902, \$2,954. Young Peoples' League, 1905, \$400. Pastor's salary: 0 (1894), \$300 (1914), \$1,925 (1894-14). Janitor, etc., \$1,100 (1894-1914). Parochial school, \$970 (1894-1914). Denominational schools, \$3,615 (1894-1914). Missions, \$839 (1894-14). Gale College is connected with this congregation, 1901. Gimmetstads "Menighetshistorie," 1914. L. M. Gimmetstad (1136-667).

Pigeon Creek Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. Pigeon Falls. Norwegian Synod, 1865-85. Organized Aug. 18, 1866. Divided 1885 on doctrinal grounds (Pigeon Creek Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation—Ns; Pigeon Falls Norwegian Lutheran Congregation—Fk). 40 souls in 1866, 354 in 1885. Pastors: O. Waldeland, 1866-69; S. Svennungsen, 1869-71; N. E. S. Jensen, 1869-71; O. Sherven, 1871-76; Em. Christophersen, 1876-1909; O. K. Ramberg, 1909-10; E. B. Christophersen, 1910. Officials in 1866: e, Ole Larson, Peder Pederson, Erik Larson; f, Ole Paulson. Church, 1874 (3407-668).

Pigeon Falls Norwegian Lutheran Congregation. Pigeon Falls. Conference, 1878-87. Organized 1878. Dissolved 1887 in order to organize a new congregation with Our Saviour's Congregation of the Antimissourians. Seventy-five souls in 1878, 240 in 1887. Pastors: C. J. Helsem, 1878-92. Officials in 1878: b, Hans Karlstad; c, Nils Nilssen; d, Peder Ekern, Andreas Olsen; e, Nils Nilssen, Ole Tuff, Soren Thompson; f, Ole Tuff (3410-670).

Pigeon Creek Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. (From 1866 to 1885 was part of Pigeon Creek Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran.)

Pigeon Falls. Norwegian Synod, 1885 (1866). Organized 1885 (Aug. 18, 1866. 354 souls in 1889, 395 in 1914. Pastors: O. Waldeland, 1866-69; S. Svenningsen, N. E. S. Jensen, 1869-71; L. O. Sherven, 1871-76; E. Christophersen, 1876-1909; O. K. Ramberg, 1909-10; E. B. Christophersen, 1910. Officials in 1915: b, Bernt P. Moe; c, Peter Estensen; e, Eddie Nelson, Emil Nerson, Anton Johnson, Carl Tomte, Christopher Foss; f, H. Samuelstad, John Olson, J. Eilertson, P. P. Dahl, T. Lee; h, Melvin Moe. Church, 1874, \$4,500. Parsonage 1, 1876, \$600. Parsonage 2, 1912, \$4,500. Cemetery, three acres, \$30. Land, 23 acres, \$450. Ladies' Aid Society, 1890, \$2,900. Young Peoples' League, 1895, \$3,200. Pastor's salary, \$50 (1867), \$300 (1914). Parochial school, \$4,400 (1866-1914). Denominational schools, \$4,200 (1866-1914). Missions, \$4,420 (1866-1914). Charitable institutions, \$2,500 (1866-1914). "Konstitution," 1888; "Kirketidende," 1892, 456-57; 1910, 822-23. E. B. Christophersen (2261-669).

Our Saviour's Congregation. Pigeon Falls. Antimissouri, 1885-87. Organized 1885. Dissolved 1887 to form a new congregation with Pigeon Falls Church of the Conference. (Pigeon Falls Norwegian Lutheran Congregation.) Pastors: P. Stromme, 1885-87; A. E. Hauge, 1885-87; H. C. Wik, 1885-87 (3408-671).

Pigeon Falls Norwegian Lutheran Congregation. (Merger of Our Saviour's, 1885-87, and Pigeon Falls, 1878-87.) Pigeon Falls. Independent (Kf), 1887-89. Organized 1887. Divided 1889 on account of the Conference people wishing a Conference pastor and the Antimissourians wishing an Antimissouri pastor. 257 souls in 1887, 257 in 1888. Pastor: C. J. Helsem, 1872-92. Officials in 1888: b, O. Goplem. Church (3409-672).

Our Saviour's Congregation. (From 1885 to 1887 a part of Our Saviour's); from 1887 to 1889 a part of Pigeon Falls. Pigeon Falls. Antimissouri, 1889-90; United Church, 1890-91. Organized 1889. Dissolved 1891 in order to organize a congregation with Pigeon Falls of the United Church. 80 souls in 1890, 80 in 1891. Pastors: P. Stromme, 1889-91; A. E. Hauge, 1889-91; H. C. Wik, 1889-91 (3411-673).

Pigeon Falls Norwegian Lutheran Congregation. (From 1878 to 1887 a part of Pigeon Falls; from 1887 till 1889 a part of Pigeon Falls.) Pigeon Falls. Conference, 1889-90; United Church, 1890-91. Organized 1889. Dissolved 1891 in order to organize a new congregation together with Our Saviour's of the United Church. 116 souls in 1890, 220 in 1891. Pastor: C. J. Helsem, 1878-92 (3412-674).

Pigeon Falls Norwegian Lutheran Congregation. (Merger of Pigeon Falls, 1889-91, and Our Saviour's, 1889-91.) Pigeon Falls. United Church, 1891. Organized 1891 (1878-1885). 220 souls in 1892, 820 in 1914. Pastors: C. J. Helsem, 1878-92; M. Gulbrandson, 1892-95; A. J. Orke, 1895. Officials in 1915: b, Even Hegge; c, B. M. Sletteland; d, Ole Paulsrud, Jens Vossseteig; f, Ole Paulsrud. Two Ladies' Aid Societies, 1884, \$4,400; Young Peoples' League, 1892, \$5,567; Girls' Club, 1914, \$30. Choir, 1892. Pastor's salary, \$50 (1878), \$550 (1914), \$12,324 (1878-14). Janitor, etc., \$15,000 (1878-14). Parochial school, \$7,000 (1878-14). Denominational schools, \$4,827 (1878-1914). Missions, \$3,650 (1878-1914). Charitable institutions, \$2,500 (1878-1914). Church, 1888, \$8,350. Parsonage, 1892, \$5,000. Hall,

1896, \$3,500. Cemetery, two acres, \$1,000. Land, five acres, \$200. "Konstitution," 1885, 1891. A. J. Orke (894-875).

Whitehall Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. Whitehall (one mile). Norwegian Synod, 1870-87. Organized June 14, 1870. Divided in 1887 on doctrinal grounds (Our Saviour's Norwegian Lutheran—Fk; Whitehall Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran—Ns). 20 souls in 1870 (two Swedes), 260 in 1886. Pastors: N. E. S. Jensen, 1870-71; L. O. Sherven, 1871-76; S. Svennungsen, 1871; Em. Christophersen, 1876. (See below) (3404-676).

Whitehall Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. (From 1870 to 1887 as above.) Whitehall Norwegian Synod, 1887 (1870-1887). Organized 1887 (June 14, 1870). 246 souls in 1889, 262 in 1914 (12 Swedes). Pastors: N. E. S. Jensen, 1870-1871; S. Svennungsen, 1871; L. O. Sherven, 1871-76; E. Christopherson, 1876-1904; O. K. Ramberg, 1904-12; E. B. Christopherson, 1912. Officials in 1915: b, O. C. Hanson; c, G. F. Steig; e, John Iverson, H. Hagen, Albert Bringsosen, P. C. Pederson; f, H. Samuelstad, John Olson, J. Ellertson, P. P. Dahl; h, Mrs. Gilbert Rice. Church 1, \$125. Church 2, 1892, \$6,500. Parsonage, \$3,500. Cemetery, one acre. \$20. Three Ladies' Aid Societies, 1896, \$32,000. Young Peoples' League, 1896, \$350. Choir, 1904. Pastor's salary, \$300 (1914), \$9,850 (1870-1914). Janitor, etc., \$7,000 (1870-1914). Parochial school, \$3,500 (1870-1914). Denominational schools, \$2,700 (1870-1914). Missions, \$3,100 (1870-1914). Charitable institutions, \$2,400 (1870-1914). "Konstitution," 1888; "Kirke-tidende," 1893, 759. E. B. Christopherson (2262-677).

Hauges Norwegian Lutheran Congregation. Whitehall (eight miles east). Hauges Synod, 1887-93. Organized 1887. Dissolved 1893. 58 soul in 1889; 47 in 1891. Pastors: A. O. Oppegaard, 1887-89; Th. Himle, 1889-93 (3406-678).

Immanuel Norwegian Lutheran Congregation. Whitehall. Independent (Fk), 1899-1908; United Church, 1908. Organized 1899. 46 souls in 1899; 190 in 1914. Pastor: A. J. Orke, 1899. Officials in 1899: b, E. Berg; c, Peter Nilsen; d, John Vold; e, E. B. Guland, John Schansberg; f, E. Berg. In 1915: b, Lewis Schansberg; d, Ludwig Solsrud; e, Olaus Galstad, Erik Baalrud, Peter Ekern; h, P. K. Risberg. Church, 1901, \$5,200. Ladies' Aid Society, 1888, \$2,214. Choir, 1907. Pastor's salary, \$50 (1899), \$175 (1914), \$1,375 (1899-1914). Janitor, etc., \$6,000 (1899-1914). Parochial school, \$1,100 (1899-1914). Denominational schools, \$600 (1899-1914). Missions, \$800 (1899-1914). Charitable institutions, \$200 (1899-1914). "Konstitution," 1899. A. J. Orke (892-680).

Our Saviour's Norwegian Lutheran Congregation. Whitehall (eight miles east). Antimissouri, 1887-90. United Church, 1890-91. Organized 1887. Dissolved 1891. Reorganized 1899 (Immanuel—Fk). Pastor: A. Ronnerberg, 1887-90 (3405-679).

Elk Creek Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. Hale. Norwegian Synod, 1870. Organized 1870. Divided 1911 on account of the Pleasantville people desiring a congregation of their own. (Pleasantville Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation.) 170 souls in 1876, 299 in 1910. Pastors: E. P. Jensen, 1871-73; Em. Christophersen, 1873-80;

H. Heyer, 1880-99; P. Toft, 1899-1908; S. Folkestad, 1909. Three Ladies' Aid Societies. Young Peoples' League. Church 1, 1892. Church 2, 1915, \$7,000. S. Folkestad (2715-681).

Pleasantville Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. From 1870 to 1911 a part of Elk Creek Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. Whitehall (seven miles north). Independent (Ns), 1911. Organized 1911. 84 souls in 1911. Pastors: S. Folkestad, 1911. Officials in 1911: b, C. T. Hulberg; c, C. T. Hulberg; e, Lars Swaim, Chaly Gilbertsen, T. H. Hauge; f, Ole O. Hovre; h, T. H. Hauge. In 1915: b, C. T. Hulberg; c, C. T. Hulberg; e, Lars Swaim, Chaly Gilbertsen, William Gjestvang; f, Ole O. Hovre; h, Gilbert Hulberg. Pastor's salary, \$50 (1911), \$50 (1914), \$200 (1911-14). Church, 1911, \$4,000. S. Folkestad (2714-682).

Elk Creek Valley Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. Osseo (three miles south). Hauges Synod, 1872. Organized 1872. 50 souls in 1872, 140 in 1914. Pastors: P. J. Solberg, 1872-74; S. Berntson, 1874-78; A. O. Oppegaard, 1878-88; H. Hjertaas, 1888-89; Th. Himle, 1889-94; O. H. Elstad, 1894-1906; J. C. Hjelmervik, 1906. Officials in 1872: a, Andrias Prestegaarden; b, Anton Larson; d, Andrias Prestegaarden, Anders Larson, Hans Bagstad; e, A. H. Lewis, S. P. Solberg. In 1915: a, H. H. Lewis; b, A. N. Freng; c, J. H. Call; d, H. H. Lewis, Sam Gunderson, John Prestegaarden; e, Anton Amundson, John Vold, Albert Ihle; f, H. H. Lewis; h, Sam Gunderson. Church, 1892, \$1,400. Cemetery, two acres, \$65. Ladies' Aid Society, 1885. Young Peoples' League, 1895. Girls' Club, 1900. Choir, 1895. Pastor's salary, \$70 (1872), \$200 (1914). J. C. Hjelmervik (186-683).

Mauls Valley Congregation. Osseo (?). Hauges Synod, 1889 (?). Organized 1889 (?). Dissolved 1906 (?). 36 souls in 1889, 42 in 1900. Pastors: H. Hjertaas, 1885-94; O. H. Elstad, 1894-06. Church (3413-684).

Osseo Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. Osseo. Hauges Synod, 1893. Organized 1893. 79 souls in 1897, 142 in 1914. Pastors: Th. Himle, 1893-94; O. H. Elstad, 1894-1906; J. C. Hjelmervik, 1907. Officials in 1893: a, H. F. Larson; b, J. J. Aasgaard; d, Knudt Robeson, H. F. Larson; e, O. Blexrud, Knudt Robeson, M. Johnson. In 1915: b, C. L. Ihle; c, O. Waller; d, J. N. Lee, C. H. Larson, A. L. Erikson; e, J. N. Lee, Even Torpen, Ludvig Anderson; f, J. N. Lee; h, John Carson, Torger Stenson. Church, 1894, \$4,000. Ladies' Aid Society, 1892. Young Peoples' League. Two Girls' Clubs. Choir. Avholdsfor. Pastor's salary, \$300 (1914). J. C. Hjelmervik (187-685).

West Beef River Congregation. Strum (one and one-half miles east). Norwegian Synod, 1872-87. Organized 1872. Divided in 1887 on doctrinal grounds. (Strum Congregation—Am; Strum Congregation—Ns). 368 souls in 1874, 350 in 1885. Pastors: O. Waldeland, 1868-71; E. Jensen, 1871-73; L. O. Sherven, 1873-76; I. L. P. Dietrichson, 1876-79; F. A. Moller, 1880-81; H. A. Hyer, 1881-99. Church, 1885 (3402-686).

Strum Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. (From 1872 to 1887 a part of West Beef River Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation.) Strum. Independent (Ns), 1887-1900; Norwegian Synod, 1900. Organized 1887 (1872). Divided 1887. 329 souls in 1889, 369 in

1911. Pastors: O. Waldeland, 1868-71; E. P. Jensen, 1871-73; L. O. Sher-ven, 1873-76; I. L. P. Dietrichson, 1876-79; F. A. Moller, 1879-80; H. A. Hyer, 1880-99; P. A. Toft, 1899-1908; D. Kvaase, 1908-09; S. Fokestad, 1909. Officials in 1915: b, Even Holte; c, C. O. Dahl; f, Lars Moe; h, Olaf Dahl. Four Ladies' Aid Societies. Young Peoples' League. Girls' Club. Church 1, 1885. Church 2, 1915, \$15,000. Parsonage, 1908, \$2,200. S. Folkestad (2716-687).

Strum Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. (From 1872 to 1887 a part of West Beef River Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran.) Strum. Antimissouri, 1887-90. Organized 1887. Dissolved 1890 to merge with Conference Congregation (St. Paul's). 50 souls in 1887. Pastor: A. Ronnerberg, 1887-90 (3403-688).

St. Paul's Congregation. Strum. Conference, 1877-90. United Church, 1890. Organized Feb. 23, 1877. 128 souls in 1877, 714 in 1914 (eight French-Norwegian). Pastors: G. Hoyme, 1877-78; C. J. Helsem, 1878-1914; O. J. Hylland, 1914. Officials in 1877: b, E. Evensen; c, O. J. Romundstad; d, Erik O. Holden, Berger Semingsen, C. Svendby; e, Ole J. Romundstad; E. Evensen, Andrew Call; f, Esten Johnsen. In 1915: b, Sivert Rekstad; c, Ole P. Berg; d, Ole Halvorsen, Christ. Amundsen, Otto Skaug; Anders J. Romundstad, Sivert Rekstad; e, Ole Thomasgaard, Gilbert Dahl, Hans E. Hanson, Christian Dahlby, Arne Hageness, Martin Stuberg, Daniel Anders, Matias Semingson, Paul Eide; f, Ole Halvorsen. Pastor's salary, \$100 (1877), \$400 (1914), \$11,100 (1877-1914). Janitor, \$2,060. Church, 1915, \$4,500. Parsonage 1 (Helsem's). Parsonage 2, congrega-tion's). Cemetery, two acres. "Menighetshistorie," (1916, Sivert Rekstad. O. J. Hylland (1987-689).

Bruce Valley Congregation. Whitehall (10 miles northwest). Nor-wegian Synod, 1888. Organized 1888. 99 souls in 1888, 99 in 1914. Pas-tors: H. A. Hyer, 1888-99; P. A. Toft, 1900-08; O. K. Ramberg, 1909; S. Folkestad, 1909. Officials in 1915: b, Ole Bergsland; c, Erik Hagen; e, Ole Bergsland, Knudt Johnsen, Ole Bergersen; f, Ole Bergsland. Church, 1911, \$4,000. Schoolhouse 1, 1870. Schoolhouse 2, 1891. S. Folkestad (2713-690).

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. (From 1857 to 1879 was part of Trempealeau Valley.) Blair. Norwegian Synod, 1879-89. Organized 1879 (1857). Divided 1889 on doctrinal grounds (Blair—Am; The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Synod Ns). 496 souls in 1886, 496 in 1889. Pastors: H. A. Stub, 1857-60; P. L. Larson, 1860-61; J. B. Frich, 1861-66; O. Waldeland, 1866-69; E. Jensen, 1870-73; A. O. Alfsen, 1871-73; A. L. Lobben, 1875-78; B. Hovde, 1878-93; S. S. Urberg, 1893. Officials: a, Stener Hansen; b, C. A. Berg; c, Gullik Olson; d, Ole Helgeson, Martin Hansen, Anders Wraalstad; e, Mattis Mattison; h, Matt. Skyrud. Pas-tor's salary, \$167 (1879). "Kirketidende," 1877, 587. Church, 1877, \$6,000 (3388-691).

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Synod Congregation of Blair. (From 1857 to 1879 a part of Trempealeau Valley; from 1879 to 1889 a part of The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Blair. Blair. Norwegian Synod, 1889 (1857). Organized 1889 (Nov. 3, 1879, 1857). 133

souls in 1889, 350 in 1914. Pastors: B. Hovde, 1879-93; S. S. Urberg, 1893. Officials in 1915: a, Ole Malmin; b, Olaus O. Mitskogen; c, C. O. Grinde; d, Emil Hanson, S. G. Ness, A. M. Mesundstad; e, Ole Malmin, Otto J. Berg, Peder O. Urlien. Church 1, 1877, \$6,000. Church 2, 1895, \$2,000. Church 3, 1899, \$12,000. Parsonage 1, 1866. Parsonage 2, 1903, \$5,000. Cemetery, two acres, \$200. Land six and one-half acres, \$500. Ladies' Aid Society, 1895, \$2,000. Pastor's salary, \$333 (1914). "Konstitution," 1876; "Kirke-tidende," 1877, 587; 1895, 631; 1900, 617; 1903, 1053. S. S. Urberg (1330-692).

Blair Congregation. (Corness. From 1857 to 1870 a part of Trempealeau Valley.) Blair. Conference, 1870-90. Organized 1870. Dissolved 1890 in order to organize a new congregation together with the Antimissourians of Blair. 141 souls in 1876, 183 in 1887. Pastors: A. Weenaas, 1870-73; E. H. Midtbo, 1873-81; N. Heierman, 1881-84; O. H. Stenson, 1884-88. Church (3391-693).

Blair Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. (From 1857 to 1879 a part of Trempealeau Valley; from 1879 to 1889 a part of The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran in Blair.) Blair. Antimissouri, 1889-90. Organized 1889. Dissolved 1890 in order to organize a new congregation together with Blair of the Conference (Blair—Fk). Pastor: O. Waldeland, 1890 (3389-694).

The Norwegian Evangelical Congregation of Blair. (Merger of Blair of the Antimissourians, 1889-90, and Blair of the Conference, 1870-90.) Blair. United Church, 1890. Organized 1890 (Jan. 15, 1881). 678 souls in 1891, 811 in 1914. Pastors: O. Waldeland, 1890-94; O. Gulbrandson, 1894-1914; A. J. Boe, 1914. Officials in 1915: a, Peter Overby; b, Edwin T. Mattison; c, Peter T. Herreid; e, Ebert Everson, John Pederson, A. O. Dahle. Ladies' Aid Society. Young Peoples' League. Choir. Pastor's salary, \$375 (1914). "Konstitution," 1881. Church 1, 1877, \$6,000. Church 2, 1907, \$19,000. Parsonage 1, Parsonage 2, 1915, \$4,200. Cemetery, three acres. Land, one acre. A. J. Boe (3390-695).

Trempealeau River Congregation. Arcadia (?). Norwegian Synod, 1872 (?)-74 (?). Organized 1872 (?). Dissolved 1874 (?). 70 souls in 1873. Pastor: L. O. Sherven, 1873 (?) 74 (?) (3395-696).

Independence Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. Independence. Independent (Ns, Am), 1879-90; United Church, 1890. Organized 1879. 80 souls in 1879, 150 in 1914. Pastors: H. A. Hyer, 1879-84; A. E. Hauge, 1884-98; H. J. Rasmussen, 1899-1913; A. J. Orke, 1913. Officials in 1879: b, Nathan Anderson; c, O. P. Larson; d, J. A. Johnson, Ole Rodningen; e, John C. Leafland, O. P. Larson, Nathan Anderson. In 1915: b, G. B. Anderson; c, C. Torgerson; e, Otto K. Lindberg, Christian Stuve, James Elstad. Church, 1883, \$5,200. Cemetery, two acres, \$600. Ladies' Aid Society, 1885, \$1,600. Pastor's salary, \$75 (1879), \$180 (1914), \$5,260 (1879-1914). Janitor, etc., \$7,500. "Konstitution," 1879. A. J. Orke (1267-697).

Eleva Norwegian Lutheran Congregation. Eleva. United Church, 1893. Organized Feb. 27, 1893. 13 souls in 1893, 314 in 1915. Pastors: J. C. Helsem, 1893-1905; John Erikson, 1905-11; A. O. Langehough, 1911.

Officials in 1893: b, Knute Jenson; c, Tom Olson; d, Martin Olson, Alick Toppen; e, John Volan, A. C. Hollanger, Ole Halvorson; f, S. H. Anderson. In 1915: b, N. I. Gilbert; c, Henry Vold; d, Andrew Hagen, A. Finreite, Anders Isakson; e, Andrew Gilberg, Knute Steffenson, Magnus Moen; f, S. H. Anderson; h, Magnus Moen. Church, 1897, \$3,500. Parsonage, 1908, \$2,500. Cemetery, two acres, \$150. Land, one acre. Two Ladies Aid Societies, 1893, \$4,722 (1896-1916). Young Peoples' League, 1912, \$320. Pastor's salary, \$100 (1893), \$300 (1914), \$4,000 (1893-1914). Janitor, etc., \$1,025 (1893-14). Denominational schools, \$300 (1906-15). Missions, \$572 (1907-15). "Konstitution," 1893. A. O. Langehough (970-699).

Chimney Rock Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. Chimney Rock. Norwegian Synod, 1869-88. Antimissouri, 1888-90; United Church, 1890. Organized 1869 (1874). 60 souls in 1874, 424 in 1914. Pastors: L. O. Sherven, 1874-76; F. A. Moller, 1876-78; E. Christopherson, 1878-79; H. A. Hyer, 1879-84; O. O. Daehlen, 1884-88; Olaf Guldseth, 1888-92; M. C. Holseth, 1892-1906; M. C. Stenson, 1906-11; A. O. Langehough, 1911. Officials in 1874: b, H. O. Haagensen; v, Peder Pedersen; d, Lars L. Instenes, Ch. Cotholfsen; e, C. O. Wenberget, T. O. Holstad, Ch. Botholfsen; e, C. O. Instenes. In 1915. b, Julius M. Lek; c, Ole Paulsen; d, Lars L. Instenes, Johan Spangberg; e, Carsten Paulsen, Adolph Hendrighsen, C. K. Risberg; f, Lars Instenes. Church 1, 1877, \$1,200; church 2, 1908, \$8,600. Ladies' Aid Society, 1879, \$2,485. Young Peoples' League, 1907, \$1,300. Pastor's salary, \$140 (1874), \$300 (1914), \$5,400 (1874-1914). Janitor, etc., \$800. Parochial school, \$2,000. Denominational schools, \$1,400. Missions, \$1,100. Charitable institutions, \$600. A. O. Langehough (632-698).

East Bennet Valley Congregation. Eleva (seven miles south). Independent (Ns, Fk), 1890-1909; United Church, 1909. Organized 1890. 120 souls in 1890, 254 in 1914. Pastors: F. A. Moller, 1890-1901; M. C. Holseth, 1901-03; H. C. Wik, 1903. Officials in 1890: b, Johan Langseth; c, Halvor Svensen; e, Knut Stevens, Anfin Gray; f, Hans Olsen. In 1915: b, Hans Lengseth; c, G. A. Gundersen; d, Mons Hefte, Johannes Langseth; e, Andreas Klevgaard, Sylfest Rene, Johannes Langseth; f, John Hansen. Church 1, 1901, \$400. Church 2, 1910, \$4,000. Cemetery, two acres, \$120. Ladies' Aid Society, 1890, \$1,900. Young Peoples' League, 1910, \$300. Choir. Pastor's salary, \$125 (1914), \$1,270 (1901-14). Janitor, etc., \$800 (1890-1914). Denominational schools, \$250 (1901-14). Missions, \$150. H. C. Wik. (586-700).

East Bennet Valley Congregation. Eleva (seven miles south). Norwegian Synod, 1901-05 (?). Organized 1890. Dissolved 1905 (?). 120 souls in 1890, 30 in 1905. Pastor: F. A. Moller, 1890-1905 (3401-701).

Travis Valley. Independence (two miles). Conference 1875 (?)-84 (?). Organized 1875 (?). Dissolved (?) 1884 (?). 55 souls in 1877, 82 in 1884. Pastors: E. H. Midtbo, 1875-77; O. C. Schonhovd, 1877-79 (4105-702).

Gale College Preaching-place. Galesville. Norwegian Synod, 1911. Started 1901. Leader: L. M. Gimmestad, 1901 (4119-703).

The reference letters in the article are as follows: (a) president, (b)

secretary, (c) treasurer, (d) deacon, (e) trustees, (f) "klokker," (g) teacher, (h) Sunday school superintendent.

The history of several of these churches is given in greater detail in the following articles. In the preparation of this work letters have been sent to all the pastors of the county, asking for material, but only a part have responded. The histories which follow are, however, to a large extent typical of the growth and progress of all the Norwegian churches.

1—French Creek, Tamarack, Hardie's Creek Fagernes and South Branch Beaver Creek Congregations, by Rev. C. B. Bestul.

The French Creek Congregation. One of the oldest Lutheran congregations in Trempealeau County is the French Creek Congregation, located in the fertile French Creek Valley in the Town of Ettrick and comprising also Abrahams Coulee in the Town of Gale. Pioneers from the eastern part of Norway moved in as early as 1859. Three years later there were at least ten families. These early settlers had to travel by ox-team or on foot to Trempealeau Valley when they desired to attend religious worship. Seven of these early settlers organized the French Creek Congregation in March, 1862. These seven were: Ole Gloppstuen Gilbertson, Johannes Hodgen (still living), his brother Andreas Anderson Hodgen, Johannes Nilson Odegoord, Johannes Christensen Engelién, Peder Anderson, Peder Olson. The congregation was organized by the Rev. Dr. Lauritz Larson, then residing pastor and president of Luther College, started in Half Way Creek, La Crosse County, and moved to Decorah, Iowa, in 1863. As people moved in family after family joined the church. Its growth was rapid. At present the congregation comprises 140 families of 339 communicant members.

At first the preaching was conducted in the simple log huts of the settlers, later in a spacious schoolhouse built near the I. P. Enghagen home. This schoolhouse served as the meeting house of the congregation for sixteen years. A tract of land was bought for cemetery in 1869. A church building 60 by 34 feet, with a seating capacity of 400, was erected in 1878, which cost when completed \$4,000. So rapid was the growth of the settlement and congregation that it was decided to rebuild in 1903. The present building was completed two years later at a cost of \$8,000, not counting the gratuitous work done by members. It was dedicated May 28, 1905, by Prof. Dr. J. Ylvisaker of Luther Seminary, St. Paul. The congregation has four Ladies' Aid Societies, three Missionary Aid Societies and a Young Peoples' Society divided into three districts. The money raised is used for various purposes, a part is given to local church and not a little to charity.

Tamarack Congregation. Another old settlement is the Tamarack settlement, comprising Norway Coulee, Little Tamarack and Thompson Coulee in the Town of Arcadia, and Holcomb Coulee in the Town of Gale. The pioneers here came mostly from Telemarken, Norway. The earliest settler was Ole Guttormson. He moved in from Vernon County in 1862. Within a year the settlement had ten families. The first church service was held in 1862 in the home of John Hendrickson. The Rev. J. B. Frich from La Crosse County preached the sermon and organized the congrega-

tion, The Tamarack Valley Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church. The congregation grew fast. The 10 families of 1863 was increased to 48 in 1869 and to 61 in 1877.

The settlers met with reverses, however. Poor crops and the ravages of the chinch bugs disheartened many. The growth of the settlement was not only checked, but original settlers sold out and left for points north in this state and Minnesota. Of the 61 families of 1877 probably 50 percent moved away. In Holcomb Coulee only a handful remained. The heavy emigration had its depressing effect also on church work. The congregation which promised to outnumber its sister congregation in French Creek gradually fell behind. Today the congregation numbers 56 families with 108 communicant members. But what is lost in numbers is compensated for in quality. A vigorous and intelligent church activity has obtained. In 1864 a cemetery was bought. In 1877 a site for a church was purchased. A building was erected and so far completed that it could be used in May, 1878. Though ample in size this building has about outgrown its usefulness. Steps have been taken to replace the old building with a new. The young people have taken the initial step. The Ladies' Aid and individuals have been boosting the project so that the congregation has a promise of \$5,000 for a new church. A Missionary Aid Society contributes annually liberal donations for charity. The earliest settlers in Tamarack were: Ole Guttormsen, Tollef Egilsen, Sigurd Bjorguvsen, Bjorguv Bjorguvsen, John Gunderson, Knut Leinfson, Egil Mikkelsen, Trond Osovson, John Hanson, John Henricksen, Henrik Oleson, Hans C. Olesen.

Hardie's Creek Congregation. Still another community of Norwegian-Americans that has shown a vigorous and praiseworthy church activity is the Hardie's Creek settlement, located mainly in the Town of Gale. Early Settlers moved in prior to 1862, mainly from Biri, Norway. They were a Godfearing people. The nearest congregation was in Lewis Valley. There was a Black River to cross. In the winter the going was good. But when spring and summer came it was different. The river was too deep to ford, too swift of current to swim and no boats to row. But there was plenty of material for raft building. Two logs tied together was all that was needed to bring a man and his family across, and all who could footed it the rest of the way. Small children were carried the whole way. Finally the minister at Halfway was urged to come to this constantly growing settlement, and he came. His transportation means were the same as those used by the apostles of old. His means of navigation were still more primitive, the log raft. The Rev. J. B. Frich organized the Hardie's Creek Congregation in December, 1862. The following twelve families constitute the charter members: Christian Hoff, Gulbrand Ekern, Andreas Ekern, Amund Bjornstad, Peter Bjornstad, Martinus Scorsest, Ole Semb, Lars Grythe, his two sons Martinus and Ole, Amund Krisselstuen, Mikkel Spedalen. Church services were held in the homes, also in the Glasgow schoolhouse. In 1876 a building was erected, 40 by 24 feet, on land donated by Otto Rindahl. This building was in time added to and beautified. In time demands grew for a larger and better equipped church. Finally in 1915 the old church was taken down and in its place was built a handsome structure that cost com-

pleted \$10,000, not reckoning the gratuitous work done by members. This church has a seating capacity of 300. The cornerstone to the new church was laid Oct. 3, 1915, and the church dedicated the same day by Rt. Rev. J. Nordby of La Crosse. The church will, as long as it stands, remain a fitting monument to the Christian faith and love of its builders. This community has not appreciably suffered from emigration. The second and third generations who constitute the present membership of the Hardie's Creek Congregation have succeeded in building themselves homes within its boundaries, a circumstance that has contributed to the welfare of themselves no less than to that of the parent congregation. The Ladies' Aid and the Young Peoples' Society has been very active and contributed generously towards the strengthening of church work.

Fagernes Congregation. The Fagernes congregation was at one time called Plumb Creek. Another early designation of this settlement was "Storskogen," Big Timber. The reason for this name is obvious. There was little or no timber on the surrounding hills, the virgin growth having been annually burned off by the Indians. For some reason parts of the town of Preston was spared from these destructive fires. When white men finally settled sections to the south of this wooded land they would refer to it as the Big Timber, where fuel and material for building the simple log huts were plentiful. These conditions do not obtain now, there being plenty of timber throughout the county north and south. The first settlers came to the Fagernes community between the years 1865-1871. It is believed that no church service has been held within this settlement prior to 1866. People were hungry for the Word of God in those days. The nearest meeting place was in Trempealeau Valley many miles away, a little too far to travel forth and back in one day by ox-team or on foot. Torsten Nerhagen was appointed to visit the residing pastor in Trempealeau Valley and make, if possible, a more satisfactory arrangement. The outcome was that Rev. O. Waldeland agreed to come. The first service was held at the home of Even Hanson Sveum in 1866. Finally a congregation was organized after a church service held in the home of Lars Stokke in the fall of 1867. The growth of the settlement must have been quite rapid. In 1866 the whole settlement could come to its first meeting in a little log hut. The whole assembly consisted of Levor Olson, Hans Sedal, George Reisel, Ole Fagernes, Andreas Larsen and Lars Stokke and their families. When the congregation was organized a year later this little band was increased to eighteen and in 1874 to thirty-nine. Prior to 1874 the congregation had no church building, but owned a cemetery lot, donated by Ole and Christian Fagernes and Torsten Nerhagen. Shortly after that a small church was built at a cost of \$540. This building was taken down and replaced by a new one in 1892 at a cost of \$2,700. This building was struck by lightning Aug. 26, 1901, and burned to the ground within one hour. The 4th of September of the same year it was decided to rebuild. So fast did the work progress that the building could be used during the winter. It gave slight protection against the cold, it is true. One was strongly reminded of what is told about the non-heated churches of Siberia: The temperature outside is measured by the number of coats worn by the preacher in the pulpit. The

janitor did his best to heat the Fagernes church during the winter of 1901-02, but the heat escaped too freely by way of numerous knot-holes and cracks in the board wall. The building was completed before May 17 the following year. On this day it was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. H. Halverson of Westby, Wis. Its length is 60 feet, width 30 feet. Its total cost \$4,000, besides gratuitous work. The congregation now consists of fifty families of 166 communicant members. Its members live in the Towns of Preston and Arcadia.

South Branch Beaver Creek Congregation. This congregation consists of two distinct settlements separated by a narrow German settlement. The lower district comprises about 26 families, who originally came from Biri, Faaberg or Ringsaker, Norway. The upper district lies in Jackson County and comprises about 40 families, the first settlers coming from Solor, Norway, and some from Sweden. Prior to 1867 these communities were united with the congregation of North Branch congregation organized in 1859. This was a great disadvantage. Their pastor, Rev. Waldeland, residing at Trempealeau Valley, was in time induced to hold services also in South Branch. In 1867 a separate congregation was organized in this valley. Its official name became South Branch Beaver Creek Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church. The families belonging to this congregation from the beginning and residing in Trempealeau County, Town of Ettrick, were: Ole Christensen, Gulbrand Nilson, Even Swenson, Mathias Swenson, Peder Larson, Christian Syljeberget, Lars Osley, Peder Bratstiengen, Ole Brendhangen and Sven Bergum. Some of the oldest settlers in the upper district in towns of North Bend and Melrose were: Hans Hanson, Nils Johnson, Ole Olson, Bernt Olson, Ole Karlstad, P. Smedsturn, Erik Paulson, Ole Lindberg, Peder and Lars Amundsen. Not until 1885 was a church built on a site that commands a full view down the valley. Its cost was \$2,000, fully equipped. The congregation has 66 families, 233 communicant members.

This brief sketch of the religious activity within the five congregations constituting the so-called French Creek charge would be incomplete without appending an account of the establishing of this charge and adding a few words about its beneficiaries.

The early immigrants from Norway came to the United States with good traditions. Honor, frugality and enlightenment were some of their characteristics. They were a religious people, whose spiritual sentiments are expressed in these lines so often sung:

"God's Word is our great heritage,
And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor;
Through life it guides our way,
In death it is our stay;
Lord grant, while worlds endure,
We keep its teachings pure,
Throughout all generations."

So soon as a settlement was formed a congregation was organized and a pastor was called. The pioneer pastors were a highly educated class of men, being largely graduates from the University of Christiania before entering upon their theological studies. They were eminently qualified to bring true culture and high ideals into the communities in which they labored. They were men with a will to work and a readiness to share the privations of pioneer life. The field was extensive. Each pastor had charge of twenty and more settlements throughout many counties. It meant incessant travel over primitive roads by oxen, horses and very often on foot. As the number of pastors increased and the congregations were able to support a minister the field was divided. There are circuits now served by fifteen to twenty pastors—circuits that for years were served by one.

Thus it was in Trempealeau County. Up to 1866 there was no residing pastor in the county. Rev. H. A. Stub organized the first Lutheran congregation, serving the people of this county in 1857. This was the Trempealeau Valley Congregation, over the line in Jackson County. He resided in Vernon County. He had eighty-five miles to travel. Another congregation was organized by him within the county, namely, North Branch Beaver Creek, in 1859. He is said to have preached in the newly started French Creek settlement before 1861. Rev. Stub had a number of congregations in La Crosse, Vernon, Crawford, Monroe and other counties. In 1861 this vast field was divided. A pastor, Lauritz Larson, was stationed in Halfway, La Crosse County. He had charge of all congregations north of La Crosse. When Prof. Dr. Larson moved to Iowa in 1862 Rev. J. B. Frich took charge of the field. Finally a pastor was stationed in Trempealeau County. Rev. Ole Waldeland came to Trempealeau Valley in 1866. He took charge of all congregations north of the Black River except Hardie's Creek, which was served by Rev. Frich until 1869. In the month of July of this year a new division was made. French Creek, Tamarack, Fagernes, South Branch of Beaver Creek and Hardie's Creek were united to form the so-called French Creek charge, and Rev. S. Svennungsen was called. He came to French Creek in September, 1869. The following spring 40 acres of land was bought for a parsonage. In 1874 Rev. Svennungsen was called to Winona, Minn. The next pastor was Rev. L. Sherven. He entered upon his work July 12 and remained until in the fall of 1880, when he accepted a call from South Dakota. In 1875 a new house was built for the minister. Rev. G. A. Lunde succeeded Shevren. He came in October, 1880, and remained until 1890, when he was called to Nebraska. A call was now extended to Rev. O. A. Myhre, who came May 1 of this year. During his incumbency the old manse was sold and a more modern building erected. In the spring of 1900 Rev. Myhre got leave of absence and went to Norway. In his absence Rev. G. I. Breivik had temporary charge of the work. In the fall Rev. Myhre resigned and when Breivik left in December the charge was vacant until March the following year. Rev. C. B. Bestul was called and entered upon his work March 10, 1901. He is still the resident pastor.

Finally a few words about the religious work done for the young. The Lutheran church has always maintained that parochial schools were a

necessity. Neglect of the child spells the gradual disintegration of the church. The Master knew whereof He spoke when He delivered this mandate: "Feed My lambs," and again: "Teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." In compliance with this demand the Lutheran church endeavors to supply the religious training of her children through trained teachers besides the pastor. Inestimable good has been accomplished by supplementing the secular training received in the common school with the systematic, intelligent religious training of the parochial school. A number of capable men and women have taught in the church schools of the various congregations of the French Creek charge. Ole J. Engru taught in French Creek and Tamarack 1869 to 1891 with the exception of three or four years; H. G. Saebo, 1891 to 1897; A. Oksnee, 1887 to the present time. In Fagernes O. T. Arneson taught for many years. In Hardie's Creek the first teachers were Ole Skundberg, Lars Orevig, J. E. Hovelsrud. In South Branch the first teachers were Christian Syljeberget and Mr. Ringstad. In Hardie's Creek and South Branch both the following teachers have taught: J. O. Saeter, J. M. Systad, A. Modal, M. Rund, John Ellertsen, Ida Myrstuen, Hilda Anderson, Helen Olson. These names deserve a place in history. They are the names of men and women who have striven and succeeded to make successive generations good citizens of both church and state.

2—Whitehall and Pigeon Creek Congregations, by Rev. Einar B. Christophersen.

Whitehall Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized June 14, 1870. Services were held in the homes of the different members and in the school-house at Whitehall until the Baptist church was bought in old Whitehall in 1874. In 1892 a new church edifice was built in Whitehall on a lot adjoining the court house. Oct. 22, 1893, the church was dedicated by H. A. Preus, president of the Norwegian Lutheran Synod of America. The following ministers assisted: B. Hovde, I. Waage, T. L. Brevig, Th. Nilson, H. Rosenquist, F. A. Moller, A. Heyer and the local pastor, Em. Christophersen.

The charter members of the congregation were Hans Bringrosen, Lars Skjonsby, Peder Kristianson and Kristian Pederson. The records of the congregation do not show who preached the first sermon nor when the congregation was organized, but very likely it was Rev. E. Jenson from Trempealeau Valley who helped organize the congregation, and the congregation was undoubtedly organized in the home of one of the charter members. From 1871 to 1902 the congregation has been affiliated with the Pigeon Falls charge, Rev. L. O. Sherven serving from 1871 to 1876, Rev. Em. Christophersen 1876 to 1902. In 1902 it organized a separate charge and called Rev. O. K. Ramberg as resident minister. A modern and beautiful building was erected on Dewey street to serve as parsonage. In 1912 Rev. O. K. Ramberg accepted a call to West Prairie, Wis. Since then the congregation has been served temporarily by Rev. E. B. Christophersen. In 1913 a basement with heating plant costing about \$2,000 was installed in the church. The first baptism performed in the congregation was June 14, 1870, when Nels, a son of Lars and Ingeborg Skjonsby, and Martin, a son of Peder and Maren Kristianson, were baptized.

The first wedding recorded was the one of Ole Jacobson and Helene Olson, May 19, 1871. The first funeral recorded was May 3, 1874, for one Olive Olsdatter, aged 30.

The Pigeon Creek Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Pigeon Falls was organized Aug. 18, 1866, by Rev. O. Waldeland of Trempealeau Valley. He had been requested by the few early Norwegian Lutheran settlers residing in the vicinity of the present Pigeon Falls to come and preach for them. He complied with the request. Services were usually held in the homes and on week days. The minister could not preach for them on Sundays, because his call was so large that he could not reach around to them all on Sundays. His call comprised at that time a territory extending from Black River Falls to Galesville. Among the early settlers who organized the congregation were: Peder Pederson, Kristian Kaas, Erick and Lars Larson, Ole Iverson Hofstad, Anton Ekern and Anders Kristianson. Services were usually held in Peder Pederson's and Erick Larson's homes and in the schoolhouse. In 1867 seven services were held. In 1868 eight services were held.

Rev. O. Waldeland and his call were affiliated with the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Synod of America. Therefore when the time came in 1870 to call a resident minister for Pigeon Creek and affiliated charges in its vicinity, it was decided to put the matter of calling a minister in the hands of the church council of the Norwegian Synod. Rev. L. Sherven was called. He accepted the call and preached his introductory sermon Sept. 26, 1871. Up to this time the congregation had been served by the pastors of Trempealeau Valley. O. Waldeland, E. Jenson, Svennungson from French Creek and John Frich from Halfway Creek also preached a few times. At the time Rev. L. Sherven was called the field comprised Pigeon Creek, Chimney Rock, Bennet Valley, Thompson Valley, Strum, South Beef River and Whitehall congregations. Whitehall congregation had been organized June 14, 1870. Rev. L. Sherven served these congregations and did considerable mission work outside of them until 1876. The president of the Norwegian Synod, H. A. Preus was then asked to secure a minister. There being a scarcity of Norwegian Lutheran ministers in the country, Bishop Heuch of Norway had been requested by President H. A. Preus to endeavor to induce young ministers from Norway to go to America and serve Norwegian Lutheran congregations there. As a result of these transactions Rev. Emanuel Christophersen was called. His field was to be Pigeon Creek, Whitehall, South Beef River, Elk Creek and Upper Pigeon Creek congregations. Upper Pigeon Creek, Jackson County, having been formed of a part of Pigeon Creek congregation May 31, 1876, he was introduced to the Pigeon Creek congregation by Rev. L. Sherven. From that time until his death, March 23, 1909, he served continually as pastor of this congregation and the other congregations affiliated with it. A piece of land, about 23 acres, had been bought about one-half mile north of Pigeon Falls, which was to belong to the parsonage. Here a parsonage 20 by 20 feet was first built late in the fall of 1876. This was later on added to in 1887 very extensively. In 1912 a completely new parsonage was built.

In 1883 the Elk Creek congregation and Strum and other congrega-

tions formed a separate call. In 1902 the Whitehall congregation also formed a new call and Rev. O. K. Ramberg was called as resident pastor. From 1909 to 1910 the Pigeon Creek call was served temporarily by O. K. Ramberg. In 1910 Rev. Einar Bjorn Christophersen was called as pastor to these congregations. On June 10, 1910, he was ordained a minister in the Pigeon Creek Church by Rt. Rev. J. Nordby.

The present church edifice, which is the original one, was commenced in 1871, but not completed and dedicated until several years later. In 1906 a substantial Young Peoples' Society hall was erected on property belonging to and adjoining the church. In this hall regular meetings are held by the Young Peoples' Society of the congregation, also by the Ladies' Aid, and the business meetings of the congregation are held in it.

The first child baptized in the congregation was Oline, daughter of Anders and Randine Kristianson, Sept. 18, 1866. Since that time 1,002 children have been baptized.

The first to be married were Anton Hendrickson and Johanne Louise Anderson. They were married April 21, 1868. Two hundred and eighteen couples have been married in the congregation since.

The first to be buried in the church cemetery were Agnette Larson, 33 years old, and an infant, Gustav Anderson, Nov. 14, 1867. Three hundred and three have been buried since. The records of the congregation also show that 1,026 services have been held up to Sept. 1, 1917. Sept. 17, 1916, the congregation celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. A great number of people took part in the celebration. Rt. Rev. J. Nordby delivered the anniversary sermon. Rev. L. Shurer preached to an overflow meeting in the United Lutheran church. The following ministers took part in the celebration: J. Nordby, E. Jenson, L. Shuren, S. S. Urberg, A. J. Orke, C. B. Bestul and E. B. Christophersen.

In 1885 doctrinal differences which had caused dissension and separation in the Norwegian Lutheran Synod of America also brought about a rupture in the membership of the congregation. A great number severed their connections with the original congregation, and as a result of this a new congregation, later on known as the United Lutheran Church congregation was formed, called thus because it affiliated with the general Lutheran body organized in 1891, the United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

Negotiations looking toward the amalgamation of the two church bodies, the Norwegian Lutheran Synod of America and the United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, and also the Hauges Synod have been carried on for several years. The fruit of these negotiations was the great union meeting in St. Paul, Minn., where, June 9, 1917, these three bodies were merged into the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. Locally the two congregations continue as two separate organizations, but the future will undoubtedly see them united in one congregation.

CHAPTER XIX

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN TREMPLEALEAU COUNTY

(By Rev. Joseph L. Hauck)

The mind may travel with lightning speed from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the frozen planes of the North to the sunny plantations of the South; and grasp with keen perception all that this great country symbolizes and displays. The intellect may study the principles upon which our laws and institutions are founded, and understand the liberty, justice and equal rights they guarantee. The heart may love America with a love not only warm and ardent, but self-sacrificing and heroic; and we may well glow with righteous pride for our industrial and agricultural achievements. But in addition to all this, should not the share Catholics have had in the discovery, exploration, and development of America be lifted from obscurity into the light of reverent knowledge, and into the forum of due recognition? There are many histories of the United States, each bearing its message of patriotism. Yet seldom the text of any of these mentions the efforts of the church in America. However, her work has become so telling and pronounced that it is now nigh impossible to obliterate, or pass over it unnoticed.

Why should the facts be concealed that the men who first touched the borders of America—Columbus and Ericson; that the discoverer of the Great Lakes—Champlain; that the men who first traversed the broad Mississippi Valley and its fertile western plains—Father Hennepin, Du Luth, Joliet, Father Marquette and La Salle—were Catholics! What harm could there be in this knowledge? No one will deny the truth, that our virgin soil was hallowed by the blood of Catholic missionaries, that the Catholic statesmen whose voices rang in the council halls of the land were eloquent and efficient, that the Catholic soldiers who bled on its battlefields were fearless and patriotic, and that the Sisters of Charity who served as army nurses were ministering angels. Let, then, history pay them the tribute of recognition they so well deserve.

Our country is justly proud of the liberty it offers to all its children. Though these are diversified in faith and race peculiarities, it places them all on equal footing. In recognition of such treatment its children are most grateful and are ever ready by heroic deeds, in peace as well as in war, to demonstrate their loyalty. Strong common interests unite the citizens, yet the strongest bond of unity is inculcated by the church. From the teachings of the church the moral and religious aspect of patriotism is received. Hence we find Catholics loving their country—America—not only because its fields are fair and fertile and its mighty hills with bounty stored; but because its gorgeous beauty and countless wealth are the lavish gift of our tender, provident Father. We see Catholics loving their rulers and bowing

to their laws not only because these are wise, calm, just and true, but because they believe that they hold authority to rule from the Almighty Father. Loyalty to them, they believe, means loyalty to God. Respect for them is, they believe, respect for God. Catholics love America's institutions not only because they guarantee peace, justice, liberty, and equal rights to all, but because they believe the principles upon which these are founded are the fundamental laws of God. Where such spirit and faith are dominating forces, true and permanent union and unswerving loyalty must spring forth.

It is proper that the history of Trempealeau County should offer its readers an exposition of the efforts, struggles, and results of the Catholics of the county. It is, however, not the scope of this article to give an exposition of the teaching and moral practices of the Catholic church; books covering these subjects are ample and within reach of everyone. Nor is it the object to extol the spiritual life of the Catholics or to define their standard of catholicity, or to compare it with the religious spirit of their fellow-citizens of a different faith. To what standard their moral lives have climbed the angel of God has recorded in the book of life to be brought on judgment day to light and unto everlasting remembrance. It shall be merely the object of this article to show what, in a material way, by organizing parishes and building churches and schools, Catholics have accomplished.

The early Catholic settlers were immigrants. Trempealeau County's fertile fields and salubrious air invited them from Germany, Austria, Ireland, Poland, and other European countries in search of new homes. The free institutions of this Republic seconded nature's invitation. Modern inventions narrowed sea and oceans; and so, during the last half of the nineteenth century hundreds of Catholics poured into this district. They were well fitted for the work of religion amid a new people in a new age. They were sons and daughters of races who had suffered martyrdom for their faith; they were inured for every trial and trained to be unbending before the most violent storms. Such names as Nic and Casper Meiers, Peter Meyers, Frank Zeller, Carl Zeller, Jerome O'Brien, Christ Haines, John B. Haines, Paul Liberia, Albert Bautch, Lawrence Bautch, Peter Sura, Con Wiever, Anton Sabotta, and Antoine Grignon should be mentioned as among the earliest Catholic settlers and as being instrumental in having many others follow them to Trempealeau County.

The Catholics are located mostly in the southern and western parts of the county, in the towns of Dodge, Arcadia, Burnside, Gale and Trempealeau. They number about 5,000, or one-fifth of the population of the county. They are affiliated to eight parishes which are hereafter mentioned and described in their chronological order. The first settlers, with few exceptions, are now laid to rest, but their work is with us yet.

Noble pioneers! Who will tell, as it should be told, the story of your labors and sacrifices? Poor were you in earthly goods; willing hearts and strong arms were, in most cases, your sole possession; toil and hardship, verily the scriptural hewing of wood and the drawing of water were your lot. Only through your savings from slender wages or small incomes were you

able to build churches and schools and support your pastors. Oh! may we who are heirs to the rich fruitage of your faith and charity, be ever mindful of our debt of reverence and gratitude!

**Sacred Heart and St. Wenzeslaus' Parish,
Pine Creek, Wisconsin.**

Hedged in on all sides by high hills, which like guarding sentinels are ever on their post, on an inviting spot below, stands Sacred Heart and St. Wenzeslaus church, wrapped in quiet repose. To enter this delightful spot, the traveler mounts with difficulty the steep and rocky hill which lies between it and the Dodge Station. As he steps over the crest of that mount, at the base of the opposite hills, he beholds the village of Pine Creek, consisting of the Sacred Heart and St. Wenzeslaus' church property, one or two business houses and a few dwellings. The view before him is a picture of beauty and fascination. Beckoning, it seems to speak: "This is the final barrier, cross it and I am yours." It was during the winters of 1862 and 1863 that the first settlers arrived at Pine Creek. They were mostly Bohemians. On Feb. 7, 1864, they organized the parish and called it St. Wenzeslaus', in honor of the Duke and patron of Bohemia. Having received as a donation from Paul Liberia a site of ten acres, they erected on it a little church, a wooden structure. For many years this little church heard the prayers and witnessed the devotions of the early settlers. Their number began to increase rapidly and soon the little structure could no longer accommodate them. In 1875, under the direction of Rev. A. Singoski, the present church 44x125 was erected at a cost of \$18,000. It is claimed that this church, at that time, was one of the most handsome edifices in Wisconsin. While the tendency of late has been to build large, lofty and costly structures the church in Pine Creek by no means is obliged to take a back seat among them. It was recently frescoed and newly furnished and in its new appearance must be classed today as a church of the first rank.

Soon after the organization, the number of Polish families became more and more prevalent while that of the Bohemian families remained stationary. At present the parish numbers 170 families; of these only ten are Bohemian and three German. For that reason was prefixed to the old title of St. Wenzeslaus' that of the Sacred Heart. At times the parish sustained heavy losses by fire, thus in 1882 their parsonage was destroyed. The present beautiful parsonage was erected in 1906 at a cost of \$7,000. It is the fourth parsonage the parish has erected.

In 1891 the schoolhouse was erected at a cost of \$3,000. The school attendance at that time was less than fifty pupils. In 1909 an addition was erected which made room for three further class rooms. The attendance now is 200 pupils. With the exception of two short intervals the Sisters of St. Francis have always taught the school. The school is well graded and maintains a high standard of efficiency.

On Nov. 16, 1912, the parish celebrated with great solemnity the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation. It is claimed that Sacred Heart and St.

Wenzeslaus' Parish is the third oldest Polish parish in the United States, the oldest being in Texas, and the second oldest in Palonia, Wis. The total value of the Pine Creek church property amounts to \$60,000.

The following societies have been established and are enjoying a large membership, namely: For men, the Sacred Heart Society, St. Joseph's Society and the Catholic Order of Foresters; for boys, St. Stanislaus' Society; for women, Holy Rosary and Lady Foresters; for girls, the Children of May Sodality; for school children, the Union of the Infant Jesus.

The list of pastors and time of their pastorate is as follows: Until 1866 neighboring priests attended to the spiritual wants of the early settlers; Rev. Florintine Zadziowski, 1866-68 (He was the first resident pastor); Rev. Weglikowski, 1868-71; Rev. T. Musiclewicz, 1871-73; Rev. C. Bratkiewicz, 1873-74; Rev. A. Singoski, 1874-78 (he erected the present church); Rev. D. Mayer, 1878-84; Rev. R. Tomaszewski, 1884-87; Rev. Roman Guzowski, 1887-89; Rev. R. Tomaszewski, 1889-90 (this was his second appointment); Rev. Roman Guzowski, 1890-95 (this was also his second appointment); Rev. T. Lugowski, 1895-1898; Rev. A. W. Gara, 1898-1901 (he was brother to the present pastor); Rev. J. M. Koresyk, 1901-1904; Rev. J. W. Gara, 1904.

Rev. J. W. Gara, the present pastor, was born March 3, 1875, at Jawisjowice, Poland. He attended the following schools: Jawisjowice at his birthplace, normal school at Biala, Poland, classical school at Wadowice. In 1893 he came to America, and at once went to the Polish Seminary at Detroit, Mich. In 1894 he entered St. Francis Seminary near Milwaukee, where he was ordained to the priesthood Jan. 6, 1898. Before coming to Pine Creek he was stationed at Rosellville and Junction City, Wis. He has made many substantial improvements to the church property at Pine Creek, and put the parish on a good financial basis. He is a hard worker and enjoys the confidence of his people. The warm spot in their hearts he has well merited by his kind and self-sacrificing labors and clean life!

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Arcadia

Running down the vista of time for almost two generations, we find amid the twilight of the early settlements the nucleus of "Our Lady of Perpetual Help" congregation in 1858-1863. In the year 1858 Nic and Casper Meiers came to Arcadia from Roxberry, Wis. Within a few weeks Frank and Carl Zeller followed. The trip from Roxberry to Arcadia was made with oxen. The land they bought from the Government. Within the next year Peter Meyers, ——— Remlinger, John Bill, and Mike Rohn came to Arcadia from the State of New York. These settlers were a part of the "Bishop Settlement." They went to church in Glencoe, where a little log church stood near what is now the Martin Reible Farm. There was no bridge across the Trempealeau River and it was difficult and at times impossible to cross the water. Besides the log church being too small to accommodate them all the Catholic settlers east of the Trempealeau River obtained permission from Most Rev. Henni, of Milwaukee, to organize a parish in

Meyer's Valley. At that time the pioneer priest, Rev. Joerger, residing at Fountain City, Wis., occasionally forded the Trempealeau River, down near the John and Con Gleason homestead, to administer to the spiritual wants of the early settlers scattered south of the present village of Arcadia. A church building was an unknown luxury in those days in Trempealeau County. Priests, carrying the necessary paraphernalia on their shoulders, were compelled to use the home of some good and willing member of their scattered flock. Nic Meiers, of sturdy Teutonic blood, gladly offered his homestead in this locality. Thus the august sacrifice of mass was offered up in his humble home from 1864-1867. This house is still standing as a landmark out in Meyer's Valley, owned now by Ed. Haines and family.

In 1867 an apology of a church, seen for many years on Meyer's Valley Cemetery, was built under the direction of the Rev. Florentine Zadziowski of Pine Creek. The lumber was hauled with oxen from Merrillan, the timber cut from the neighboring forests and sized by hand. Besides this some members donated as high as \$100—certainly a larger sum in those days than \$1,000 today. The names of Peter Meyers, of the brothers Nicolaus and Casper Meiers, of Frank Zeller and Jerome O'Brien will ever live in memory of that undertaking. From 1867-1884 this humble little church witnessed the prayers and devotions sent to heaven by the pious and thrifty settlers. It never had a resident pastor, but was attended to from neighboring parishes. As in all new places, the changes of pastors were frequent. It was served as follows: Rev. L. Lay from Waumandee, 1870-1876; Rev. P. Schmidt from Glencoe, 1876-1880. (This reverend gentleman left this community for that part of the vineyard of the Lord known as St. Paul diocese, and being a personal friend of Dr. G. N. Hidershide visited here quite frequently. We were all sorry to hear that he died in the spring of 1917); Rev. Flamming from Glencoe, 1880-1881; Rev. J. Bauer, at present pastor at Prescott, 1881-1882; Rev. W. Hackner from Fountain City and Rev. L. Lay from Waumandee attended from 1882-1883 at intervals; Rev. B. Klein, who died at Racine 1916, resided at Glencoe and had charge of Meyer's Valley as mission from 1883-1885.

In the meantime the village of Arcadia had sprung up on the marsh of the Trempealeau River and developed into the metropolis of Trempealeau County. Naturally Catholics of the village could not be expected to walk to Meyer's Valley, a distance of one and a half miles. The farmers, having outgrown the primitive condition of early settlers, were all well supplied with vehicles. The congregation, too, overtaxed the capacity of the little country church. Hence the conclusion was imminent that a new church must be erected and this in the village. Here ensued a most stubborn contest, threatening to disrupt the small flock. The farmers held tenaciously to their rustic idea, that every second farm should have a church at its door, and the villagers defended the theory that a church should be in the village; that the farmers could drive to church just as well as to market. Had the farmers then foreseen that within thirty years every one would drive to church and market per automobile, as they do today, they would not have been so obstinate. The good sense and judgment of the villagers finally prevailed, and certainly the community is

much to be congratulated thereon. The present site in the village was picked and the old site turned into a cemetery, now called Meyer's Valley Cemetery, wherein lie the hallowed ashes of the past generation of Catholic settlers. It is a most enchanted spot, dotted with stately monuments, and graced with fragrant and beautiful evergreens and variegated flowers.

After the decision to move the church location to the site in the village work was begun on the erection of a building. This structure now has been remodeled into a residence for the sisters. This church cost the parishioners \$6,000. On the first of January, 1885, the first services were held therein by Rev. B. Klein. By successfully supervising this building Rev. B. Klein had established on a solid basis the future of "Our Lady of Perpetual Help" congregation, and must therefore be classed as the father of the present parish. Starting with this data the record shows the baptism of Emil Krumholz, the marriage of Mary Zeller to Charles Wasserburger and the burial of Anthony Zeller to be the first extraordinary function performed in the newly established parish. The parish having now a proper beginning, its growth was to be only a matter of time. Rev. J. H. Untraut pastored from 1885 to 1893. Having received charge of the parish he at once realized that Arcadia had overtaken Glencoe, and that the future of the church must be in the former place, so that instead of Glencoe being the parish and Arcadia the mission, Arcadia should be the parish and Glencoe the mission. In virtue of this he, June 9, 1888, established his residence at Arcadia. The minutes of the parish of July 31, 1888, show that the parish was incorporated and that John B. Haines and Nic Meiers were chosen as first trustees according to the acts of incorporation. On Dec. 8, 1890, it was decided that the old title of the parish, which was that of the Meyer's Valley Church, namely, "St. Peter and Paul," should be changed to the title "Our Lady of Perpetual Help." This change was made because Rev. Untraut had procured from Rome a copy of the miraculous picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. This picture has now been placed in a splendid shrine in the new church, and on account of its symbolic meaning and artistic beauty is highly treasured. Rev. Untraut established, in September of 1889, a good parochial school, bringing all kinds of sacrifices both in time and money; in fact he paid a part of the teachers' salary from his own penurious income. He is now pastor at Sacred Heart Church, Eau Claire, Wis. Rev. A. Birsner was pastor from 1894 to 1896. During his pastorate a new school house was built at a cost of \$2,800. It is much to be regretted that his health failed and he was compelled to resign. He is now pastor at St. Henry's Church, Highland, Wis. On July 5, 1896, he was succeeded by Rev. J. B. Hauck, who remained until Aug. 4, 1907.

Even in the early nineties it began to be realized that the parish would outgrow the dimensions of the church building, and remarks, calling for an addition, began to be heard. In August, 1899, the pastor called a meeting to consider either an addition or a new church building. Here the motion for a new church prevailed with an overwhelming majority. The building business was shelved, however, for an entire year on account of the ill health of the pastor. The year 1901 was spent in making building preparations. On March 10, 1902, the contract was awarded for the present

church, and on May 3, 1903, the church was dedicated by Rt. Rev. James Schwebach, D. D., Bishop of La Crosse. The files of the Arcadia papers of that week carry a detailed description of the solemnity. There were about ten priests present and a large gathering of people filled the church. It was estimated that there were 2,000 people present.

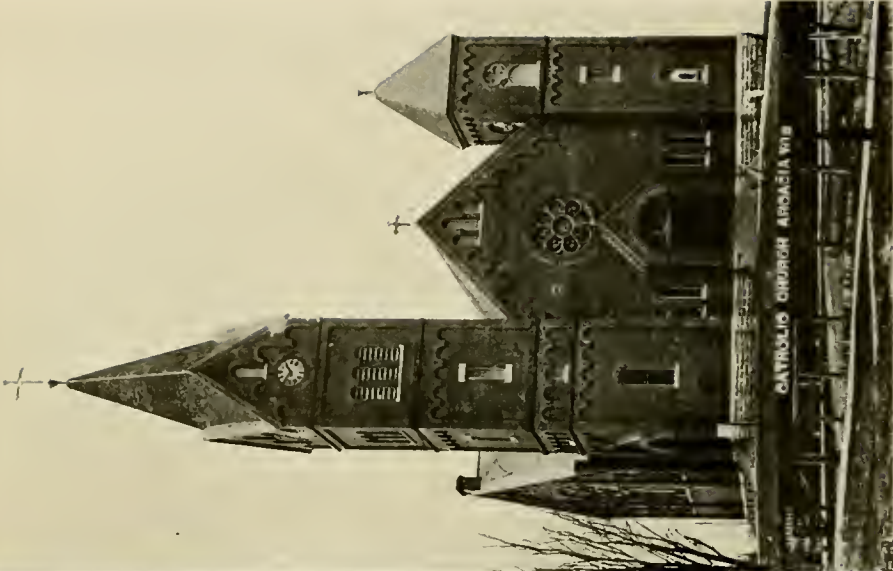
On Aug. 4, 1907, Rev. J. B. Hauck was transferred to Menomonie (at present he is pastor of St. Mary's, Wausau, Wis.), and was succeeded by his brother, Rev. Joseph L. Hauck from Neillsville. The latter, during his pastorate, liquidated the remaining indebtedness on the new church, and in the summer of 1909 erected, at a cost of \$8,000, the beautiful parsonage. In 1912 he had the interior of the church frescoed, bought a new pipe organ and a new scagliola high altar, which were a further improvement of \$7,000. The parish has not had a cent of debt for the last six years. During the coming year 1918 a new school house and auditorium will be erected at an estimated cost of \$30,000. A fund of \$10,000 has already been collected and all the plans and specifications are on hand.

To this historical sketch may well be added a brief description of the property.

The site is a most beautiful one. The grounds comprise two and one-half acres and were procured from the early pioneer, James Gaveney. It is located three blocks south from the principal business center of the village, hence sufficiently removed from the distractions and annoyance of busy city life, yet near enough to avoid isolation. The grounds are about ten feet higher than the level of the street and surrounding lots, this giving it a prominence of sight and a splendid frontage. The sides of the elevation are terraced and neatly sloped to the level of the street and the plain of the hill is laid out in cement walks, in an extensive lawn and beautiful shade trees.

The church is a structure of stone and brick. The style of architecture is modern Romanesque. The floor plan represents a Roman cross and has a seating capacity of 800. The facade is flanked by two massive towers, the one seventy-five and the other one hundred and thirty feet high. Entering the church one is impressed by the mildness of its light, by the freshness of its woodwork, by the magnificence of its vaulted ceiling, the beauty and boldness of its triumphal arch and the richness of its frescoing. The cost of the church was \$25,000. Anton Dohman of Milwaukee was the architect, and Henry Roetiger of Fountain City was the contractor. The congregation at present numbers 150 families. The English language is used throughout in sermons and instructions.

The school is under the able tutorship of the school sisters of Notre Dame, and the services of these worthy ladies is certainly much esteemed. The school is well graded throughout, consisting of the full eight grades. There are besides the regular curriculum, courses in singing, music, needlework and domestic science. For manual training the boys go to the public school, which is nearby. The school is frequented by 180 pupils, divided into four rooms. Soon, however, two more teachers will be added. The proposed school building will be modern and up-to-date in every way, special attention has been given to ventilation, heat, light and fire protection. The



REV. JOSEPH L. HAUCK

halls and class rooms will be spacious and arranged with individual wardrobes and lockers. The auditorium will have a seating capacity of 600 and the stage will be large enough so that all the pupils can appear at one and the same time.

The parsonage is a beautiful two-story brick building. The interior is well arranged into twelve rooms, vestibule, halls and wardrobes. The finish throughout is oak and maple, and the walls are stained to match the woodwork.

The sisters' home is the old church, which was remodeled into a residence. While not fancy or showy, the apartments are commodious and cheery. The total value of the parish property is estimated at \$70,000.

To the parish are affiliated strong societies, such as the Knights of Columbus, with a membership of 140; the Catholic Order of Foresters, with a membership of 85; the Catholic Order of Women Foresters, with a membership of 45; St. Anne's Society of women, with a membership of 90; the Young Ladies' Sodality, with a membership of 75, and the Holy Name Society, with a membership of 245. In the parish have grown up two priests and fourteen sisters.

Rev. J. L. Hauck, the present pastor, was born at Cresco, Iowa, in 1877. After completing the primary school at St. Lucas, at the age of fourteen he began his classical course at St. Lawrence College, at Mt. Calvary, Wis. Completing this course, he entered the philosophical course at Dubuque College, graduating in 1898. Thence he went to St. Francis into the theological course and was ordained to the priesthood June 16, 1901. He was assistant at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Superior, Wis., for one year, and in 1902 took charge of St. Mary's Parish, Neillsville, Wis. On Aug. 4, 1907, he was transferred to Arcadia. He has made many friends and commands the respect of both Catholics and Protestants. Many a civic celebration he enhanced by his eloquent and interesting speeches. He is an enterprising and public-spirited man. (Note.—This brief biography is inserted in Father Hauck's article by the editors. Deference to his modesty prevents the editors from dwelling more fully on his many activities, and upon the great influence which his devoted work and sterling worth are having upon the life of the community. This article on the church in Trempealeau County is in itself a striking encomium to his scholarship and ability.—F. C-W.)

St. Bridget's Parish, Ettrick, Wisconsin.

The early Catholic settlers in the southeastern part of the county were few and widely scattered. Some lived in the town of Ettrick, some in the town of Gale and some in the town of Trempealeau. Being widely scattered, they never formed strong centers, such as we find in the towns of Arcadia, Dodge and Burnside. Having no parochial schools, prospective Catholic families who might otherwise have located there hesitated to do so. Hence the growth of the church in these three townships was not very rapid. Up to this day none of their parishes has sufficient means and a membership large enough to support a resident pastor without the

assistance of some outside mission. None of them conduct a parochial school. For thirty-five years the priests residing at Ettrick had Galesville, Trempealeau and Roaring Creek as missions. Considering the distances from one church to another and the condition of the roads, one can easily imagine the hardships endured by the priests in administering to their scattered flock. More than one priest imperiled his life. At present the condition has been somewhat improved by the fact that Trempealeau has a resident pastor with Galesville as a mission, and that the pastor of St. Bridget's Parish is only obliged to attend to the mission at Roaring Creek. The early settlers in the sixties had no church, but mass was offered occasionally in the homes of some of the Catholics by pioneer priests from St. Mary's Church, La Crosse, Wis. Among these is especially remembered Rev. M. Marcoe. St. Bridget's Parish was organized by Rev. C. A. Gerst in 1869 and the first church was erected at a cost of \$2,000 in 1870. On account of hardships connected with the work at St. Bridget's and its remote missions the good spirits of the pastors were put to such a test, and their health so greatly impaired, that many had to request their bishop for a change after serving but a short time. Thus St. Bridget's was blest with frequent changes of pastors. The list of pastors is as follows: Rev. C. A. Gerst, 1869-1870; Rev. Herman Kamphschroer, 1870-71; Rev. Martin Connolly, 1871-72; Rev. Twohy, 1872-73; Rev. Chas. Gunkel, 1873-75; Rev. N. Flammang, 1875-77; Rev. N. White, 1877-80; Rev. J. B. Conroy, 1880-82; Rev. J. H. Neubrand, S. J., 1882-83; Rev. J. Harrier, 1883-84; Rev. J. J. Briene, 1884-89; Rev. Aug. Biersner, 1889-92; Rev. Daniel McElhaney, 1892-95; Rev. Telise Bryne, 1896-99; Rev. M. P. O'Connor, 1899-1905; Rev. M. A. Keegan, 1905-06; Rev. B. A. Enis, 1906-07; Rev. Jos. Colling, January, 1907-April, 1907; Rev. J. F. McGinnity, 1907-08; Rev. M. Morris, 1908-1911; Rev. J. J. Carden, May, 1911-November, 1911; Rev. Jos. Buschelmann, 1911-14; Rev. Peter Briody, 1914-17; Rev. Henry Engelhardt, O. M. I., since March, 1917. Among these special mention must be given to Rev. White and Rev. Felix Bryne, who greatly improved and renovated the dilapidated condition into which, through age, the property had sunk. In 1904 Rev. M. Mark O'Connor built a church at Galesville, and, for a time, it was thought that the future of the church in this section of the county would be in Galesville. Hence three pastors who followed Rev. O'Connor established their residence at Galesville and St. Bridget's became a mission. This, however, did not please the people of Ettrick. Greatly chagrined they took a determined stand against such a move. In time it did prove to the ecclesiastical authorities that the move to Galesville was impracticable, and in 1907 the residence of the pastor was re-established at Ettrick. This served to reunite the people of St. Bridget's and filled them with new hope and courage. Since then, under the administration of Rev. Briody, they erected a beautiful new church at a cost of \$9,000. This church was completed in June, 1917. Unfortunately Rev. Briody did not see the full completion of the new church. On Feb. 5, 1917, he was found dead in his home. On the previous day, which was bitter cold, he attended a sick call twenty miles in the country through large snowdrifts. This overtaxing of himself is sup-

posed to have been directly responsible for his death. By boarding up the windows it was possible to conduct his funeral from the new church. His remains rest in the cemetery to the left of the church.

St. Bridget's now counts 75 families or 220 souls. Now that they have an inviting church and are united the parish will see a period of great prosperity and healthy growth.

The present pastor, Rev. Henry Engelhardt, is a native of Germany. He was born on Oct. 5, 1886, and ordained on July 9, 1911. He belongs to the congregation of Oblate Missionaries and spent five years as missionary in India. At the outbreak of the war he was interned by the English, for no cause other than that he was a German in an English colony. Being confined for two years in a detention camp, he was released upon the condition that he would leave English soil. Coming to the United States, he was appointed pastor of St. Bridget's Church. He is a man of great experiences, well versed in many languages, of energetic and courageous disposition, yet kind and winning in his ways. He has made many friends in a short time and already done much for St. Bridget's Parish.

St. Michael's Parish, North Creek, Wisconsin.

Five miles northeast of the village of Arcadia, and about 100 yards from the highway leading into North Creek Valley, on a seven-acre tract is located St. Michael's Parish. In the spring of 1875 the parish was organized. Prior to that date the Polish settlers attended church at Glencoe and Meyer's Valley. The land for a church site they bought from Anton Sabotta. Some names of the organizers are: Albert Bautch, Laurence Bautch, Peter Sura, Anton Sabotta and Con Wiever. The first church was dedicated Oct. 6, 1875, by Most Rev. Heiss, archbishop of Milwaukee. The lumber for the church was hauled from Arcadia, and in doing so Mr. Sabotta lost his life, being thrown from his wagon into the Kamla Mill pond. Considering the means of the early settlers and the condition of the times their first church, which still stands and is used, was a credit to its members.

For a time St. Michael's was a mission, attended by the pastors of Pine Creek. Rev. H. Klimecki was pastor from 1876-82. Rev. D. Meyer 1882-85. During the next thirty-two years more than thirty different priests had charge of the pastorate. Among them might be mentioned Rev. Tomaszewski, 1885-86; Rev. Guzowski, 1886-87; Rev. Dutkiewicz 1887-90; Rev. A. Kroll, 1890-92; Rev. Frydrychowycz, 1893-96; Rev. Siwiek, 1896-99; Rev. Rayski and the present pastor, Rev. Micisc.

In 1910 the parish had about 120 families, a good school and was in flourishing condition. But then came a crisis which greatly lessened the membership. After the destruction of their school house by fire in the spring of 1909 very many members were opposed to the erection of a school in North Creek, and in favor of changing the location of the church to the village of Arcadia. The families living in the valleys south and west of the church claimed that they had just as near, if not nearer, on

the highway to Arcadia as to North Creek, and knowing the advantages of a church property in a village to retired farmers they were determined to have their plan carried out. The families in the immediate vicinity of St. Michael's opposed such a move. This led to a division of the parish. Some sixty farmers left St. Michael's and started the new St. Stanislaus Parish in Arcadia. Being greatly weakened in members the remnant did not abandon the future of St. Michael's, bringing great sacrifices, they sustained the parish. They erected a new school house in 1910, and have made since then great improvements on the church. The present church is the first one that was erected, but from time to time, as demands required, additions were made. In its renovated dress it makes a pleasing appearance.

The present pastor was born in Galicia in 1861. He was ordained in Leonberg, Galicia, in 1884. He spent much of his pastoral life in attending to city parishes, but finds it more congenial to his declining years in a rural district. He has done much good work at North Creek and is well-liked by his people.

St. Peter's and St. Paul's Parish, Independence, Wisconsin.

The most valuable church property in this section of Wisconsin is to be found one-fourth mile north of the village of Independence, and is that of St. Peter's and St. Paul's Congregation. In the beginning of the last half of the nineteenth century quite a number of Catholic families had arrived from Poland and formed two neighboring settlements, just as they, in the old country, had come out of two neighboring villages. One settlement was made in the territory that surrounds what is now known as North Creek, the other in the territory that is now known as the district surrounding Independence (at that time there was no village of Independence and no train service). One of the very first thoughts of a Catholic settler is, "what about church facilities?" and therefore these settlers at once organized themselves into two parishes. For the site of St. Peter's and St. Paul's parish a ten-acre tract had been donated by Geo. H. Markham. This was in the year 1875. Rev. Klimecki, then pastor of Pine Creek, administered to their spiritual wants and also assisted them in the building of the first church. At the same time Rev. Klimecki had charge of the erection of the church of St. Michael's at North Creek. The church at North Creek was dedicated Oct. 6, 1875, by Rt. Rev. M. Heiss, and on the following day, October 7, St. Peter's and Paul's Church was dedicated. Rev. Klimecki had told the members of these two settlements that as soon as a parsonage would be erected in either of these localities a resident pastor would be appointed. In the following year on March 8, 1876, Rev. Klimecki himself moved from Pine Creek to North Creek, that settlement being the first to erect a parsonage, and consequently St. Peter's and St. Paul's Parish became a mission attached to North Creek. This arrangement continued until March 19, 1883, when St. Peter's and St. Paul's had erected their own parsonage and Rev. A. Warnagiris became

the first resident pastor. Rev. Warnagiris was followed in 1885 by Rev. Tomaszewski, under whose supervision the first brick school house was erected at a cost of \$3,000. This building was dedicated by Rt. Rev. Flash, September, 1886. In March, 1888, Rev. Tomaszewski was succeeded by Rev. R. L. Guzowski. In 1889 the parsonage, which was occupied as a priest house until 1915, was erected. After an interregnum of eight months, during which A. A. Kroll of North Creek looked after the spiritual affairs of the parish. Rev. Babinski took charge of the administration on Sept. 2, 1890. During his pastorate a new beautiful church, 56 by 131 feet, at a cost of \$25,000, was erected. The building was begun in 1895 and completed in 1896, being dedicated on October 3 by Rt. Rev. J. Schwebach. Rev. Babinski remained until 1901, when he was transferred and undertook the work of establishing a new Polish parish in Superior, Wis. This reverend pastor, who will long be remembered for his affability, zeal and efficiency, died some five years ago. His remains are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Winona, Minn., according to his special request. In September, 1901, Rev. A. W. Gara, the present pastor, took charge of the parish. Under his wise administration the following buildings were erected and extensive improvements made: In 1903 a new school house at a cost of \$11,000. In 1908 a large addition to the church at a cost of \$18,000. This addition makes St. Peter's and St. Paul's Church the largest in the diocese of La Crosse, and gives it a seating capacity of 1,200. In the same year the interior of the church was beautifully frescoed at a cost of \$2,200. Many improvements were made on the exterior of the buildings and on other parts of the grounds. In 1915 the new palatial residence was erected at a cost of \$15,000. The erection of a new parsonage became all the more necessary and imperative since, on account of the large amount of work due to the size of the parish, room had to be made for an assistant to the pastor. April 7, 1917, Rev. James Bercezinski assumed his duties as assistant.

The parish today numbers 425 families or 2,100 souls. The increase in membership has been most phenomenal, evidently due to two factors, namely: the large number of immigrants and the large size of their families. While there has been within the last ten years no further immigration, still the parish continues to flourish and increase, which must be explained as due to the large number of children in each family. The Polish people have as yet not begun to practice race suicide. If the immigrants of other nationalities had followed their example we would not find them dying out, and we could add one-third to the population of the United States.

The school is attended by 225 children. This does not, however, represent the total number of children. If all the children could be enrolled the number would be between six and seven hundred. On account of distances many children are obliged to attend the nearby public schools. These come to the parochial school at a later period, but then not longer than for two years. The school is in charge of one lay teacher, who also is the parish organist, and four sisters. The sisters' motherhouse is at Stevens Point, Wis., they are designated as the Polish Sisters of St. Joseph. The societies of the parish are SS. Peter and Paul, Holy Cross, Holy Rosary,

St. Augustine and the Children of Mary. All these societies enjoy a large and active membership.

The site of St. Peter's and St. Paul's Church is very beautifully located on a slight elevation overlooking to the south and west the village and lake of Elk Creek, and to the north and east rich and fertile farming districts. On the parish grounds are situated not only the church building, but a portion is set aside and laid out for cemetery purposes, and the rest is converted into a shady park. The church can be seen from a distance, and its heaven-ward towering steeple and massive dimensions make an impressive appearance. The structure is gothic in style. The interior, with its vaulted ceiling, rich frescoing and beautiful altars and statues, makes a dignified and pleasing impression. It must certainly be an edifying and inspiring scene to see this large edifice on any Sunday morn filled to its capacity with people in silent reverence kneeling before their God or with blended voices chanting His praises. The people of St. Peter's and St. Paul's Parish must be congratulated upon the sacrifices they have made for their parish. These sacrifices speak volumes for their faith and generosity, as well as for their diligence and thrift.

Rev. A. W. Gara, the present pastor, was born in the year 1860 in Yawiszowica, Galicia, Austria, where he received his early training. He continued his studies at the College Zywice, and the College Wadowice. Philosophy and theology he studied at Rome. In 1885 he came to America and on June 24, 1886, was ordained at St. Francis' Seminary, St. Francis, Wis. For two months he was assistant at Marshfield. Then he became pastor of the parish at Paniatowski, Wis. On July 1, 1898, he became pastor at Pine Creek, where he made great improvements on the church property. Rev. A. W. Gara is a man of great zeal and energy and of much ability, of minute exactness and a strong and firm character. His work at St. Peter's and St. Paul's alone will ever make him known as a "builder" and successful pastor.

St. Mary's Parish, Galesville, Wisconsin.

The Catholics of the village of Galesville for many years had no services, being obliged to go either to Ettrick or Trempealeau for spiritual ministrations. From 1890 to 1904 mass was offered occasionally by the pastor from Ettrick in the Czepull hall. In 1904 Rev. O'Connor, pastor from Ettrick, superintended the erection of a beautiful church at a cost of \$5,000. The site was donated by Capt. A. A. Arnold and is located on the east side of Galesville. Rev. Keegan, Rev. Enis and Rev. Colling, during their pastorate of two years, resided at Galesville and attended to Ettrick and Trempealeau. The parish of Galesville not owning a priest house and not showing any sign of being financially fit to erect one in the near future, the ecclesiastical authorities became cognizant of the impracticability of maintaining a residence at Galesville, and the coming of Rev. McGinnity re-established the pastor's residence at Ettrick. When Rev. Buschelmann established his residence at Trempealeau, Galesville became a mission of the former place. Galesville now has 44 Catholic families.

A Court of C. O. F., to which also members of St. Bartholomew's and of St. Bridget's belong, is maintained. The parishes of St. Bartholomew, St. Bridget and St. Mary are rather small in number, but they are located in the heart of a great and rich agricultural district, and no doubt under prudent, vigilant and consistent supervision will spring up like mushrooms, but unlike mushrooms become strong and firm and a source of pride to the community, contributors to moral uplift and powerful factors in expelling the miasma of irreligion and bigotry. Bigotry, we find, thrives in localities but sparsely settled by Catholics, because it is there possible to misrepresent the church and the lives of her children.

St. Bartholomew's Parish, Trempealeau, Wisconsin.

On the east bank of the Mississippi, the father of waters, and at the foot of the historic Trempealeau mount, twelve blocks west from the business center of the village of Trempealeau, stands St. Bartholomew's Church.

The early Catholic settlers in this section were few in number. In the sixties they received spiritual ministrations from the pastors of St. Mary's Church, La Crosse. It is related that Rev. Marcoe came twice a year carrying the sacred vestments and other paraphernalia, and offered the sacrifice of the mass in the house of Antrim Grignon, where all the Catholics of the vicinity, having received information of the priest's coming, gathered. In 1872 fifteen families erected the present church at a cost of about \$3,000, completing the same in 1873. The site was donated by the Grignon family. Since they were too few to support a resident priest, St. Bartholomew's Congregation was, until 1914, a mission, attended to from Ettrick. On Nov. 1, 1914, Rev. Joseph Buschelmann was transferred from Ettrick to Trempealeau as first pastor thereof. The house of Mrs. Taylor was bought at a price of \$1,400. It is located two blocks east of the church and was suitably furnished into a pastor's residence. When the church was erected there were but fifteen families, now there are fifty-one. On account of the smallness of the parish and its limited revenue St. Bartholomew's is not able to insure the pastor's support, hence Rev. Buschelmann was given Galesville as a mission, thus affording also assistance to the latter place. There now being good train service between Trempealeau and Galesville the ministrations of both places no longer offers the hardships of former days, when the distance from Ettrick to Trempealeau or from Galesville to Trempealeau had to be made by vehicle over a poor stretch of road often in most unfavorable weather. The present arrangement of having a resident pastor in Trempealeau and one in Ettrick seems to have solved the difficulty which confronted the pioneer priests and which made work so arduous. St. Bartholomew's has an altar society of sixty active members. The parish made great progress since the arrival of Rev. Buschelmann, and just at present is enjoying a lively boom. More than ten prosperous families came from Iowa and settled in this locality and others are following. In view of these features the parish has a bright future before it. Rev. Buschelmann was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on Feb.

15, 1884. He finished his classical course of studies in the famous Canisius College of Buffalo, N. Y., conducted by the Jesuit Fathers. His seminary course he completed at St. Bernard's Seminary, Rochester, N. Y., where he was ordained in 1911. His first charge was Ettrick, whence he attended to Trempealeau as a mission until in 1914, when he established his residence here. He is a young man of good ability, zealous, active, public spirited and of a happy and jovial disposition. He has won the hearts of many, who believe that his future career will be bright and fruitful.

**St. Stanislaus' Parish,
Arcadia, Wisconsin.**

The youngest of Catholic parishes in the county—the Benjamin of the family and the second Catholic parish in the village of Arcadia—is St. Stanislaus' Congregation. It was organized in the fall of 1910. Prior to this date the members belonged mostly to St. Michael's Church at North Creek. After fire had destroyed the school house of St. Michael's parish in the spring of 1910 about one-half the members favored changing the church locality from North Creek to Arcadia Village. Being opposed in this move by the other faction at North Creek they seceded and obtained permission to organize a separate Polish parish. Instrumental in this move and at the same time hard workers for the parish were John Soppa, Sr., Mike Sabotta, J. J. Korpala and Andrew Stachowski. The first two were also the first trustees. During the summer of 1910 a site was procured from the Hon. John C. Gaveney for \$700. This site is located on the hill one-half mile east from Main street. Plans were made for a church by J. G. Schneider. The end of this year saw the completion of the church building and on July 4, 1911, it was dedicated by Rt. Rev. James Schwebach, bishop of La Crosse. The church cost \$18,000. At that time the parish did not have a resident priest, and in all their building operations and collections of funds they proceeded without the advice or assistance of any pastor. Yet the Rev. John Rayski, who was pastor of North Creek, attended to their spiritual wants and held services after the new church was completed every second Sunday. In 1912 they erected the parsonage at a cost of \$2,500, and Rev. Ignatius Orlig was appointed as first resident pastor. In 1914 they erected a school house at a cost of \$8,000. This was dedicated Oct. 25, 1914. In September Rev. Orlig left and was followed by Rev. Francis Barszczak, the present pastor. In September 1915 the school was opened and placed in charge of the Sisters of St. Joseph from Stevens Point. The present enrollment is about 100 pupils. The present membership of the parish numbers about 500 souls or ninety families. The societies of the parish are as follows: The Rosary Society, St. Stanislaus' Society and the Polish Union. The total value of St. Stanislaus' Church is about \$30,000. The parishioners have brought great sacrifices and showed intense interest in the progress of the same. Because they are so strongly united soon this will be numbered among the leading parishes of the county.

The present pastor was born in Galicia, Austria. His early education he received in Przemyśl, Austria, and his theological course he finished at

St. Francis Seminary, St. Francis, Wis., where he was ordained in February, 1913. His first charge was at Stanley, Wis., whence he was transferred to Arcadia. He is a zealous and active man and of good and regular habits.

The aggregate wealth of the Catholic church property of Trempealeau County is approximately \$260,000. The work that the Catholics of Trempealeau County have done for the good of the cause they have espoused is not merely evident from the establishment of parishes and schools within the county, but the fact that many children of the past generation who have received their early training in faith and religion here have moved to the western states and have there helped to organize new parishes must not be overlooked. The writer is acquainted with five or six parishes whose membership consists mostly of former Trempealeau County folks. Also the fact that the Catholics of Trempealeau County have made great contributions to the upbuilding of La Crosse diocesan institutions, e. g., the orphan asylum, cathedral and seminary aid, must not be overlooked. At present the contributions to outside funds from the Catholics of Trempealeau County amount to over \$2,000 annually. Lastly the number of young men who have embraced the priesthood, or who are preparing for the same, and the number of young ladies who have joined religious communities and who are engaged in school work speaks well for the religious spirit of our Catholics. There have come forth five priests, eight seminarians and forty-six nuns. The Catholics of this county have also furnished in 1917 forty-four volunteers to the army and about twenty-five or thirty drafted men. A good proof that patriotic spirit runs true and high.

The children of the noble, self-sacrificing pioneers constitute the present generation, like their forefathers they are physically strong and hardy; socially, industrious, thrifty and neighborly; intellectually, well versed in the three Rs, and that not only in their mother tongue, but also in the language of the country; morally, God-fearing and law-abiding citizens.

CHAPTER XX.

OTHER CHURCHES.

In addition to the Norwegian Lutheran churches in Trempealeau County there are five other Lutheran churches, four German and one Swedish. There are also in the county churches of the Evangelical Association, Presbyterian, Methodist Episcopal, Baptist, Congregational and Protestant Episcopal faith. There is one independent church.

An effort has been made to gather the histories of these churches, but in many instances the pastors have failed to furnish the desired information.

German Evangelical Lutheran.

There are five German Evangelical Lutheran congregations in Trempealeau, four of which have church edifices. Two are at Arcadia, St. John's and St. John's Christ. One is in Hale Township. One is in the Tamarack Valley. The congregation at Galesville worships in the Swedish Lutheran church.

Swedish Lutheran.

There is one Swedish Lutheran church in the county, located at Galesville.

Evangelical Association.

(By Albert Hess.)

Arcadia Circuit of the Evangelical Association is composed of four local organizations located as follows: Independence, Tamarack, Cortland and Arcadia. This circuit has been supplied regularly with pastors since the early sixties, but the earliest records now in existence date back only to 1871, and even some of those since that date are incomplete. In speaking today with older settlers we are informed that the Rev. Israel Kuder was the first pastor who in pioneer days occasionally preached at these various settlements in connection with the Buffalo County settlements of Fountain City, Montana, Alma and Scotch Prairie, now known as Anchorage. The earlier pastor, Rev. Jacob Seder, probably did not visit Trempealeau County. The pastors who were stationed here since 1878 follow in order. Sometimes the field was supplied with two pastors, an elder and a probationer. In this case usually both Trempealeau and Buffalo County congregations were served, with the elder living at Montana and the younger preacher at Arcadia. Arcadia being the central congregation, it follows that the parsonage is located here. The first parsonage was purchased about the year 1883. In the year 1909 a modern parsonage was built on the same lot the old one had occupied. The present pastor is B. O.

Maschmann, who has served the congregation since May 1, 1914. The ministers on the Arcadia circuit were as follows: R. F. Habermann, May 1, 1878 to 1881; M. C. Werner, 1881 to May, 1885; H. Best, 1885 to 1886; H. Clement, 1886 to 1889; H. Brockhaus, 1889 to 1890; F. Ausmann and F. G. Hack, 1893 to 1895; F. Ausmann and W. Koten, 1895 to 1896; J. J. Stuempfig and W. J. Hillmann, 1896 to 1897; J. J. Stuempfig and H. P. Jordan, 1897 to 1900.

Trinity Church of the Evangelical Association.—The first church was a small edifice erected on River street in Arcadia about the year 1878, which was moved in 1883 to a site west of the Trempealeau River, on what is now designated as Main street in West Arcadia. A new church was erected in the year 1903 at the cost of \$6,000, and a new parsonage, at a cost of \$3,500, was built in the year 1909. Both church and parsonage are of modern design and are equipped with electric lighting and hot air heating system. The property valuation of the church is \$6,500 and the parsonage \$4,000. The auxiliary organizations of this church are a Sunday school, Young People's Alliance, Junior Alliance and a Woman's Missionary and Aid Society. The trustees and officers of this congregation are: Julius Senty, president; Albert Hess, secretary; Jacob Hotz, treasurer; J. J. Schramm and J. P. Runkel, trustees. The present membership is 94. The original members of this congregation when first organized were: A. F. Hensel, John Durisch, H. Klug, P. A. Koenig, J. F. Koenig, Leonard Schneller and Jacob Hotz.

Emanuel's Church of the Evangelical Association of the Arcadia Circuit is located in section 15, range 9, township 20, and was formerly known as the "Home" church, and later named "Cortland." Early services were held in the homes of the old settlers at first. In 1868 a church was built, the first members being A. F. Hensel, William Kiekhoefer, William Garbe, Martin Joos, August Garbe, Ludwig Hensel, Friederich Kiekhoefer and John Miller. The first record we have of the Emanuel's church is dated November, 1871. The church was remodeled in 1910. Home and Cortland congregation has always been served by the pastors of the Arcadia circuit. The present officers of this congregation are: H. F. Ulbrech, president; Walter Kiekhoefer, secretary; William Miller, treasurer; William Rohleder and Frank Kiekhoefer, trustees. The present membership is 50; the property valuation, \$2,200. This congregation has a Sunday school as an auxiliary organization.

Zion Church of the Evangelical Association, known as the Tamarack church, is located in section 15, range 10, township 19, known as German Valley. Services were first held in the residences of the early settlers as far back as 1835. A church was erected in 1903. The early members were E. Bockenbauer, Charles Klein, Charles Wier, Gottlieb Schultz and William Yarchow. A Sunday school is conducted in connection. The property valuation is \$600; membership, 11.

Independence Congregation of the Evangelical Association was organized about the same time as the Arcadia congregation. Services were held in the residences of the members until the year 1880, when a union church was built by the members in connection with the members of the Methodist

Episcopal congregation, both organizations using this edifice alternately to the present date. Among the first members of the Independence branch were John Sprecher, Emil Graul, Henry Schaefer, William Steiner, John Steiner, William Runkel, Jacob Klavadetcher and John Martins. This congregation also conducts a Sunday school and has a Junior Alliance. The present membership is 35. Officers: John Sprecher, president; Emil Graul, secretary; John Steiner, treasurer.

Congregational.

There are two Congregational churches in the county, one located at Osseo and one at Trempealeau.

The First Congregational Church of Osseo. At the time of the first organized Christian efforts in Osseo, in 1868, at the time of this writing (1904) thirty-six years ago, Osseo was a village not incorporated and so small that one stranger in seeking the place drove to the principal hotel and inquired how far it was to Osseo. V. W. Campbell was the proprietor and carried the mail between Augusta and Osseo. There was no railroad communication in existence for Osseo at that time, nor for about twenty years after. In front of the present hotel on the south side of the business street was an open square, where the circus held forth, ball games were played and the Fourth of July sports were witnessed. The town hall was then the school house of one department. It occupied the site of the later school building and like the antiquated personage was pushed aside to give place to the more pretentious structure. In its belfry hung a cracked bell not so melodious as the one which now calls the urchin to his task, but serving the purpose for which it swung quite as well. There were no walks then in any section of Osseo. In the section west from the depot bridge there were no buildings. We can scarcely imagine what this section would be without the depot, elevators, lumber yard, the flat and the cottage near. In 1882 or 1883 the residences of Frank York, of Dr. E. A. Olson and Mrs. Julie Shores were built, also the beginning of the Central House, the large store building of Field Bros., which was burned in 1891, and the first portion of the school building. The population then numbered about 150.

Such was Osseo when thirty-six years ago Samuel Thompson came here, took for a homestead the land later owned by Bert Wilson and built the house later burned. Through his efforts a Congregational congregation was organized. Some preferred the Methodists, some the Presbyterian and still others the Friends or Quakers, but the Congregationalists were in the majority and effected their organization. After a very few years this pastor moved away, some members followed his example and some died, until none were left to carry on the work. At that time the Congregational Association was caring for a great territory in Northern and Central Wisconsin, for the most part as needy as Osseo, and was in consequence of this financially embarrassed. These facts resulted in Osseo having no religious service for some time. Then the Methodists took up the work. We have been able to learn of but two pastors of that denomination holding service here—a Rev. Masee and later Rev. Conway. This

latter denomination was in quite the same circumstances that the first was, not having enough ministers to supply their needs, so Osseo was again left without spiritual guidance.

It is now more than a quarter of a century since the Congregational Association of the Eau Claire district asked Rev. J. S. Norris, then pastor of the Mondovi church, to visit Osseo Village. On reaching our little town he says: "I was directed to the home of Samuel and Sarah Cox, as being the best Christians in the place." This good brother and sister implored Rev. Norris to visit them occasionally and to send them a pastor. Both he promised to do. Being acquainted with Rev. M. McPhail of Moline, Ill., he believed, and rightly, that he was the man for the place. Accordingly through the influence of this good man the father of Christian work in Osseo came to our needy village. He was minister in every sense of the word. He could sing as well as speak the Master's message. He acted efficiently as church clerk or convention delegate. He not only superintended, but took the principal part in the building of the church and parsonage, acting as carpenter, mason and painter. He was sympathetic. Of him it might be said, "He rejoiced with those who did rejoice and wept with those who wept." Although at times the burden seemed great, yet he was untiring in his efforts to consummate the work God had given him.

Rev. McPhail arrived in Osseo probably in the early part of 1878. On July 16, 1878, the committee appointed by the Chippewa Convention met at Osseo and formally organized a church consisting of the following members: Rev. M. McPhail, Samuel Cox, Sarah Cox, John Cox, Rhoda Cox, William Henry, Elizabeth Henry, Geo. F. Newell, Sr., Walter Newell, Sarah Shores, Storm Zhee, Maria Zhee, Horatio M. Tracey, Sarah Elsom, Thomas Love, Wm. K. Levis, Sr., Mary E. Levis, Joseph W. Jaquish, Geo. Colburn, Harriet Colburn and Mary Lovesee. All services were held at that time in the school house. A little melodian was the only instrument procurable. Mrs. F. N. Thomas was organist. Mrs. S. Field, Geo. F. Newell, Sr., and J. W. Jaquish were prominent in the choir. Zoe Shepard, Nettie Tracey, Emma Linderman, Lizzie Field, Bert Cox, Mr. Marson and wife, Curt Van Housen and Ed Olson were also helpers in this line. Rev. McPhail was the janitor, and often he and his son went into the woods near by to gather fuel, carrying it in their arms or on their shoulders to the school house. This was an added burden to both mind and body. In speaking of burdens we are reminded of the burdens borne by the dear wife who by the greatest economy made it possible for the family to exist on three hundred dollars a year. Had it not been for her sacrifices, her devotion, her unflinching faith even Rev. McPhail could not have carried on this great work. Regular services were held in Tracey Valley and in South Valley.

About March 1, 1879, work on the parsonage was begun. This work progressed but slowly, probably because financial matters were not easily adjusted, and most of the work being done by the pastor had of necessity to be interrupted by pastoral duties. May 1 of the same year the record tells of the donation of a communion set from the La Crosse church. The pastor's family reached Osseo Aug. 20, 1879, but even then the parsonage was not entirely finished, much of the minor work, as painting and plas-

tering, being done afterward. May 12, 1879, a lot was bought of S. Field for \$25, on which to erect a church.

Nov. 21, 1879, a committee consisting of John Cox, Thomas Newman and Wm. Henry was appointed, which succeeded in raising the church indebtedness by subscription. Sept. 4, 1880, a church building committee was appointed consisting of five members, Rev. McPhail, Wm. Henry, F. N. Thomas, Horace Field and Elias Gay. About the same time Messrs. Gay, Hyslop, Henry and McPhail were appointed a committee to visit the Hixton church for the purpose of devising plans for the new church. The foundation wall had been laid in June previous to these arrangements. September 14 a bee was made to haul the lumber from Humbird. A great many in and around the village helped in this.

On Sept. 30, 1880, the erection of a house of worship was commenced. Much of the work on the edifice was by Rev. McPhail and his son George. E. Hyslop was also prominent in the work. In fact nearly every one helped, contributing labor or talent unsparingly.

The Ladies' Aid Society was organized in 1882, making their first financial efforts the donation of paint for the building. Much credit is due this society for their help in a financial way, not only paying a good portion of pastors' salaries, but repairing or refitting parsonage or church whenever or however necessity required.

In April or May, 1883, the church received \$412 from the American Congregational Union to finish paying the church debt. This debt being removed, June 17, 1883, the finished house was dedicated.

On Jan. 1, 1893, a bell, which was the gift of the King's Daughters, was dedicated. This was purchased by direct effort of this society at a cost of \$225, the last of the amount being raised by circulating a subscription paper. Nearly ten years later in December, 1902, a window to the memory of the late Pastor McPhail was placed in the church. This was purchased and placed by a subscription under the direction of Mrs. Mary Fox at an entire cost of \$72.75.

The pastors of the church have been: Rev. McPhail, 1880-86; Rev. Pinkerton, 1887-88; Rev. Sparrow, 1889; Rev. W. M. Betts, 1890; Rev. W. C. Haire, 1891; Rev. D. H. Richie, 1892; Rev. G. H. Marsh, 1894; Rev. John DeCow, 1896; Rev. John Evans, 1897-98; Rev. John Evans, 1899; Rev. Luther Spears, 1901; Rev. Otto J. Scheibe, 1903-04.

In the years which have passed since the above article was written in 1904 many changes have taken place. New streets have been opened, many beautiful new residences erected and improvements so numerous made in our little village that space will not permit the mention of all. One, aside from the church and its properties, should not be omitted, is the erection of as fine a new school building as can be found in a long travel. There is established a four years' high school course, with excellent equipment for domestic science, manual training and gymnasium. Such a school would be a credit to a city many times the size of Osseo. The old school building has been purchased by the village to be fitted up for city hall, offices and library. The public library is also a recent addition to our progress. The Osseo Study Club, with a membership of sixteen ladies, established this,

paying one hundred dollars at its foundation. The village has taken it over and at present it contains 900 volumes. In 1916 over 4,000 volumes were taken for reading. At present—1917—the periodicals on the magazine table are Review of Reviews, Literary Digest, Musician, Popular Mechanics and Good Housekeeping.

Our church has progressed most perceptibly since 1904. The pastors since that date have been: Rev. A. S. Newcomb, 1905-06; Rev. Morton, a supply for three months; Rev. C. S. Johnson, 1907-09; Rev. F. E. Hall, 1911-12; Rev. C. S. Johnson, 1912-14; Rev. Harry Milford, 1914 to the present.

In 1908 the church was remodeled at an approximate cost of \$1,500, making a greater seating capacity and providing a pastor's study, church parlors, kitchen and dining room. In 1916 the parsonage was sold and a new modern bungalow erected, a parsonage of which the church is justly proud.—(By Harriet Campbell Schultz.)

The Congregational Church of Independence, not now in existence, was organized in June, 1879, at Taylor's Hall, under the direction of the Rev. J. H. Pollock, with twelve members. The congregation was long since dissolved.

Presbyterian Churches.

There are three Presbyterian churches in Trempealeau County, the Presbyterian Church of Whitehall, incorporated Feb. 14, 1893; the Presbyterian Church of Pleasant Valley, incorporated May 20, 1893, and the Presbyterian Church of Galesville, incorporated Feb. 17, 1896. The Presbyterian Church of Independence was incorporated Nov. 20, 1879, but is not now in existence.

The First Presbyterian Church of Galesville was organized with 23 members, Sept. 17, by D. C. Lyon and Henry Day, from the presbytery of Winnebago. The roll of officers and members was as follows: Brice Mars and John McMillan, Jr. (elders), Franklin Gilbert (elder-elect), Mrs. Julia A. Gilbert, Mrs. Gertrude Gale, Mrs. Nancy Young, Mrs. Janet Mars, Robert Cance, Mrs. Christian Cance, Mrs. Mary Cance, Mrs. Martha Purves, William Dick, Mrs. Rosina Dick, Mrs. Jane Harris, George W. Stearns, Mrs. Maria Stearns, Mrs. Ann McMillan, Andrew Gatherer, Mrs. Sophia Gatherer, Mrs. Mary Faulds, John McMillan, Sr., Mrs. Isabella McMillan and Mrs. Mary Bibby. On Dec. 10 following Mr. Lyon, of the Committee of Presbytery, received by certificate John Cance, Mrs. John Cance, Alex Cance and James Hardie, and on profession of their faith Mrs. Maria Mars, Wm. Thomas, John Bibby, Richard Bibby and Mrs. Mary Bibby. Since it is known that these persons were prevented from joining at the earlier date by sickness, delay of their expected letter, or other accident, they are given a place among the charter members.

On Sept. 5, 1859, the Board of Domestic Missions, at Mr. Lyon's request, formally commissioner Sheldon Jackson for "La Crescent, Hokah and vicinity in Minnesota." Mr. Jackson interpreted "vicinity" to mean as far as he could reach. In fact he was already searching out the land. On

horseback, and often on foot, he was fording streams, climbing hills, penetrating valleys, opening every school house, telling the Gospel story by every fireside. Did he find a little group of Presbyterians, he organized them into a church and set them to work. He soon had preaching stations in 13 counties in Minnesota, and in Chippewa, Eau Claire, Jackson, Trempealeau and La Crosse Counties in Wisconsin,—a parish of 13,000 square miles and a salary of \$300 a year. (See Stewart's Life of Sheldon Jackson.)

There is record to show that Mr. Lyon and Sheldon Jackson supplied the Galesville church alternately on the second Sabbath of the month for several months, probably till the arrival of the first pastor, the Rev. John Frothingham. This young minister was from the presbytery of Albany. He had refused flattering calls from eastern congregations and had chosen the career of a home missionary in a frontier town under the influence of his boyhood friend and neighbor, Sheldon Jackson. Galesville was on the frontier in 1860. The houses were lighted by tallow candles and the streets not at all. There were but three span of horses in the town, and the nearest approach to a carriage, excepting the doctor's rig, was one two-seated spring wagon; but said wagon, which was painted red, did free service and was even used for a hearse. There was but one mail a week. It went out on Friday to La Crosse, the nearest railway point, and came in on Saturday. Everyone worked hard and life was rude, but it was not altogether without refining influences. A newspaper had been established by Mr. S. S. Luce, and a lyceum organized, while Galesville University—now Gale College—was in its second year. The people were intelligent, some of them college-bred, and there were few whose mother tongue was not the English language. If all were not godly by profession and in practice they were at least God-fearing—respecting God's book, God's day and God's minister. The one man in the village who talked infidelity and habitually worked on Sunday was regarded with abhorrence by his fellow townsmen. There had been a Union Sunday school, but the offer of a library to a Presbyterian school and no other led Mr. Frothingham to organize one June 7, 1863. He was superintendent of this school till he left the place. It was organized in the little old school house, but the church building was already under way. At the county fair in October of this year the ladies served dinners and earned \$75,000 for the building fund. The building moved slowly, however, for lack of means, and was not completed and ready for dedication till Jan. 1, 1865. It was a very plain structure—that old church—but every dollar of the \$1,200 that went into it represented hard work and much self-sacrifice. It was fitting, therefore, that the minister's corn-crib should furnish material for the belfry, as the crowning act of self-denial. The pews were rented at first, but the arrangement proved unsatisfactory and was abandoned after the second year. In 1866 a church was organized at North Bend, and the McMillan, Bibby, Faulds and Gatherer families, 12 members in all, withdrew to cast in their lot there. In 1868 the Frothinghams removed to Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Four months later Mr. Frothingham was laid to rest in Cedar Rapids.

Dec. 10, 1868, one month after Mr. Frothingham's removal, Rev. Henry R. Wilson became the minister. Mr. Wilson left us in April, 1871, to take a

position in the office with his father, who was secretary of the Board of Church Election. The next minister, the Rev. Samuel Brown, came fresh from the University of Belfast.

The next pastor was Rev. J. C. de Bruyn Kops. While he was pastor the choir was removed to a platform at the right of the pulpit, and the old walnut desk used by Mr. Frothingham was replaced with the pulpit now in use, designed and made by Rev. Kops. During this ministry the first Woman's Missionary Society was organized and the Sabbath school put in a flourishing condition under the leadership of Dr. J. R. Branch.

The presbytery having accepted the custody of Gale College in 1877, it became necessary to have a minister who would do some work in the classroom. Accordingly Mr. Kops resigned and the Rev. John Moore was called. Mr. Moore came as pastor and as the professor of Belles Lettres in the college. He resigned in September, 1880, to accept a call to Ripon, Wis. Mr. Moore died in 1888 and his wife followed him two years later.

Mr. Moore's successor, Rev. J. Irwin Smith, D. D., began his ministry here in April, 1881. He became financial agent of the college and entered with ardor into the work of gathering funds both before and after the fire; later he became college president and took charge of some classes—all this time filling his pulpit regularly and doing much pastoral work. Dr. Smith resigned the next year, but no one being found to fill the vacancy he supplied the pulpit without compensation when his other duties permitted until he severed his connection with the college in 1888 and removed to Toledo, Iowa. He died in Cedar Rapids, March 16, 1908, at the age of eighty-two.

It was September, 1889, when the Rev. John L. Gage entered upon his ministry here. During the vacancy of nearly two years several leading members had removed from the place and the organized work of the church had languished. The Y. P. S. C. E. was now reorganized and another Woman's Missionary Society was started. Early in 1890 a series of union evangelistic meetings was held under the leadership of a "Band" from Minneapolis, and the town was stirred from center to circumference. After these meetings Mr. Gage received 22 members, the largest number ever added to one communion. Dr. Smith had taken in 15 March 21, 1886, and, after the Kennedy tent meetings, Mr. Winder received 14, Sept. 16, 1894. After a stay of two years Mr. Gage removed to Iowa, where Mr. Gage is still in the work, although on the retired list. Mrs. Gage died four years ago.

The Rev. Joseph M. Winder, who succeeded Mr. Gage, was stated supply and pastor from September, 1891, to February, 1897. During this time the parsonage was bought and refitted and the new church was built.

It was May, 1898, more than 14 months after Mr. Winder left us, before Rev. T. C. Hill came. The pulpit had been supplied a part of the time by the Rev. G. James Jones of the college. Mr. Hill resigned in April, 1905. The Rev. J. M. McKnight was here for a time, but he felt unequal to the work of so extensive a field. The outlook was gloomy until Rev. N. F. Chapman was sent. In less than two years the Neillsville church, desiring an energetic young man of the evangelistic type, gave Mr. Chapman a call, and he left us in October, 1907. The pulpit was vacant six months before our next pastor, the Rev. Benjamin Thomas, was secured.

He resigned in October, 1916, and in April, 1917, was succeeded by the present pastor, the Rev. Norman K. Tully.

(Note.—An elaborate booklet, issued Sept. 19-20, 1909, at the time of the celebration of the semi-centennial, is a valuable contribution to the social and economic, as well as religious, history of an old Wisconsin community, and contains many interesting pen pictures of men and events and conditions during the fifty years that it covers.)

Methodist Episcopal.

There are seven Methodist Episcopal churches in the county, located at Whitehall, Independence, Arcadia, Trempealeau, Osseo, Centerville and Eleva. The church at Galesville is vacant. The church in Hale Township, incorporated March 4, 1892, is no longer in existence.

Methodist Episcopal Church of Arcadia. The organization of this society was perfected in 1857, under the auspices of an itinerant minister of the Wesleyan faith, with Collins Bishop, Anna Bishop, Narcissa Robertson and Rhoda Shelley as the constituent members. Services were conducted at the residences of members until an increase in the members of the congregation required more extensive quarters, when the school house was secured and appropriated to their uses. This was continued until 1876 when preparation looking to the erection of a house of worship, meanwhile in progress, took shape, and resulted in the building of the present edifice, which was completed during that year at a cost of \$5,000. It is of frame, of a quaint Elizabethan order of architecture, handsomely finished, and with accommodations for a congregation of 500 persons.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Independence was organized about 1877, and met in Taylor's Hall at intervals for prayer and worship. In 1880 a Union church was built with the people of the Evangelical Association faith.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Trempealeau was organized in 1856 by H. M. Hays, with the Goodhue, Payne and Kribbs families as the original members. The first church was built in 1857.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Galesville was organized at an early day, and until 1875 the congregation worshiped in the court house and school house. In that year a church was built.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Whitehall. Services of the Methodist faith were held at the homes of pioneers as early as 1856. The Methodist Society at Whitehall was organized in 1867. For several years services were held in the school houses by pastors from the Arcadia charge. In 1873, at the time that the G. B. & W. R. R. passed through what is now Whitehall Village, then only a grain field, D. W. Wade secured a lot from the railroad company for the site of the M. E. church. He drew up a subscription paper to secure money for building the church, and he succeeded in getting \$1,000 in money and work. Mr. Wade wrote to the presiding elder of the La Crosse district for a pastor. Rev. J. E. Webster was obtained, and he took up the work of securing further subscriptions. Another \$1,000 was subscribed in money and labor. The work was com-

menced early in 1874. During that summer the building of the church had so far progressed that it was opened for services during the winter of 1874-1875. It was later completed in the summer of 1875.

In December, 1874, Mr. Wade and family went east to New York and New Jersey, his former home states. While there he visited Methodist Episcopal book rooms and purchased a fine pulpit Bible and hymn book. The church being a mission church, having raised a small sum of money toward purchasing books for the Sunday school library, the committee was allowed dollar for dollar and forty per cent off on all books. The committee also secured a large Sunday school map of Palestine and a framed motto: "God Bless Our Sunday School." The church was dedicated Aug. 29, 1875, Rev. J. E. Webster being the first pastor. The Bible and hymn book were formally presented at that time, and used in the dedication service.

During the pastorate of Rev. F. E. Lewis the church was moved from its first location to its present site, and later during the pastorate of the Rev. Chalfant, a basement and many other improvements were added. The pastors have been: J. E. Webster, J. B. Richardson, William Galloway, E. J. Bickle, F. W. Straw, E. T. Briggs, G. D. Brown, A. M. Lumkins, H. A. Snyder, G. F. Cowling, G. Limkuhl, W. H. Cheneweth, J. T. Bryan, C. G. Gaman, W. E. Doughty, F. E. Lewis, L. N. Wooley, J. E. Boyer, J. G. Haigh, Edwin Tench, William Cook, Harry Philpot, Arthur Chalfant, David Levin, E. D. Upson.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Centerville is served by the pastor from Trempealeau, services being held every Sunday.

Baptist.

There are two Baptist churches in the county one at Whitehall and one at Blair. For some years the Baptist Society was active in Arcadia, and a frame church edifice was erected. It was afterward used as a Peoples church.

The Baptist Association at Trempealeau was instituted in 1857 by the Rev. J. M. Winn, with 23 members. Until 1866 services were conducted in the school house and at a hall on Front street. In that year a church was erected. The society is not now in existence.

The Whitehall Baptist Church was first known as the First Baptist Church of Preston. It was organized July 4, 1858, and began life with eight constituent members. In 1860 the membership was 20. The field covered by the membership of this church extended from Hixton in Jackson County to Glencoe in Buffalo County, a distance of 40 miles up and down Trempealeau Valley. In 1864 the church was admitted to the La Crosse Valley Association. Jan. 9, 1866, the name of the church was changed to that of the First Baptist Church of Lincoln. The first church building was erected at old Whitehall in 1870, at a cost of \$1,100, and was sold in 1875 to the Scandinavian people for \$300. The present building was erected the same year at a cost of \$1,600 and was dedicated Jan. 12, 1876, free of debt. At this time the church adopted its present name. The first Baptist minister to preach in this locality was the Rev. Mr. Bunnell of Trempealeau Village. He preached a few sermons in the home of Deacon Alvah Wood

in the winter of 1857-85. In 1858 the church was organized and the following brethren have served as pastors consecutively: Revs. Thomas Slade, S. S. Tucker, G. P. Dissmore, Calvin E. Fisher, G. P. Dissmore, E. D. Barbour, F. S. Witler, H. G. Carroll, G. P. Dissmore, L. J. Sawyer, ——— Catchpole, D. I. Coon, N. L. Sweet, N. K. Larson, A. B. Cannady, C. O. Booth, W. D. Wells, Samuel Batchelor, J. J. Enge, Madison Reynolds and G. N. Doody. Says Mrs. Mary Wood: "Pastor Dissmore has been with us longest. He has proved his words by an honest, upright life, winning the respect of the community and the affection of the church, who felt the comfort of his presence and counsel. Pastor N. L. Sweet was the sower sowing beside all waters, up the coulies, down the valleys, always feeling the stress of the work, appreciated by the church, disparaging himself, ever reaching out toward more effective service." The present parsonage was purchased of N. K. Larson August 1, 1911.

Protestant Episcopal.

There is one church of this denomination in Trempealeau County, which is located in Osseo.

St. Elizabeth's Church and Parish.—The first service of this congregation was held in the York Inn parlors, Osseo, in the summer of 1911, W. F. Hood, Jr., then in deacon's orders, being the priest in Charge. The first baptismal service was held St. John's Day at eight o'clock p. m. in Carson's Hall, with the Rev. P. H. Linley of Eau Claire as the priest in charge. On May 7, 1912, Bishop Webb of the Milwaukee diocese confirmed the following class of thirteen: Mrs. L. H. Field, Mrs. G. I. Thew, Mrs. B. F. York, Mrs. W. S. Gilpin, Misses Florence Roberts of Superior, Ruth Esbenson, Alice Thew, Myle and Beatrice Gilpin, Doris Jones, Clara Zhe, Keith Jones and Silby Gilpin. Mrs. Crane and Mrs. Nettie Jones were already communicants of the church. The different priests in charge since the beginning of the mission have been Archdeacon W. F. Hood, Rev. P. H. Linley and Missionary Priest Rev. W. Wolfe. The first baptism after the mission was started was that of Ruth Hanson, the service being held in Carson's Hall. The first baptism in the Mission House was that of Mary Louise Vincent of St. Paul. The first wedding in the parish was that of Ruth I. Jones to H. J. Vincent of St. Paul, W. F. Hood officiating. The funerals have been those of Mrs. G. O. Linderman and Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Gates, Archdeacon Hood officiating, and Mrs. F. York, with the Rev. P. H. Linley of Eau Claire in charge. St. Elizabeth's Guild has held two very successful bazaars and given one home talent play. A portion of each year they took up the work of the Woman's Auxiliary and pursued a mission study course, with the subject of "Japan Advancing," "Social Aspect of Foreign Missions," and "Conquest of the Continent," and derived much benefit from the work. The officers of the Guild are: Mrs. A. G. Cox, president; Mrs. W. S. Gilpin, secretary and treasurer; Mrs. Nettie Jones, educational secretary and missionary treasurer; Mrs. Crane, parish treasurer. Of those who have officiated in charge of the parish as deacon or priest, Archdeacon Hood is now chaplain of the Third Regiment, now

(Sept. 17, 1917) stationed at Camp Douglas; Rev. P. H. Linley is chaplain of the drafted regiment now in training at Rockford, and Rev. W. Wolfe is archdeacon and rector of the church at Lancaster, Wis.—(By Mrs. Nettie F. Jones.)

Independent.

The church of God in Christ was incorporated at Eleva, May 5, 1909, and holds regular meetings, but has no church edifice.

Union Service.

For more than fifty years the school at West Prairie has been used for union church and Sunday school purposes.

CHAPTER XXI.

BENCH AND BAR.

When the Indian title to this region was relinquished in 1837, the area that is now Trempealeau County was under the jurisdiction of the territory of Wisconsin, whose judicial power was vested in a Supreme Court, District Courts, Probate Courts and justices of the peace. The little settlement at Trempealeau remained under the judicial jurisdiction of Crawford County throughout the territorial days and during the early years of statehood.

By the state constitution which went into effect in 1848, Crawford County, of which Trempealeau County was a part, was made a part of the fifth circuit. Mortimer M. Jackson went on the bench Aug. 28, 1848. When the sixth circuit was created in 1850, the little settlement at Trempealeau fell under its jurisdiction, and in that district this county still remains. Wm. Knowlton went on the bench Aug. 6, 1850.

In 1851 the settlement at Trempealeau came under the jurisdiction of La Crosse County, and at the first town election held at La Crosse in April, 1851, James A. Reed was elected justice of the peace. At the county election held in the summer of that year, Timothy Burns was elected county judge, and William T. Price clerk of the circuit court. In the fall of that year George Gale was elected county judge, and Robert Loomey clerk of the circuit court.

In February, 1853, the part of Trempealeau County north of the line between Townships 18 and 19 was placed in Jackson County, and on July 6 of the same year that part north of the line between Townships 18 and 19 and west of the line between Ranges 7 and 8 was placed in Buffalo County. This jurisdiction, however, was only nominal, for the settlement at Trempealeau was still a part of La Crosse County, and few settlers had ventured north of the line between Townships 18 and 19.

When Trempealeau County was created, Jan. 27, 1854, a provision was made that the county should remain attached to La Crosse County for judicial purposes until Jan. 1, 1855, when it was to be fully organized for judicial purposes and attached to the sixth circuit. Court was to be held at the county seat on the first Monday in March, June, September and December of each year. But a few days later court was ordered to be held at the county seat of Trempealeau County the fourth Mondays of April and October.

B. F. Heuston was chosen as county judge at an election held in November, 1854, and in November George H. Smith was elected clerk of the circuit court, and Charles Utter, district attorney.

The first term of circuit court in Trempealeau County was called April 28, 1856, with A. M. Brandenburg, sheriff, and Geo. H. Smith, clerk,

in attendance, but the judge being absent the first court was held the next day in the lower part of the court house at Galesville, then in the process of construction by Isaac Noyes and Amasa P. Webb. Hiram Knowlton, judge of the sixth district, presided, and the only business transacted was the admission to the bar of Romanzo Bunn, who thus became the first lawyer in Trempealeau County. July 23 of the same year the court house was completed, and on October 28, following, Judge Knowlton held court there, with Sheriff Brandenburg and Clerk Smith in attendance. The docket contained two cases, one of which was non-suited, and the other continued. At the same session John F. Brewin and Christian Schmitz were admitted as citizens of the United States. The grand jury list contained the names of William Lee, D. B. Thomson, John Nicholls, Edward Barnard, James Nichols, Byland Parker, Hollister Wright, Bostwick Beardsley, Francis Hoffner, Absolom Curry, David Cook, Richard Collins, Jacob Holmes, G. W. Parker, William Dick, L. P. Armstrong and William Adams. Beardsley was chosen foreman.

The names on the petit jury list were: Charles Holmes, Warren Adams, George Batchelder, Richard Grant, Isaac Nash, Joshua Rhodes, John Salsman, William Olds, Alexander Stevens, Joseph Dale, Douglas Hunter, L. F. Niffen, George Olds, William Nichols, Jonathan Ramsden, Archibald Grover, Robert F. Farrington, John Pardon, William Bright, Frederick Clark, George B. Terry, Jeremiah Finch, B. B. Healy and James Reed.

George Gale held his first court April 13, 1857, William P. Clark being the sheriff and George W. Parker the clerk. No business was transacted. April 28, 1857, B. F. Heuston was admitted to the bar.

Nov. 11, 1857, the county commissioners rejected a number of bills for charges in sundry criminal cases tried in justice courts. The report of the committee stated that much of the expense of older counties arose from the cost of useless litigation and declared that everything possible should be done thus early in the history of Trempealeau County to discourage such litigation. One of the suits for which expenses were asked was for stealing a pocket knife. Several were for assault and battery in trifling neighborhood quarrels. The only serious case was one in which the defendant was charged with horse stealing. None were sustained. The committee recommended that in such cases the justices exercise their powers under the statutes and require security from the complainants for costs in suits before issuing any papers. Such a course, the committee said, would put a stop to much useless and vexatious litigation, which when suffered to go on involves often great expense besides provoking much ill feeling and discord in whole neighborhoods. The committee also expressed the opinion that as a general rule in such small matters where the parties were determined to go to law, the civil remedies should be applied.

In 1861, Isaac E. Messmore contested Judge Gale's seat. Judge Gale had been elected for the six years beginning Jan. 1, 1857, as judge of the sixth district, then embracing Crawford, Bad Ax, La Crosse, Monroe, Jackson, Clark, Buffalo and Trempealeau Counties. But by an act of the Legislature (approved March 30, 1861) the counties of Crawford, Bad Ax,

La Crosse, Monroe and Jackson were constituted the sixth district, and the counties of Trempealeau, Buffalo, Pepin, Dunn, Dallas, Chippewa, Clark and Eau Claire were constituted the eleventh district. Judge Gale was by this act made judge of the eleventh district. The governor on April 10, 1861, appointed Isaac E. Messmore judge of the sixth district. The matter went to the supreme court (14 Wis. 164) and it was determined that the Legislature had no authority to assign Gale to the eleventh district, and that the governor had no power to appoint Messmore to the sixth. Judge Gale, therefore, remained the judge of the counties which constituted his district at the time of his election. In 1862 the Legislature placed Crawford, La Crosse, Monroe, Jackson, Clark, Buffalo, Trempealeau, Richland and Vernon in the sixth district.

Judge Gale served until the end of 1862. When he went on the bench the only lawyer in Trempealeau County was Romanzo Bunn. In 1857 F. A. Utter located in Trempealeau, and A. A. Arnold and Geo. Y. Freeman in Galesville. In 1858 A. W. Newman and John A. Daniels located in Trempealeau, and not long afterward Lyman Cowdry and C. E. Turner also settled there. This constituted the Trempealeau County bar up to the outbreak of the Civil War.

Edwin Flint became judge Jan. 1, 1863, and served six years.

Romanzo Bunn, the first lawyer in Trempealeau County, went on the bench Jan. 1, 1869, and served eight years, retiring to go on the bench of the United States federal court for the western district of Wisconsin after the October term of the Trempealeau County court in 1877.

A. W. Newman of Trempealeau, after long service as district attorney, succeeded Judge Bunn after the October term of the Trempealeau County court in 1876. He served seventeen years and resigned late in 1893 to become an associate justice of the supreme court of Madison.

With the resignation of Judge Newman the judgeship went out of Trempealeau County for the first time since Judge Gale moved here in 1857. Joseph M. Morrow of Sparta, appointed late in 1893, served one year.

O. B. Wyman of Viroqua went on the bench Jan. 1, 1895, and served until his death, Dec. 2, 1900.

John J. Fruit of La Crosse succeeded Judge Wyman and served until his death in 1909.

Judge Fruit was unable to sit in March, 1909, and postponed the term until June, when Judge James O'Neil of Neilsville presided. E. C. Higbee of La Crosse, a former Arcadia attorney, was appointed that summer, held the fall term of 1909, and has since remained on the bench.

The present bar consists of the following gentlemen: Whitehall—H. A. Anderson (admitted in 1888), Robert S. Cowie (admitted in 1894), Earl F. Hensel (admitted in 1900) and Ole J. Eggum (admitted in 1907). Galesville—George Gale (admitted in 1868), W. S. Wadleigh (admitted in 1894) and A. T. Twesme (admitted in 1908). Arcadia—John C. Gaveney (admitted in 1888), F. C. Richmond (admitted in 1902) and Elmer E. Barlow (admitted in 1910). Independence—John A. Markham (admitted in 1901) and John F. Kulig (admitted in —). Trempealeau—J. C. Button (admitted in 1858). Osseo—J. Reese Jones.

Among the lawyers who have practiced in Trempealeau County may be mentioned: Galesville—C. W. Farrand, M. Mulligan, H. T. Smith, E. White Moore, M. F. Hegge, E. W. Freeman, G. R. Freeman, Robert Christianson, James M. Pryse and Richard F. Smith. Trempealeau—J. E. Robinson, Bert E. Clark and Seth W. Button. Arcadia—L. W. Griswold, C. W. Farrand, Stephen Richmond, H. R. Day, E. C. Higbee, Peter Phillippe, E. Q. Nye, Seth Mills, W. H. Graves, T. J. Connor, H. S. Comstock, C. E. Perkins, R. S. Cowie, Ben F. Richmond, J. A. Cashel, Lewis Runkel, Nathan Comstock, Emil Scow and Roy E. Bingham. Whitehall—O. J. Allen, P. A. Williams, R. A. Odell, Carroll Atwood, Sam S. Miller, H. Gilliland and H. L. Ekern. Independence—M. Mulligan, Nathan Nichols, H. R. Day and W. W. Arnold. Osseo—G. O. Linderman and E. S. Gedney.

CHAPTER XXII.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE TOWN OF PIGEON.

(By H. A. Anderson.)

Preliminary Observations.

Good men and women make little history. Peaceful communities are seldom in the historian's searchlight.

A thousand trains freighted with human lives may cross the continent without receiving a line in history, because their runs were merely a part of successful routine; but the train which, through folly or carelessness, is wrecked, makes an event impressed on history's page forever.

The principles underlying the above statements impress me as I glance backward over the fifty years which have passed since I first became a resident of the town of Pigeon. And as I review, one by one, the living and the dead who helped in the development of this town, there comes to my mind the picture expressed by Gray's beautiful lines:

"Along the cool sequestered vale of life,
They kept the noiseless tenor of their way."

Strictly an agricultural community, splendidly fitted by nature for man's oldest and most serviceable occupation, the course of social organization and development in this town has been exceedingly tranquil.

The fact that during the thirty years I have been connected with the practice of law I have never had a single lawsuit nor even heard of a lawsuit between residents of this town, leads me to the conclusion that during those thirty years there has not been a suit at law between residents of the town of Pigeon, and the suits had during those years by residents of this town with people of other localities can be counted on the fingers of one hand. Arrests for crime have also been very rare.

Territorially considered, this town includes now about thirty-nine sections of land.

Topographically it lies almost wholly within the boundaries of a single main valley traversed by a stream sufficiently large to afford its inhabitants much useful service, while all the cooleys which radiate from the main valley stretch out like arms inviting to their pleasant embrasure such as seek the quiet comforts of rural life. One of the attractive features of early life in these cooleys were the almost innumerable springs which bejeweled nearly every hillside when the rays of the sun were caught and refracted by these bubbling wells of nature.

Show me the place where the pioneer laid his first hearthstone and I will find close by a spring, or, at least, the spot where a spring used to be, for it is true that a large number of these springs have disappeared.

There are many cherished memories from pioneer days, such for instance as ridges or points of bluffs mantled with the purple of ripening blue berries; or some strip of prairie where the sod had been broken, crimsoned with the sweet wild strawberry. But of all memories concerning natural conditions and environments, no recollection is dearer and coupled with more unfading gratitude than the memory of our pioneer springs. And those who are fortunate enough to possess springs, that promise continuing constancy, ought to build around them arboreal shades and places for rest, yes, even altars for meditation and worship.

But if I indulge in sentimental reflections, I am afraid this sketch will not merit the appellation "Historical."

Before I take up the man-made history of this town it may not be out of place to present to the reader who may belong to a later generation a brief sketch of the prevailing or general physical conditions found by the pioneer.

The town of Pigeon has no elevations or bluffs comparable in height with bluffs found in some other parts of our country, but it has many elevations from which a large part of the town could have been seen fifty years ago. And the view obtainable from any hill by the first settlers was that of barrenness. Along the main stream, now known as Pigeon Creek, was a strip of level land, generally known as prairie, dotted here and there with shrub-like burr oaks, while the stream was bordered by alders and willows. And the hills were even more barren than the valleys because of the frequent fires which kept down all vegetation to a one or two-year growth. Exceptions to this rule were found only in a few north hollows where, protected by late snows, white oak and black oak, through repeated efforts of nature, reached a size sufficient to withstand the occasional onslaughts of the fire demon. These prairie fires, as they were called, occurred with equal regularity spring and fall for many years. In fact, they were fostered by the first settlers for two reasons. First, to furnish better pasture for stock which roamed at large; second, to secure a constant supply of blueberries; for the berries disappeared wherever the brush was allowed to get a few years' growth. Pasturage was a necessity, and berries, though much cheaper than now, were nevertheless a considerable source of income and food supply for the early settlers. Two well authenticated accounts will attest the plentifulness of blueberries in those days.

The William Van Sickle family in one day gathered twenty bushels, and one year Mrs. Van Sickle had twelve bushels of dried berries.

During the early seventies Mads Knudtson lived just east of Pigeon Falls, on what is now the Thompson farm. Having a numerous family he frequently found it necessary to go out to work with his "Duke and Dime," as his oxen were called. Andrew Olson and Hans Johnson had lately opened a store at Pigeon Falls and during July and August every summer they found themselves almost compelled to take blueberries in exchange for goods or let the trade of their neighbors go to Coral City and Sechlerville. When we remember that there were no railroads nearer than Sparta and La Crosse nor towns big enough nearby to use the great quantities of berries gathered and the perishable nature of this product, we

will appreciate that buying blueberries in those days was not always profitable to the merchant. It was during one of these early years that Olson & Johnson, finding themselves almost swamped with this luscious fruit from the hills, hired Mads Knudtson to take a load of berries to La Crosse, where they had arrangements with a dealer to handle the berries for them. Nowadays we would crate them in small boxes. But at that time they were dumped into an ordinary wagon box with extra sideboards on. No covering of any kind to protect them from sun, rain or dust.

Thus equipped Knudtson proceeded on a trip which took almost five days to make. Before he reached La Crosse a heavy rain came on, and after the rain he says there was a trail of purple wine for miles along the road he followed.

But these wild fires, though to a certain extent desired and encouraged, were often a source of great danger to property and sometimes to human life. They also destroyed thousands of birds' nests and drove away deer and other game useful to man. Of the first settlers who still remain there is probably none who cannot recall one or more occasions when for hours men, women and children fought as they never had fought before to save grain, hay and buildings from destruction. But the memories of these unpleasant contests are offset by memories of the beauty and grandeur of one or more long lines of fire gradually creeping up through the night over highland and hill when the element of immediate danger was not present.

The writer remembers several occasions when half a dozen or more fires could be seen from the same place, and one of my friends has repeatedly told me that, looking from an elevation one night he counted seventeen distinct and separate lines of fire. Notwithstanding the destructive effect of forest fires on animal life, game was very plentiful for several years after the coming of the first settlers. Deer were frequently seen in droves, and prairie chickens were sufficiently numerous to furnish every home with delicious meat in proper season.

Elk was seen in Pigeon as late as 1872, and a few years earlier their great white horns were found in large numbers.

The common black bear was also a frequent visitor. Hares, now rarely, or perhaps never, seen here, were very plentiful.

The late James Hopkins told the writer that he and two of his neighbors killed seventy hares in an afternoon. Another friend of mine, still living, states that he and his family were saved from starvation the first winter of his residence in this county by the plentiful supply of hare meat which he was able to secure.

Rats were unknown for several years, but rodents, such as various kinds of gophers, were numerous enough to constitute a real pest.

Snakes were extremely numerous, but as all, except the rattlesnake, were harmless, they were only a source of fear to the immigrants, who saw in every snake man's first enemy. The rattlesnake, however, was a real menace, and at least two persons in the town of Pigeon came near losing their lives by reason of their poisonous character. Mrs. Karen Iverson Kveseth was one of the victims; the other a son of Aslak Knudtson.

As I am writing from the standpoint of a pioneer of conditions and things forever passed away I make no apology for mentioning matters now entirely of no importance except as historical curiosities.

One of these curiosities was the lightning bugs or fireflies. They are still with us, but their number has been so reduced that the younger generation cannot conceive, even by the use of a vivid imagination, the splendid spectacle presented on still, warm summer nights when whole valleys fairly blazed with the light shed by these tiny insects. I have seen a new comer stand for an hour or more, practically hypnotized, silently admiring and wondering, while a white mist changed the scene into a gently undulating flaming lake. And if by chance this same newcomer continued his watch until dawn, another vision awaited him just as marvelous as that of the night.

For now the valley is filled with the music of wings, while the ground is covered with the shadows of innumerable birds which the radiance of the rising sun cannot lift. Minute after minute passes. Still, from horizon to horizon, the air is filled with this moving mass. Half an hour goes by and the watcher's wonder changes into awe as the incredible scene continues. And as he is informed that the same condition exists in many of the adjoining valleys at the same time he naturally questions, "How can the earth support these vast numbers of birds?" And finally he may explain, "This must be a plague sent to chastise man for his wickedness." The above scene is no exaggeration, but is the result of the personal experience of the writer, confirmed by the testimony of many contemporary witnesses. Yes, I still wonder whence did they all come, and whither did they all go, for it is years since the last Passenger Pigeon was seen in the town that, through its name, will help perpetuate the memory of these transient impressive visitors. It would not be true to call the Passenger Pigeon a plague, though they at times did great damage to newly seeded crops.

The potato bug, first known as Colorado beetle, was here more than fifty years ago. When these pests made their first appearance in this county the writer has been unable to ascertain.

A general survey of physical conditions found by the first settlers in the town leads to the conclusion that most of the pioneers, notwithstanding some hardships and many privations, were a favored people. The character of the country was such that labor was not only necessary but obtainable the year round. This, for obvious reasons, ought to be considered one of the greatest privileges granted to man. Water was not only plentiful everywhere, but of such excellent quality that no better can be found. Timber, though scarce in the territory under consideration, was easily had nearby, practically without cost except labor. Nutritious grasses for fodder were abundant in every little valley. And the surviving pioneer, in dreams of memory, recalls with pleasure many a natural meadow or marsh waving with Red-top and Blue-joint from four to six feet tall. Land was cheap, and most of its soil wonderfully fertile. And as a dessert to these observations, which all will relish, I will add that every brook abounded with native trout, chubs, bullheads and other edible varieties of fish.

Man-Made History.

The date when the first white man located in the town of Pigeon has not been found, and there is even a slight uncertainty as to who the man was, though it is generally believed that this distinction belongs to Edwin Cummings, who made his first home on the northwest quarter of Section 19, Township 22, of Range 7, a little north of the bridge which now spans the creek on the road leading into Fly Creek Valley. The date of settlement was probably 1860, and not later than 1861. Mr. Cummings was born in Massachusetts June 13, 1827, and died at his home in the town of Pigeon Jan. 20, 1899. In person, Mr. Cummings was tall and spare. His presence marked him as genial, easygoing and generous. Left an orphan when nine years of age he led a life rich in adventures and toils common to pioneers, for he came to Wisconsin in the early forties, crossed and recrossed the plains in search of California gold, afterwards settled in Clark County, this state, then came to Trempealeau County. He served sixteen months in the Civil War, being color sergeant in Company C, Thirty-sixth Wisconsin Regiment. The date of his marriage, which occurred before he came to this county, I cannot give. His wife's maiden name was Minerva Jessup, a resident of Green Lake County at the time of her marriage. At his death he was survived by his wife, four daughters and one son, all of whom have long since gone west.

He was also Pigeon's first fiddler, using his left hand in this entertaining exercise. In later years he became a member of the M. E. Church. His funeral services were conducted by Rev. Emery Stanford, assisted by Revs. Hackman and Dissmore. His dust rests in the Lincoln cemetery.

In the settlement of this town Mr. Cummings was soon followed by his brothers, Israel and Chauncy, and later on by Caleb. All of his brothers moved away before his death, and only a part of one branch of the Cummings family remains in the county, namely, the widow and some of the children of Wallace Cummings, who was a son of Israel.

If it is conceded that Edwin Cummings was the first settler in the town it is certain that Joshua D. Southworth was the second. With his wife Catherine, daughter Frances and sons Edward and Charles he settled on the northeast quarter of the same section first occupied by Edwin Cummings, in the summer of 1861. Mr. Southworth was born in Cayuga County, New York, March 31, 1820, and died at the home of his daughter, Frances Williams, in the city of Marshfield, Wisconsin, Jan. 28, 1909. He was one of sixteen children. He was married to Catherine Wheeler, who came from a family of twelve children, in Cattaraugus County, New York, Sept. 9, 1849, and after various removals came to Trempealeau County in 1860, living near where Blair is located about a year. He also was a tall, spare man, possessed of wonderful health and a restless energy that manifested itself in manual labor until the accident occurred which caused his death. Always temperate in his habits, he lived the life of a clean man, ardent in his attachments to the best institutions of our land. His wife preceded him in death by several years, and both rest in Lincoln cemetery. Mrs. Southworth was one of the most generous and genial-hearted women

the writer has ever met. Her face always reflected sunshine and good will. The sons are still with us, happily combining in their personalities the splendid physical vigor of the father with the sunny temperament of the mother.

In 1863 came Phineas Wright, who at once began the erection of a mill, ready for custom in 1864. The mill, as usual, proved to be the beginning of a village. Uncle Phin was a very good-natured, likable man, and soon attracted other settlers. His brother Benjamin came, followed soon by other relatives. In 1868 Uncle Phin platted the land south of the mill and called the plat "Coral City." The origin of this name, as given by many who lived at Coral City at the time it was adopted, is as follows: When the mill dam was being put in Granville McFarland superintended the work. In the bluff north of the mill some of the workmen, while getting material for the dam, found some peculiar looking rock which McFarland called coral. Some add that it was only a joke on the part of McFarland, but evidently Uncle Phin believed the stuff to be genuine coral.

After the Civil War the village grew rapidly for two or three years. Among the men prominent in business affairs in Coral City may be mentioned the Wright brothers, millers; William Harlow, Joshua Southworth, Elliot & Egbert, carpenters; Christopher Scott, Andrew Olson, Amassa Hodgkins and A. Searles, merchants; George W. Follett, A. Englesby, Philetus Nott, Joseph Popham, hotel keepers; Merritt Most, James Tull, Senecca Johnson and "Peg-leg" Olson, shoemakers; Wm. Douglas, Geo. W. Follett, Mart Allen and Lars Hanson, blacksmiths.

There were also tanners, wagon makers and other artisans too numerous to mention. Samuel Sheldon was the only one educationally qualified to treat the sick. Wm. Harlow built the first store about 1865. He died March 8, 1870, and left his property to his fiancee, Miss Frances Southworth. His store was also used for the first postoffice, although George W. Follett was the first postmaster. Later on Senecca Johnson was appointed postmaster and remained such until the postoffice was discontinued May 27, 1878.

The mill built by Wright proved a good venture and remained until bodily carried away by the great flood March 10, 1876. The following summer it was rebuilt under the name "Centennial Mills," and though the old French burrs have for many years been still and silent, A. Jacobson, the present owner, is still doing good business at the old stand.

Trempealeau County's now "Deserted Village" was in its day a very lively place. Its decline and fall was not caused by any direct act of Providence, but indirectly by Henry Ketchum, D. M. Kelly and others, who caused the G. B. & W. R. R. to be built down through Trempealeau Valley in 1873. Many memories of this little village tempt me to linger with reminiscences of men, women and events now made sacred by time and associations. Of all the happenings in Coral City there was probably none that gained a wider notoriety than George W. Follett's tort action against Duke Porter.

The suit was based on the fact that Porter had taken or disposed of a few dollars' worth of hay which evidently both parties claimed title to.

After trial judgment was entered against Mr. Porter for the value of the hay and costs; Porter refused to pay. Execution against the body was issued, and Porter was confined within jail limits at Trempealeau until payment of judgment and cost of board for his keeping were paid. Mr. Follett was delighted to pay Porter's board so long as he could technically keep him in jail. Mr. Porter was determined to suffer even a curtailment of his liberty rather than pay what he considered an unjust judgment. Months, years went by, the bill against Porter getting constantly larger, while Follett's ability to meet this constant drain grew less and less as time rolled by. Finally, after seven years, Follett found that he needed all he had to support himself and family and gave up this contest, which probably has no parallel in this state. In future years some of our debating societies may debate the question: "Which was the victor in this contest, Follett or Porter?" It is only fair to say of Follett that nature had dealt with him very liberally, and he responded to this liberality by exercising skill and ability in many directions, though not always in the interest of the highest social welfare. He was blacksmith, carpenter, postmaster, justice of the peace, merchant, hotel keeper, legal adviser, and I think the sole dispenser of spirits under sanction of law.

One more incident illustrative of those early days, which is vouched for by one of our most worthy citizens present as a juror at time of its occurrence. West Daggett and Leonard Ricker was brothers-in-law and neighbors, but not always friends. Ricker sued Daggett to recover for various items of property, and Daggett counterclaimed. O. J. Allen was Daggett's attorney. Andrews, then located at Taylor, in Jackson County, was Mr. Ricker's counsel. Allen was a man possessed of a bulldog tenacity, limited ability and very little education. In the conduct of the lawsuit he always tried the patience of the opposing counsel fully as much as he tried his case. Andrews was a man of education, fair ability and not always the master of a red-hot temper. The suit in question dragged on from day to day, his honor, A. L. Sherwood, presiding, while six men, good and true, acted as jurors. One day in course of the trial, while Allen was displaying his usual tactics in objecting to everything on technicalities, Andrews sprang to his feet, his face glowing like a furnace, reached across the table and grasped Allen by the abundant hair on top of his head and shook him with a violence almost sufficient to scalp him. But Allen won the suit just the same. It may sound strange to the present generation that a petty suit of this kind lasted for days, but Hon. M. J. Warner assures me that he attended a suit at Coral City that lasted a week.

Among other settlers who came into the town in 1863 Elder George P. Dissmore and Joseph Fitch deserve special mention. Dissmore settled on Section 8, Fitch on Section 4. Dissmore was an ordained Baptist preacher. For about forty-five years he followed his calling as preacher, besides teaching school and farming, with a zeal and constancy worthy of the highest praise. Night or day, without regard to weather conditions, distance or roads, he unhesitatingly obeyed every summons where his ministry was needed. A grateful appreciation or a "God bless you" was often the only reward he sought or received. By the side of his worthy

wife, Mary Elizabeth, the mother of his thirteen children, he sleeps in the Lincoln cemetery, long to be remembered as one of the best of our pioneer preachers. His son, D. R. Dissmore, still lives on the "Dissmore homestead."

Joseph Fitch lived only about a year after coming to Pigeon. He also rests in the Lincoln Cemetery. His wife Elizabeth was the mother of fourteen children. She died at her daughter's home at Greenwood, Clark County, and is buried there. The name of this family will be remembered as long as "Fitch Cooley" has any inhabitants, though none of the Fitch family ever lived in this cooley.

In 1864 the upper part of Fly Creek was settled by Aslak Knudtson, Ole Anderson Aga and Hans Ole Nielson. All had families and made the journey with oxen from Dane County, Wisconsin. They were all worthy people, Mr. Knudtson being especially mentioned by all who knew him as a man of exemplary life and habits. So far as known, these were the first Norwegians to settle in this town. In the fall of the same year Orson Lamberson settled near the lower end of Fly Creek Valley.

It is well remembered by many of the early residents of Coral City that the little valley which lies almost directly north of the mill was first settled by a man named Johnson. That he lived on the northwest quarter of Sections 18-22-7; was married, had no children, and he and his wife were comparatively young, good looking and agreeable, is also well remembered. But I have found no one who can recall his first name, nor the name of his wife. Neither is it known when he came nor when he left, but it is safe to state that he did not come there prior to 1865, nor remain later than 1867. He lived there long enough, however, to give his neighbors reason for calling the little valley, Johnson Cooley. Other early settlers in the valley were Lars Engen, William Farrell, Ole Linrud, O. J. Allen and Peder Thompson.

The Dissmore Cooley is one of the smallest valleys in the town, and this accounts for the fact that Elder Dissmore was for many years the only resident in the valley. Ole Iverson Kveseth was the next, settling there in 1871.

The next valley above the Dissmore Cooley is the Daggett Cooley. Here West Daggett and his wife Ann were the first settlers. They came in 1865. With the Daggetts came Leonard Ricker and family, but they settled on the south of Pigeon Creek on the Prairie. The Daggetts and Rickers came originally from Maine, where Daggett was born in 1809. In 1875, his wife died on the farm where they first settled. In 1876 he sold the farm to C. S. Worth, moved to Whitehall, married Sophronia Fuller, widow of Isaac Fuller, who will be mentioned later on. He died at Whitehall June 26, 1900. In stature, Daggett was of medium height, thick-set, and very strong built. He was of a quiet, rather phlegmatic temperament, firm and upright character.

The next settlers in this valley were E. H. Chase, Nels Moe, Hans Mortenson, Olaus Knudtson, Stener Skillerud and John Moe.

Passing over the ridge from Daggett Cooley eastward we find Fuller Cooley. This valley was first settled by Isaac Fuller, who built a shanty there in the fall of 1867. Fuller came from Illinois and very little is known

concerning him except that he had been in the Civil War. He married Sophronia, the widow of William Slyter, and was killed in his home March 14, 1871, by lightning. In person he was rather slender, little above medium height and dark.

The valley that now bears his name is one of the largest and most prosperous valleys in the town. At the present, I am told, there are seventeen farms. Among the earliest settlers that followed Fuller may be named Christian Stenslie, Ole Engen, Christian Tangen, Hans Tangen, Mathias Tangen and Hans A. Fremstad.

The next valley east is Skaarstad Cooley, which has been unique in the fact that it has had no public highway through it until the present year, 1917. This valley was first settled by Johan Hammer and wife Eli. They came there from La Crosse County in 1867, sold out to Christian Anderson Skaarstad in 1869 and moved away. They had no children.

Christian Skaarstad and wife Eline moved into this valley in 1869, with six children. They came from Norway in 1868, stayed for awhile in Vernon County, Wisconsin, then came direct to Pigeon. Mr. Skaarstad was born May 17, 1819, and died at his home Sept. 2, 1886. His wife was born Nov. 18, 1822, and died June 20, 1904. The Skaarstads have always been a conservative people, who strictly minded their own business and prospered.

The next settler in this valley was Tomter.

Going a little further east, we have part of Steig Cooley in this town. It was here that Erick Larson Roterud began his pioneer life in 1865, together with his good wife Oline, and two sons, Lars and Ole. In a year or two he was followed by Christian Kaas and his wife Pernille.

The Roterud and Kaas people were by nature very social, and after the coming of the Steigs, John Thorson and his wife Ingeborg, in 1868, life in the neighborhood took on a new aspect. The Steigs settled in the same valley, over the line in the town of Hale, and are mentioned here to explain how the valley got its name.

Of all those jolly first settlers in that neighborhood who have not died or moved away, John Thorson is the only one still on the old homestead. Erick Roterud, born in Norway in 1826, died on his farm Nov. 15, 1893. His wife, born in Norway in 1816, died July 25, 1894. Prior to their coming to Pigeon they had lived for about six years in La Crosse County.

The beginnings of the several settlements on the north side of Pigeon Creek have now been briefly mentioned. On the south side of the creek, opposite Steig Cooley, is a valley traversed by a spring brook known as Old's Creek. This valley is nameless until about a mile south of Pigeon Creek it divides into two branches known as Big Slough and Tuv Cooley. In this sketch we are interested only in Tuv Cooley, because the other branch lies in Jackson County.

Near the lower end of this valley, on Sections 36-23-7, George H. Olds settled in the fall of 1864. The next year Isaac Richardson settled just east of Olds in the same section. Lemual B. Mann came in 1865 and made his home a little to the southeast of George Olds. James D. Olds came in the same fall as his brother George, but settled over the hill to the south-

west of George in a little valley by himself. The men just mentioned were better equipped, financially and educationally, for pioneer life than most of the people who settled in the eastern part of this town.

The first settlers in Tuv Cooley were Peder Pederson and his wife Guro, Lars Larson Roterud and his sister Agnette, who came there in June, 1865. These people, together with Erick Roterud, came from La Crosse Valley with oxen, and were the first Norwegian settlers in the eastern part of the town. In 1866 Mikkel Hagen and Mads Knudtson settled in this cooley.

Mathias Johnson Tuv, from whom the valley gets its name, came there in the summer of 1869.

The next valley to claim our attention is Hegge Cooley. The first settler here was Benjamin Oliver, the father-in-law to George Olds, who, with a large family, settled here in August, 1864. Oliver, the olds brothers and Mann, all came from the town of Caledonia in this county. Nels Hegge, who gave his name to the valley, came there in 1871 with his wife Nicoline. The home he bought had formerly been occupied by William Abbott and Andrew Olson. Another early settler in this valley was Ole Gulbranson Eid, who bought the Oliver farm.

West of the Hegge Cooley lies Fitch Cooley. The Fitch family never lived in this valley, but for several years they were the only settlers in the vicinity.

Ole Iverson Hoffstad, his wife Anne, and Anton Ekern, were the first home builders in this valley. They came in 1866. Other early settlers were John Hovern and wife. His father, Even Hovern, and mother, Anne, Olaus Nelson and wife, Iver Hanson Tofte, Emert Brandon, John Ringness, Hans Bagstad, Anton Larson and Lars Flikkeshaug.

Between Fitch Cooley and Fly Creek lies Sjuggerud Cooley. The first settler here was Mathias Sjuggerud, who came in 1875. Mr. Sjuggerud, whose name the Cooley bears, was born in Hedemarken, Norway, May 16, 1844; came to the United States in 1867; spent eight years in La Crosse, Wis.; was married first to Agnette Haug, who died in 1877; married again to Oline Mathiasdatter Feb. 26, 1880. He died June 10, 1914, leaving widow and five children.

Pigeon Falls.

This beautiful and prosperous village and its vicinity deserves special notice from me, whose life and career, through a period of more than forty years, has to a large extent been moulded and determined by influences radiating from the hands and hearts of its inhabitants.

Kings and war lords, for the display of their great and arbitrary powers, have sometimes caused cities and marts of trade to spring up in places unfitted for industries and habitation; but most of the world's centers of population and trade have had their origin in harmony with the great natural law of supply and demand.

When Cyrus Hubbard Hine in exploring the stream now known as

Pigeon Creek, in the summer of 1865, found a place where the waters leaped and sang over a rocky bottom, through a narrow channel between high banks, from which rich agricultural lands stretched far in every direction, Reason at once whispered: "Here is a place for a mill and a factory;" and Hine, who was a natural mechanic and had experience in mill construction, found the voice of the singing waters a call to him which he gladly followed.

Mr. Hine, with his wife Catherine and daughters, had been a resident of the town of Preston in our county since 1856, but having found what he considered a natural fall in the waters of Pigeon Creek he at once began the building of a home, feed mill and carding mill, and in the fall of 1865 became the first inhabitant where the village of Pigeon Falls is located.

For five years he was practically monarch of all he surveyed, but in 1870 Andrew Olson and his brother-in-law, Hans Johnson, opened a store right across the road from Mr. Hine's mill. April 8, 1873, a commission was issued appointing Hans Johnson postmaster at Pigeon Falls. This I believe is the first public and official recognition of the name Pigeon Falls, and whether Hine or someone else suggested the name for the new post-office is not known. Prior to 1870 and for several years after Pigeon Falls was in general parlance spoken of as "The Factory," because of the carding outfit operated by Mr. Hine. It would surprise the present generation to see from what distant places wool was brought to Mr. Hine's mill. Nearly every settler had a few sheep and the wool raised was usually manufactured by the industrious pioneers at home into some form of garment.

Olson & Johnson continued as storekeepers until the fall of 1875, when Peder Ekern bought their building and stock of merchandise.

On June 9, 1880, Peder Ekern bought from Mr. Hine the farm and mill and Mr. Hine and family at once moved to Whitehall.

It is proper at this point to give the reader just a few lines concerning the man who laid the foundation for a business center which promises to continue as such for centuries to come. A little wizened, wiry man, weighing but a little more than a hundred pounds, as independent in his habits and actions as he was in thought. Mr. Hine gave but little attention to social conventions, religious creeds or even political issues. His world lay mostly within the reach of his hands and within these limits he labored contently and cheerfully, never meddling with outside affairs. His integrity, sobriety and freedom from all social vices were taken for granted, because contrary qualities would have been absolutely out of harmony with his general character.

Mr. Hine was born in Chautauqua County, New York, April 8, 1819; came to Illinois in 1843; married Catherine Barber at Joliet, Ill., 1847, with whom he had two children, to-wit: Laura Thompson, who was killed by lightning at the home of her husband, William Thompson, in the town of Preston, June 17, 1882, and Mrs. Eva S. Bather, who at present lives at Spooner, Wis. Mr. Hine died at Whitehall, Wis., Feb. 13, 1884.

Mrs. Hine was noted for her excellent table and industrious habits. She was born May 2, 1830, and died at Whitehall May 6, 1894. She sleeps beside her husband in the Whitehall Cemetery.

From 1880 forward to the time of his death, Peder Ekern became the central figure in the community, not only because he prospered in business, but also because of his ability to grasp the larger problems of a rapidly growing settlement. Immediately after buying the mill he began to put it into condition for making flour, and on September 30 of the same year it was ready for custom and on October 28 burned. It was a very severe blow to Ekern's financial prospects, as he had no insurance. But the day following the fire he climbed into his one-horse buggy, drove to Whitehall and other places to get extension of credit from those he owed and the promise of further help to build another mill. The force of the man's character is illustrated by the fact that by Jan. 1, 1881, he had a mill ready for business, better equipped than the one that burned, but the carding machinery was never restored.

In the spring of 1882 F. W. Hinkley from Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, built a cheese factory near the location of the present business place of Ludvig Knutson, which he conducted with varying success for about three years. In the fall of 1885 a creamery plant was put up by Mr. Ekern, which began operations on the 8th of December, 1885.

May 1, 1892, Ekern sold his creamery to a farmers' association, which operated it until the middle of October, when it was destroyed by fire. Mr. Ekern at once commenced the building of another creamery, which was opened for business on December 1 the same year.

April 19, 1898, Ekern caused his business to be incorporated under the name of "P. Ekern Company." Since that time the P. Ekern Company has conducted a general mercantile business, operated a creamery, mill and farm. Peder Ekern died June 25, 1899, and since that time the business affairs of the P. Ekern Company have been almost wholly managed by B. M. Sletteland, a son-in-law of Mr. Ekern, whose unfailing courtesy, combined with eminent business efficiency, has given him a well deserved prominence in the community.

In 190—, Steig & Jacobson began a general mercantile business, which is still in operation, though interrupted by a fire Nov. 3, 1914, which destroyed the building and a considerable portion of the stock. The business is now wholly managed by Henry Jacobson. For forty years Pigeon Falls has always had a good blacksmith and most of the time a good shoemaker. During several years past it has also had a meat shop, which is at the present time conducted by Ludvig Knudtson.

In social activities of the better kind Pigeon Falls and vicinity has ranked with the very best communities in our county. As early as 1876 it had a very active literary and debating society known as the Pigeon Falls Sentinels, which continued for many years. During the fall of 1876 a library association was organized and before the end of the year a circulating library was in full operation.

Singing, both English and Norwegian, has been assiduously cultivated since the early eighties. The interest of the people in music is evidenced at the present time by an active band of forty pieces.

Since 1885 the village has had two churches and for many years two

resident pastors, and in connection with these churches there have been for many years two young people's societies that have their own commodious halls for meetings, where devotional and literary exercises are conducted and usually followed by a generous lunch, for which the halls are specially fitted with kitchen utensils, tables, dishes, etc. As aids to the moral upkeep of the community the influence of these societies cannot be overestimated.

A lodge of the Scandinavian American Fraternity Society has for many years past been actively supported by the people of Pigeon Falls and vicinity. This order has also a hall for its meetings, built several years ago.

The village has had a graded school with two teachers since 1903. The first school taught in the village was begun by the writer, in the main part of the school house now used, Dec. 10, 1881. Prior to that time, school was held in what was known as the "Olds' school house," about one mile southeast of the village. The first school in the district, which was also the first in the town, was taught in 1866 by Mary Nott, now Mrs. Zenas Wright of City Point, Jackson County, Wis. Her salary was twelve dollars a month and board.

Political History.

The town of Pigeon, from April 2, 1861, until Jan. 5, 1875, was a part of the town of Lincoln. As a separate political unit it held its first meeting at Pigeon Falls April 13, 1875.

The first town officers were as follows: Peder Ekern, chairman; Caleb Cummings and Nels Johnson Moe, supervisors; Hans Johnson, treasurer, and George P. Dissmore, clerk.

Mr. Ekern continued as chairman for six successive years. Other chairmen from this town have been James D. Olds, Ole E. Larson, Gilbert H. Neperud, Nels Agneberg and Even A. Hegge, the present incumbent. Anton E. Brandon, the town's present efficient clerk, has served in that capacity for fourteen years.

Local issues have rarely caused factional divisions in this town, but there have now and then been lively rivalries for some particular office. On national issues the people have, as a rule, sided largely with the Republican party. At one general election Leonard Ricker had the distinction of casting the only ballot in favor of the Democratic party. After the great panic of 1873 James D. Olds became an earnest advocate of the Greenback party. He also helped nurse the Populist party, rocked the cradle of the People's party, and followed the hearse of all these parties to their respective places of interment. But today, at the age of eighty-seven, down in his Florida home, he rejoices in the fact that, though all these parties seemed too deeply buried to ever again disturb capitalism and monopolism, their spirits still walk the earth, shaping the policies and destinies of all existing parties.

"Truth crushed to earth shall rise again;
The eternal years of God are hers."

Some General Matters.

In the foregoing sketch some events and matters pertaining to the people generally rather than to any particular portion of the town have been omitted.

The burning of Bear's Mill, April 26, 1880, belongs to this class of events because of the discussion which followed and the fact that Bear had to sue the company which had insured the mill. The mill was built by J. R. Bear in 1879, on the south half of the southeast quarter of Section 4-22-7. From the beginning, many people thought the building of the mill a foolish venture, and after the fire some were unkind enough to say that the burning of the mill proved that the owner had also discovered his mistake. However, the result of the lawsuit did not sustain this suspicion, for Mr. Bear recovered his insurance.

The greatest affliction suffered by the people of Pigeon was the loss of numerous children from repeated epidemics of diphtheria. So fatal was this disease that it usually claimed a victim in every home where it entered. From the home of Lauritz Sinrud, in January, 1888, five children were taken in a week.

The most destructive storm which has visited the town since it was settled occurred June 24, 1914. A large number of expensive barns and sheds were blown down, but fortunately no human lives were lost.

The division of the Lutheran congregation in 1884, over doctrinal differences, was an event of more than ordinary importance, and cause for grief among many earnest seekers after truth. Happily, time and a now reunited church have healed the wounds caused by that unpleasant occurrence.

The question of a railroad through the valley has agitated the people on two occasions. First, prior to the building of the Green Bay & Western. A survey then made, it is claimed, showed that the company would have saved thousands by building their road through the Pigeon Valley instead of the Trempealeau Valley, but did not do so because the promoters got larger bonuses in following the latter route.

In November, 1884, the Freeport & Northern submitted a proposition to the town for a sale of its stock in exchange for \$6,000 in municipal bonds to be issued by the town. Nothing was done except to discuss the matter.

In 1912 and 1913 a determined effort was made by local people to interest capital in the building of a road through the valley to connect with the Omaha near Fairchild. This project also went to sleep. But some day the dream of T. R. Kittelson and others who sacrificed so much time four or five years ago to bring about this object will come true.

There are many characters and events connected with the history of this town worthy of particular mention which have been omitted for want of space. May I therefore be permitted to state that I have in course of preparation a history of this town in which it is my purpose to describe separately every farm and its several occupants, from the beginning to the present time, so far as the facts can be ascertained. This history will probably never be published by me, but the manuscript, I trust, will always be

accessible in the archives of the Trempealeau County Historical Society. And when death and time shall have removed all the witnesses of early events, may coming generations find this labor of love a source of interest and inspiration.—(Dated at Whitehall, Wis., Oct. 24, 1917.)

Pigeon Township is in nearly every respect a typical western Wisconsin township. A geographical unity, lying in the valley of a picturesque river, supporting near its head a flourishing village without a railroad, flowing past two deserted villages, and having its mouth at the county seat, it was first settled by New Englanders, and gradually possessed by the Scandinavian element. Hon. Hans A. Anderson, who for some thirty years has been gathering historical material regarding the county, has taken a particular interest in this township, and the article which is here presented is a splendid example of the thoroughness of the material which he is leaving to posterity, as well as a valuable historical review of a typical Wisconsin community. It is to be hoped that in the years to come Judge Anderson will treat of the other townships in the county with the same completeness.—F. C-W.

CHAPTER XXIII.

MORE HISTORICAL PAPERS.

Trempealeau Mountain Park. Trempealeau Mountain, the thrilling history of which has been told in earlier chapters, is soon to be a state park. John A. Latsch of Winona, whose benefactions have given to the people of Minnesota a vast reserve lying north of Winona along the Mississippi, proposes to make the gift to the state in order that the residents of Trempealeau County may enjoy the pleasures to be found in romping at play over this unique mountain and the land at its base. These are people who live in the county where his father, the late John Latsch, lived and was engaged in farming for many years. Latsch Valley, in Trempealeau County, has carried Mr. Latsch's name through the years. The donors will make the mountain a memorial to his father, as he has his rich gifts to the city of Winona. The deed that Mr. Latsch will make will be to the Wisconsin Historical Society through the conservation body.

Four years ago residents of Trempealeau County interested themselves in the proposition of preserving this rare mountain. They found barriers, however, in the effort to purchase the property from the individual owners. Finally, after Judge H. A. Anderson, Whitehall; Attorney F. C. Richmond and Attorney E. E. Hensel, both of Arcadia; and Dr. E. D. Pierce, Trempealeau, had decided that the project was too great and the difficulties too serious to make immediate action possible, the proposition was abandoned for a while. Dr. Pierce, however, was determined that the plans should be carried out. His interest in the matter brought the attention of Mr. Latsch to the mountain and the surrounding territory, and in June, 1916, the project began to take definite shape. Now Mr. Latsch owns practically all of the land on the mountain, in all about 130 acres. He also recently purchased the Brady farm across the bay and opposite the mountain. This is to be a portion of the park. In this farm tract are over 200 acres.

Because the mountain is an island and its treasures not easily accessible to the "commercial pirates," much of its original growth and peculiarities have been retained. Probably nowhere on the upper Mississippi is there a more unusual bluff, not only because of its scenic prominence but because of its unusual contour and the rare plants that grow upon it.

There are over 30 varieties of wood on Trempealeau Mountain, among them the Chinkopin, southern locust that blossoms and has pods like bean-pods. There are thousands of kinds of wild flowers. Among the shrubs there is the famous gensing and it was a place where Indians came for years to secure "medicine." The rare wild huckleberry grows there. Apart from the other bluffs surrounded by water, the mountain has preserved its original flora. It cannot be pastured. That explains why the ladyslipper, the painted cup, the quaint showy orchid, the hepaticas, the anemone, the

trillum, the blue and yellow violets, and the jack-in-the-pulpit all can be found there.

On the mountain there have been built many of the famous mounds, some of them still unexplored. In recent years wonderful discoveries have been made. These mounds, it is proposed, will be restored and its timber and flora kept intact for the future generations.

The residents of Trempealeau County have expressed to Mr. Latsch a feeling of gratitude for his eagerness to assist in preserving so great a treasure. He has won their everlasting thanks for presenting the mountain. Important and extensive improvements will be made to the mountain and the park by the State Society.

The settlers looked upon Trempealeau Mountain in the earliest day as a historic landmark—a guiding hand in the wilderness—and that feeling has been handed down so that the people today of this vicinity have a friendly interest in the old mountain and regard it as their historic home ground. People have heard its traditions told—its singular place in history—beheld its beautiful part of the Mississippi River scenery and in the evolution of things no wonder that they have come to have a sentiment in favor of its preservation in a wild state so that it may be handed down to future generations adorned in all the glory of its old-time attire.

Many citizens of Trempealeau and vicinity have in the past expressed a desire to have the mountain preserved as a State park. The Trempealeau County and State Historical Societies have been interested in it, but it remained for John A. Latsch, of Winona, to offer a solution for the problem for acquiring title and turning it over to the State. It is desired to preserve the mountain in its natural grandeur, keeping its flora intact and re-establishing its despoiled mound, erecting suitable markers and making cozy by-ways through its woodlands so that the botanist, the geologist, the bird student and whoever else may enjoy the call of the wild, may come and drink their fill of outdoor glory.

Galesville University, recently renamed Gale College, is located at Galesville. It was founded by the labors of the Hon. George Gale, LL. D., assisted by donations of the citizens of Galesville, La Crosse, Winona, and a few other friends of education, mostly residents of Wisconsin. The charter was obtained from the Legislature of Wisconsin in January, 1854. The board of trustees was organized in 1855; the college building commenced in 1858; the preparatory department opened for students in May, 1859, and the collegiate department in September, 1861, the first college class graduated July 13, 1865.

Judge Gale, the founder, was the first president, though the educational and literary management of the institution was under the supervision of the Rev. Samuel Fallows, later a Bishop of the Reformed Episcopal Church, Chicago, Ill. During the years in which the building was under construction the school was conducted in the county court house.

The first epoch in the history of the school includes the years between 1859 and 1877. It was deemed desirable to place the institution under the control of some church organization, and this was accomplished when, in 1859, the Methodist Episcopal Church accepted this trust, which remained

in its charge until the year 1877. During this period the school board labored under great difficulties. A considerable amount of money was required to erect the building, and to meet the requirements from time to time, and being in the early settlement days, the number of those who were able to render pecuniary aid was very small; hence the burden fell heavily on these few. The attendance, which had averaged about 50 students per term, was greatly decreased by the outbreak of the Civil War. Many of the young men in attendance responded to their country's call for soldiers. This decrease in attendance added to the difficulty of meeting the financial requirements. But, with the firm conviction that the attainment of greater educational facilities was worthy of their best efforts, the pioneers willingly assisted to the extent of their ability, and the enterprise was not abandoned.

In 1861 Prof. Fallows resigned his position as principal, and was succeeded by Mr. Magill, who served in that capacity only a short time, and who was in turn succeeded by the Rev. J. L. Farber, of New York. Rev. Harrison Gilliland was the next president, and he was elected to fill the office of president of the Board of Trustees, which had been made vacant by the resignation of Judge Gale.

For a time after President Gilliland took charge the school seems to have prospered, the records showing an attendance of more than 100 students per year. But the financial condition of the institution caused the officers much anxiety, and application for aid was made to the church. The Conference of the M. E. church accordingly passed a resolution to raise a sum of \$50,000 among its members. An attempt to solicit this money was made, but proved futile.

President Gilliland then tendered his resignation, and recommended that the institution be placed under the control of some religious denomination which was able to render the necessary financial support. Accordingly, in 1876, the Chippewa Presbytery then in session in La Crosse was requested to appoint a committee to confer with the local board for the transfer of the control of Galesville University from the M. E. church to the Presbyterian General Assembly. After some reluctance the charge was accepted by that body, and a board of trustees was appointed which assembled for the first time on May 15, 1877. This body made provision for ascertaining and meeting claims against the institution and for procuring pecuniary means for the operation of the school. The course of study was readjusted so that the schedule, instead of being collegiate grade, was modeled after the plan of Philip's Academy. A Normal Course for teachers was also developed. A faculty was appointed with R. S. Winans as president. The following year John W. McLawry was made president, and Rev. John Moore, the resident pastor, also became a member of the faculty.

At a meeting of the officers in March, 1878, a resolution was made to petition the War Department to provide for an instructor in military tactics and drill in Galesville University. This petition was granted, and in 1880, Lieut. John L. Clem, known in the story of the Civil War as the Drummer Boy of Chickamauga, was appointed as such instructor and entered upon his duties at once. This arrangement which provided military training for the young men at the university was a happy one. The real advan-

tages to be derived from such training were appreciated, and a lively interest was aroused, which together with the well-deserved popularity of Lieut. Clem, combined to attract a large attendance of students. This increase entailed the need of more room and the enlargement of the building was agreed upon. In 1881, the building, which originally was two stories high, was enlarged by the addition of a third story, thus providing space for more students and also for drill room in winter.

Lieut. Clem was succeeded in 1882 by Lieut. G. N. Chase, who served in that capacity until 1883, when the military department was discontinued. In January, 1884, the main building was destroyed by fire. This was such a terrible blow to the institution that for a time its fate seemed dubious. But such was the untiring zeal of the friends of the institution at home and abroad that in the course of a year a new building was erected on the site of the one destroyed. For several years during the early '80s excellent work was done at the college. Under the able guidance of such scholarly men as Moses Peters and E. O. Hagen, a large number of young men, since prominent in their professions, laid the foundations of their education. Rev. McLawry, having tendered his resignation, Dr. J. Irwin Smith assumed the presidency in the year 1886, and continued in the discharge of the duties appertaining to that office for a period of two years. Rev. Smith had previously rendered the institution valuable aid in the capacity of financial agent. In the early '90s the attendance began to decrease from year to year, until the number of students became so small that to maintain the institution under those conditions was impossible. Something had to be done to give the school a new impetus.

In March, 1901, the deliberations, which finally resulted in the transfer of the control of the institution from the Presbyterian Board of Trustees to the Lutheran Synod, were commenced. The La Crosse Conference of the Lutheran Synod, then in session in La Crosse, elected a committee to go to Galesville for the purpose of examining the property, and to confer with the local board to determine the conditions under which the transfer might be effected. The committee, after having performed its duty, reported that by the payment of \$6,500 the transfer could be made. The city of Galesville pledged itself to furnish \$2,500, and the purchase was made in August, 1901.

It was deemed necessary to make extensive repairs on the building before the school could be opened. A sum of more than \$2,000 was contributed by members of the Lutheran congregations in the district and judiciously expended in repairing and improving the building. This work was completed in the fall of the year 1901. On the first day of December the institution was dedicated, its name being changed from Galesville University to Gale College. Prof. H. G. Stub, of Minneapolis, performed the ceremony. On the following day the school commenced its work under the new administration with Rev. L. M. Grimmetad, who has since remained with the school, as president.

The time during which the school has been under Lutheran supervision has been a period of success and constant progress. The old courses have been improved, and additional courses have been introduced. In 1908-1909 a music department was established, which has now become a permanent

and prominent feature of the school. During the same year the Classical and Scientific Courses were introduced, taking the place of the Academical Course. To the Commercial Department was added a Four-Year Course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Accounts. All of these courses, as well as the Luther College Preparatory and the Normal Parochial Courses, have continually been improved and broadened. In addition to the courses mentioned above, some work of Collegiate grade has also been carried on.

Musical and literary organizations have always played an important part at Gale College. A band was organized by Prof. A. F. Giere in 1903. Several tours were made during the summer months. Perhaps the most successful was the tour of 1909, when a distance of 800 miles was covered, the route of travel being through Western Wisconsin and Southern and Central Minnesota. An orchestra was organized by Prof. H. Onsgard in 1911. This work is now being successfully carried on by A. M. Fredrickson.

The *Utile Cum Dulci*, a literary society organized by students of the school 35 years ago, is still in a flourishing condition. All students are members. *Normannalaget* is a Norwegian society based on the same general principles as the *Utile Cum Dulci*. At this point may be mentioned the Gale College Club, organized in 1906, which has for its objects the lending of moral and financial support to the institution. All friends of the school are kindly requested to become members of this organization.

Literary activities are being stimulated further by the publishing of *The Gale Pennant*, a student's publication, first issued in 1908.

The work of the school is facilitated by a good library, the value of which was much increased by a careful cataloging in 1912-1913.

The Boys' Dormitory, built in 1906, furnishes comfortable accommodations for 55 students. The Ladies' Hall, completed in 1915, is a beautiful structure which accommodates about 50 students. This building contains also a gymnasium which fills a long-felt need.

For a church home the students have the Trinity Lutheran church, a pleasant and attractive building, erected by the Galesville congregation of the Norwegian Lutheran Synod in 1909.—(By L. M. Gimmetstad, President.)

The advantage of a college of this size and order, is the individual attention that can be given pupils to develop them in accordance with their mental qualifications and ability. In other words it brings out the individual brain strength and character of the pupil, thus enabling action on the part of the faculty, along the most beneficial lines, in other words, give the students a harmonious education.

The faculty comprises the Rev. L. M. Gimmetstad, A. B., President, and a staff of five assistants, each well qualified for the work of education. It well becomes the character of this work to compliment Rev. Gimmetstad on the splendid success he is making of the college and in qualifying the graduates for the position in life they desire to occupy. He is also entitled to the gratitude and unqualified consideration of all those who are interested in the college. He has sacrificed his personal ambition in a worldly way, to build up an institution creditable to himself and the denomination he represents. He is a scholar of fine attainment, an orator of finished ability, and

a man of affairs, who honors Galesville and its people by his association therewith.

Arcadia in 1876. Arcadia Village, succeeding Old Arcadia, was started in the winter of 1873 when the railroad came through, and grew in 1874 and 1875. In the spring of 1876, when the flood came, the flats already contained a village of considerable size, the business houses being scattered along Main Street both sides of the track, and on side streets.

The depot was located on the present site. Northeast of it was the elevator of Elmore & Kelly, and still further along the elevator of Krumdick & Muir, who also dealt in agricultural implements. Along the track southwest of the depot, and across the street, were the elevator of the W. P. Massuere Company and the farm implement warehouse of A. E. Smith & Co., on opposite sides of the track from each other, and further southwest, and like the Smith Company on the east side of the track, was the elevator of Canterbury & Smith. East of Elmore & Kelly was the lumber yard of J. W. Hiles, of which Henry Wirtenberger was the manager, and east of the Krumdick & Muir elevator was the lumber yard of H. Ketchum, of which C. E. Hollenbeck was the agent.

East of the depot, on the north side of Main Street, was a saloon owned by George Hiles and operated by James Hiles. Then came the livery barn of Le Vant Johnson. Next was the lumber office of H. Ketchum. Next east was the E. J. Gorton general store. Then came a vacant stretch of land. Further east there were two buildings, the first being the blacksmith shop of Nichols & Pike, and the second being the millinery store of Mrs. Rance Jones.

The Arcadia Hotel, of which John Eckel was the proprietor, occupied the present site of the Wolfe Opera House. South of this on the east side of the street, there were three buildings, the first going south, being the meat market of John Nickly, the second being the dry goods and grocery store of Mutz & Stariha, and the third being the saloon of J. K. Cysewski.

East of the Arcadia Hotel, on the south side of Main Street came the office of Drs. Frank L. Lewis and George N. Hidershide. Next was the Burt House, of which John and Richard Burt were the proprietors. Then came the general store of W. P. Massuere Company. Next, on the corner of Washington street was the drug store of I. R. Bryan & Co.

East of Washington Street on the present site of the W. P. Massuere Co. was the hardware store of the Merrill Brothers, L. G. and Benjamin. In the upper story of this building the Masonic order met. Considerably east of this was the poolroom and saloon of W. W. Barnes. Still further to the east was the Shamrock Hotel, of which A. Flynn was the proprietor. South of the Merrill Bros. hardware store, and on the east side of Washington Street was the Merrill Bros. lumber yard.

West of the depot on the north side of Main street there was a large vacant space. The present site of the Fugina Brothers Fertig Store was a swamp. Between the track and Commercial (Grant) Street, north of Main street and west of the track there was not a business house except the John D. Rainey Commercial Hotel, which stood on its present site. On the west side of Commercial Street, and north of the present site of the

Fugina Brothers Fertig Store, was the livery barn of the Bigham Brothers. Next north was the saloon of Matt. Danuser. Next was the tailor shop of Tim. Selek. Further along was the store of Bohri Brothers & Hensel. Still further was the saloon and restaurant of George Kump.

There were no business houses on River Street except the shoe and repairing shop of Henry Klug, who was on the corner east of Jackson Street and south of River Street.

On the north side of Main Street, west of the present site of the Fugina Brothers Fertig Store, was the meat market of Anton Baertsch. Then going west came the furniture store of Zeph Dupois (in the upper story were the offices of Capt. J. D. Lewis and P. H. Varney), the restaurant of Emile Dohlan, the saloon of Gregory Ripply, the tin shop of Thomas E. Murphy, and the millinery store of Mrs. F. A. Morgan. Next west, and on the corner of Jackson Street was the Fugina Brothers & Fertig store.

Across Jackson Street to the west, and on the corner, was the furniture store which had been built by Herman Tracy and was operated by F. J. Tracy and Casper Wohlgenant under the firm name of E. J. Tracy & Co. Further to the westward was the building which housed the postoffice and the Arcadia Leader, N. D. Comstock being the postmaster, and G. A. Hacston the editor of the Leader.

On the south side of Main Street, west of the track, was a vacant space. Then came the feed store of John Maurer. Next west was the general store of Gasal Brothers. Then came the harness shop of Richtman & Mallinger. Further to the west was the saloon of John Kastner. Next was the wagon shop of Joseph Kutz, and on the corner of Jackson Street was the blacksmith and machinery shop of Christ Van Wold. Across Jackson Street to the west, on the other corner was the harness shop of John Hentges. Still further along was the cigar factory of Jacob Schneller. The planing mill of Nic. Mueller was on the east side of Jackson Street, some rods south of Main Street. (Outlined by John C. Gaveney, after examination of the newspaper files and consultation with old settlers.)

Pioneer Schools. School conditions were materially different in the early days from what they are now. The pioneer schoolhouses had home-made desks placed close to the wall. Sometimes as many as twenty pupils had to rise to let the classes pass to and from recitation. In many schools there were no recitation seats and the classes had to stand. The desks and woodwork were often unpainted, but teacher and pupils were expected to keep all as white as soap and sand would make them. Each teacher, with the help of her pupils, cleaned her own schoolhouse. Long-handled dippers, washbasin, soap, towels, and mirrors came gradually, as did maps, charts and other helps. The three R's, with the addition of grammar and spelling, were the essentials, and pity the teacher who could not do all the "sums."

It may be that undue emphasis was placed upon arithmetic, as nothing was omitted, even though it had no practical value in itself. But for those pupils who had no hope of ever studying the higher mathematics or a foreign language, the mental discipline from their arithmetic was invaluable.

In mental arithmetic drills, and it was mental, the pupil would listen attentively while the teacher read a problem once. He would then stand,

repeat the problem correctly, give each step in the solution, and the conclusion, training along many lines. The pupils of early days did not have the culture that the pupils of later days have, but they learned how to work, they were able to help themselves, and they could spell.

What a frolic was the old-time spelling school! How the children did work over those spelling lessons! Books were taken home and hours were spent preparing for the next spelling school. Often three or more schools met and fought hard, if bloodless, battles for the championship. Yes, it was exciting fun, but it also taught spelling.

The children furnished their own text books, and often there were not enough to go around. Nor were the books always suited to the needs of the child. Four different kinds of readers or arithmetics were often found in one class.

Out of school the teacher was truly a part of the family with which she boarded. She sat with them around the kitchen fire, washed in the family basin, used the common family towel, and shared not only a room, but a bed with one or two children. The food was plain, but plentiful and wholesome, and although the houses were small and often very cold, they were real homes. Every one shared the joys and sorrows of the others.—By Margaret Anderson.

The Galesville Fair. The agricultural fair or "cattle show" was a tradition brought from the Eastern States, from whence most of the settlers came. In 1859 the time seemed ripe for such a venture in Trempealeau County. The rich virgin soil had brought forth abundantly. The pioneers were boasting of vegetables of great size, of experiments made in raising the standard of crops, of excellent results with stock, and of the success in solving the many problems incidental to the creation of a rich agricultural region from the hills and valleys that had only a few years before been an untraversed wilderness. A fair would not only give the widely-scattered settlers a chance to compare experiences and results, but would also demonstrate the resources of the county and attract immigration.

Accordingly a call was issued and the Trempealeau County Agricultural Society duly organized at the Court House on October 1, 1859.

"A. Call.—We, the undersigned, desirous of organizing an Agricultural Society in the County of Trempealeau, do appoint a meeting for that purpose, to be held in the Court House at Galesville, on the 1st of October, 1859, at 2 o'clock p. m. It is to be hoped and expected that every town in the county will be fully represented. The cause is one that should engage the attention of everyone. Come, old and young, that we may have two essential qualities—experience and fire.—George H. Smith, A. Cary, Isaac Clark, George Gale, Alex. A. Arnold, Ryland Parker, Samuel F. Harris, William T. Clark, Romanzo Bunn and George Y. Freeman, of Gale, and H. Lake and John B. Duning, of Preston."

The officers chosen were: President, George H. Smith; vice-presidents, Isaac Noyes, Alex. A. Arnold and John B. Duning; secretary, George Y. Freeman; treasurer, Isaac Clark; general committee, John C. French, of Gale; Cyrus E. Turner, of Trempealeau; Henry Lake, of Preston; Jacob T. Holmes, of Caledonia; David Bishop, of Arcadia, and Willard H. Thomas,

of Sumner. W. A. Johnson, a few days later, was appointed general superintendent.

Preparations were at once made for the first fair. Seventy-five men contributed \$1.00 each, and the people of Galesville turned out with axes and grubhoes and cleared the brush from the lower table about where the Public Square is now located and surrounded it with a race track, a track rough and uneven, but nevertheless one which answered its purpose. The fair was duly held October 21 and 22. The entries numbered 168 and the competition was keen. All the cash awards were returned by the prize winners. On the second day an address was delivered by Prof. Samuel Fallows. At the 1860 fair the exhibits were increased in number and quality. The third fair was held at Trempealeau in 1861, the only fair of the society that has been held outside of Galesville. Preparations were being made for the Civil War, and a feature of the gathering was a military parade by the Galesville Greys and the Trempealeau Guards.

In the fall of 1862 fair grounds were purchased from Isaac Clark, and the fair of that year held at the new location.

The annual fairs were held on these grounds until 1892, when the present grounds were purchased and put in use that fall for the Thirty-third Annual Fair. Improvements which were at once inaugurated have continued until the grounds and equipment are numbered among the best in the State.

Some 20 years later interest in the fairs seemed to wane. From the first the maintenance of the fair had been a financial burden to the people of Galesville, and vicinity, and had frequently necessitated contributions of considerable size. The unpaid \$1,000 due for the property was a constant menace to the existence of the organization.

New life was infused in 1907 when the citizens organized the Galesville Park, Fair & Improvement Company and by soliciting subscriptions paid the outstanding indebtedness on the property and took over the land which it leases to the Agricultural Society free. Since then the fairs have increased in importance and success, until the year 1916, when rumor of an infantile paralysis scourge reduced both the attractions and the attendance.

The present officers are: President, Carl McKeeth; vice-president, Emil Francar; secretary, Ben W. Davis; treasurer, J. A. Kellerman. The executive committee consists of the officers and of all the living ex-presidents, of whom there are now two, Capt. D. D. Chappell and N. H. Carhart.

The Trempealeau Valley Poultry Association, incorporated Feb. 21, 1913, was organized as the Trempealeau County Poultry & Breeders' Association in October, 1912, by M. F. Risinger, John A. Markham, Walter E. Sprecher, L. C. Larson, H. J. Hacker, C. A. Sherwood, C. C. Kremer and Bert Thompson. In 1914 Mr. Markham succeeded Mr. Risinger as president. Shows have been held as follows: 1912, Whitehall; 1913, Independence; 1914, Blair; 1915, Alma Center; 1916, Arcadia. The 1917 show is scheduled to be held at Independence, but probably will not be held on account of war conditions.

Agricultural Development. Agriculture in Trempealeau County had its beginning on Decorah Prairie, when the squaws of Decorah's band planted a

small corn field. Later Wabasha's band had a small corn field near Trempealeau.

The agriculture of the white man originated in this county in 1836, when the Rev. Daniel Gavin, the Swiss missionary, and his helper, Louis Stram, broke some land near a clear spring, east of Mountain Lake and some three miles northwest of the present village, and endeavored to teach the Indians farming. The attempt was not a success. John Doville, who arrived in 1838, started a garden on the land broken by Stram. Oats and peas were the principal crop. The oats were threshed in a primitive way with horses driven in a circle. Doville also broke a tract of land in the upper part of the present village. In those days the pigeons were a serious drawback.

The history of agriculture in Trempealeau County is the history of very many newly settled regions. The early settlers found a land rich in the natural resources of a silt loam soil. A land, which, with a minimum of labor and the use of the crudest of agricultural implements, yielded large crops of wheat, oats and corn.

For a few years after a piece of land was broken the yields were amazing, 45 to 50 bushels of wheat per acre not being unusual. Their machinery at that time consisted of a breaking plow, crossing plow, V-shaped drag and a scythe, cradle and flail.

A few years before the Civil War broke out a threshing machine run by a tread-power was introduced. This was little besides a cylinder, concave and fan. It had no straw stacker and one man stood at the rear with a fork and threw the straw back. In a short time a machine run by horse-power and tumbling rod, and equipped with a straw-carrier and measuring device was invented; and the settlers would have thought they were pretty well fixed, except that every bushel of grain in Trempealeau County had to be hauled either to Trempealeau or Fountain City, a round trip of 50 miles or more over roads that were barely passable.

Some little improvement was made on farm machinery during this time, but not much. And the threshers were not greatly changed for many years. Not long after the war, reapers began to be used; great heavy, clumsy machines, very apt to clog in heavy grain and requiring two men to operate them. One drove and the other was strapped to a post set in the center of the platform and removed the grain with a rake as it was cut.

Their haying was all done with a scythe, hand-rake and pitchfork. They kept only such cows as were needed to supply the family with milk and butter, and raised a few hogs for their own use, and sometimes hauled some dressed pork to the lumber camps and exchanged for lumber.

But this method of farming could not continue forever. Grain crops gradually dwindled until the yield of wheat was very small. Chinch bugs and weeds helped to crowd it out. Wheat was about their only money crop and when that failed they were at a loss how to live. At this time many, through a ruinous system of usury practised by money lenders who profited by the farmers' misfortune, were compelled to gather up their personal belongings and journey on toward the West, there to repeat the sad experiment of trying to take from the land continually without putting anything

back. But others, strong in the faith which every true farmer must have in his "spadeful of earth," hung to their homesteads, and soon after they saw a great light, for Gov. W. D. Hoard came preaching the gospel of corn, clover, cows and creameries.

The land had by this time become so robbed of humus, nitrogen and phosphorus that only meager and unprofitable crops could be raised. But with the advent of clover and cows, agriculture received a stimulus which has had a healthy and prosperous effect upon the county's farming industry ever since.

Farmers, pretty generally, started rotating their crops, keeping cows and hogs, thus adding to the fertility of the soil, and also giving them a steady income instead of the uncertain one afforded by grain raising.

About this time better machinery began to come into use and many farmers found their labors lightened by the use of combined reapers and mowers. These machines were usually drawn by three horses, two abreast and one on the lead ridden by a small boy. This was done to avoid injury to the unbound gavals which would result from driving three horses abreast.

The next evolution was in the nature of a harvesting machine which required three men to operate it. One drove and the other two bound the grain as it was elevated to them. This was followed by the self-binder.

The old horse-power threshers were gradually improved until we now have the modern steam thresher with wing feeders, automatic elevators and weighers, and wind stackers. Nearly every farmer now uses a cream separator in place of the old gravity system of separating cream. Harrows, disks, cultivators, drills and seeders have come into universal use, and the land has been brought back to its original fertility.

Silos and leguminous crops have insured the farmer a summer ration for his stock all the year round. And Trempealeau County has in this year 1917 the proud distinction of raising 156,000 bushels of wheat and of being the banner winter wheat county of Wisconsin.—By W. E. Bishop.

The Orchard and Its Advancements. The apple stands at the head of the list of all fruits and thrives in more localities than any fruit grown. In the early settling of Trempealeau County, along in the '50s, very few trees were set, and what were, were an experiment. The first apples in Trempealeau County were harvested in 1858 by George Batchelder. In about 1860 Messrs. Gray and Sparks started a nursery southeast of the village of Trempealeau, and induced the farmers to set trees. Then came E. Wilcox in 1862 and at the close of the war bought out Gray and Sparks and started to run a nursery on a larger scale. In an article written by E. Wilcox in March, 1870, to the Record, he stated that those who had orchards doing well were E. Barnard, J. Nichols, Amos Whiting, L. D. Ladd, Mr. Burns, D. W. Gilfillan, A. Grover, C. Perkins, J. Rhodes, Mr. Bomun, Mr. Cary, Mr. Wilbur, S. S. Luce, George Markham, Henry Lake and others. E. Wilcox was a strong believer in the idea that apples would succeed in Trempealeau County, and had set out an orchard of 1,500 trees. J. Nichols had three orchards of considerable size. These trees were coming into bearing nicely when the severe winter of 1872 destroyed most of them, as well as

the nursery stock of 60,000 trees. Those that withstood the winter were Dutchess, Transcendent and a few other crabs.

In the fall of 1871 W. A. Jackson, of Galesville, bought 500 trees of Wilcox and buried them in the ground over winter. They thus escaped the severe winter and were set out the following spring. A few other farmers did likewise, only on a smaller scale. These trees did well. Those who were not discouraged replaced their orchards with hardier varieties, and in the fall of 1882 or 1883 A. J. Scarseth, of Galesville, packed 500 barrels of apples. The empty barrels were procured from the cooper shop of Wilson Davis, conducted in connection with the flour mill. These apples were sold to E. White, of Winona, with the exception of a few barrels which were shipped farther west. There were some fine specimens of Snow, Perry Russet, Golden Russet, Utter, Seeknofurther, Pound Sweet, Talman Sweet, St. Lawrence, Ben Davis and many other varieties.

We boys, who were then in our teens, never will forget how these apples swelled our stomachs; and also the taste of those apple dumplings and the boxes of apples stored for winter. I also remember helping father load about 500 pounds of hay on the rack, and in the center of the load, on top, were placed 20 sacks containing one bushel each, and taking them to Winona, selling them for from \$1 to \$1.25 a bushel. The apples were free from worms' or other defects.

Then came another winter when it seemed that the mercury would never stop going down. This was in 1884, the low temperature killing nearly all varieties but the Dutchess of Oldenburg, Transcendent and a few top-worked varieties on the Transcendent. Those Dutchess and Transcendents bore well, but there was no market for them. Twenty-five cents a bushel was considered a good price for these varieties. Almost everybody had a few trees.

William Kass was another lucky man who had 160 trees buried in the ground. The winter of hard frost last mentioned (1884) froze mostly Utter's Large. This variety comes into bearing in from five to seven years after planting. Mr. Kass was known as "The Apple Man from the Little Tamarack," and had everything his own way for 10 years.

In the spring of 1891 I set out 500 trees. It was a favorable season and I did not lose half a dozen. Some of the neighbors laughed at the folly of trying to raise apples in Trempealeau County, but I thought I knew my own business. Their ridicule served to aggravate me, like when one tries to drive a hog bound to go the other way. So the following spring I set out 1,000 more trees and later added 300 to that. Then N. Perkins planted out 500 trees. Mr. Kass, S. D. Grover, M. S. Grover, John Perkins, William Trim and J. Nicholls planted 100 trees each. Many others tried smaller lots.

In 1895 I planted out in nursery rows 10,000 root grafts. In three or four years these trees were sold to the neighbors, George Trim buying the largest amount at any one time, something like 650, and Ed Grover was another heavy buyer. The tree agents from outside the State got busy and sold one-acre orchards. These amounted practically to nothing. The first fruit these orchards bore were sold to the grocerymen of Winona. Each year these orchards were more productive. In 1902 we began to ship in

barrels to Minneapolis and St. Paul. The output of the crops at this time was about 3,500 bushels. Mr. Ward, of Winona, came over and bought five carloads of late fall and winter apples. These were delivered in bushel crates at his cold storage. That same fall two dealers came along from Milwaukee. We sold them a car of No. 2 apples, which was shipped to the iron mines of Northern Wisconsin. The years 1908 and 1909 were two more banner years, with an estimate of 10,000 bushels each year. W. H. Craig, of Winona, was a heavy buyer and shipping was general. In 1910 the spring opened up early and the trees were in full bloom by the 20th of April, one month ahead of time. A snow storm and a heavy freeze settled the apple crop for that year. This freeze set all of the older trees bearing every other year. Then 1911, 1913 and 1915 were our fruit years. There are a few exceptions with the younger trees. There has been about 20,000 bushels raised each fruit year since 1910, and they have been distributed as far north as Duluth, Winnipeg, North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska and Illinois. There are many varieties being planted that will not withstand our severe winters. When one comes along they will die out. In the southern part of Trempealeau County there are about 225 acres planted to apples, about half of which are bearing fruit. (By John Grover.)

First Meeting in Sumner. "At the first town meeting held in the town of Sumner, April 6, 1858, the following number of votes were cast for town officers: William Harman received 13 votes for chairman supervisor; James T. King, 13 for supervisor; Jay H. Chase, 13 for supervisor; Alvin H. Daniels, 13 for town clerk; Austin Ayrs, 13 for treasurer; Henry C. Blanchard, 12 for superintendent of schools; Alva H. Daniels, 13 for justice of the peace; George Silkworth, 12 for justice of the peace; David R. Chase, 13 for justice of the peace; James Chase, 13 for justice of the peace; Austin Ayers, 13 for assessor; John Spalding, 13 for constable; H. C. Blanchard, 13 for constable; Russel Bowers, 13 for constable; Albert Taylor, 11 for town sealer. Whole number of votes cast, 13. William Harman, James T. King, Jay H. Chase, inspectors; Alva H. Daniels, clerk.

"We, the undersigned inspectors of election, after comparing all the votes, find that the following persons were elected to the following town offices in and for the town of Sumner, composed of township No. 24, range 7, 8 and 9:

"William Hartman, chairman of supervisors; Jay H. Chase and James T. King, supervisors; Alva H. Daniels, town clerk; Austin Ayrs, treasurer; A. C. Blanchard, superintendent of schools; Alva H. Daniels, George Silkworth, David H. Chase and James Chase, justices of the peace; Austin Ayers, assessor; John Spalding, H. C. Blanchard and Russel Bowers, constables; Albert Taylor, town sealer of weights and measures.

"We further certify the above to be the result of the first town election for town officers held at Blanchard Tavern on Beef River Station on April 6, 1858, and that the above report is true and correct. Dated at the town of Sumner, this 6th day of April, 1858. William Harman, Jay H. Chase, James T. King, Inspectors of Election.

"I certify the above to be true and correct report of said town election. Alva H. Daniels, Clerk of Election."—(Copy of the Records.)

Trempealeau Municipal Improvements. Trempealeau Village was incorporated in the pioneer days. All records were lost in the fire of 1888.

The village was reincorporated March 10, 1900, and A. H. Hoberton elected president and F. L. Fields, W. Stauge and Thomas Bohlen as trustees. W. A. Bright is the present president, and C. S. Ford, Ed. Davis, Alfred Kutchera and W. A. Graves as trustees.

The village owns the village hall, which is used for general village purposes, and the electric light plant. The hall was purchased from the W. C. T. U. and had previously been used as a reading room. The electric light service, which is secured by tapping the lines between the Hatfield Dam and Winona, was installed July 4, 1915. Before this the streets were lighted with kerosene lamps on corner posts.

The village part was platted for its present purpose when the surrounding lots were laid out. The band stand therein was erected about 1888 through the efforts of Dr. C. H. Cutter, and the members of the band here at that time.—(By A. A. Gibbs.)

Independence Municipal Improvements. The waterworks system in Independence dates from June 14, 1886, when M. Mulligan, the village president, volunteered to ascertain the cost of the waterworks at Galesville and report at the next meeting. June 22 of the same year J. C. Taylor, Henry Hanson and L. E. Danuser were appointed a committee to ascertain the cost of pumps to put out fires. Sept. 13, 1886, President M. Mulligan was instructed to make arrangements with the Mill Company, and to draw up a contract with Goulds & Austin for pumps, pipe and the like. There was actually built and constructed that fall, three blocks, about 1,000 linear feet, extending from the Mill on Railroad Street and Washington Street, to what is now known as Lyga's Corner. This main was laid so shallow that the entire system froze up solid during the following winter. In the following spring and summer the main was lowered. Sept. 7, 1887, a 200-pound bell was purchased for the village hall. Feb. 27, 1888, firemen's caps and belts were purchased. Aug. 6, 1894, J. Zimmers, A. Garthus and C. H. Short were appointed to investigate the waterworks of other places. On petition of 23 voters, a special election was called for Aug. 25, 1894, to vote on the question of issuing bonds of \$2,500 for a waterworks system, but owing to certain technicalities which were not observed, a second election was called May 30, 1895, and at this meeting it was decided by a vote of 102 to 2 to issue bonds of \$3,000 payable in three, four and five years. A. J. Bautch, O. P. Huff and C. H. Short were appointed on the committee to consult with an engineer. Plans and specifications were accepted May 6, 1895, and a contract was let to J. F. Zilla to build an artesian well, 500 feet deep, on the village lot. A lease was secured from Albert J. Bautch for the site for a reservoir on the hill just west of the village limits. June 20, 1895, the contract was let to install the waterworks for \$5,244.34. Aug. 20, 1895, the well was completed and Mr. Zilla paid \$722.06. That summer the pumphouse and reservoir were completed. Sept. 25, 1895, a contract was made with John Dagan to lower the old water mains from Third Street to the Mill. Dec. 9, 1896, trouble had developed at the pump by reason of sand. The trouble continued. By a resolution passed Oct. 11, 1897, a large and shallow well was

constructed, arranged to filter water through from the creek. The well was in working order early in the summer of 1898. Jan. 24, 1901, it was voted to extend the mains on Fifth Street, 640 feet, and on Third Street, 460 feet, with four new hydrants.

Sept. 12, 1908, a contract was awarded A. J. Bautch to extend the water mains across the lake, and up to the Catholic church, and to install the proper hydrants. On June 22, 1909, the citizens by a vote of 65 to 54 rejected the proposition to bond the village for \$3,200 for a sewer system. But on March 27, 1911, in accordance with a petition previously presented, the village board ordered an election to be held on April 25, 1911, on the question of bonding the village \$3,500 for waterworks and a like amount for a sewer system. On the date set both propositions were carried, the sewer vote being 95 to 37 and the water vote being 95 to 35. Jan. 23, 1911, a contract for the sewer system was let to F. C. Robinson & Co. for \$9,200. Oct. 24, 1911, the village board purchased for \$1,000 an acre of land from Jacob Jackson, on which to dig wells and erect a pumping house. Oct. 31, 1911, a contract was let for about \$700 for an addition to the sewer system on Fifth Street. April 19, 1912, a contract was let for furnishing an oil engine, pumps, pump house, extension of the water mains and completion of the entire work, at \$4,000, and on May 29, 1912, it was voted to purchase an oil tank for the water plant at \$470. Oct. 6, 1913, an extension of the sewer system was voted, 620 feet, for \$690. In October, 1915, sewer and waterworks extensions were made at a cost of \$3,200.

Independence is noted for its excellent street system. As early as May 24, 1886, the village purchased at a cost of \$218.50 a road grader, probably the first in Trempealeau County. May 31, 1886, John Elstad was appointed street commissioner at \$2 for each day's work of 10 hours. It was also decided that the road grader be let to districts desiring it, the grader to be in charge of a man designated by the village board, his wages to be paid by the district using it. On Aug. 7, 1899, by a vote of 59 to 3, the citizens declared in favor of issuing bonds of \$3,000, payable in two, three and four years, with interest at 5 per cent, for the purpose of building a 150-foot span steel bridge over Elk Creek at the mill. The contract was let Sept. 4, 1899, to J. G. Wagner & Co., of Milwaukee, for \$5,047. May 11, 1900, a sidewalk resolution was passed, leading to the construction of many miles of cement walks. Aug. 23, 1913, the village board took the necessary action to place certain streets of the village on the county system of prospective highways, and raised \$1,000 to macadam the following year the Osseo-Independence highway from the mill to the north limits of the village. The work was done in 1914, and \$3,000, including county and State aid, was expended. Aug. 3, 1914, the board raised \$2,000 for 1915 street improvements under the State aid plan, so that \$6,000 became available. May 20, 1915, the board adopted brick laid over a sand cushion as the type of pavement for the main streets of the village. In 1915 there was constructed on the main street of the village 7,500 square yards of asphalt bound brick pavement at a cost of \$11,000, 1,900 square yards of macadam pavement costing \$1,600, and curb and gutter costing \$500. In 1916 there was constructed 3,500 yards of brick paving costing \$5,500, and 2,000

linear feet of curb and gutter costing \$1,050. The permanent street improvements for the two years cost the village \$25,000, without creating any bonded indebtedness.

The slightly village hall at Independence has an interesting history. June 14, 1886, the board voted to purchase a building from John Sprecher for \$135. May 17, 1886, it was voted to purchase lot 4, block 10, original plan, 60 by 120 feet, for \$100. Later lot 5 was purchased. As the years passed, there came the necessity for a larger hall. Consequently at an election held May 5, 1902, by a vote of 79 to 18, it was decided to issue bonds of \$8,000, payable in eight installments, the first in two years, and then annually thereafter, for the purpose of erecting a village hall and electric light plant. C. G. Maybury, of Winona, was secured as architect. All the original bids were found to be too high, and so the plans were revised to reduce the cost. Aug. 20, 1902, the contract was let to H. and F. Roettiger, of Fountain City, for \$11,000. At a special election held May 25, 1903, by a vote of 66 to 20, the voters declared in bonding the village for \$2,950, payable in six annual installments beginning in 1917, for the purpose of erecting an electric light plant. The cyclone came Oct. 3, 1905, causing considerable damage and suffering in the village, and partly demolishing the city hall. A temporary roof was built. July 30, 1906, a contract was let to C. A. Sweet for completing the hall at \$2,812, and the heating contract was let to J. V. Cummings for \$1,225. The same year \$200 was expended for stage scenery and \$135 for a piano. Aug. 20, 1909, it was voted to buy a new boiler for the electric light plant at \$1,366. July 14, 1910, it was voted to buy a clock and bell for the city hall tower at \$1,000 from the Seth Thomas Clock Company. March 7, 1892 the first appropriation was made for a public library. July 22, 1907, \$500 was appropriated for the purpose of installing a library in the city hall. The franchise to the Arcadia Telephone Company was granted July 11, 1896, and to the Independence Farmers' Telephone Company on Feb. 4, 1901.—(Gathered from the Records by John A. Markham, village president, and Jacob Jackson, village clerk.)

Early Burnside Records. At a meeting of the town of Burnside, held at the house of Giles Cripps, April 5, 1864, pursuant to an order issued by the County Board of Supervisors, the following were elected officers of the meeting: George E. Parsons, H. W. Rumsey and T. Moore, inspectors; G. H. Markham and Giles Cripps, clerks. The following named persons were duly elected town officers for the year 1864: G. E. Parsons, chairman, 9 votes; T. Moore and A. C. Baker, supervisors, 9 votes; George H. Markham, clerk, 9 votes; Giles Cripps, treasurer, 9 votes; H. D. Rumsey, assessor, 9 votes; justices of the peace, Charles Lyne, 1 year, 9 votes; G. Parsons, 2 years, 5 votes; H. W. Rumsey, 2 years, 9 votes; Giles Cripps, 1 year, 9 votes; constables, H. D. Rumsey, 9 votes, and L. Bautch, 9 votes. The inspectors of elections were G. E. Parsons, Talcott Moore and H. W. Rumsey. The poll list consisted of A. C. Baker, sworn; Charles Lyne, Peter Sura, Lawrence Bautch, Talcott Moore, Giles Cripps, George H. Markham, H. P. Rumsey, George E. Parsons; total, 9. Cripps was unanimously elected overseer of highways, district No. 3 of the town of Burnside. The following acts

were passed: 1. Hogs not to be allowed free commons under a penalty of one-quarter of a dollar for each head. 2. Five dollars (\$5) raised for the purpose of buying a burial ground. 3. Motion made, seconded and carried that the board of supervisors be appointed a committee to confer with Giles Cripps and H. W. Whitmore for the purchase of a burial ground. 4. Moved, seconded and carried that we hold the next town meeting at the schoolhouse. 5. Moved, seconded and carried that this meeting be adjourned at 4 o'clock p. m., Nov. 5, 1864.

At a meeting of the board of supervisors held at the house of George H. Markham, April 9, 1864, it was determined that the town of Burnside should compose one road district to be known as road district No. 3. Dated April 9, 1864. G. E. Parsons and Talcott Moore, supervisors. At a special town meeting held at the schoolhouse, district No. 1 of the town of Burnside, on June 20, 1864, a tax of \$100 was raised for the purpose of opening a road to Beef River; also a tax of \$50 for the contingent expenses of said town. G. E. Parsons, chairman; T. Moore and A. C. Baker, inspectors.

A special meeting was held June 20, 1864, at which it was determined that road district No. 3 should hereafter be known and described as road district No. 1 of the town of Burnside. By an order of the town board dated July 6, 1864, a new school district was established as district No. 2. Nov. 8 school district No. 3 was established. By an order of the town board dated Dec. 10, 1864, these two districts were consolidated as school district No. 2. By an order of the town board dated January 23, 1865, two new road districts were formed as districts No. 1 and No. 2.

At a special town meeting held Jan. 23, 1865, held at the schoolhouse in district No. 1 of the town of Burnside for the purpose of raising \$660 to procure volunteers, the proposition was carried unanimously. The proposition of raising a tax of \$264.69 to pay the indebtedness of the town on the back call, was carried by one vote, votes standing 7 for, 6 against. In the poll list of this meeting are the names of Michael White, James Reid, J. L. Hutchins, T. Bennett and Nephi Nichols for the first time recorded; total votes, 13.

The financial statement of the town for 1864 and 1865 is: County and State tax, \$225.17; town tax, \$155; school tax, \$270; total, \$650.17. Amount of orders drawn, \$426.65; amount of orders paid, \$339.40; deficit of \$87.25. Delinquent tax list, \$455.31; due on orders, \$87.25; leaving on hand, \$360.06. Beef River road and county, \$270; leaving on hand a surplus of \$98.06. There was also paid out on what the record calls the Arcadia War Fund \$76.43.

There is a record, June 29, of \$168.67 paid the town of Arcadia in full on this fund at the town meeting April 4, 1865. There were 20 votes cast. It was voted that \$100 be raised for the contingent fund; that no money be raised for town school purposes; and that no highway tax be raised for road purposes.

At the town meeting April 3, 1866, the following resolution was adopted: "Resolved, That the public money raised for bounty purposes by the county of Trempealeau shall be paid only to the soldiers who have been honorably discharged from the service of the United States and to the heirs

of the soldiers who have died before receiving the county bounty of \$50. Resolved, that in order that the public money raised for bounty purposes may not be paid to other than the soldiers or their heirs, the county board of supervisors should take no cognizance of any transfer or assignment of bounty, but should adhere to the rule heretofore adopted to allow the bounty only on the application of the soldier, accompanied by his certificate of honorable discharge from the United States service, and on the application of the heirs of deceased soldier upon satisfactory proof of the service and death of the soldier and the heirship of the applicants. Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be presented to each of the county supervisors."

The following territory was taken from the town of Burnside and added to the town of Lincoln, to take effect April 1, 1867: The southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter, section 25; the east half of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter, and the southeast quarter of the northeast half, section 35 and section 36; town 22, range 9 west.

At the election held April 7, 1868, the question of removing the county seat from the village of Galesville to the village of Trempealeau, 44 votes were cast, 10 for removal and 34 against.

May 3, 1873, a special election was held for the purpose of voting on the proposition to grant bonds to the amount of \$20,000 to aid the Green Bay and Lake Pepin Railroad (now the G. B. & W). The vote stood 9 for and 93 against, with one deficient.

In 1879 the inhabitants of that part of the town that now comprises the town of Chimney Rock (township 23) agitated the splitting of the town. The question was voted on at the spring election of 1880 with the following result: In town 22, for, 38; against, 157; in town 23, for, 110; against, 5. The proposition not receiving a majority in both parts of the town, it was lost. It was again voted on in the spring of 1881 and carried.—(By James N. Hunter.)

Early Adventures. At the time of the Indian Massacre of 1862, the settlers were greatly frightened, and many left. George Hale, who was working for the Markhams at Independence, went to Fountain City with a team, and obtained a keg of powder and lead. The settlers were determined to hold their ground against all comers. The Watson family from the town of Hale fled to the Markham house for mutual protection. But the Indians did not come. Some time previous to the Massacre the Indians borrowed a rifle from Giles Cripps, promising to return it a little later. Cripps made sure he had lost his gun and was greatly surprised some weeks later when the Indian returned the rifle in good condition. Cripps felt sure that the gun had been in use at Mankato in the Indian uprising.

In the early days, great difficulty was often encountered in obtaining a physician. During the second winter or early fall that the Markhams were here, Mr. Lyne, the tutor, was taken dangerously ill. George H. Markham started on foot for Black River Falls, fording the Trempealeau River and other streams. He took supper at Jim Finn's place east of Blair, and found Dr. Hutchinson, of Black River Falls, who gave him some medicine and promised to follow later. Mr. Markham then ate some food, and set out

immediately, reaching home within 24 hours of the time he started, after having covered a distance of over 70 miles.

The Flood of 1876. The great flood of March, 1876, marks an important epoch in Trempealeau County life, for while there were no casualties, and only a few serious injuries, old pioneers date all the events of the early days as happening "before the flood" or "after the flood."

The flood was ushered in by a severe rain. Soon every river and creek was flooded. In the Trempealeau Valley, where the Green Bay had caused a number of new villages to spring up, the damage was the worst. Some of the millers in order to save their dams, opened their sluice gates, and this made the condition in the lower valley all the worse. The villages and hamlets were flooded, the people had to go about in boats. There were a number of thrilling rescues, amusing stories are told of people taken from wood piles and box cars, and even of one adventurous cow which made its way with its calf up a pair of stairs and was found the next morning safe on a stair landing, many feet above the raging flood. The flood was followed by severe cold, some isolated families had to burn furniture and laths from their houses to keep warm. Vast tracts of water froze shortly afterward, making the valley one great ice field.

Many thrilling scenes were also enacted in the Beaver Creek Valley, especially at Galesville.

The saddest affair was at Independence. It began to rain there in the forenoon, and continued most of the day. The ground being hard frozen, the creeks were soon roaring torrents. Toward evening four boys—Lee Fay, Fred Hill and two Schmidt boys—went on the railroad bridge across Elk Creek to watch the ice break up. So intent were they in watching the ice that they did not observe that the track was covered with water, and they were unable to get off and had to cling to the truss of the bridge all night. As they had told no one where they were going, their friends were unable to locate them and when found next day they were in a pitiful condition. The physicians called concluded that immediate amputation of the feet was necessary. The operation was performed by Drs. George N. Hidershide and Frank L. Lewis, of Arcadia.

The experience of Dr. Geo. N. Hidershide in this connection throws an interesting light on the life of a physician in the early days. Word reached Arcadia of the tragedy at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and Dr. Hidershide, crossing the raging river in a skiff, secured a saddle horse from a farmer and started on his errand of mercy. At the Two-Mile Bridge he was forced to take to the hills. At every valley he had to go nearly to the head of the stream, as all were too swollen for crossing. All that terrible chilling night he toiled on his way, and it was not until 5 o'clock the next morning that he reached his destination at Independence, only nine miles from Arcadia. He made the boys as comfortable as he could, and then returned to Arcadia. Later he and Dr. Lewis performed the amputating operation.

Borst Valley. This valley comprises parts of three towns. Its two westernmost branches head in Dover, Buffalo County; the main east branch rises near the center of Chimney Rock; the lower half of the valley lies in Burnside, where its general slope is to the southeast. In greatest length

the valley extends about eight miles. Its waters find outlet into Elk Creek near the east line of section 11, Burnside.

The valley never bore the name of its first settler, whose family and others called it Little Elk. Afterward by many it was known as Warring Valley. Later it sometimes was designated as Borst Valley. Fifteen years after the coming of the first settler another name was added—Markham Valley, for a man who arrived in 1875. All these names were current at the same time. There never was concerted action on the part of the inhabitants to decide upon a single designation, nor rivalry as to choice. The valley's present name appears to have been generally adopted about 1892.

William S. Cramer, a native of Connecticut, was the first settler. His wife, Deborah Ann, nee Smith, was a native of Ohio. They emigrated from Ohio to Marquette County, Wis., in 1851. A few years later they went to Green Lake County, and in 1861 moved to Butler County, Iowa. In October, 1863, they reached Borst Valley. All these migrations were made by ox team, for the Cramers were typical pioneers. They had five boys—George F., Elmer, Theodore, Charles and Willie. Mr. Cramer squatted on the north-west quarter of section 11, town 22, range 9, a half mile above the valley's mouth, and began gathering logs to build a cabin. A few of these were cut on his claim, the rest being taken wherever a suitable tree was found. The red oak bolts from which he split shakes for the roof Mr. Cramer secured in the head of a coolie above George Hale's location in Pleasant Valley, about five miles distant. In November the family occupied the cabin, moving in before the door was hung or the window fitted.

After finishing the cabin Mr. Cramer went to La Crosse to make homestead filing and learned the land had been withdrawn from entry pending determination of definite limits of a land grant to a railway that afterward became the Omaha line. He returned home, built a shed for the oxen, gathered firewood sufficient for a year or more and laid in a stock of family supplies. Then on Jan. 13, 1864, he enlisted at La Crosse and became a soldier of the Civil War. His son George says Mr. Cramer's enlistment was credited to the town of Gale, that he received \$450 bounty, was assigned to Company G, Thirty-second Wisconsin Infantry and sent to Tennessee. Mr. Cramer died of dysentery in the military hospital at Nashville, Sept. 3, 1864, aged about 43.

Mrs. Cramer continued to occupy the claim, making only such improvements as would supply the family with corn and the necessary vegetables, until the land was restored to entry in 1866, when she sent her son George, then about 18 years old, to La Crosse to make homestead entry, instructing him to file in her name. Finding this not permissible, George made entry for himself as head of the family. In 1869 they sold relinquishment of the homestead to Henry B. Fay.

Wanderlust had a firm hold on Mrs. Cramer, an impulse acquired in early life. On leaving Borst Valley she went to Bear Creek, between Mondovi and Durand, where she married Peter Vroman, who died six months later. Notwithstanding the legal change of name, she was known through life as Mrs. Cramer by her old acquaintances. In 1876 she moved to Kansas and in 1878 returned to Wisconsin. Three years later she emigrated to

Oregon and took a homestead six miles west of The Dalles, where she passed a settled life for 25 years. Then selling her land, Mrs. Cramer went to Western Oregon, and in 1911 to San Diego, Cal., where she died July 3, 1912, in her 83d year.

Of the Cramer children, Willie died in the spring of 1864, aged 3 years. His was the first death in Borst Valley, and his burial in the plot that afterward became the Cripps Cemetery was the first interment there. Theodore and Charles in the early '80s went to Oregon, where the first named died in October, 1913. Charles is near Mosier, Ore., and Elmer near Kellogg, Minn. George was the last of the family to leave Trempealeau County, going to the West in 1887. He lives near Hillsboro, Ore.

* * *

In the fall of 1863 Hamlet D. Warring, native of New York, and Lowell Fay, native of Massachusetts, came to view the valley and selected locations. Both returned the following spring, and with them came Mrs. Lydia Meigs, Warring's housekeeper; Reuben and Harriet Meigs and James and Angeline Mosier. Reuben was Mrs. Meigs' son and Harriet and Angeline were Warring's daughters. They came from Oxford, Marquette County. Mr. Warring located above and adjoining the Cramer claim and Meigs directly west and adjoining Cramer's. Mosier squatted on section 3, but in the fall abandoned the claim and returned to Marquette County. Mr. Warring brought the first horses and the first reaper to the valley. He lived there until his death, Dec. 19, 1888, aged about 75 years. Mrs. Lydia Meigs moved to Minnesota in the late '70s. Reuben Meigs died in Montana. His widow lives in North Dakota.

Lowell Fay located at a point where the valley merges into Pleasant Valley. With him were his wife and son Lea. In 1865 Mr. Fay was followed by his sons Henry B. and Aaron, both Civil War soldiers. Henry settled first in Lincoln, but in 1869 he bought the Cramer relinquishment and built the first brick house in Borst Valley. Except Aaron, the Fays moved to Minnesota in the early '80s. Aaron died at the Milwaukee soldiers' home in 1916.

Samuel Beswick bought land at the mouth of the valley from an Eastern owner in 1864. Mr. Beswick was a bachelor. He died in the early '90s and his farm passed into possession of Fred Cripps.

In the fall of 1864 came James Kelly and wife, natives of Ireland, with their sons, James, Jr., and John, and daughters, Laura and Marcella. They were from Marquette County. Mr. Kelly located on section 4, Burnside. James Kelly, Jr., married Cornelia, daughter of Talcott Moore, of Pleasant Valley. This was the first marriage of a Borst Valley resident. With the exception of James, Jr., who lives in Northern Wisconsin, the Kellys removed to Minnesota in 1869.

Daniel and Emily Borst, with four children, arrived in the valley in 1865, coming from Marquette County. Their homestead was in section 34, Chimney Rock. They went to South Dakota in 1870, thence to Washington State. Daniel died at Seattle Sept. 12, 1906. Emily died early in 1917.

In the fall of 1865 George and Martha Meigs reached the valley, coming from Marquette County. George was Reuben Meigs' brother and Martha was H. D. Warring's daughter. George was a Civil War soldier, serving in a New York regiment. His homestead was Mosier's abandoned claim in section 3, Burnside. The first child born in the valley was his son Decatur, July 22, 1866. Mrs. Meigs died April 10, 1873. George moved to Minnesota in 1878, and thence to Montana, where he died early in 1917 in the soldiers' home at Columbia Falls.

In 1866 William Nicols, a native of Scotland, purchased from a non-resident owner a quarter section adjoining the Cramer claim on the east and built a cabin. The next year he broke a few acres. In 1874 he married Giles Cripps' daughter Emma. Mr. Nicols died May 17, 1916, aged 80 years. Of the earliest settlers he continued longest in possession of a single tract of land—50 years.

The next settlers were Martin W. and Sarah Ann Borst, from Decorah, Iowa, who reached the valley May 12, 1867. They had six children: Virgil, Curtis, Henry, Harvey, Mina and Russell. Mr. Borst visited Trempealeau County in 1866. He first contemplated erection of a grist mill at the site of the present Elk Creek Mill in Pleasant Valley, and made homestead entry of the 160 acres near there that afterward became the Christ Gassow farm. Negotiation for the millsite and flowage rights failing, Mr. Borst abandoned his homestead entry and bought land in Borst Valley. These purchases comprised tracts in both Burnside and Chimney Rock. His house was built on the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 3, Burnside, and in the vicinity he operated for several years the largest farm in that region. Mrs. Borst died Nov. 22, 1873. Mr. Borst left the valley in 1878, going to South Dakota. He returned to Wisconsin in 1889, and died at Mondovi, Dec. 21, 1899, in his 87th year. Of the Borst children, Curtis was killed by road agents Nov. 27, 1877, at Frozen Man's Creek, 40 miles west of old Fort Pierre, South Dakota; Russell died at Independence Nov. 11, 1888; Virgil lives in St. Paul, Minn.; Henry, Harvey and Mina (Mrs. C. J. Ward) are residents of Mondovi.

Peter Peterson Norman made homestead entry in the upper part of the valley in the fall of 1867 and started erection of a log house. The following spring he brought his family. With him this time came his brother Sever. These men were the first Norwegian settlers in Borst Valley.

* * *

Among those who came in the next four years were the following:

1867—Peter and Emma Decker; Mrs. Decker, a widow, and sons Stephen and George; Joseph Mericle and wife and George Mericle. All came from Winneshiek County, Iowa. Peter and Emma were the last of the party to leave the valley, going to Ellendale, N. D., in 1884. Silas Parker and family came from Galesville, remained a year and removed to Hale.

1868—Lyman Back, native of Connecticut, came from La Crosse and took a homestead in the Chimney Rock section. In the fall he moved on his

location with his wife, Lucy, and daughter Lydia. Mr. Back was killed by lightning Sept. 6, 1875, his being the first violent death in the valley. His wife died exactly seven weeks later. George L. Back, son, and George Bartlett and Robert Brookins, sons-in-law of Lyman, made homestead entries, but did not occupy them until the following March. George L. Back is still a resident there. The others left many years ago. George Fisk and family and Augustus Huguenin and wife arrived from Iowa. The latter soon returned to Iowa. Mr. Fisk in 1872 emigrated to California. William Harris and William Barnhart, with their families, came from Dorchester, Iowa, and settled in the west branch, the first in the Burnside section, where he established the first blacksmith shop in the valley. In 1872 he sold to Michael Lee. Mr. Barnhart's location was at the head of the branch. He lived in Dover, half his farm lying in that town. He sold to Charles Short. Chester Beswick bought land in the lower part of the valley, moving in with his family the following February. He now lives near Blair. Al Osgood and wife, from Arcadia, and John Sprinkle and wife, from the head of Wickham valley, were residents in 1868, remaining but a year.

1869—Palmer Back, another son of Lyman Back, arrived from La Crosse, bought the Kelly location in section 4, Burnside, and moved thereon. In 1871 he sold to William Russell and left the valley. David Barnhart, whose wife was a daughter of William Harris, came with a large family from Marengo, Ill., and settled in the west part of Chimney Rock. He moved to Eau Claire County in 1883. Thomas and Elizabeth Burt came from Glencoe, Buffalo County, and located in the Burnside section.

1870—In March Mrs. Laura Campbell, widow with a large family, arrived from Grant County, Wis. Soon afterward she married P. H. Varney, also from Grant County, and lived at Arcadia, where she died Feb. 18, 1879. None of the Campbell family acquired land in the valley. In May William Hunter, native of Scotland, his sons, William, Jr., and James N., and daughter, Janet, reached the valley, coming from Allegheny County, Pa. They settled in the Burnside section. Mr. Hunter, Sr., died in June, 1897, aged 74 years. His sons are still living in the valley. With the Hunter family came Charles and Mary Short, also natives of Scotland. Mr. Short bought the William Barnhart place and lived in Dover. There were eight children in the Short family, two of whom are David and Charles Short, of Independence. The elder Short died in May, 1907, and his wife in December, 1914.

1871—In the spring of this year William and Christina Russell, natives of Scotland, came from Allegheny County, Pa. Mr. Russell bought the Kelly Homestead from Palmer Back. The Russells at that time had four children: Alexander, Mary, Isabella and Christina. Mary is the wife of Anton Liver, living at Independence. The three others are dead. William Russell died April 26, 1887, aged 55 years. Mrs. Russell resides on the old homestead.—(By Virgil Borst.)

The Green Bay & Western Railroad has been one of the principal factors in the development of central Trempealeau County. Incorporated by special Act of the Wisconsin Legislature, the company was, April 12.

1866, chartered as the Green Bay & Lake Pepin Railway Company, with Wabasha as its objective western terminal. Four miles were graded in 1869 and 30 miles in 1870. Track laying was commenced in the fall of 1871, and completed 39 miles from Green Bay to New London, Dec. 20, 1871. Four days later the first passengers were carried by special train. During the summer of 1872, 110 miles between New London and Merrillian Junction, in Jackson County, were graded and the tracks laid. The whole work was completed at 5 o'clock on the afternoon of Dec. 24, 1872. During the summer and fall of 1873 the tracks were graded and iron laid from Merrillian Junction to Marshland, where connections were made with the old La Crosse, Trempealeau & Prescott Railroad, now the Madison division of the Chicago & North Western. The first regular passenger service between Green Bay and Winona was inaugurated Dec. 18, 1873. Sept. 5, 1873, the name was changed to the Green Bay & Minnesota Railroad. At that time it was believed that the road would be consolidated with the Winona & St. Peter, John I. Blair being a large stockholder in both roads. But the Chicago & North Western absorbed the Winona & St. Peter, and the Green Bay was left to its own devices. The struggle was a severe one. Running through 209 miles of a new and sparsely settled country, the receipts were not sufficient to maintain it. January 24, 1878, it went into the hands of a receiver and remained in the receiver's hands until sold, Oct. 15. Jan. 20, 1881, it was sold to John I. Blair, representing the bondholders, and reorganized as the Green Bay, Winona & St. Paul Railway Company. Articles of incorporation dated May 6, 1881, filed in Wisconsin May 16, 1881. The company defaulted on bond interest and the Farmers' Loan & Trust Company was appointed Trustee in Possession, the trusteeship continuing from March 23, 1885, to Oct. 25, 1886. A second default was made on the bond interest and the Farmers' Loan & Trust Company again appointed Trustee in Possession. Trusteeship from Aug. 1, 1890, to June 10, 1896. The property was sold under foreclosure May 12, 1896, to Mark T. Cox and others. The deed of sale from Mark T. Cox and others to the Green Bay & Western Railroad Company is dated June 5, 1896.

In 1891 a spur track was completed from Marshland to East Winona, and the Winona terminal was established at the Burlington station instead of at the North Western station.

At the time of building the Green Bay & Western Railroad through the fertile Trempealeau Valley in 1873, the now prosperous cities of Dodge, Arcadia, Whitehall and Blair were but little hamlets. Little was known of them for the reason they were so small, one passing through the country would not consider a few houses grouped together as of sufficient importance to give them a name.

The railroad crossed the Jackson and Trempealeau County line three miles east of the now prosperous city of Blair, which was so named in honor of the famous and well-known pioneer railroad builder of the West, Hon. John I. Blair, of Blairstown, N. J. He was the first man of great wealth who, far in advance of the times, realized the vastness of the great Northwest and lavishly advanced his money in building railroads to develop the country now so fertile. He trusted with unerring judgment to the future

to bring returns on his investments, and, thanks to the all-wise Providence, his life was spared to see his judgment confirmed and his investments in several of his railroads, notably the Chicago & North Western Railway, bring ample returns, for he lived to the ripe old age of ninety-five years.

At the time the railroad passed the present location of Blair, there were but a few scattering farm houses, and the store of T. I. Gilbert, which was at the west limits of the present village. The first store in the village was built by C. C. Hanson and T. I. Gilbert in 1874, and was burned in the fire of 1891. Blair is now a very thriving village of about 700 people, doing a large business in general farm products.

The next hamlet passed by the railroad on its westerly course was what is now known as Whitehall, a beautiful and thriving little city of about 1,000 souls, on a broad, flat plateau of land between picturesque hills on the north and south sides and is the county seat of Trempealeau County, the county seat having been moved there from Arcadia in 1878. The first store was built by H. E. Getts in 1874 and still stands just north of the John O. Melby Bank. At the time of the advent of the railroad there was but one farm house to mark the location. Like Blair, it derives its support from the rich farming land surrounding it in every direction and from the very fertile Pigeon Creek Valley leading to the northeast.

Independence, the next thriving little city six miles west of Whitehall, was a farm owned by Jake Pampuch at the time the railroad was built and until it was bought by D. M. Kelley in 1876, and the present village of Independence was platted May 30. There are about 900 people living in this village, which is supported by a very rich farming community.

Arcadia, eight miles to the west, with a population of 1,200, is a very prosperous city. At the time of the building of the railroad there was a little hamlet about one mile to the southeast of the present business location of Arcadia. The first store was built by A. F. Hensel in 1874 and was operated as a general store by Bohri Bros. The first elevator was built in 1873 by Remby, Canterberry & Smith on the site now occupied by the W. P. Masuere & Co. elevator. The same year Elmore & Kelley, of Green Bay, Wis., built an elevator at Arcadia, they being the first two elevators built along the line of the railroad in Trempealeau County. Arcadia was for a time the county seat, having been moved there from the village of Galesville, where it was located for many years. It is supported by a very large area of very productive farming land.

From Arcadia westward the railroad followed the low land bordering on the Trempealeau River, which in the early days got on an annual rampage at the opening of the spring and caused very great damage to the railroad, notably in the great floods of March, 1876, when the railroad between Arcadia and Marshland was nearly obliterated and was out of commission for two months.

Thirteen miles to the west of Arcadia we arrive at the village of Dodge, at the west side of Trempealeau County. It was named in honor of William E. Dodge, of New York City, a prominent financier for many years. He was associated with John I. Blair, Moses Taylor, Joseph H. Scranton, E. F. Hatfield and many other well-known financiers of New York in the pioneer

railroad building of the West. He was also connected with many philanthropic institutions and at one time was treasurer of Protestant Syrian College at Constantinople, Turkey. Unfortunately for the village of Dodge, it was located too near the city of Winona, Minn., where the farm products were mostly marketed. However, within the last few years conditions have changed and the business has improved very much.

From Dodge the railroad passes into Buffalo County and soon passes over the Father of Waters into the beautiful city of Winona, Minn., the history of which is well known.—(By F. B. Seymour, Oct. 10, 1917.)

The Risberg County Accounting System. Páudor K. Risberg, county clerk of Trempealeau County, has evolved a system of county accounting which is being adopted in many other counties of the Northwest. When he became county clerk nine years ago, after a long career as an educator, he found that the county accounting system was far from satisfactory. In the neighborhood of a hundred different officials had at the time the authority to issue orders for money upon the county treasury. The State registrar of vital statistics, the asylum trustees, the county highway commissioner, the circuit judge, the county judge, clerk of court, district attorney, county clerk, sheriff, county assessor and every justice of the peace in the county were authorized by law to draw orders upon the county treasury; and in addition to this the county treasurer was authorized to pay out all State taxes and all school funds, together with certain fees to town and village treasurers, without any written order from anybody.

The danger of two or more officials issuing orders upon the same funds is very apparent, for the reason that one official does not know what amount of orders the other one has issued, and no one of them knows at any given time whether there is sufficient money in the treasury to meet his order.

When the new state highway law of 1911 went into effect the old accounting system was found inadequate, and something had to be done to handle the funds of the county in a more modern and businesslike manner. Plans were drawn up by Mr. Risberg and submitted in part to committees, a new system being a vital necessity. In 1915 the work had progressed so far that it was submitted to the county board and was unanimously adopted.

The new system provides that no money shall be paid out of the county treasury except upon a written order signed by the county clerk and countersigned by the county treasurer; a voucher must also be on file in the office of the county clerk for every order issued. The following records are parts of the system:

Clerk's Combined Journal, Cash Book, Order Book and Ledger.

Treasurer's Combined Journal, Cash Book, Order Book and Bank Ledger.

Clerk's Record of Taxes Levied and Collected.

Treasurer's Record of Taxes Levied and Collected.

Clerk's Tax Sale and Redemption Record.

Treasurer's Tax Sale and Redemption Record.

Clerk's Petition Record for Road and Bridge Aid.

Clerk's Listing Record of Road and Bridge Orders.

Clerk's Listing Record of Asylum Orders.

Treasurer's Inheritance and Fines Record.

Under the new system the county clerk has an exact knowledge of all the funds in the county treasury at all times.

These records are prepared by a leading printing house and are in the general market.

Mr. Risberg has also devoted his spare time to systematizing the old records in the clerk's office, so that any document from the first organization of the county is easily to be found, and in addition to this he has compiled many statistics from the records which were in the custody of the clerks before he took office.

CHAPTER XXIV.

SOURCES.

The principal sources of strictly local Trempealeau County History are the files of the newspapers, the county and village records, the records of various institutions, letters, diaries, and the memories of the pioneers. The results of interviews with hundreds of pioneers have been preserved in the files of the Trempealeau County Historical Society. The five principal collectors of historical material in the county have been Judge George Gale, Judge Benjamin F. Heuston, Judge Hans A. Anderson, Dr. E. D. Pierce and Attorney Stephen Richmond. George H. Squier has devoted nearly half a century to the study of the geology and archaeology of the county.

Judge B. F. Heuston was the first to enter the field. Coming here when Trempealeau was still Reed's Landing, and for many years taking an active part in public life, he was the personal friend of all the early pioneers, and was closely in touch with pioneer activity in all its phases. He spent many years in writing down his own observations, and in traveling about interviewing the early pioneers and transcribing their reminiscences. Many of his writings are preserved in the newspapers, and he assisted in furnishing material for the History of Western Wisconsin, published in 1882. Upon his death he left a completed manuscript history of the county. The manuscript is in the custody of the Trempealeau County Historical Association, but owing to certain conditions regarding its use has not been made available for general examination. The work of Judge Heuston regarding geology, archaeology, Indian history, explorers, fur traders and French settlement days has been superseded by later research by others, but his material regarding the pioneer period is of considerable value.

Judge George Gale was the next to enter the field. His book, "The Upper Mississippi," embodies much of his general research in this vicinity, and the Galesville "Transcript" preserves in its files many of his articles, largely of an archaeological nature.

Some thirty years ago Judge Hans A. Anderson became interested in the subject. His spare time has since then been largely devoted to gathering material at first hand from the pioneers. He has interviewed hundreds of early settlers, he has examined numerous records, he has conducted an extensive correspondence with the people in all parts of the country, and he has made extensive collections of photographs and mementoes. The result of his investigations are embodied in numerous personal note books, in newspaper articles, and in the collections of the Trempealeau County Historical Society. For nearly a year the newspapers contained a weekly series of articles on the place names of the county by Judge Anderson and

Dr. Pierce. The article in this book on Pigeon Township shows the thoroughness of his work. Judge Anderson is still conducting his studies, and hopes to leave for posterity material for a complete history of pioneer times. To Judge Anderson's painstaking research and accurate work, as well as to his unflinching courtesy and kindness, the editors of this work are greatly indebted.

Eben D. Pierce, M. D., has made a hobby of the study of history since his earliest boyhood. Sixteen years ago while living at Arcadia, his native town, he threw into the work a natural enthusiasm which inspired the cooperation of the pioneers whom he interviewed. After collecting during the winter of 1901 he prepared a newspaper article which appeared as a Historical and Industrial edition of the *Arcadian* April 24, 1903. This attracted the attention of Reuben G. Thwaites, then secretary of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, who invited the budding historian to become a member of the State Historical Society. Dr. Pierce gladly accepted the invitation and joined the society, offering at the same time to do whatever he could toward preserving the history of Trempealeau County communities by interviewing pioneers and writing down their recollections. For the next four years he interviewed old settlers in and about Arcadia and Trempealeau, at the same time corresponding with some of the daily papers of Wisconsin and Minnesota. This collecting data of a historical nature has grown into a habit with Dr. Pierce, and during his many years of activity he has contributed a number of valuable historical papers to the State and County Historical Societies. He was particularly interested in the pioneer epoch, and made especial effort to get the recollections of the first settler in each community. This resulted in Collins Bishop's story of the first settlement of Arcadia, of Grignon's Recollections of Early Trempealeau, of Capt. John D. Lewis's account of his Lewis Valley Experiences, of Mrs. H. E. Pierce's Memories of Williamsburg and of Harold Newcomb's Reminiscences of Pioneering in Newcomb Valley. He is the editor of the present work, and the author of several of its chapters. In this connection he has said: "Our interest has been stirred by the thought that the work will arouse a deeper interest in our home country. The country belongs to the people and we should be patriotic enough to study its past, preserve its present and hope for its welfare in the future. We hope the work will awaken a more profound study of our country's history, and if we have been instrumental in preserving records that otherwise would have fallen into obscurity, and portrayed the pioneer life, and rescued phases of it that would have faded into oblivion, then have we been repaid for our efforts."

Stephen Richmond planned to write a history of the county, and at his death left a vast amount of manuscript. A completed manuscript, "A Panorama of Trempealeau County for Forty-one Years," contains much of interest, and many of his uncompleted manuscripts appear in this present work. Mr. Richmond worked on his history for several years, paying especial attention to the valleys and cooleys of Arcadia Township. Had he lived to complete his work the resulting publication would have been one of the greatest interest. His entire collection of manuscripts, letters,

observations and the like are in the custody of the Trempealeau County Historical Society and are available to the public.

The Trempealeau County Historical Society was organized in 1910, and held its first annual meeting on Nov. 17, 1910. The officers elected were: President, Capt. A. A. Arnold; vice-presidents, M. J. Warner, James N. Hunter, E. J. Matchett; advisory committee, F. C. Richmond and John A. Markham; secretary, H. A. Anderson; treasurer, Herman Hoberton. The members present at the first meeting were: Edward J. Matchett, H. A. Anderson, John C. Gaveney, W. J. Boyd, Jas. N. Hunter, D. H. Neperud, F. A. George, Peter Nelton, E. F. Clark, F. C. Richmond, C. Q. Gage, C. O. Dahl, H. F. Clausen, A. J. Ekern, Herman Hoberton, P. J. Skogstad, John Ring, L. L. Grinde, L. K. Strand, A. N. Nelson, J. A. Markham, P. H. Johnson, Henry Kopp, John F. Hager, P. K. Risberg, F. A. Hotchkiss, T. Grafton Owen, E. F. Hensel, A. A. Markham, Stephen Richmond, George Markham, J. O. Dewey, Collins Bishop, Alexander A. Arnold, Frank M. Immell, Milo B. Gibson, Knudt Hagestad, John C. Muir.

From that day the collection of historical material has gone steadily forward under the management of the able secretary, Judge H. A. Anderson, until the collections embody hundreds of photographs, hundreds of relics, books, newspaper files, and many historical papers, letters, documents, records and the like, probably exceeding any county collection in the state. The collections are catalogued and are found at Judge Anderson's office. All have been placed at the disposal of the editors of the present work.

Dr. Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, the compiler of this work, became interested in the field of research in Trempealeau County in the summer of 1916, after ten years of research in Minnesota, and has devoted over a year to the preparation of this work, compiling the material already gathered, examining all available manuscripts and published material, closely studying the records, soliciting manuscript contributions, and interviewing leading citizens. He has been ably assisted by people in all parts of the county.

The gentlemen originally appearing on the prospectus were John C. Gaveney, Arcadia; George Gale, Galesville; E. E. Barlow, Arcadia; W. E. Bishop, Arcadia; Bert A. Gipple, Galesville; E. F. Hensel, Whitehall; Dr. A. H. Kulig, Dodge; N. H. Carhart, Trempealeau Prairie; B. M. Sletteland, Pigeon Falls; William Nicholls, Caledonia; L. M. Pittenger, Trempealeau; John A. Markham, Independence; H. F. Claussen, Ettrick; Frank Smith, Osseo; C. O. Dahl, Osseo; Clarence P. Larson, Eleva, and Charles J. Gibson, Blair.

For the most part the authors of the contributions are indicated with their articles. In addition to these W. E. Bishop is the author of the article on the early settlement of Arcadia, Mrs. Ida Gibson Englesby of the article on the settlement of Albion, Earl F. Hensel of the article on Blair, Nathan H. Carhart of the article on Trempealeau Prairie and Bert A. Gipple of the article on the newspapers. Bert A. Gipple, Earl F. Hensel, John C. Gaveney, J. P. Larson, Claude Burton, John A. Markham and others have assisted in reading manuscripts and proofs. At Whitehall assistance was

rendered by H. A. Anderson, Pandor K. Risberg, Morris Hanson, Eugene F. Kidder, E. E. Barlow, Ed. Erickson, Dan P. Gibson, C. J. Van Tassel, Charles B. Melby, Robert S. Cowie, Fred E. Beach, Earl F. Hensel, O. J. Eggum, Peter H. Johnson, Sigvald N. Hegge, Evan Hegge, C. A. Adams, David Wood and Miss Francina Chaffee. Mr. Barlow, the efficient district attorney, placed his office at the disposal of the compiler, and all the county officers assisted with the work on the records. Judge E. C. Higbee also rendered assistance. At Arcadia help was secured from E. E. Barlow, Emil Maurer, Robert Barlow, W. E. Bishop, Daniel Bigham, J. M. Fertig, Jay I. Dewey, Frank C. Richmond, George Schmidt, J. C. Muir, William C. Bohrnstedt, Emil F. Rotering, Leof K. Strand, O. B. Strouse, Dr. G. N. Hidershide, Albert Hess, Casper Wohlgenant, Henry Wirtengerger and others. John C. Gaveney assisted in gathering all of the Arcadia material and reviewed it after it was written. At Independence help was rendered by John A. Markham, George H. Markham, James N. Hunter, Mrs. Ada Markham, E. Scott Hotchkiss, Dr. C. F. Peterson, Jacob Jackson, Paul T. Schultze, Paul Sura, A. Garthus, Frank Hotchkiss, J. F. Kulig and Philip M. and William L. Lambert. At Osseo E. J. Matchett, W. S. Gilpin and D. L. Remington furnished information. At Strum J. P. Hanson and Claude Burton were the helpers. At Eleva, A. U. Gibson, Mrs. Ida Gibson Englesby and others were the helpers. E. K. Edison furnished material about Chimney Rock Township. Mrs. E. D. Pierce, A. A. Gibbs and George H. Squier helped at Trempealeau. At Galesville assistance was rendered by the genial mayor and ex-assemblyman, A. T. Twesme; the efficient editor, Bert A. Gipple; the pioneer, George Gale; the state oil inspector, Charles F. Hewitt; the banker and senator, E. F. Clark, and the clergyman and college president, L. M. Gimmestad. At Blair information was gathered by the editor from Simon Berseng, Henry Thorsgaard and Charles J. Gibson, while Judge Hensel gathered his material from the records and from personal interviews. Nathan H. Carhart helped with West Prairie and Centerville. Bankers, newspaper editors and clergymen have furnished information regarding their own institutions. Frank B. Seymour, general superintendent of the Green Bay; T. A. Polleys, tax commissioner of the Northwestern, and C. A. Leggo, assistant secretary of the Omaha, have sent material from their records.

The chapter on the Early Explorers was reviewed by Dr. Milo M. Quaife and Dr. Louise Phelps Kellogg of the Wisconsin Historical Society and by Dr. Solon J. Buck and Franklin F. Holbrook of the Minnesota Historical Society. Benjamin F. Shambaugh of the Iowa Historical Society has furnished information. The secretaries of other historical societies have also rendered helpful suggestions.

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