









# BIOGRAPHICAL

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# SOUVENIR

OF THE COUNTIES OF

BUFFALO, KEARNEY, PHELPS, HARLAN  
AND FRANKLIN,

NEBRASKA.

CONTAINING PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHIES OF ALL THE PRESIDENTS OF THE  
UNITED STATES, AND OF THE GOVERNORS OF THE STATE.

— ALSO —

OF MANY OF THE PROMINENT AND REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS AND  
SKETCHES OF MANY OF THE EARLY SETTLED FAMILIES  
OF THESE COUNTIES.

CHICAGO:

F. A. BATTEY & COMPANY.

1890.

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## PREFACE.

UNTIL quite recently, but little attention has been given to the preservation of biography except in so far as it pertained to the preferred classes—persons who had been prominent in governmental affairs, or distinguished in their profession or calling, or in some way made conspicuous before the public, requiring that more than usual should be known of the subject. Within the past decade, however, there has been a growing demand for the preservation of not only biography but, for family genealogy, not altogether for its immediate worth, but for its future value and a laudable pride in its perpetuation for coming generations. The expediency of placing in book form biographical history and genealogy of the representative public is beyond question, and not many years shall have elapsed before the person who has not taken some steps to preserve his record will be considered as not worth the effort.

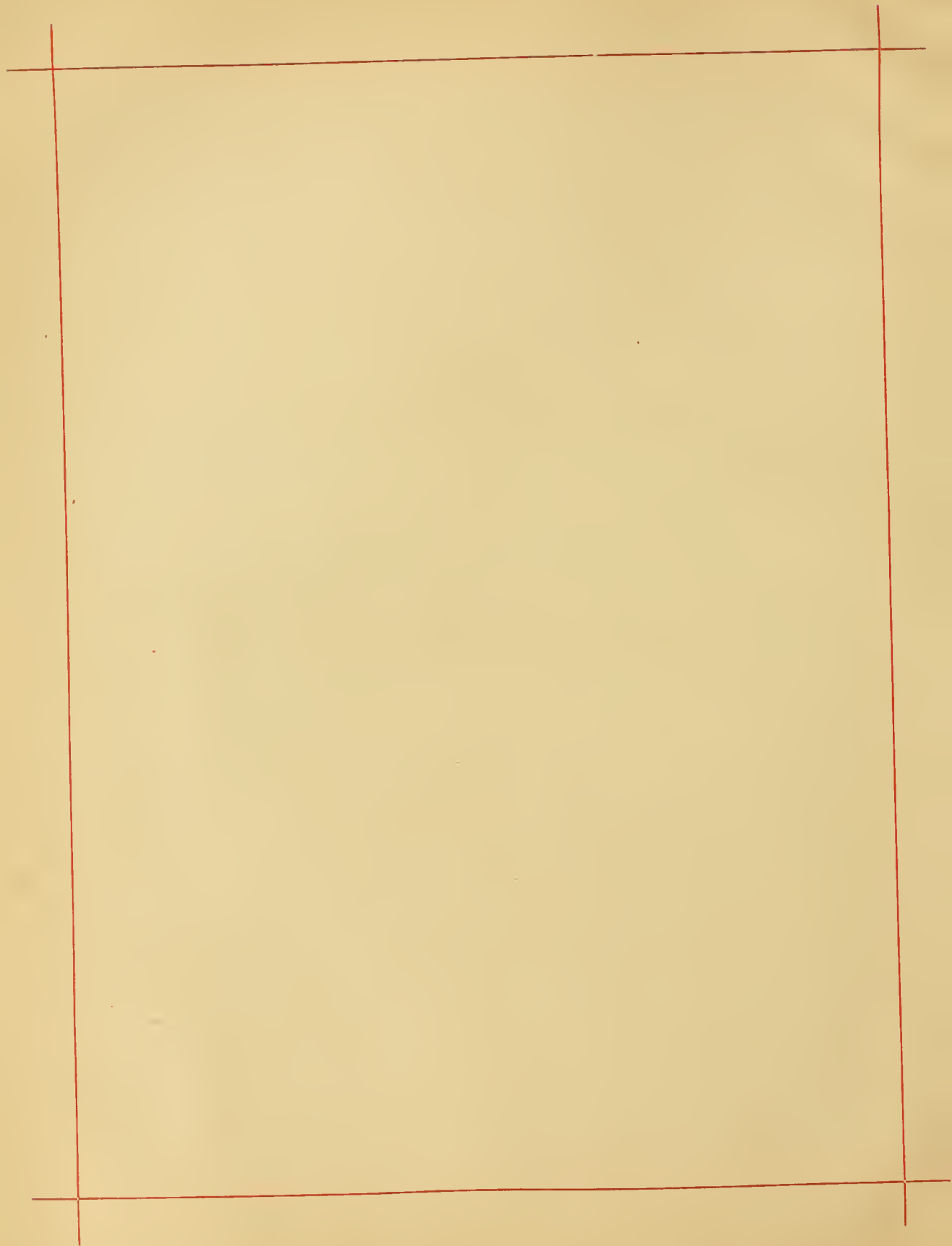
That the representative public is entitled to the privileges afforded by a work of this kind needs no assertion at our hands, for one of our greatest Americans has said that the history of any country resolves itself into the biographies of its stout, earnest, progressive and representative citizens. This medium, then, serves more than a single purpose; while it preserves biography and family genealogy it records history that probably would not be preserved in any other way. This will, perhaps, be illustrated most strikingly by reference in these sketches to the period of the war of the rebellion.

Of the necessity of preserving family records in permanent form, one only needs the experience of a collector of material for a work of this character, as in a majority of cases it is found that nearly all trace of ancestry is lost back of the grandfather and grandmother—even in families where prominence and intelligence would seem to guarantee better things.

In nearly every instance the material composing the sketches in this volume has been gathered from those immediately interested, and been submitted through the mails in type-written form for correction and revision.

The mechanical part of the book speaks for itself, the material and workmanship being of standard excellence.

THE PUBLISHERS.





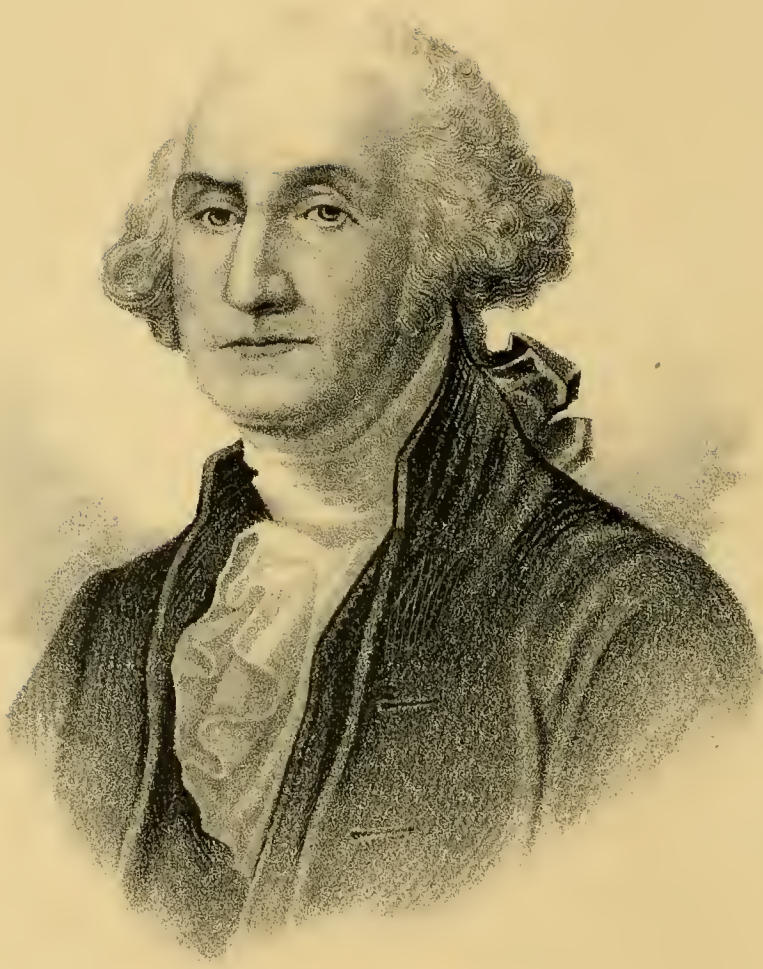


# PRESIDENTS.





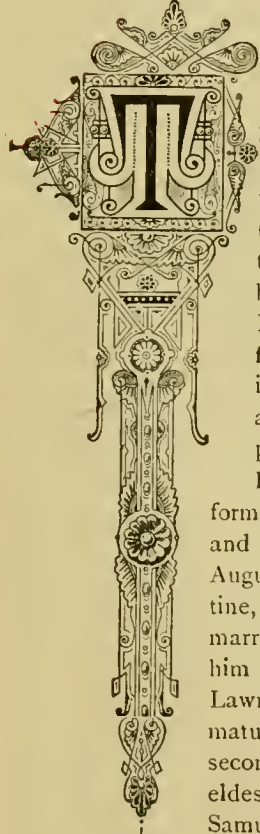




*G. W. Chapman*



## GEORGE WASHINGTON.



HE Father of our Country was born in Westmorland Co., Va., Feb. 22, 1732. His parents were Augustine and Mary (Ball) Washington. The family to which he belonged has not been satisfactorily traced in England. His great-grandfather, John Washington, emigrated to Virginia about 1657, and became a prosperous planter. He had two sons, Lawrence and John. The former married Mildred Warner and had three children, John, Augustine and Mildred. Augustine, the father of George, first married Jane Butler, who bore him four children, two of whom, Lawrence and Augustine, reached maturity. Of six children by his second marriage, George was the eldest, the others being Betty, Samuel, John Augustine, Charles and Mildred.

Augustine Washington, the father of George, died in 1743, leaving a large landed property. To his eldest son, Lawrence, he bequeathed an estate on the Patomac, afterwards known as Mount Vernon, and to George he left the parental residence. George received only such education as the neighborhood schools afforded, save for a short time after he left school, when he received private instruction in mathematics. His spelling was rather defective.

Remarkable stories are told of his great physical strength and development at an early age. He was an acknowledged leader among his companions, and was early noted for that nobleness of character, fairness and veracity which characterized his whole life.

When George was 14 years old he had a desire to go to sea, and a midshipman's warrant was secured for him, but through the opposition of his mother the idea was abandoned. Two years later he was appointed surveyor to the immense estate of Lord Fairfax. In this business he spent three years in a rough frontier life, gaining experience which afterwards proved very essential to him. In 1751, though only 19 years of age, he was appointed adjutant with the rank of major in the Virginia militia, then being trained for active service against the French and Indians. Soon after this he sailed to the West Indies with his brother Lawrence, who went there to restore his health. They soon returned, and in the summer of 1752 Lawrence died, leaving a large fortune to an infant daughter who did not long survive him. On her demise the estate of Mount Vernon was given to George.

Upon the arrival of Robert Dinwiddie, as Lieutenant-Governor of Virginia, in 1752, the militia was reorganized, and the province divided into four military districts, of which the northern was assigned to Washington as adjutant general. Shortly after this a very perilous mission was assigned him and accepted, which others had refused. This was to proceed to the French post near Lake Erie in Northwestern Pennsylvania. The distance to be traversed was between 500 and 600 miles. Winter was at hand, and the journey was to be made without military escort, through a territory occupied by Indians. The

trip was a perilous one, and several times he came near losing his life, yet he returned in safety and furnished a full and useful report of his expedition. A regiment of 300 men was raised in Virginia and put in command of Col. Joshua Fry, and Major Washington was commissioned lieutenant-colonel. Active war was then begun against the French and Indians, in which Washington took a most important part. In the memorable event of July 9, 1755, known as Braddock's defeat, Washington was almost the only officer of distinction who escaped from the calamities of the day with life and honor. The other aids of Braddock were disabled early in the action, and Washington alone was left in that capacity on the field. In a letter to his brother he says: "I had four bullets through my coat, and two horses shot under me, yet I escaped unhurt, though death was leveling my companions on every side." An Indian sharpshooter said he was not born to be killed by a bullet, for he had taken direct aim at him seventeen times, and failed to hit him.

After having been five years in the military service, and vainly sought promotion in the royal army, he took advantage of the fall of Fort Duquesne and the expulsion of the French from the valley of the Ohio, to resign his commission. Soon after he entered the Legislature, where, although not a leader, he took an active and important part. January 17, 1759, he married Mrs. Martha (Dandridge) Custis, the wealthy widow of John Parke Custis.

When the British Parliament had closed the port of Boston, the cry went up throughout the provinces that "The cause of Boston is the cause of us all." It was then, at the suggestion of Virginia, that a Congress of all the colonies was called to meet at Philadelphia, Sept. 5, 1774, to secure their common liberties, peaceably if possible. To this Congress Col. Washington was sent as a delegate. On May 10, 1775, the Congress re-assembled, when the hostile intentions of England were plainly apparent. The battles of Concord and Lexington had been fought. Among the first acts of this Congress was the election of a commander-in-chief of the colonial forces. This high and responsible office was conferred upon Washington, who was still a member of the Congress. He accepted it on June 19, but upon the express condition that he receive no salary. He would keep an exact account of expenses and expect Congress to pay them and nothing more. It is not the object of this sketch to trace the military acts of Washington, to whom the fortunes and liberties of the people of this country were so long confided. The war was conducted by him under every possible disadvantage, and while his forces often met with reverses, yet he overcame every obstacle, and after seven years of heroic devotion and matchless skill he gained liberty for the greatest nation of earth. On Dec. 23, 1783, Washington, in a parting address of surpassing beauty, resigned his

commission as commander-in-chief of the army to the Continental Congress sitting at Annapolis. He retired immediately to Mount Vernon and resumed his occupation as a farmer and planter, shunning all connection with public life.

In February, 1789, Washington was unanimously elected President. In his presidential career he was subject to the peculiar trials incidental to a new government; trials from lack of confidence on the part of other governments; trials from want of harmony between the different sections of our own country; trials from the impoverished condition of the country, owing to the war and want of credit; trials from the beginnings of party strife. He was no partisan. His clear judgment could discern the golden mean; and while perhaps this alone kept our government from sinking at the very outset, it left him exposed to attacks from both sides, which were often bitter and very annoying.

At the expiration of his first term he was unanimously re-elected. At the end of this term many were anxious that he be re-elected, but he absolutely refused a third nomination. On the fourth of March, 1797, at the expiration of his second term as President, he returned to his home, hoping to pass there his few remaining years free from the annoyances of public life. Later in the year, however, his repose seemed likely to be interrupted by war with France. At the prospect of such a war he was again urged to take command of the armies. He chose his subordinate officers and left to them the charge of matters in the field, which he superintended from his home. In accepting the command he made the reservation that he was not to be in the field until it was necessary. In the midst of these preparations his life was suddenly cut off. December 12, he took a severe cold from a ride in the rain, which, settling in his throat, produced inflammation, and terminated fatally on the night of the fourteenth. On the eighteenth his body was borne with military honors to its final resting place, and interred in the family vault at Mount Vernon.

Of the character of Washington it is impossible to speak but in terms of the highest respect and admiration. The more we see of the operations of our government, and the more deeply we feel the difficulty of uniting all opinions in a common interest, the more highly we must estimate the force of his talent and character, which have been able to challenge the reverence of all parties, and principles, and nations, and to win a fame as extended as the limits of the globe, and which we cannot but believe will be as lasting as the existence of man.

The person of Washington was unusually tall, erect and well proportioned. His muscular strength was great. His features were of a beautiful symmetry. He commanded respect without any appearance of haughtiness, and ever serious without being dull.





*John Adams*





## JOHN ADAMS.

**J**OHN ADAMS, the second President and the first Vice-President of the United States, was born in Braintree (now Quincy), Mass., and about ten miles from Boston, Oct. 19, 1735. His great-grandfather, Henry Adams, emigrated from England about 1640, with a family of eight sons, and settled at Braintree. The parents of John were John and Susannah (Boylston) Adams. His father was a farmer of limited means, to which he added the business of shoemaking. He gave his eldest son, John, a classical education at Harvard College. John

graduated in 1755, and at once took charge of the school in Worcester, Mass. This he found but a "school of affliction," from which he endeavored to gain relief by devoting himself, in addition, to the study of law. For this purpose he placed himself under the tuition of the only lawyer in the town. He had thought seriously of the clerical profession but seems to have been turned from this by what he termed "the frightful engines of ecclesiastical councils, of diabolical malice, and Calvinistic good nature," of the operations of which he had been a witness in his native town. He was well fitted for the legal profession, possessing a clear, sonorous voice, being ready and fluent of speech, and having quick perceptive powers. He gradually gained practice, and in 1764 married Abigail Smith, a daughter of a minister, and a lady of superior intelligence. Shortly after his marriage, (1765), the attempt of Parliamentary taxation turned him from law to politics. He took initial

steps toward holding a town meeting, and the resolutions he offered on the subject became very popular throughout the Province, and were adopted word for word by over forty different towns. He moved to Boston in 1768, and became one of the most courageous and prominent advocates of the popular cause, and was chosen a member of the General Court (the Legislature) in 1770.

Mr. Adams was chosen one of the first delegates from Massachusetts to the first Continental Congress, which met in 1774. Here he distinguished himself by his capacity for business and for debate, and advocated the movement for independence against the majority of the members. In May, 1776, he moved and carried a resolution in Congress that the Colonies should assume the duties of self-government. He was a prominent member of the committee of five appointed June 11, to prepare a declaration of independence. This article was drawn by Jefferson, but on Adams devolved the task of battling it through Congress in a three days debate.

On the day after the Declaration of Independence was passed, while his soul was yet warm with the glow of excited feeling, he wrote a letter to his wife which, as we read it now, seems to have been dictated by the spirit of prophecy. "Yesterday," he says, "the greatest question was decided that ever was debated in America; and greater, perhaps, never was or will be decided among men. A resolution was passed without one dissenting colony, 'that these United States are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states.' The day is passed. The fourth of July, 1776, will be a memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe it will be celebrated by succeeding generations, as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to Almighty God. It ought to be solemnized with pomp, shows,

games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations from one end of the continent to the other, from this time forward for ever. You will think me transported with enthusiasm, but I am not. I am well aware of the toil, and blood and treasure, that it will cost to maintain this declaration, and support and defend these States; yet, through all the gloom, I can see the rays of light and glory. I can see that the end is worth more than all the means; and that posterity will triumph, although you and I may rue, which I hope we shall not."

In November, 1777, Mr. Adams was appointed a delegate to France, and to co-operate with Benjamin Franklin and Arthur Lee, who were then in Paris, in the endeavor to obtain assistance in arms and money from the French Government. This was a severe trial to his patriotism, as it separated him from his home, compelled him to cross the ocean in winter, and exposed him to great peril of capture by the British cruisers, who were seeking him. He left France June 17, 1779. In September of the same year he was again chosen to go to Paris, and there hold himself in readiness to negotiate a treaty of peace and of commerce with Great Britain, as soon as the British Cabinet might be found willing to listen to such proposals. He sailed for France in November, from there he went to Holland, where he negotiated important loans and formed important commercial treaties.

Finally a treaty of peace with England was signed Jan. 21, 1783. The re-action from the excitement, toil and anxiety through which Mr. Adams had passed threw him into a fever. After suffering from a continued fever and becoming feeble and emaciated he was advised to go to England to drink the waters of Bath. While in England, still drooping and desponding, he received dispatches from his own government urging the necessity of his going to Amsterdam to negotiate another loan. It was winter, his health was delicate, yet he immediately set out, and through storm, on sea, on horseback and foot, he made the trip.

February 24, 1785, Congress appointed Mr. Adams envoy to the Court of St. James. Here he met face to face the King of England, who had so long regarded him as a traitor. As England did not condescend to appoint a minister to the United States, and as Mr. Adams felt that he was accomplishing but little, he sought permission to return to his own country, where he arrived in June, 1788.

When Washington was first chosen President, John Adams, rendered illustrious by his signal services at home and abroad, was chosen Vice President. Again at the second election of Washington as President, Adams was chosen Vice President. In 1796, Washington retired from public life, and Mr. Adams was elected President, though not without much opposition. Serving in this office four years, he was succeeded by Mr. Jefferson, his opponent in politics.

While Mr. Adams was Vice President the great

French Revolution shook the continent of Europe, and it was upon this point which he was at issue with the majority of his countrymen led by Mr. Jefferson. Mr. Adams felt no sympathy with the French people in their struggle, for he had no confidence in their power of self-government, and he utterly abhorred the class of atheist philosophers who he claimed caused it. On the other hand Jefferson's sympathies were strongly enlisted in behalf of the French people. Hence originated the alienation between these distinguished men, and two powerful parties were thus soon organized, Adams at the head of the one whose sympathies were with England and Jefferson led the other in sympathy with France.

The world has seldom seen a spectacle of more moral beauty and grandeur, than was presented by the old age of Mr. Adams. The violence of party feeling had died away, and he had begun to receive that just appreciation which, to most men, is not accorded till after death. No one could look upon his venerable form, and think of what he had done and suffered, and how he had given up all the prime and strength of his life to the public good, without the deepest emotion of gratitude and respect. It was his peculiar good fortune to witness the complete success of the institution which he had been so active in creating and supporting. In 1824, his cup of happiness was filled to the brim, by seeing his son elevated to the highest station in the gift of the people.

The fourth of July, 1826, which completed the half century since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, arrived, and there were but three of the signers of that immortal instrument left upon the earth to hail its morning light. And, as it is well known, on that day two of these finished their earthly pilgrimage, a coincidence so remarkable as to seem miraculous. For a few days before Mr. Adams had been rapidly failing, and on the morning of the fourth he found himself too weak to rise from his bed. On being requested to name a toast for the customary celebration of the day, he exclaimed "INDEPENDENCE FOREVER." When the day was ushered in, by the ringing of bells and the firing of cannons, he was asked by one of his attendants if he knew what day it was? He replied, "O yes; it is the glorious fourth of July—God bless it—God bless you all." In the course of the day he said, "It is a great and glorious day." The last words he uttered were, "Jefferson survives." But he had, at one o'clock, resigned his spirit into the hands of his God.

The personal appearance and manners of Mr. Adams were not particularly prepossessing. His face, as his portrait manifests, was intellectual and expressive, but his figure was low and ungraceful, and his manners were frequently abrupt and uncourteous. He had neither the lofty dignity of Washington, nor the engaging elegance and gracefulness which marked the manners and address of Jefferson.





*Th. Jefferson*



# THOMAS JEFFERSON.



THOMAS JEFFERSON was born April 2, 1743, at Shadwell, Albermarle county, Va. His parents were Peter and Jane ( Randolph ) Jefferson, the former a native of Wales, and the latter born in London. To them were born six daughters and two sons, of whom Thomas was the elder. When 14 years of age his father died. He received a most liberal education, having been kept diligently at school from the time he was five years of age. In 1760 he entered William and Mary College. Williamsburg was then the seat of the Colonial Court, and it was the obode of fashion and splendor. Young Jefferson, who was then 17 years old, lived somewhat expensively, keeping fine horses, and much caressed by gay society, yet he was earnestly devoted to his studies, and irreproachable in his morals. It is strange, however, under such influences, that he was not ruined. In the second year of his college course, moved by some unexplained inward impulse, he discarded his horses, society, and even his favorite violin, to which he had previously given much time. He often devoted fifteen hours a day to hard study, allowing himself for exercise only a run in the evening twilight of a mile out of the city and back again. He thus attained very high intellectual culture, alike excellence in philosophy and the languages. The most difficult Latin and Greek authors he read with facility. A more finished scholar has seldom gone forth from college halls; and

there was not to be found, perhaps, in all Virginia, a more pureminded, upright, gentlemanly young man.

Immediately upon leaving college he began the study of law. For the short time he continued in the practice of his profession he rose rapidly and distinguished himself by his energy and accuteness as a lawyer. But the times called for greater action. The policy of England had awakened the spirit of resistance of the American Colonies, and the enlarged views which Jefferson had ever entertained, soon led him into active political life. In 1769 he was choser a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses. In 1772 he married Mrs. Martha Skelton, a very beautiful, wealthy and highly accomplished young widow

Upon Mr. Jefferson's large estate at Shadwell, there was a majestic swell of land, called Monticello, which commanded a prospect of wonderful extent and beauty. This spot Mr. Jefferson selected for his new home; and here he reared a mansion of modest yet elegant architecture, which, next to Mount Vernon became the most distinguished resort in our land.

In 1775 he was sent to the Cclonial Congress. where, though a silent member, his abilities as a writer and a reasoner soon become known, and he was placed upon a number of important committees, and was chairman of the one appointed for the drawing up of a declaration of independence. This committee consisted of Thoinas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston. Jefferson, as chairman, was appointed to draw up the paper. Franklin and Adams suggested a few verbal changes before it was submitted to Congress. On June 28, a few slight changes were made in it by Congress, and it was passed and signed July 4, 1776. What must have been the feelings of that

man—what the emotions that swelled his breast—who was charged with the preparation of that Declaration, which, while it made known the wrongs of America, was also to publish her to the world, free, sovereign and independent. It is one of the most remarkable papers ever written; and did no other effort of the mind of its author exist, that alone would be sufficient to stamp his name with immortality.

In 1779 Mr. Jefferson was elected successor to Patrick Henry, as Governor of Virginia. At one time the British officer, Tarleton, sent a secret expedition to Monticello, to capture the Governor. Scarcely five minutes elapsed after the hurried escape of Mr. Jefferson and his family, ere his mansion was in possession of the British troops. His wife's health, never very good, was much injured by this excitement, and in the summer of 1782 she died.

Mr. Jefferson was elected to Congress in 1783. Two years later he was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to France. Returning to the United States in September, 1789, he became Secretary of State in Washington's cabinet. This position he resigned Jan. 1, 1794. In 1797, he was chosen Vice President, and four years later was elected President over Mr. Adams, with Aaron Burr as Vice President. In 1804 he was re-elected with wonderful unanimity, and George Clinton, Vice President.

The early part of Mr. Jefferson's second administration was disturbed by an event which threatened the tranquility and peace of the Union; this was the conspiracy of Aaron Burr. Defeated in the late election to the Vice Presidency, and led on by an unprincipled ambition, this extraordinary man formed the plan of a military expedition into the Spanish territories on our southwestern frontier, for the purpose of forming there a new republic. This has been generally supposed was a mere pretext; and although it has not been generally known what his real plans were, there is no doubt that they were of a far more dangerous character.

In 1809, at the expiration of the second term for which Mr. Jefferson had been elected, he determined to retire from political life. For a period of nearly forty years, he had been continually before the public, and all that time had been employed in offices of the greatest trust and responsibility. Having thus devoted the best part of his life to the service of his country, he now felt desirous of that rest which his declining years required, and upon the organization of the new administration, in March, 1809, he bid farewell forever to public life, and retired to Monticello.

Mr. Jefferson was profuse in his hospitality. Whole families came in their coaches with their horses,—fathers and mothers, boys and girls, babies and nurses,—and remained three and even six months. Life at Monticello, for years, resembled that at a fashionable watering-place.

The fourth of July, 1826, being the fiftieth anniver-

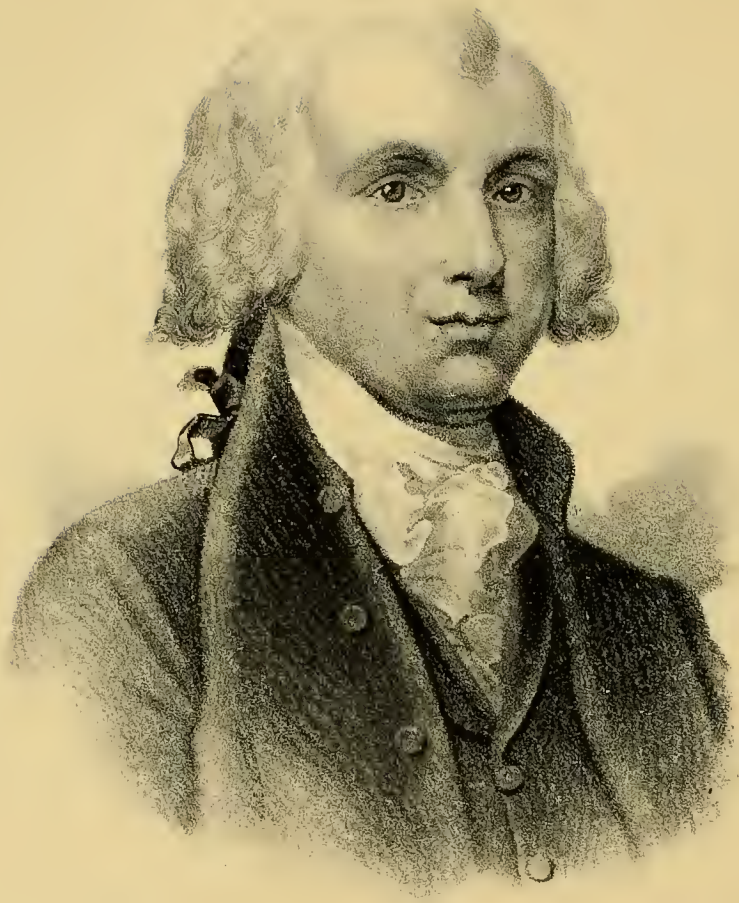
sary of the Declaration of American Independence, great preparations were made in every part of the Union for its celebration, as the nation's jubilee, and the citizens of Washington, to add to the solemnity of the occasion, invited Mr. Jefferson, as the framer, and one of the few surviving signers of the Declaration, to participate in their festivities. But an illness, which had been of several weeks duration, and had been continually increasing, compelled him to decline the invitation.

On the second of July, the disease under which he was laboring left him, but in such a reduced state that his medical attendants, entertained no hope of his recovery. From this time he was perfectly sensible that his last hour was at hand. On the next day, which was Monday, he asked of those around him, the day of the month, and on being told it was the third of July, he expressed the earnest wish that he might be permitted to breathe the air of the fiftieth anniversary. His prayer was heard—that day, whose dawn was hailed with such rapture through our land, burst upon his eyes, and then they were closed forever. And what a noble consummation of a noble life! To die on that day,—the birthday of a nation,—the day which his own name and his own act had rendered glorious; to die amidst the rejoicings and festivities of a whole nation, who looked up to him, as the author, under God, of their greatest blessings, was all that was wanting to fill up the record his life.

Almost at the same hour of his death, the kindred spirit of the venerable Adams, as if to bear him company, left the scene of his earthly honors. Hand in hand they had stood forth, the champions of freedom; hand in hand, during the dark and desperate struggle of the Revolution, they had cheered and animated their desponding countrymen; for half a century they had labored together for the good of the country; and now hand in hand they depart. In their lives they had been united in the same great cause of liberty, and in their deaths they were not divided.

In person Mr. Jefferson was tall and thin, rather above six feet in height, but well formed; his eyes were light, his hair originally red, in after life became white and silvery; his complexion was fair, his forehead broad, and his whole countenance intelligent and thoughtful. He possessed great fortitude of mind as well as personal courage; and his command of temper was such that his oldest and most intimate friends never recollected to have seen him in a passion. His manners, though dignified, were simple and unaffected, and his hospitality was so unbounded that all found at his house a ready welcome. In conversation he was fluent, eloquent and enthusiastic; and his language was remarkably pure and correct. He was a finished classical scholar, and in his writings is discernable the care with which he formed his style upon the best models of antiquity.





*James Madison*





## JAMES MADISON.

**J**AMES MADISON, "Father of the Constitution," and fourth President of the United States, was born March 16, 1757, and died at his home in Virginia, June 28, 1836. The name of James Madison is inseparably connected with most of the important events in that heroic period of our country during which the foundations of this great republic were laid. He was the last of the founders of the Constitution of the United States to be called to his eternal reward.

The Madison family were among the early emigrants to the New World, landing upon the shores of the Chesapeake but 15 years after the settlement of Jamestown. The father of James Madison was an opulent planter, residing upon a very fine estate called "Montpelier," Orange Co., Va. The mansion was situated in the midst of scenery highly picturesque and romantic, on the west side of South-west Mountain, at the foot of Blue Ridge. It was but 25 miles from the home of Jefferson at Monticello. The closest personal and political attachment existed between these illustrious men, from their early youth until death.

The early education of Mr. Madison was conducted mostly at home under a private tutor. At the age of 18 he was sent to Princeton College, in New Jersey. Here he applied himself to study with the most im-

prudent zeal; allowing himself, for months, but three hours' sleep out of the 24. His health thus became so seriously impaired that he never recovered any vigor of constitution. He graduated in 1771, with a feeble body, with a character of utmost purity, and with a mind highly disciplined and richly stored with learning which embellished and gave proficiency to his subsequent career.

Returning to Virginia, he commenced the study of law and a course of extensive and systematic reading. This educational course, the spirit of the times in which he lived, and the society with which he associated, all combined to inspire him with a strong love of liberty, and to train him for his life-work of a statesman. Being naturally of a religious turn of mind, and his frail health leading him to think that his life was not to be long, he directed especial attention to theological studies. Endowed with a mind singularly free from passion and prejudice, and with almost unequalled powers of reasoning, he weighed all the arguments for and against revealed religion, until his faith became so established as never to be shaken.

In the spring of 1776, when 26 years of age, he was elected a member of the Virginia Convention, to frame the constitution of the State. The next year (1777), he was a candidate for the General Assembly. He refused to treat the whisky-loving voters, and consequently lost his election; but those who had witnessed the talent, energy and public spirit of the modest young man, enlisted themselves in his behalf, and he was appointed to the Executive Council.

Both Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson were Governors of Virginia while Mr. Madison remained member of the Council; and their appreciation of his

intellectual, social and moral worth, contributed not a little to his subsequent eminence. In the year 1780, he was elected a member of the Continental Congress. Here he met the most illustrious men in our land, and he was immediately assigned to one of the most conspicuous positions among them.

For three years Mr. Madison continued in Congress, one of its most active and influential members. In the year 1784, his term having expired, he was elected a member of the Virginia Legislature.

No man felt more deeply than Mr. Madison the utter inefficiency of the old confederacy, with no national government, with no power to form treaties which would be binding, or to enforce law. There was not any State more prominent than Virginia in the declaration, that an efficient national government must be formed. In January, 1786, Mr. Madison carried a resolution through the General Assembly of Virginia, inviting the other States to appoint commissioners to meet in convention at Annapolis to discuss this subject. Five States only were represented. The convention, however, issued another call, drawn up by Mr. Madison, urging all the States to send their delegates to Philadelphia, in May, 1787, to draft a Constitution for the United States, to take the place of that Confederate League. The delegates met at the time appointed. Every State but Rhode Island was represented. George Washington was chosen president of the convention; and the present Constitution of the United States was then and there formed. There was, perhaps, no mind and no pen more active in framing this immortal document than the mind and the pen of James Madison.

The Constitution, adopted by a vote 81 to 79, was to be presented to the several States for acceptance. But grave solicitude was felt. Should it be rejected we should be left but a conglomeration of independent States, with but little power at home and little respect abroad. Mr. Madison was selected by the convention to draw up an address to the people of the United States, expounding the principles of the Constitution, and urging its adoption. There was great opposition to it at first, but it at length triumphed over all, and went into effect in 1789.

Mr. Madison was elected to the House of Representatives in the first Congress, and soon became the avowed leader of the Republican party. While in New York attending Congress, he met Mrs. Todd, a young widow of remarkable power of fascination, whom he married. She was in person and character queenly, and probably no lady has thus far occupied so prominent a position in the very peculiar society which has constituted our republican court as Mrs. Madison.

Mr. Madison served as Secretary of State under Jefferson, and at the close of his administration was chosen President. At this time the encroachments of England had brought us to the verge of war.

British orders in council destroyed our commerce, and our flag was exposed to constant insult. Mr. Madison was a man of peace. Scholarly in his taste, retiring in his disposition, war had no charms for him. But the meekest spirit can be roused. It makes one's blood boil, even now, to think of an American ship brought to, upon the ocean, by the guns of an English cruiser. A young lieutenant steps on board and orders the crew to be paraded before him. With great nonchalance he selects any number whom he may please to designate as British subjects; orders them down the ship's side into his boat; and places them on the gun-deck of his man-of-war, to fight, by compulsion, the battles of England. This right of search and impressment, no efforts of our Government could induce the British cabinet to relinquish.

On the 18th of June, 1812, President Madison gave his approval to an act of Congress declaring war against Great Britain. Notwithstanding the bitter hostility of the Federal party to the war, the country in general approved; and Mr. Madison, on the 4th of March, 1813, was re-elected by a large majority, and entered upon his second term of office. This is not the place to describe the various adventures of this war on the land and on the water. Our infant navy then laid the foundations of its renown in grappling with the most formidable power which ever swept the seas. The contest commenced in earnest by the appearance of a British fleet, early in February, 1813, in Chesapeake Bay, declaring nearly the whole coast of the United States under blockade.

The Emperor of Russia offered his services as mediator. America accepted; England refused. A British force of five thousand men landed on the banks of the Patuxet River, near its entrance into Chesapeake Bay, and marched rapidly, by way of Bladensburg, upon Washington.

The straggling little city of Washington was thrown into consternation. The cannon of the brief conflict at Bladensburg echoed through the streets of the metropolis. The whole population fled from the city. The President, leaving Mrs. Madison in the White House, with her carriage drawn up at the door to await his speedy return, hurried to meet the officers in a council of war. He met our troops utterly routed, and he could not go back without danger of being captured. But few hours elapsed ere the Presidential Mansion, the Capitol, and all the public buildings in Washington were in flames.


The war closed after two years of fighting, and on Feb. 13, 1815, the treaty of peace was signed at Ghent.

On the 4th of March, 1817, his second term of office expired, and he resigned the Presidential chair to his friend, James Monroe. He retired to his beautiful home at Montpelier, and there passed the remainder of his days. On June 28, 1836, then at the age of 85 years, he fell asleep in death. Mrs. Madison died July 12, 1849.





*James Monroe*



## JAMES MONROE.



JAMES MONROE, the fifth President of The United States, was born in Westmoreland Co., Va., April 28, 1758. His early life was passed at the place of nativity. His ancestors had for many years resided in the province in which he was born. When, at 17 years of age, in the process of completing his education at William and Mary College, the Colonial Congress assembled at Philadelphia to deliberate upon the unjust and manifold oppressions of Great Britain, declared the separation of the Colonies, and promulgated the Declaration of Independence. Had he been born ten years before it is highly probable that he would have been one of the signers of that celebrated instrument. At this time he left school and enlisted among the patriots.

He joined the army when everything looked hopeless and gloomy. The number of deserters increased from day to day. The invading armies came pouring in; and the tories not only favored the cause of the mother country, but disheartened the new recruits, who were sufficiently terrified at the prospect of contending with an enemy whom they had been taught to deem invincible. To such brave spirits as James Monroe, who went right onward, undismayed through difficulty and danger, the United States owe their political emancipation. The young cadet joined the ranks, and espoused the cause of his injured country, with a firm determination to live or die with her strife

for liberty. Firmly yet sadly he shared in the melancholy retreat from Harleam Heights and White Plains, and accompanied the dispirited army as it fled before its foes through New Jersey. In four months after the Declaration of Independence, the patriots had been beaten in seven battles. At the battle of Trenton he led the vanguard, and, in the act of charging upon the enemy he received a wound in the left shoulder.

As a reward for his bravery, Mr. Monroe was promoted a captain of infantry; and, having recovered from his wound, he rejoined the army. He, however, receded from the line of promotion, by becoming an officer in the staff of Lord Sterling. During the campaigns of 1777 and 1778, in the actions of Brandy wine, Germantown and Monmouth, he continued aid-de-camp; but becoming desirous to regain his position in the army, he exerted himself to collect a regiment for the Virginia line. This scheme failed owing to the exhausted condition of the State. Upon this failure he entered the office of Mr. Jefferson, at that period Governor, and pursued, with considerable ardor, the study of common law. He did not, however, entirely lay aside the knapsack for the green bag; but on the invasions of the enemy, served as a volunteer, during the two years of his legal pursuits.

In 1782, he was elected from King George county, a member of the Legislature of Virginia, and by that body he was elevated to a seat in the Executive Council. He was thus honored with the confidence of his fellow citizens at 23 years of age; and having at this early period displayed some of that ability and aptitude for legislation, which were afterwards employed with unremitting energy for the public good,

he was in the succeeding year chosen a member of the Congress of the United States.

Deeply as Mr. Monroe felt the imperfections of the old Confederacy, he was opposed to the new Constitution, thinking, with many others of the Republican party, that it gave too much power to the Central Government, and not enough to the individual States. Still he retained the esteem of his friends who were its warm supporters, and who, notwithstanding his opposition secured its adoption. In 1789, he became a member of the United States Senate; which office he held for four years. Every month the line of distinction between the two great parties which divided the nation, the Federal and the Republican, was growing more distinct. The two prominent ideas which now separated them were, that the Republican party was in sympathy with France, and also in favor of such a strict construction of the Constitution as to give the Central Government as little power, and the State Governments as much power, as the Constitution would warrant. The Federalists sympathized with England, and were in favor of a liberal construction of the Constitution, which would give as much power to the Central Government as that document could possibly authorize.

The leading Federalists and Republicans were alike noble men, consecrating all their energies to the good of the nation. Two more honest men or more pure patriots than John Adams the Federalist, and James Monroe the Republican, never breathed. In building up this majestic nation, which is destined to eclipse all Grecian and Assyrian greatness, the combination of their antagonism was needed to create the right equilibrium. And yet each in his day was denounced as almost a demon.

Washington was then President. England had espoused the cause of the Bourbons against the principles of the French Revolution. All Europe was drawn into the conflict. We were feeble and far away. Washington issued a proclamation of neutrality between these contending powers. France had helped us in the struggle for our liberties. All the despotisms of Europe were now combined to prevent the French from escaping from a tyranny a thousand-fold worse than that which we had endured. Col. Monroe, more magnanimous than prudent, was anxious that, at whatever hazard, we should help our old allies in their extremity. It was the impulse of a generous and noble nature. He violently opposed the President's proclamation as ungrateful and wanting in magnanimity.

Washington, who could appreciate such a character, developed his calm, serene, almost divine greatness, by appointing that very James Monroe, who was denouncing the policy of the Government, as the minister of that Government to the Republic of France. Mr. Monroe was welcomed by the National Convention in France with the most enthusiastic demonstrations.

Shortly after his return to this country, Mr. Monroe was elected Governor of Virginia, and held the office for three years. He was again sent to France to co-operate with Chancellor Livingston in obtaining the vast territory then known as the Province of Louisiana, which France had but shortly before obtained from Spain. Their united efforts were successful. For the comparatively small sum of fifteen millions of dollars, the entire territory of Orleans and district of Louisiana were added to the United States. This was probably the largest transfer of real estate which was ever made in all the history of the world.

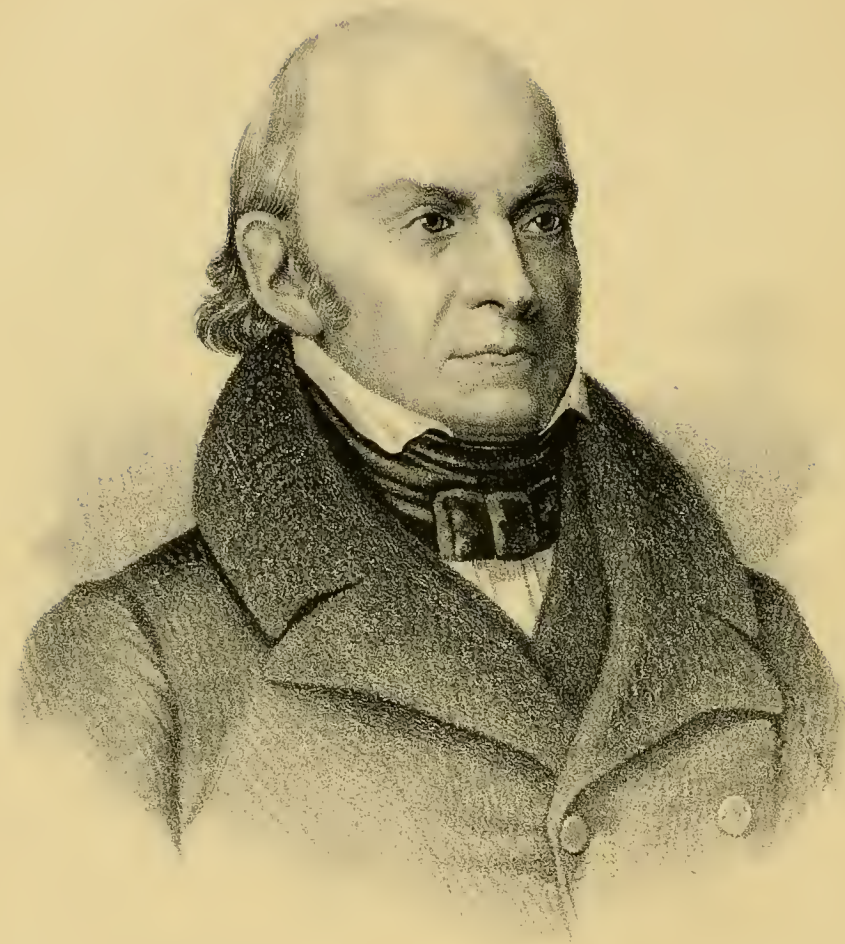
From France Mr. Monroe went to England to obtain from that country some recognition of our rights as neutrals, and to remonstrate against those odious impressments of our seamen. But England was unrelenting. He again returned to England on the same mission, but could receive no redress. He returned to his home and was again chosen Governor of Virginia. This he soon resigned to accept the position of Secretary of State under Madison. While in this office war with England was declared, the Secretary of War resigned, and during these trying times, the duties of the War Department were also put upon him. He was truly the armor-bearer of President Madison, and the most efficient business man in his cabinet. Upon the return of peace he resigned the Department of War, but continued in the office of Secretary of State until the expiration of Mr. Madison's administration. At the election held the previous autumn Mr. Monroe himself had been chosen President with but little opposition, and upon March 4, 1817, was inaugurated. Four years later he was elected for a second term.

Among the important measures of his Presidency were the cession of Florida to the United States; the Missouri Compromise, and the "Monroe doctrine."

This famous doctrine, since known as the "Monroe doctrine," was enunciated by him in 1823. At that time the United States had recognized the independence of the South American states, and did not wish to have European powers longer attempting to subdue portions of the American Continent. The doctrine is as follows: "That we should consider any attempt on the part of European powers to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety," and "that we could not view any interposition for the purpose of oppressing or controlling American governments or provinces in any other light than as a manifestation by European powers of an unfriendly disposition toward the United States." This doctrine immediately affected the course of foreign governments, and has become the approved sentiment of the United States.


At the end of his second term Mr. Monroe retired to his home in Virginia, where he lived until 1830, when he went to New York to live with his son-in-law. In that city he died, on the 4th of July, 1831






*J. Q. Adams*





## JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.



JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, the sixth President of the United States, was born in the rural home of his honored father, John Adams, in Quincy, Mass., on the 11th of July, 1767. His mother, a woman of exalted worth, watched over his childhood during the almost constant absence of his father. When but eight years of age, he stood with his mother on an eminence, listening to the booming of the great battle on Bunker's Hill, and gazing on upon the smoke and flames billowing up from the conflagration of Charlestown.

When but eleven years old he took a tearful adieu of his mother, to sail with his father for Europe,

through a fleet of hostile British cruisers. The bright, animated boy spent a year and a half in Paris, where his father was associated with Franklin and Lee as minister plenipotentiary. His intelligence attracted the notice of these distinguished men, and he received from them flattering marks of attention.

Mr. John Adams had scarcely returned to this country, in 1779, ere he was again sent abroad. Again John Quincy accompanied his father. At Paris he applied himself with great diligence, for six months, to study; then accompanied his father to Holland, where he entered, first a school in Amsterdam, then the University at Leyden. About a year from this time, in 1781, when the manly boy was but fourteen years of age, he was selected by Mr. Dana, our minister to the Russian court, as his private secretary.

In this school of incessant labor and of ennobling culture he spent fourteen months, and then returned to Holland through Sweden, Denmark, Hamburg and Bremen. This long journey he took alone, in the winter, when in his sixteenth year. Again he resumed his studies, under a private tutor, at Hague. Thence,

in the spring of 1782, he accompanied his father to Paris, traveling leisurely, and forming acquaintance with the most distinguished men on the Continent—examining architectural remains, galleries of paintings and all renowned works of art. At Paris he again became associated with the most illustrious men of all lands in the contemplations of the loftiest temporal themes which can engross the human mind. After a short visit to England he returned to Paris, and consecrated all his energies to study until May, 1785, when he returned to America. To a brilliant young man of eighteen, who had seen much of the world, and who was familiar with the etiquette of courts, a residence with his father in London, under such circumstances, must have been extremely attractive; but with judgment very rare in one of his age, he preferred to return to America to complete his education in an American college. He wished then to study law, that with an honorable profession, he might be able to obtain an independent support.

Upon leaving Harvard College, at the age of twenty he studied law for three years. In June, 1794, being then but twenty-seven years of age, he was appointed by Washington, resident minister at the Netherlands. Sailing from Boston in July, he reached London in October, where he was immediately admitted to the deliberations of Messrs. Jay and Pinckney, assisting them in negotiating a commercial treaty with Great Britain. After thus spending a fortnight in London, he proceeded to the Hague.

In July, 1797, he left the Hague to go to Portugal as minister plenipotentiary. On his way to Portugal, upon arriving in London, he met with despatches directing him to the court of Berlin, but requesting him to remain in London until he should receive his instructions. While waiting he was married to an American lady to whom he had been previously engaged,—Miss Louisa Catherine Johnson, daughter of Mr. Joshua Johnson, American consul in London; a lady endowed with that beauty and those accomplishments which eminently fitted her to move in the elevated sphere for which she was destined.

He reached Berlin with his wife in November, 1797; where he remained until July, 1799, when, having fulfilled all the purposes of his mission, he solicited his recall.

Soon after his return, in 1802, he was chosen to the Senate of Massachusetts, from Boston, and then was elected Senator of the United States for six years, from the 4th of March, 1804. His reputation, his ability and his experience, placed him immediately among the most prominent and influential members of that body. Especially did he sustain the Government in its measures of resistance to the encroachments of England, destroying our commerce and insulting our flag. There was no man in America more familiar with the arrogance of the British court upon these points, and no one more resolved to present a firm resistance.

In 1809, Madison succeeded Jefferson in the Presidential chair, and he immediately nominated John Quincy Adams minister to St. Petersburg. Resigning his professorship in Harvard College, he embarked at Boston, in August, 1809.

While in Russia, Mr. Adams was an intense student. He devoted his attention to the language and history of Russia; to the Chinese trade; to the European system of weights, measures, and coins; to the climate and astronomical observations; while he kept up a familiar acquaintance with the Greek and Latin classics. In all the universities of Europe, a more accomplished scholar could scarcely be found. All through life the Bible constituted an important part of his studies. It was his rule to read five chapters every day.

On the 4th of March, 1817, Mr. Monroe took the Presidential chair, and immediately appointed Mr. Adams Secretary of State. Taking leave of his numerous friends in public and private life in Europe, he sailed in June, 1819, for the United States. On the 18th of August, he again crossed the threshold of his home in Quincy. During the eight years of Mr. Monroe's administration, Mr. Adams continued Secretary of State.

Some time before the close of Mr. Monroe's second term of office, new candidates began to be presented for the Presidency. The friends of Mr. Adams brought forward his name. It was an exciting campaign. Party spirit was never more bitter. Two hundred and sixty electoral votes were cast. Andrew Jackson received ninety-nine; John Quincy Adams, eighty-four; William H. Crawford, forty-one; Henry Clay, thirty-seven. As there was no choice by the people, the question went to the House of Representatives. Mr. Clay gave the vote of Kentucky to Mr. Adams, and he was elected.

The friends of all the disappointed candidates now combined in a venomous and persistent assault upon Mr. Adams. There is nothing more disgraceful in the past history of our country than the abuse which

was poured in one uninterrupted stream, upon this high-minded, upright, patriotic man. There never was an administration more pure in principles, more conscientiously devoted to the best interests of the country, than that of John Quincy Adams; and never, perhaps, was there an administration more unscrupulously and outrageously assailed.

Mr. Adams was, to a very remarkable degree, abstemious and temperate in his habits; always rising early, and taking much exercise. When at his home in Quincy, he has been known to walk, before breakfast, seven miles to Boston. In Washington, it was said that he was the first man up in the city, lighting his own fire and applying himself to work in his library often long before dawn.

On the 4th of March, 1829, Mr. Adams retired from the Presidency, and was succeeded by Andrew Jackson. John C. Calhoun was elected Vice President. The slavery question now began to assume portentous magnitude. Mr. Adams returned to Quincy and to his studies, which he pursued with unabated zeal. But he was not long permitted to remain in retirement. In November, 1830, he was elected representative to Congress. For seventeen years, until his death, he occupied the post as representative, towering above all his peers, ever ready to do brave battle for freedom, and winning the title of "the old man eloquent." Upon taking his seat in the House, he announced that he should hold himself bound to no party. Probably there never was a member more devoted to his duties. He was usually the first in his place in the morning, and the last to leave his seat in the evening. Not a measure could be brought forward and escape his scrutiny. The battle which Mr. Adams fought, almost singly, against the proslavery party in the Government, was sublime in its moral daring and heroism. For persisting in presenting petitions for the abolition of slavery, he was threatened with indictment by the grand jury, with expulsion from the House, with assassination; but no threats could intimidate him, and his final triumph was complete.

It has been said of President Adams, that when his body was bent and his hair silvered by the lapse of fourscore years, yielding to the simple faith of a little child, he was accustomed to repeat every night, before he slept, the prayer which his mother taught him in his infant years.

On the 21st of February, 1848, he rose on the floor of Congress, with a paper in his hand, to address the speaker. Suddenly he fell, again stricken by paralysis, and was caught in the arms of those around him. For a time he was senseless, as he was conveyed to the sofa in the rotunda. With reviving consciousness, he opened his eyes, looked calmly around and said "*This is the end of earth;*" then after a moment's pause he added, "*I am content.*" These were the last words of the grand "Old Man Eloquent."





*Andrew Jackson*

## ANDREW JACKSON.



ANDREW JACKSON, the seventh President of the United States, was born in Waxhaw settlement, N. C., March 15, 1767, a few days after his father's death. His parents were poor emigrants from Ireland, and took up their abode in Waxhaw settlement, where they lived in deepest poverty.

Andrew, or Andy, as he was universally called, grew up a very rough, rude, turbulent boy. His features were coarse, his form ungainly; and there was but very

little in his character, made visible, which was attractive.

When only thirteen years old he joined the volunteers of Carolina against the British invasion. In 1781, he and his brother Robert were captured and imprisoned for a time at Camden. A British officer ordered him to brush his mud-spattered boots. "I am a prisoner of war, not your servant," was the reply of the dauntless boy.

The brute drew his sword, and aimed a desperate blow at the head of the helpless young prisoner. Andrew raised his hand, and thus received two fearful gashes,—one on the hand and the other upon the head. The officer then turned to his brother Robert with the same demand. He also refused, and received a blow from the keen-edged sabre, which quite disabled him, and which probably soon after caused his death. They suffered much other ill-treatment, and were finally stricken with the small-pox. Their mother was successful in obtaining their exchange,

and took her sick boys home. After a long illness Andrew recovered, and the death of his mother soon left him entirely friendless.

Andrew supported himself in various ways, such as working at the saddler's trade, teaching school and clerking in a general store, until 1784, when he entered a law office at Salisbury, N. C. He, however, gave more attention to the wild amusements of the times than to his studies. In 1788, he was appointed solicitor for the western district of North Carolina, of which Tennessee was then a part. This involved many long and tedious journeys amid dangers of every kind, but Andrew Jackson never knew fear, and the Indians had no desire to repeat a skirmish with the Sharp Knife.

In 1791, Mr. Jackson was married to a woman who supposed herself divorced from her former husband. Great was the surprise of both parties, two years later, to find that the conditions of the divorce had just been definitely settled by the first husband. The marriage ceremony was performed a second time, but the occurrence was often used by his enemies to bring Mr. Jackson into disfavor.

During these years he worked hard at his profession, and frequently had one or more duels on hand, one of which, when he killed Dickenson, was especially disgraceful.

In January, 1796, the Territory of Tennessee then containing nearly eighty thousand inhabitants, the people met in convention at Knoxville to frame a constitution. Five were sent from each of the eleven counties. Andrew Jackson was one of the delegates. The new State was entitled to but one member in the National House of Representatives. Andrew Jackson was chosen that member. Mounting his horse he rode to Philadelphia, where Congress then held its

sessions,—a distance of about eight hundred miles.

Jackson was an earnest advocate of the Democratic party. Jefferson was his idol. He admired Bonaparte, loved France and hated England. As Mr. Jackson took his seat, Gen. Washington, whose second term of office was then expiring, delivered his last speech to Congress. A committee drew up a complimentary address in reply. Andrew Jackson did not approve of the address, and was one of the twelve who voted against it. He was not willing to say that Gen. Washington's administration had been "wise, firm and patriotic."

Mr. Jackson was elected to the United States Senate in 1797, but soon resigned and returned home. Soon after he was chosen Judge of the Supreme Court of his State, which position he held for six years.

When the war of 1812 with Great Britain commenced, Madison occupied the Presidential chair. Aaron Burr sent word to the President that there was an unknown man in the West, Andrew Jackson, who would do credit to a commission if one were conferred upon him. Just at that time Gen. Jackson offered his services and those of twenty-five hundred volunteers. His offer was accepted, and the troops were assembled at Nashville.

As the British were hourly expected to make an attack upon New Orleans, where Gen. Wilkinson was in command, he was ordered to descend the river with fifteen hundred troops to aid Wilkinson. The expedition reached Natchez; and after a delay of several weeks there, without accomplishing anything, the men were ordered back to their homes. But the energy Gen. Jackson had displayed, and his entire devotion to the comfort of his soldiers, won him golden opinions; and he became the most popular man in the State. It was in this expedition that his toughness gave him the nickname of "Old Hickory."

Soon after this, while attempting to horsewhip Col. Thomas H. Benton, for a remark that gentleman made about his taking a part as second in a duel, in which a younger brother of Benton's was engaged, he received two severe pistol wounds. While he was lingering upon a bed of suffering news came that the Indians, who had combined under Tecumseh from Florida to the Lakes, to exterminate the white settlers, were committing the most awful ravages. Decisive action became necessary. Gen. Jackson, with his fractured bone just beginning to heal, his arm in a sling, and unable to mount his horse without assistance, gave his amazing energies to the raising of an army to rendezvous at Fayetteville, Alabama.

The Creek Indians had established a strong fort on one of the bends of the Tallapoosa River, near the center of Alabama, about fifty miles below Fort Strother. With an army of two thousand men, Gen. Jackson traversed the pathless wilderness in a march of eleven days. He reached their fort, called Tohopeka or Horse-shoe, on the 27th of March, 1814. The bend

of the river enclosed nearly one hundred acres of tangled forest and wild ravine. Across the narrow neck the Indians had constructed a formidable breast-work of logs and brush. Here nine hundred warriors, with an ample supply of arms were assembled.

The fort was stormed. The fight was utterly desperate. Not an Indian would accept of quarter. When bleeding and dying, they would fight those who endeavored to spare their lives. From ten in the morning until dark, the battle raged. The carnage was awful and revolting. Some threw themselves into the river; but the unerring bullet struck their heads as they swam. Nearly everyone of the nine hundred warriors were killed. A few probably, in the night, swam the river and escaped. This ended the war. The power of the Creeks was broken forever. This bold plunge into the wilderness, with its terrific slaughter, so appalled the savages, that the haggard remnants of the bands came to the camp, begging for peace.

This closing of the Creek war enabled us to concentrate all our militia upon the British, who were the allies of the Indians. No man of less resolute will than Gen. Jackson could have conducted this Indian campaign to so successful an issue. Immediately he was appointed major-general.

Late in August, with an army of two thousand men, on a rushing march, Gen. Jackson came to Mobile. A British fleet came from Pensacola, landed a force upon the beach, anchored near the little fort, and from both ship and shore commenced a furious assault. The battle was long and doubtful. At length one of the ships was blown up and the rest retired.

Garrisoning Mobile, where he had taken his little army, he moved his troops to New Orleans, and the battle of New Orleans which soon ensued, was in reality a very arduous campaign. This won for Gen. Jackson an imperishable name. Here his troops, which numbered about four thousand men, won a signal victory over the British army of about nine thousand. His loss was but thirteen, while the loss of the British was two thousand six hundred.

The name of Gen. Jackson soon began to be mentioned in connection with the Presidency, but, in 1824, he was defeated by Mr. Adams. He was, however, successful in the election of 1828, and was re-elected for a second term in 1832. In 1829, just before he assumed the reins of the government, he met with the most terrible affliction of his life in the death of his wife, whom he had loved with a devotion which has perhaps never been surpassed. From the shock of her death he never recovered.

His administration was one of the most memorable in the annals of our country; applauded by one party, condemned by the other. No man had more bitter enemies or warmer friends. At the expiration of his two terms of office he retired to the Hermitage, where he died June 8, 1845. The last years of Mr. Jackson's life were that of a devoted Christian man.



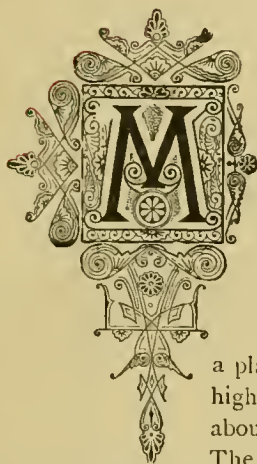


Mr. van Buren





## MARTIN VAN BUREN.



MARTIN VAN BUREN, the eighth President of the United States, was born at Kinderhook, N. Y., Dec. 5, 1782. He died at the same place, July 24, 1862. His body rests in the cemetery at Kinderhook. Above it is a plain granite shaft fifteen feet high, bearing a simple inscription about half way up on one face. The lot is unfenced, unbordered

or unbounded by shrub or flower.

There is but little in the life of Martin Van Buren of romantic interest. He fought no battles, engaged in no wild adventures. Though his life was stormy in political and intellectual conflicts, and he gained many signal victories, his days passed uneventful in those incidents which give zest to biography. His ancestors, as his name indicates, were of Dutch origin, and were among the earliest emigrants from Holland to the banks of the Hudson. His father was a farmer, residing in the old town of Kinderhook. His mother, also of Dutch lineage, was a woman of superior intelligence and exemplary piety.

He was decidedly a precocious boy, developing unusual activity, vigor and strength of mind. At the age of fourteen, he had finished his academic studies in his native village, and commenced the study of law. As he had not a collegiate education, seven years of study in a law-office were required of him before he could be admitted to the bar. Inspired with a lofty ambition, and conscious of his powers, he pursued his studies with indefatigable industry. After spending six years in an office in his native village,

he went to the city of New York, and prosecuted his studies for the seventh year.

In 1803, Mr. Van Buren, then twenty-one years of age, commenced the practice of law in his native village. The great conflict between the Federal and Republican party was then at its height. Mr. Van Buren was from the beginning a politician. He had, perhaps, imbibed that spirit while listening to the many discussions which had been carried on in his father's hotel. He was in cordial sympathy with Jefferson, and earnestly and eloquently espoused the cause of State Rights; though at that time the Federal party held the supremacy both in his town and State.

His success and increasing reputation led him after six years of practice, to remove to Hudson, the county seat of his county. Here he spent seven years, constantly gaining strength by contending in the courts with some of the ablest men who have adorned the bar of his State.

Just before leaving Kinderhook for Hudson, Mr. Van Buren married a lady alike distinguished for beauty and accomplishments. After twelve short years she sank into the grave, the victim of consumption, leaving her husband and four sons to weep over her loss. For twenty-five years, Mr. Van Buren was an earnest, successful, assiduous lawyer. The record of those years is barren in items of public interest. In 1812, when thirty years of age, he was chosen to the State Senate, and gave his strenuous support to Mr. Madison's administration. In 1815, he was appointed Attorney-General, and the next year moved to Albany, the capital of the State.

While he was acknowledged as one of the most prominent leaders of the Democratic party, he had

the moral courage to avow that true democracy did not require that "universal suffrage" which admits the vile, the degraded, the ignorant, to the right of governing the State. In true consistency with his democratic principles, he contended that, while the path leading to the privilege of voting should be open to every man without distinction, no one should be invested with that sacred prerogative, unless he were in some degree qualified for it by intelligence, virtue and some property interests in the welfare of the State.

In 1821 he was elected a member of the United States Senate; and in the same year, he took a seat in the convention to revise the constitution of his native State. His course in this convention secured the approval of men of all parties. No one could doubt the singleness of his endeavors to promote the interests of all classes in the community. In the Senate of the United States, he rose at once to a conspicuous position as an active and useful legislator.

In 1827, John Quincy Adams being then in the Presidential chair, Mr. Van Buren was re-elected to the Senate. He had been from the beginning a determined opposer of the Administration, adopting the "State Rights" view in opposition to what was deemed the Federal proclivities of Mr. Adams.

Soon after this, in 1828, he was chosen Governor of the State of New York, and accordingly resigned his seat in the Senate. Probably no one in the United States contributed so much towards ejecting John Q. Adams from the Presidential chair, and placing in it Andrew Jackson, as did Martin Van Buren. Whether entitled to the reputation or not, he certainly was regarded throughout the United States as one of the most skillful, sagacious and cunning of politicians. It was supposed that no one knew so well as he how to touch the secret springs of action; how to pull all the wires to put his machinery in motion; and how to organize a political army which would, secretly and stealthily accomplish the most gigantic results. By these powers it is said that he outwitted Mr. Adams; Mr. Clay, Mr. Webster, and secured results which few thought then could be accomplished.

When Andrew Jackson was elected President he appointed Mr. Van Buren Secretary of State. This position he resigned in 1831, and was immediately appointed Minister to England, where he went the same autumn. The Senate, however, when it met, refused to ratify the nomination, and he returned

home, apparently untroubled; was nominated Vice President in the place of Calhoun, at the re-election of President Jackson; and with smiles for all and frowns for none, he took his place at the head of that Senate which had refused to confirm his nomination as ambassador.

His rejection by the Senate roused all the zeal of President Jackson in behalf of his repudiated favorite; and this, probably more than any other cause, secured his elevation to the chair of the Chief Executive. On the 20th of May, 1836, Mr. Van Buren received the Democratic nomination to succeed Gen. Jackson as President of the United States. He was elected by a handsome majority, to the delight of the retiring President. "Leaving New York out of the canvass," says Mr. Parton, "the election of Mr. Van Buren to the Presidency was as much the act of Gen. Jackson as though the Constitution had conferred upon him the power to appoint a successor."

His administration was filled with exciting events. The insurrection in Canada, which threatened to involve this country in war with England, the agitation of the slavery question, and finally the great commercial panic which spread over the country, all were trials to his wisdom. The financial distress was attributed to the management of the Democratic party, and brought the President into such disfavor that he failed of re-election.

With the exception of being nominated for the Presidency by the "Free Soil" Democrats, in 1848, Mr. Van Buren lived quietly upon his estate until his death.

He had ever been a prudent man, of frugal habits, and living within his income, had now fortunately a competence for his declining years. His unblemished character, his commanding abilities, his unquestioned patriotism, and the distinguished positions which he had occupied in the government of our country, secured to him not only the homage of his party, but the respect of the whole community. It was on the 4th of March, 1841, that Mr. Van Buren retired from the presidency. From his fine estate at Lindenwald, he still exerted a powerful influence upon the politics of the country. From this time until his death, on the 24th of July, 1862, at the age of eighty years, he resided at Lindenwald, a gentleman of leisure, of culture and of wealth; enjoying in a healthy old age, probably far more happiness than he had before experienced amid the stormy scenes of his active life.





*W. H. Harrison*



## WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.



WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, the ninth President of the United States, was born at Berkeley, Va., Feb. 9, 1773. His father, Benjamin Harrison, was in comparatively opulent circumstances, and was one of the most distinguished men of his day. He was an intimate friend of George Washington, was early elected a member of the Continental Congress, and was conspicuous among the patriots of Virginia in resisting the encroachments of the British crown. In the celebrated Congress of 1775, Benjamin Harrison and John Hancock were both candidates for the office of speaker.

Mr Harrison was subsequently chosen Governor of Virginia, and was twice re-elected. His son, William Henry, of course enjoyed

in childhood all the advantages which wealth and intellectual and cultivated society could give. Having received a thorough common-school education, he entered Hampden Sidney College, where he graduated with honor soon after the death of his father. He then repaired to Philadelphia to study medicine under the instructions of Dr. Rush and the guardianship of Robert Morris, both of whom were, with his father, signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Upon the outbreak of the Indian troubles, and notwithstanding the remonstrances of his friends, he abandoned his medical studies and entered the army, having obtained a commission of Ensign from Presi-

dent Washington. He was then but 19 years old. From that time he passed gradually upward in rank until he became aid to General Wayne, after whose death he resigned his commission. He was then appointed Secretary of the North-western Territory. This Territory was then entitled to but one member in Congress and Capt. Harrison was chosen to fill that position.

In the spring of 1800 the North-western Territory was divided by Congress into two portions. The eastern portion, comprising the region now embraced in the State of Ohio, was called "The Territory north-west of the Ohio." The western portion, which included what is now called Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin, was called the "Indiana Territory." William Henry Harrison, then 27 years of age, was appointed by John Adams, Governor of the Indiana Territory, and immediately after, also Governor of Upper Louisiana. He was thus ruler over almost as extensive a realm as any sovereign upon the globe. He was Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and was invested with powers nearly dictatorial over the now rapidly increasing white population. The ability and fidelity with which he discharged these responsible duties may be inferred from the fact that he was four times appointed to this office—first by John Adams, twice by Thomas Jefferson and afterwards by President Madison.

When he began his administration there were but three white settlements in that almost boundless region, now crowded with cities and resounding with all the tumult of wealth and traffic. One of these settlements was on the Ohio, nearly opposite Louisville; one at Vincennes, on the Wabash, and the third a French settlement.

The vast wilderness over which Gov. Harrison reigned was filled with many tribes of Indians. About

the year 1806, two extraordinary men, twin brothers, of the Shawnese tribe, rose among them. One of these was called Tecumseh, or "The Crouching Panther;" the other, Olliwacheca, or "The Prophet." Tecumseh was not only an Indian warrior, but a man of great sagacity, far-reaching foresight and indomitable perseverance in any enterprise in which he might engage. He was inspired with the highest enthusiasm, and had long regarded with dread and with hatred the encroachment of the whites upon the hunting-grounds of his fathers. His brother, the Prophet, was an orator, who could sway the feelings of the untutored Indian as the gale tossed the tree-tops beneath which they dwelt.

But the Prophet was not merely an orator: he was, in the superstitious minds of the Indians, invested with the superhuman dignity of a medicine-man or a magician. With an enthusiasm unsurpassed by Peter the Hermit rousing Europe to the crusades, he went from tribe to tribe, assuming that he was specially sent by the Great Spirit.

Gov. Harrison made many attempts to conciliate the Indians, but at last the war came, and at Tippecanoe the Indians were routed with great slaughter. October 28, 1812, his army began its march. When near the Prophet's town three Indians of rank made their appearance and inquired why Gov. Harrison was approaching them in so hostile an attitude. After a short conference, arrangements were made for a meeting the next day, to agree upon terms of peace.

But Gov. Harrison was too well acquainted with the Indian character to be deceived by such protestations. Selecting a favorable spot for his night's encampment, he took every precaution against surprise. His troops were posted in a hollow square, and slept upon their arms.

The troops threw themselves upon the ground for rest; but every man had his accoutrements on, his loaded musket by his side, and his bayonet fixed. The wakeful Governor, between three and four o'clock in the morning, had risen, and was sitting in conversation with his aids by the embers of a waning fire. It was a chill, cloudy morning with a drizzling rain. In the darkness, the Indians had crept as near as possible, and just then, with a savage yell, rushed, with all the desperation which superstition and passion most highly inflamed could give, upon the left flank of the little army. The savages had been amply provided with guns and ammunition by the English. Their war-whoop was accompanied by a shower of bullets.

The camp-fires were instantly extinguished, as the light aided the Indians in their aim. With hideous yells, the Indian bands rushed on, not doubting a speedy and an entire victory. But Gen. Harrison's troops stood as immovable as the rocks around them until day dawned: they then made a simultaneous charge with the bayonet, and swept every thing before them, and completely routing the foe.

Gov. Harrison now had all his energies tasked to the utmost. The British descending from the Canadas, were of themselves a very formidable force; but with their savage allies, rushing like wolves from the forest, searching out every remote farm-house, burning, plundering, scalping, torturing, the wide frontier was plunged into a state of consternation which even the most vivid imagination can but faintly conceive. The war-whoop was resounding everywhere in the forest. The horizon was illuminated with the conflagration of the cabins of the settlers. Gen. Hull had made the ignominious surrender of his forces at Detroit. Under these despairing circumstances, Gov. Harrison was appointed by President Madison commander-in-chief of the North-western army, with orders to retake Detroit, and to protect the frontiers.

It would be difficult to place a man in a situation demanding more energy, sagacity and courage; but General Harrison was found equal to the position, and nobly and triumphantly did he meet all the responsibilities.

He won the love of his soldiers by always sharing with them their fatigue. His whole baggage, while pursuing the foe up the Thames, was carried in a valise; and his bedding consisted of a single blanket lashed over his saddle. Thirty-five British officers, his prisoners of war, supped with him after the battle. The only fare he could give them was beef roasted before the fire, without bread or salt.

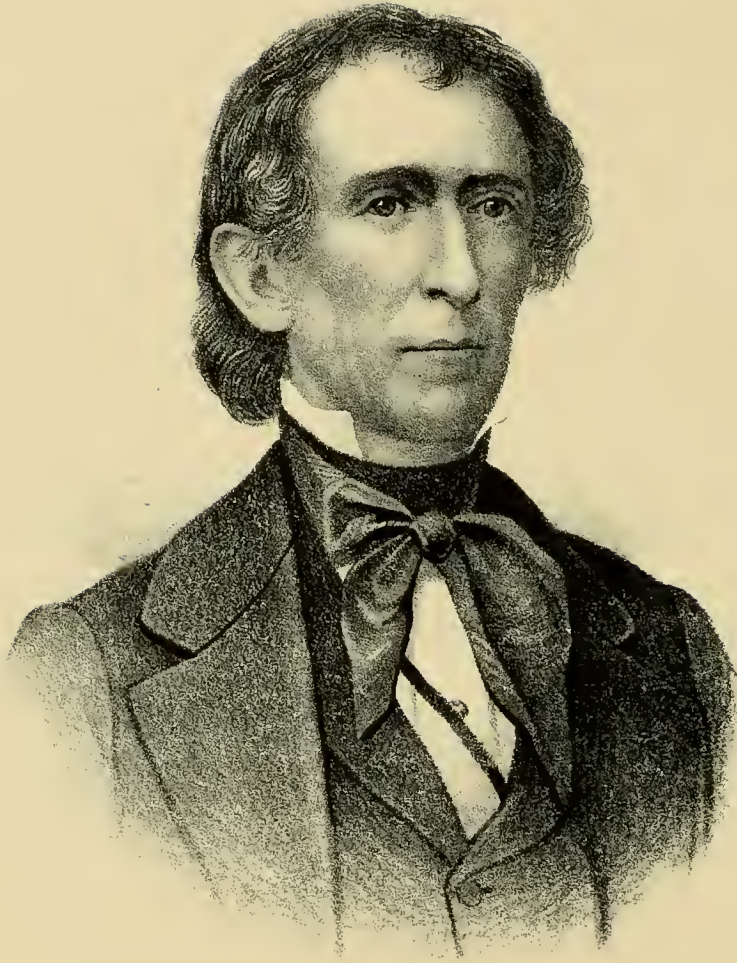
In 1816, Gen. Harrison was chosen a member of the National House of Representatives, to represent the District of Ohio. In Congress he proved an active member; and whenever he spoke, it was with force of reason and power of eloquence, which arrested the attention of all the members.

In 1819, Harrison was elected to the Senate of Ohio; and in 1824, as one of the presidential electors of that State, he gave his vote for Henry Clay. The same year he was chosen to the United States Senate.

In 1836, the friends of Gen. Harrison brought him forward as a candidate for the Presidency against Van Buren, but he was defeated. At the close of Mr. Van Buren's term, he was re-nominated by his party, and Mr. Harrison was unanimously nominated by the Whigs, with John Tyler for the Vice Presidency. The contest was very animated. Gen. Jackson gave all his influence to prevent Harrison's election; but his triumph was signal.

The cabinet which he formed, with Daniel Webster at its head as Secretary of State, was one of the most brilliant with which any President had ever been surrounded. Never were the prospects of an administration more flattering, or the hopes of the country more sanguine. In the midst of these bright and joyous prospects, Gen. Harrison was seized by a pleurisy-fever and after a few days of violent sickness, died on the 4th of April; just one month after his inauguration as President of the United States.






John Tyler





## JOHN TYLER.



JOHN TYLER, the tenth President of the United States. He was born in Charles-city Co., Va., March 29, 1790. He was the favored child of affluence and high social position. At the early age of twelve, John entered William and Mary College and graduated with much honor when but seventeen years old. After graduating, he devoted himself with great assiduity to the study of law, partly with his father and partly with Edmund Randolph, one of the most distinguished lawyers of Virginia.

At nineteen years of age, he commenced the practice of law. His success was rapid and astonishing. It is said that three months had not elapsed ere there was scarcely a case on the docket of the court in which he was not retained. When but twenty-one years of age, he was almost unanimously elected to a seat in the State Legislature. He connected himself with the Democratic party, and warmly advocated the measures of Jefferson and Madison. For five successive years he was elected to the Legislature, receiving nearly the unanimous vote of his county.

When but twenty-six years of age, he was elected a member of Congress. Here he acted earnestly and ably with the Democratic party, opposing a national bank, internal improvements by the General Govern-

ment, a protective tariff, and advocating a strict construction of the Constitution, and the most careful vigilance over State rights. His labors in Congress were so arduous that before the close of his second term he found it necessary to resign and retire to his estate in Charles-city Co., to recruit his health. He, however, soon after consented to take his seat in the State Legislature, where his influence was powerful in promoting public works of great utility. With a reputation thus constantly increasing, he was chosen by a very large majority of votes, Governor of his native State. His administration was signally a successful one. His popularity secured his re-election.

John Randolph, a brilliant, erratic, half-crazed man, then represented Virginia in the Senate of the United States. A portion of the Democratic party was displeased with Mr. Randolph's wayward course, and brought forward John Tyler as his opponent, considering him the only man in Virginia of sufficient popularity to succeed against the renowned orator of Roanoke. Mr. Tyler was the victor.

In accordance with his professions, upon taking his seat in the Senate, he joined the ranks of the opposition. He opposed the tariff; he spoke against and voted against the bank as unconstitutional; he strenuously opposed all restrictions upon slavery, resisting all projects of internal improvements by the General Government, and avowed his sympathy with Mr. Calhoun's view of nullification; he declared that Gen. Jackson, by his opposition to the nullifiers, had abandoned the principles of the Democratic party. Such was Mr. Tyler's record in Congress,—a record in perfect accordance with the principles which he had always avowed.

Returning to Virginia, he resumed the practice of his profession. There was a split in the Democratic

party. His friends still regarded him as a true Jeffersonian, gave him a dinner, and showered compliments upon him. He had now attained the age of forty-six. His career had been very brilliant. In consequence of his devotion to public business, his private affairs had fallen into some disorder; and it was not without satisfaction that he resumed the practice of law, and devoted himself to the culture of his plantation. Soon after this he removed to Williamsburg, for the better education of his children; and he again took his seat in the Legislature of Virginia.

By the Southern Whigs, he was sent to the national convention at Harrisburg to nominate a President in 1839. The majority of votes were given to Gen. Harrison, a genuine Whig, much to the disappointment of the South, who wished for Henry Clay. To conciliate the Southern Whigs and to secure their vote, the convention then nominated John Tyler for Vice President. It was well known that he was not in sympathy with the Whig party in the North: but the Vice President has but very little power in the Government, his main and almost only duty being to preside over the meetings of the Senate. Thus it happened that a Whig President, and, in reality, a Democratic Vice President were chosen.

In 1841, Mr. Tyler was inaugurated Vice President of the United States. In one short month from that time, President Harrison died, and Mr. Tyler thus found himself, to his own surprise and that of the whole Nation, an occupant of the Presidential chair. This was a new test of the stability of our institutions, as it was the first time in the history of our country that such an event had occurred. Mr. Tyler was at home in Williamsburg when he received the unexpected tidings of the death of President Harrison. He hastened to Washington, and on the 6th of April was inaugurated to the high and responsible office. He was placed in a position of exceeding delicacy and difficulty. All his long life he had been opposed to the main principles of the party which had brought him into power. He had ever been a consistent, honest man, with an unblemished record. Gen. Harrison had selected a Whig cabinet. Should he retain them, and thus surround himself with counsellors whose views were antagonistic to his own? or, on the other hand, should he turn against the party which had elected him and select a cabinet in harmony with himself, and which would oppose all those views which the Whigs deemed essential to the public welfare? This was his fearful dilemma. He invited the cabinet which President Harrison had selected to retain their seats. He recommended a day of fasting and prayer, that God would guide and bless us.

The Whigs carried through Congress a bill for the incorporation of a fiscal bank of the United States. The President, after ten days' delay, returned it with his veto. He suggested, however, that he would

approve of a bill drawn up upon such a plan as he proposed. Such a bill was accordingly prepared, and privately submitted to him. He gave it his approval. It was passed without alteration, and he sent it back with his veto. Here commenced the open rupture. It is said that Mr. Tyler was provoked to this measure by a published letter from the Hon. John M. Botts, a distinguished Virginia Whig, who severely touched the pride of the President.

The opposition now exultingly received the President into their arms. The party which elected him denounced him bitterly. All the members of his cabinet, excepting Mr. Webster, resigned. The Whigs of Congress, both the Senate and the House, held a meeting and issued an address to the people of the United States, proclaiming that all political alliance between the Whigs and President Tyler were at an end.

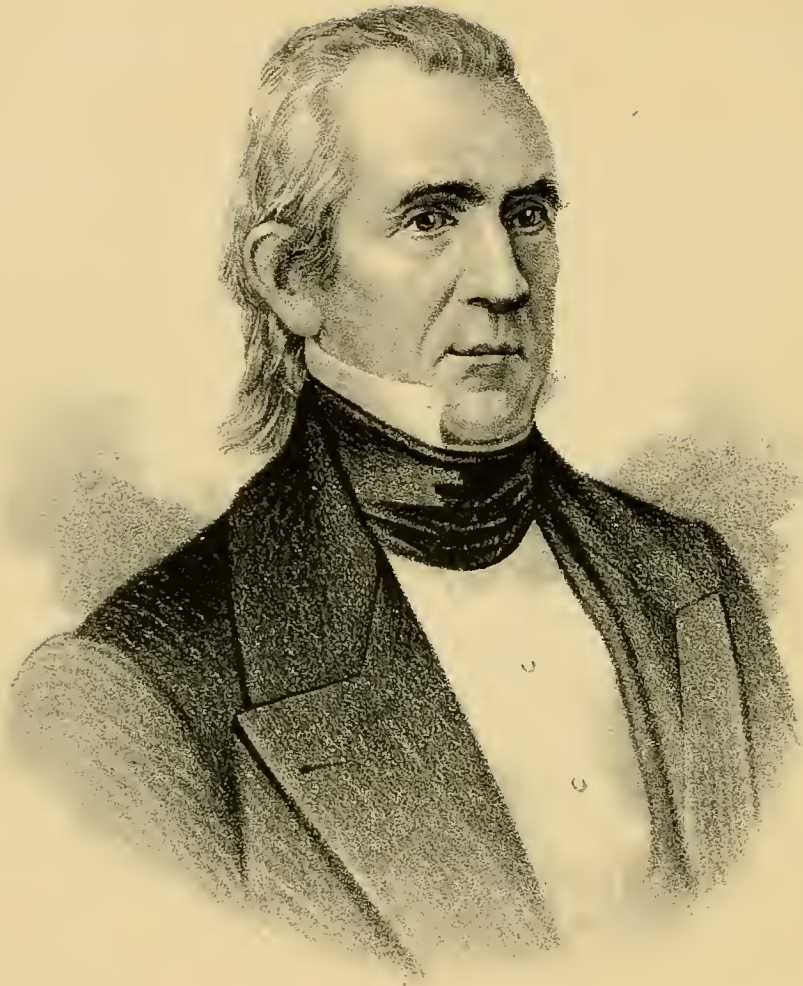
Still the President attempted to conciliate. He appointed a new cabinet of distinguished Whigs and Conservatives, carefully leaving out all strong party men. Mr. Webster soon found it necessary to resign, forced out by the pressure of his Whig friends. Thus the four years of Mr. Tyler's unfortunate administration passed sadly away. No one was satisfied. The land was filled with murmurs and vituperation. Whigs and Democrats alike assailed him. More and more, however, he brought himself into sympathy with his old friends, the Democrats, until at the close of his term, he gave his whole influence to the support of Mr. Polk, the Democratic candidate for his successor.

On the 4th of March, 1845, he retired from the harassments of office, to the regret of neither party, and probably to his own unspeakable relief. His first wife, Miss Letitia Christian, died in Washington, in 1842; and in June, 1844, President Tyler was again married, at New York, to Miss Julia Gardiner, a young lady of many personal and intellectual accomplishments.

The remainder of his days Mr. Tyler passed mainly in retirement at his beautiful home,—Sherwood Forest, Charles-city Co., Va. A polished gentleman in his manners, richly furnished with information from books and experience in the world, and possessing brilliant powers of conversation, his family circle was the scene of unusual attractions. With sufficient means for the exercise of a generous hospitality, he might have enjoyed a serene old age with the few friends who gathered around him, were it not for the storms of civil war which his own principles and policy had helped to introduce.

When the great Rebellion rose, which the State-rights and nullifying doctrines of Mr. John C. Calhoun had inaugurated, President Tyler renounced his allegiance to the United States, and joined the Confederates. He was chosen a member of their Congress; and while engaged in active measures to destroy, by force of arms, the Government over which he had once presided, he was taken sick and soon died.

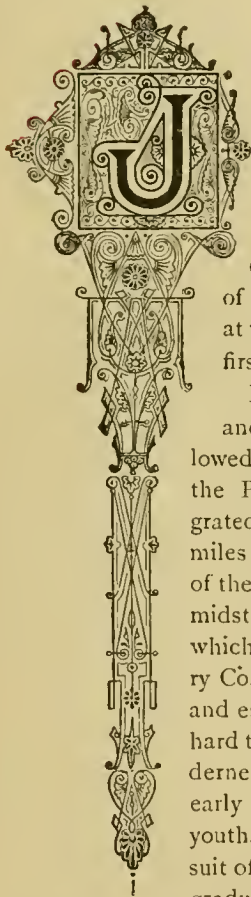




James A. Folk



## JAMES K. POLK.



JAMES K. POLK, the eleventh President of the United States, was born in Mecklenburg Co., N. C., Nov. 2, 1795. His parents were Samuel and Jane (Knox) Polk, the former a son of Col. Thomas Polk, who located at the above place, as one of the first pioneers, in 1735.

In the year 1806, with his wife and children, and soon after followed by most of the members of the Polk family, Samuel Polk emigrated some two or three hundred miles farther west, to the rich valley of the Duck River. Here in the midst of the wilderness, in a region which was subsequently called Maury Co., they reared their log huts, and established their homes. In the hard toil of a new farm in the wilderness, James K. Polk spent the early years of his childhood and youth. His father, adding the pursuit of a surveyor to that of a farmer, gradually increased in wealth until

he became one of the leading men of the region. His mother was a superior woman, of strong common sense and earnest piety.

Very early in life, James developed a taste for reading and expressed the strongest desire to obtain a liberal education. His mother's training had made him methodical in his habits, had taught him punctuality and industry, and had inspired him with lofty principles of morality. His health was frail; and his father, fearing that he might not be able to endure a

sedentary life, got a situation for him behind the counter, hoping to fit him for commercial pursuits.

This was to James a bitter disappointment. He had no taste for these duties, and his daily tasks were irksome in the extreme. He remained in this uncongenial occupation but a few weeks, when at his earnest solicitation his father removed him, and made arrangements for him to prosecute his studies. Soon after he sent him to Murfreesboro Academy. With ardor which could scarcely be surpassed, he pressed forward in his studies, and in less than two and a half years, in the autumn of 1815, entered the sophomore class in the University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill. Here he was one of the most exemplary of scholars, punctual in every exercise, never allowing himself to be absent from a recitation or a religious service.

He graduated in 1818, with the highest honors, being deemed the best scholar of his class, both in mathematics and the classics. He was then twenty-three years of age. Mr. Polk's health was at this time much impaired by the assiduity with which he had prosecuted his studies. After a short season of relaxation he went to Nashville, and entered the office of Felix Grundy, to study law. Here Mr. Polk renewed his acquaintance with Andrew Jackson, who resided on his plantation, the Hermitage, but a few miles from Nashville. They had probably been slightly acquainted before.

Mr. Polk's father was a Jeffersonian Republican, and James K. Polk ever adhered to the same political faith. He was a popular public speaker, and was constantly called upon to address the meetings of his party friends. His skill as a speaker was such that he was popularly called the Napoleon of the stump. He was a man of unblemished morals, genial and

courteous in his bearing, and with that sympathetic nature in the joys and griefs of others which ever gave him troops of friends. In 1823, Mr. Polk was elected to the Legislature of Tennessee. Here he gave his strong influence towards the election of his friend, Mr. Jackson, to the Presidency of the United States.

In January, 1824, Mr. Polk married Miss Sarah Childress, of Rutherford Co., Tenn. His bride was altogether worthy of him,—a lady of beauty and culture. In the fall of 1825, Mr. Polk was chosen a member of Congress. The satisfaction which he gave to his constituents may be inferred from the fact, that for fourteen successive years, until 1839, he was continued in that office. He then voluntarily withdrew, only that he might accept the Gubernatorial chair of Tennessee. In Congress he was a laborious member, a frequent and a popular speaker. He was always in his seat, always courteous; and whenever he spoke it was always to the point, and without any ambitious rhetorical display.

During five sessions of Congress, Mr. Polk was Speaker of the House. Strong passions were roused, and stormy scenes were witnessed; but Mr. Polk performed his arduous duties to a very general satisfaction, and a unanimous vote of thanks to him was passed by the House as he withdrew on the 4th of March, 1839.

In accordance with Southern usage, Mr. Polk, as a candidate for Governor, canvassed the State. He was elected by a large majority, and on the 14th of October, 1839, took the oath of office at Nashville. In 1841, his term of office expired, and he was again the candidate of the Democratic party, but was defeated.

On the 4th of March, 1845, Mr. Polk was inaugurated President of the United States. The verdict of the country in favor of the annexation of Texas, exerted its influence upon Congress; and the last act of the administration of President Tyler was to affix his signature to a joint resolution of Congress, passed on the 3d of March, approving of the annexation of Texas to the American Union. As Mexico still claimed Texas as one of her provinces, the Mexican minister, Almonte, immediately demanded his passports and left the country, declaring the act of the annexation to be an act hostile to Mexico.

In his first message, President Polk urged that Texas should immediately, by act of Congress, be received into the Union on the same footing with the other States. In the meantime, Gen. Taylor was sent

with an army into Texas to hold the country. He was sent first to Nueces, which the Mexicans said was the western boundary of Texas. Then he was sent nearly two hundred miles further west, to the Rio Grande, where he erected batteries which commanded the Mexican city of Matamoras, which was situated on the western banks.

The anticipated collision soon took place, and war was declared against Mexico by President Polk. The war was pushed forward by Mr. Polk's administration with great vigor. Gen. Taylor, whose army was first called one of "observation," then of "occupation," then of "invasion," was sent forward to Monterey. The feeble Mexicans, in every encounter, were hopelessly and awfully slaughtered. The day of judgement alone can reveal the misery which this war caused. It was by the ingenuity of Mr. Polk's administration that the war was brought on.

'To the victors belong the spoils.' Mexico was prostrate before us. Her capital was in our hands. We now consented to peace upon the condition that Mexico should surrender to us, in addition to Texas, all of New Mexico, and all of Upper and Lower California. This new demand embraced, exclusive of Texas, eight hundred thousand square miles. This was an extent of territory equal to nine States of the size of New York. Thus slavery was securing eighteen majestic States to be added to the Union. There were some Americans who thought it all right: there were others who thought it all wrong. In the prosecution of this war, we expended twenty thousand lives and more than a hundred million of dollars. Of this money fifteen millions were paid to Mexico.


On the 3d of March, 1849, Mr. Polk retired from office, having served one term. The next day was Sunday. On the 5th, Gen. Taylor was inaugurated as his successor. Mr. Polk rode to the Capitol in the same carriage with Gen. Taylor; and the same evening, with Mrs. Polk, he commenced his return to Tennessee. He was then but fifty-four years of age. He had ever been strictly temperate in all his habits, and his health was good. With an ample fortune, a choice library, a cultivated mind, and domestic ties of the dearest nature, it seemed as though long years of tranquility and happiness were before him. But the cholera—that fearful scourge—was then sweeping up the Valley of the Mississippi. This he contracted, and died on the 15th of June, 1849, in the fifty-fourth year of his age, greatly mourned by his countrymen.





*Zachary Taylor.*





## ZACHARY TAYLOR.



ZACHARY TAYLOR, twelfth President of the United States, was born on the 24th of Nov., 1784, in Orange Co., Va. His father, Colonel Taylor, was a Virginian of note, and a distinguished patriot and soldier of the Revolution. When Zachary was an infant, his father with his wife and two children, emigrated to Kentucky, where he settled in the pathless wilderness, a few miles from Louisville. In this frontier home, away from civilization and all its refinements, young Zachary

could enjoy but few social and educational advantages. When six years of age he attended a common school, and was then regarded as a bright, active boy, rather remarkable for bluntness and decision of character. He was strong, fearless and self-reliant, and manifested a strong desire to enter the army to fight the Indians who were ravaging the frontiers. There is little to be recorded of the uneventful years of his childhood on his father's large but lonely plantation.

In 1808, his father succeeded in obtaining for him the commission of lieutenant in the United States army; and he joined the troops which were stationed at New Orleans under Gen. Wilkinson. Soon after this he married Miss Margaret Smith, a young lady from one of the first families of Maryland.

Immediately after the declaration of war with England, in 1812, Capt. Taylor (for he had then been promoted to that rank) was put in command of Fort Harrison, on the Wabash, about fifty miles above Vincennes. This fort had been built in the wilderness by Gen. Harrison, on his march to Tippecanoe. It was one of the first points of attack by the Indians, led by Tecumseh. Its garrison consisted of a broken

company of infantry numbering fifty men, many of whom were sick.

Early in the autumn of 1812, the Indians, stealthily, and in large numbers, moved upon the fort. Their approach was first indicated by the murder of two soldiers just outside of the stockade. Capt. Taylor made every possible preparation to meet the anticipated assault. On the 4th of September, a band of forty painted and plumed savages came to the fort, waving a white flag, and informed Capt. Taylor that in the morning their chief would come to have a talk with him. It was evident that their object was merely to ascertain the state of things at the fort, and Capt. Taylor, well versed in the wiles of the savages, kept them at a distance.

The sun went down; the savages disappeared, the garrison slept upon their arms. One hour before midnight the war-whoop burst from a thousand lips in the forest around, followed by the discharge of musketry, and the rush of the foe. Every man, sick and well, sprang to his post. Every man knew that defeat was not merely death, but in the case of capture, death by the most agonizing and prolonged torture. No pen can describe, no imagination can conceive the scenes which ensued. The savages succeeded in setting fire to one of the block-houses. Until six o'clock in the morning, this awful conflict continued. The savages then, baffled at every point, and gnashing their teeth with rage, retired. Capt. Taylor, for this gallant defence, was promoted to the rank of major by brevet.

Until the close of the war, Major Taylor was placed in such situations that he saw but little more of active service. He was sent far away into the depths of the wilderness, to Fort Crawford, on Fox River, which empties into Green Bay. Here there was but little to be done but to wear away the tedious hours as one best could. There were no books, no society, no in-

tellectual stimulus. Thus with him the uneventful years rolled on. Gradually he rose to the rank of colonel. In the Black-Hawk war, which resulted in the capture of that renowned chieftain, Col. Taylor took a subordinate but a brave and efficient part.

For twenty-four years Col. Taylor was engaged in the defence of the frontiers, in scenes so remote, and in employments so obscure, that his name was unknown beyond the limits of his own immediate acquaintance. In the year 1836, he was sent to Florida to compel the Seminole Indians to vacate that region and retire beyond the Mississippi, as their chiefs by treaty, had promised they should do. The services rendered here secured for Col. Taylor the high appreciation of the Government; and as a reward, he was elevated to the rank of brigadier-general by brevet; and soon after, in May, 1838, was appointed to the chief command of the United States troops in Florida.

After two years of such wearisome employment amidst the everglades of the peninsula, Gen. Taylor obtained, at his own request, a change of command, and was stationed over the Department of the Southwest. This field embraced Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia. Establishing his headquarters at Fort Jessup, in Louisiana, he removed his family to a plantation which he purchased, near Baton Rouge. Here he remained for five years, buried, as it were, from the world, but faithfully discharging every duty imposed upon him.

In 1846, Gen. Taylor was sent to guard the land between the Nueces and Rio Grande, the latter river being the boundary of Texas, which was then claimed by the United States. Soon the war with Mexico was brought on, and at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, Gen. Taylor won brilliant victories over the Mexicans. The rank of major-general by brevet was then conferred upon Gen. Taylor, and his name was received with enthusiasm almost everywhere in the Nation. Then came the battles of Monterey and Buena Vista in which he won signal victories over forces much larger than he commanded.

His careless habits of dress and his unaffected simplicity, secured for Gen. Taylor among his troops, the *sobriquet* of "Old Rough and Ready."

The tidings of the brilliant victory of Buena Vista spread the wildest enthusiasm over the country. The name of Gen. Taylor was on every one's lips. The Whig party decided to take advantage of this wonderful popularity in bringing forward the unpolished, unlettered, honest soldier as their candidate for the Presidency. Gen. Taylor was astonished at the announcement, and for a time would not listen to it; declaring that he was not at all qualified for such an office. So little interest had he taken in politics that, for forty years, he had not cast a vote. It was not without chagrin that several distinguished statesmen who had been long years in the public service found their claims set aside in behalf of one whose name

had never been heard of, save in connection with Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, Monterey and Buena Vista. It is said that Daniel Webster, in his haste remarked, "It is a nomination not fit to be made."

Gen. Taylor was not an eloquent speaker nor a fine writer. His friends took possession of him, and prepared such few communications as it was needful should be presented to the public. The popularity of the successful warrior swept the land. He was triumphantly elected over two opposing candidates,—Gen. Cass and Ex-President Martin Van Buren. Though he selected an excellent cabinet, the good old man found himself in a very uncongenial position, and was, at times, sorely perplexed and harassed. His mental sufferings were very severe, and probably tended to hasten his death. The pro-slavery party was pushing its claims with tireless energy, expeditions were fitting out to capture Cuba; California was pleading for admission to the Union, while slavery stood at the door to bar her out. Gen. Taylor found the political conflicts in Washington to be far more trying to the nerves than battles with Mexicans or Indians.

In the midst of all these troubles, Gen. Taylor, after he had occupied the Presidential chair but little over a year, took cold, and after a brief sickness of but little over five days, died on the 9th of July, 1850. His last words were, "I am not afraid to die. I am ready. I have endeavored to do my duty." He died universally respected and beloved. An honest, unpretending man, he had been steadily growing in the affections of the people; and the Nation bitterly lamented his death.

Gen. Scott, who was thoroughly acquainted with Gen. Taylor, gave the following graphic and truthful description of his character:—"With a good store of common sense, Gen. Taylor's mind had not been enlarged and refreshed by reading, or much converse with the world. Rigidity of ideas was the consequence. The frontiers and small military posts had been his home. Hence he was quite ignorant for his rank, and quite bigoted in his ignorance. His simplicity was child-like, and with innumerable prejudices, amusing and incorrigible, well suited to the tender age. Thus, if a man, however respectable, chanced to wear a coat of an unusual color, or his hat a little on one side of his head; or an officer to leave a corner of his handkerchief dangling from an outside pocket,—in any such case, this critic held the offender to be a coxcomb (perhaps something worse), whom he would not, to use his oft repeated phrase, 'touch with a pair of tongs.'

"Any allusion to literature beyond good old Dilworth's spelling-book, on the part of one wearing a sword, was evidence, with the same judge, of utter unfitness for heavy marchings and combats. In short few men have ever had a more comfortable, labor-saving contempt for learning of every kind."





*Millard Fillmore*



MILLARD FILLMORE.



MILLARD FILLMORE, thirteenth President of the United States, was born at Summer Hill, Cayuga Co., N. Y., on the 7th of January, 1800. His father was a farmer, and owing to misfortune, in humble circumstances. Of his mother, the daughter of Dr. Abiathar Millard, of Pittsfield, Mass., it has been said that she possessed an intellect of very high order, united with much personal loveliness, sweetness of disposition, graceful manners and exquisite sensibilities. She died in 1831; having lived to see her son a young man of distinguished promise,

though she was not permitted to witness the high dignity which he finally attained.

In consequence of the secluded home and limited means of his father, Millard enjoyed but slender advantages for education in his early years. The common schools, which he occasionally attended were very imperfect institutions; and books were scarce and expensive. There was nothing then in his character to indicate the brilliant career upon which he was about to enter. He was a plain farmer's boy; intelligent, good-looking, kind-hearted. The sacred influences of home had taught him to revere the Bible, and had laid the foundations of an upright character. When fourteen years of age, his father sent him some hundred miles from home, to the then wilds of Livingston County, to learn the trade of a clothier. Near the mill there was a small villiage, where some

enterprising man had commenced the collection of a village library. This proved an inestimable blessing to young Fillmore. His evenings were spent in reading. Soon every leisure moment was occupied with books. His thirst for knowledge became insatiate and the selections which he made were continually more elevating and instructive. He read history, biography, oratory, and thus gradually there was enkindled in his heart a desire to be something more than a mere worker with his hands; and he was becoming, almost unknown to himself, a well-informed, educated man.

The young clothier had now attained the age of nineteen years, and was of fine personal appearance and of gentlemanly demeanor. It so happened that there was a gentleman in the neighborhood of ample pecuniary means and of benevolence,—Judge Walter Wood,—who was struck with the prepossessing appearance of young Fillmore. He made his acquaintance, and was so much impressed with his ability and attainments that he advised him to abandon his trade and devote himself to the study of the law. The young man replied, that he had no means of his own, no friends to help him and that his previous education had been very imperfect. But Judge Wood had so much confidence in him that he kindly offered to take him into his own office, and to loan him such money as he needed. Most gratefully the generous offer was accepted.

There is in many minds a strange delusion about a collegiate education. A young man is supposed to be liberally educated if he has graduated at some college. But many a boy loiters through university halls and then enters a law office, who is by no means as

well prepared to prosecute his legal studies as was Millard Fillmore when he graduated at the clothing-mill at the end of four years of manual labor, during which every leisure moment had been devoted to intense mental culture.

In 1823, when twenty-three years of age, he was admitted to the Court of Common Pleas. He then went to the village of Aurora, and commenced the practice of law. In this secluded, peaceful region, his practice of course was limited, and there was no opportunity for a sudden rise in fortune or in fame. Here, in the year 1826, he married a lady of great moral worth, and one capable of adorning any station she might be called to fill,—Miss Abigail Powers.

His elevation of character, his untiring industry, his legal acquirements, and his skill as an advocate, gradually attracted attention; and he was invited to enter into partnership under highly advantageous circumstances, with an elder member of the bar in Buffalo. Just before removing to Buffalo, in 1829, he took his seat in the House of Assembly, of the State of New York, as a representative from Erie County. Though he had never taken a very active part in politics, his vote and his sympathies were with the Whig party. The State was then Democratic, and he found himself in a helpless minority in the Legislature, still the testimony comes from all parties, that his courtesy, ability and integrity, won, to a very unusual degree the respect of his associates.

In the autumn of 1832, he was elected to a seat in the United States Congress. He entered that troubled arena in some of the most tumultuous hours of our national history. The great conflict respecting the national bank and the removal of the deposits, was then raging.

His term of two years closed; and he returned to his profession, which he pursued with increasing reputation and success. After a lapse of two years he again became a candidate for Congress; was re-elected, and took his seat in 1837. His past experience as a representative gave him strength and confidence. The first term of service in Congress to any man can be but little more than an introduction. He was now prepared for active duty. All his energies were brought to bear upon the public good. Every measure received his impress.

Mr. Fillmore was now a man of wide repute, and his popularity filled the State, and in the year 1847, he was elected Comptroller of the State.

Mr. Fillmore had attained the age of forty-seven years. His labors at the bar, in the Legislature, in Congress and as Comptroller, had given him very considerable fame. The Whigs were casting about to find suitable candidates for President and Vice-President at the approaching election. Far away, on the waters of the Rio Grande, there was a rough old soldier, who had fought one or two successful battles with the Mexicans, which had caused his name to be proclaimed in trumpet-tones all over the land. But it was necessary to associate with him on the same ticket some man of reputation as a statesman.

Under the influence of these considerations, the names of Zachary Taylor and Millard Fillmore became the rallying-cry of the Whigs, as their candidates for President and Vice-President. The Whig ticket was signally triumphant. On the 4th of March, 1849, Gen. Taylor was inaugurated President, and Millard Fillmore Vice-President, of the United States.

On the 9th of July, 1850, President Taylor, but about one year and four months after his inauguration, was suddenly taken sick and died. By the Constitution, Vice-President Fillmore thus became President. He appointed a very able cabinet, of which the illustrious Daniel Webster was Secretary of State.

Mr. Fillmore had very serious difficulties to contend with, since the opposition had a majority in both Houses. He did everything in his power to conciliate the South; but the pro-slavery party in the South felt the inadequacy of all measures of transient conciliation. The population of the free States was so rapidly increasing over that of the slave States that it was inevitable that the power of the Government should soon pass into the hands of the free States. The famous compromise measures were adopted under Mr. Fillmore's administration, and the Japan Expedition was sent out. On the 4th of March, 1853, Mr. Fillmore, having served one term, retired.

In 1856, Mr. Fillmore was nominated for the Presidency by the "Know Nothing" party, but was beaten by Mr. Buchanan. After that Mr. Fillmore lived in retirement. During the terrible conflict of civil war, he was mostly silent. It was generally supposed that his sympathies were rather with those who were endeavoring to overthrow our institutions. President Fillmore kept aloof from the conflict, without any cordial words of cheer to the one party or the other. He was thus forgotten by both. He lived to a ripe old age, and died in Buffalo, N. Y., March 8, 1874.





*Franklin Pierce*





## FRANKLIN PIERCE.



FRANKLIN PIERCE, the fourteenth President of the United States, was born in Hillsborough, N. H., Nov. 23, 1804. His father was a Revolutionary soldier, who, with his own strong arm, hewed out a home in the wilderness. He was a man of inflexible integrity; of strong, though uncultivated mind, and an uncompromising Democrat. The mother of Franklin Pierce was all that a son could desire,—an intelligent, prudent, affectionate, Christian wom-

an. Franklin was the sixth of eight children.

Franklin was a very bright and handsome boy, generous, warm-hearted and brave. He won alike the love of old and young. The boys on the play-ground loved him. His teachers loved him. The neighbors looked upon him with pride and affection. He was by instinct a gentleman; always speaking kind words, doing kind deeds, with a peculiar unstudied tact which taught him what was agreeable. Without developing any precocity of genius, or any unnatural devotion to books, he was a good scholar; in body, in mind, in affections, a finely-developed boy.

When sixteen years of age, in the year 1820, he entered Bowdoin College, at Brunswick, Me. He was one of the most popular young men in the college. The purity of his moral character, the unvarying courtesy of his demeanor, his rank as a scholar, and

genial nature, rendered him a universal favorite. There was something very peculiarly winning in his address, and it was evidently not in the slightest degree studied: it was the simple outgushing of his own magnanimous and loving nature.

Upon graduating, in the year 1824, Franklin Pierce commenced the study of law in the office of Judge Woodbury, one of the most distinguished lawyers of the State, and a man of great private worth. The eminent social qualities of the young lawyer, his father's prominence as a public man, and the brilliant political career into which Judge Woodbury was entering, all tended to entice Mr. Pierce into the fascinating yet perilous path of political life. With all the ardor of his nature he espoused the cause of Gen. Jackson for the Presidency. He commenced the practice of law in Hillsborough, and was soon elected to represent the town in the State Legislature. Here he served for four years. The last two years he was chosen speaker of the house by a very large vote.

In 1833, at the age of twenty-nine, he was elected a member of Congress. Without taking an active part in debates, he was faithful and laborious in duty, and ever rising in the estimation of those with whom he was associated.

In 1837, being then but thirty-three years of age, he was elected to the Senate of the United States; taking his seat just as Mr. Van Buren commenced his administration. He was the youngest member in the Senate. In the year 1834, he married Miss Jane Means Appleton, a lady of rare beauty and accomplishments, and one admirably fitted to adorn every station with which her husband was honored. Of the

three sons who were born to them, all now sleep with their parents in the grave.

In the year 1838, Mr. Pierce, with growing fame and increasing business as a lawyer, took up his residence in Concord, the capital of New Hampshire. President Polk, upon his accession to office, appointed Mr. Pierce attorney-general of the United States; but the offer was declined, in consequence of numerous professional engagements at home, and the precarious state of Mrs. Pierce's health. He also, about the same time declined the nomination for governor by the Democratic party. The war with Mexico called Mr. Pierce in the army. Receiving the appointment of brigadier-general, he embarked, with a portion of his troops, at Newport, R. I., on the 27th of May, 1847. He took an important part in this war, proving himself a brave and true soldier.

When Gen. Pierce reached his home in his native State, he was received enthusiastically by the advocates of the Mexican war, and coldly by his opponents. He resumed the practice of his profession, very frequently taking an active part in political questions, giving his cordial support to the pro-slavery wing of the Democratic party. The compromise measures met cordially with his approval; and he strenuously advocated the enforcement of the infamous fugitive-slave law, which so shocked the religious sensibilities of the North. He thus became distinguished as a "Northern man with Southern principles." The strong partisans of slavery in the South consequently regarded him as a man whom they could safely trust in office to carry out their plans.

On the 12th of June, 1852, the Democratic convention met in Baltimore to nominate a candidate for the Presidency. For four days they continued in session, and in thirty-five ballots no one had obtained a two-thirds vote. Not a vote thus far had been thrown for Gen. Pierce. Then the Virginia delegation brought forward his name. There were fourteen more ballots, during which Gen. Pierce constantly gained strength, until, at the forty-ninth ballot, he received two hundred and eighty-two votes, and all other candidates eleven. Gen. Winfield Scott was the Whig candidate. Gen. Pierce was chosen with great unanimity. Only four States—Vermont, Massachusetts, Kentucky and Tennessee—cast their electoral votes against him. Gen. Franklin Pierce was therefore inaugurated President of the United States on the 4th of March, 1853.

His administration proved one of the most stormy our country had ever experienced. The controversy between slavery and freedom was then approaching its culminating point. It became evident that there was an "irrepressible conflict" between them, and that this Nation could not long exist "half slave and half free." President Pierce, during the whole of his administration, did every thing he could to conciliate the South; but it was all in vain. The conflict every year grew more violent, and threats of the dissolution of the Union were borne to the North on every Southern breeze.

Such was the condition of affairs when President Pierce approached the close of his four-years' term of office. The North had become thoroughly alienated from him. The anti-slavery sentiment, goaded by great outrages, had been rapidly increasing; all the intellectual ability and social worth of President Pierce were forgotten in deep reprehension of his administrative acts. The slaveholders of the South, also, unmindful of the fidelity with which he had advocated those measures of Government which they approved, and perhaps, also, feeling that he had rendered himself so unpopular as no longer to be able acceptably to serve them, ungratefully dropped him, and nominated James Buchanan to succeed him.

On the 4th of March, 1857, President Pierce retired to his home in Concord. Of three children, two had died, and his only surviving child had been killed before his eyes by a railroad accident; and his wife, one of the most estimable and accomplished of ladies, was rapidly sinking in consumption. The hour of dreadful gloom soon came, and he was left alone in the world, without wife or child.

When the terrible Rebellion burst forth, which divided our country into two parties, and two only, Mr. Pierce remained steadfast in the principles which he had always cherished, and gave his sympathies to that pro-slavery party with which he had ever been allied. He declined to do anything, either by voice or pen, to strengthen the hand of the National Government. He continued to reside in Concord until the time of his death, which occurred in October, 1869. He was one of the most genial and social of men, an honored communicant of the Episcopal Church, and one of the kindest of neighbors. Generous to a fault, he contributed liberally for the alleviation of suffering and want, and many of his townspeople were often gladdened by his material bounty.





*James Buchanan*



# JAMES BUCHANAN.

**J**AMES BUCHANAN, the fifteenth President of the United States, was born in a small frontier town, at the foot of the eastern ridge of the Alleghanies, in Franklin Co., Penn., on the 23d of April, 1791. The place where the humble cabin of his father stood was called Stony Batter. It was a wild and romantic spot in a gorge of the mountains, with towering summits rising grandly all around. His father was a native of the north of Ireland; a poor man, who had emigrated in 1783, with little property save his

own strong arms. Five years afterwards he married Elizabeth Spear, the daughter of a respectable farmer, and, with his young bride, plunged into the wilderness, staked his claim, reared his log-hut, opened a clearing with his axe, and settled down there to perform his obscure part in the drama of life. In this secluded home, where James was born, he remained for eight years, enjoying but few social or intellectual advantages. When James was eight years of age, his father removed to the village of Mercersburg, where his son was placed at school, and commenced a course of study in English, Latin and Greek. His progress was rapid, and at the age of fourteen, he entered Dickinson College, at Carlisle. Here he developed remarkable talent, and took his stand among the first scholars in the institution. His application to study was intense, and yet his native powers en-

abled him to master the most abstruse subjects with facility.

In the year 1809, he graduated with the highest honors of his class. He was then eighteen years of age; tall and graceful, vigorous in health, fond of athletic sport, an unerring shot, and enlivened with an exuberant flow of animal spirits. He immediately commenced the study of law in the city of Lancaster, and was admitted to the bar in 1812, when he was but twenty-one years of age. Very rapidly he rose in his profession, and at once took undisputed stand with the ablest lawyers of the State. When but twenty-six years of age, unaided by counsel, he successfully defended before the State Senate one of the judges of the State, who was tried upon articles of impeachment. At the age of thirty it was generally admitted that he stood at the head of the bar; and there was no lawyer in the State who had a more lucrative practice.

In 1820, he reluctantly consented to run as a candidate for Congress. He was elected, and for ten years he remained a member of the Lower House. During the vacations of Congress, he occasionally tried some important case. In 1831, he retired altogether from the toils of his profession, having acquired an ample fortune.

Gen. Jackson, upon his elevation to the Presidency, appointed Mr. Buchanan minister to Russia. The duties of his mission he performed with ability, which gave satisfaction to all parties. Upon his return, in 1833, he was elected to a seat in the United States Senate. He there met, as his associates, Webster, Clay, Wright and Calhoun. He advocated the measures proposed by President Jackson, of making retri-

sals against France, to enforce the payment of our claims against that country; and defended the course of the President in his unprecedented and wholesale removal from office of those who were not the supporters of his administration. Upon this question he was brought into direct collision with Henry Clay. He also, with voice and vote, advocated expunging from the journal of the Senate the vote of censure against Gen. Jackson for removing the deposits. Earnestly he opposed the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, and urged the prohibition of the circulation of anti-slavery documents by the United States mails.

As to petitions on the subject of slavery, he advocated that they should be respectfully received; and that the reply should be returned, that Congress had no power to legislate upon the subject. "Congress," said he, "might as well undertake to interfere with slavery under a foreign government as in any of the States where it now exists."

Upon Mr. Polk's accession to the Presidency, Mr. Buchanan became Secretary of State, and as such, took his share of the responsibility in the conduct of the Mexican War. Mr. Polk assumed that crossing the Nueces by the American troops into the disputed territory was not wrong, but for the Mexicans to cross the Rio Grande into that territory was a declaration of war. No candid man can read with pleasure the account of the course our Government pursued in that movement.

Mr. Buchanan identified himself thoroughly with the party devoted to the perpetuation and extension of slavery, and brought all the energies of his mind to bear against the Wilmot Proviso. He gave his cordial approval to the compromise measures of 1850, which included the fugitive-slave law. Mr. Pierce, upon his election to the Presidency, honored Mr. Buchanan with the mission to England.

In the year 1856, a national Democratic convention nominated Mr. Buchanan for the Presidency. The political conflict was one of the most severe in which our country has ever engaged. All the friends of slavery were on one side; all the advocates of its restriction and final abolition, on the other. Mr. Fremont, the candidate of the enemies of slavery, received 114 electoral votes. Mr. Buchanan received 174, and was elected. The popular vote stood 1,340,618, for Fremont, 1,224,750 for Buchanan. On March 4th, 1857, Mr. Buchanan was inaugurated.

Mr. Buchanan was far advanced in life. Only four years were wanting to fill up his threescore years and ten. His own friends, those with whom he had been allied in political principles and action for years, were seeking the destruction of the Government, that they might rear upon the ruins of our free institutions a nation whose corner-stone should be human slavery. In this emergency, Mr. Buchanan was hopelessly bewildered. He could not, with his long-avowed prin-

ciples, consistently oppose the State-rights party in their assumptions. As President of the United States, bound by his oath faithfully to administer the laws, he could not, without perjury of the grossest kind, unite with those endeavoring to overthrow the republic. He therefore did nothing.

The opponents of Mr. Buchanan's administration nominated Abraham Lincoln as their standard bearer in the next Presidential canvass. The pro-slavery party declared, that if he were elected, and the control of the Government were thus taken from their hands, they would secede from the Union, taking with them, as they retired, the National Capitol at Washington, and the lion's share of the territory of the United States.

Mr. Buchanan's sympathy with the pro-slavery party was such, that he had been willing to offer them far more than they had ventured to claim. All the South had professed to ask of the North was non-intervention upon the subject of slavery. Mr. Buchanan had been ready to offer them the active co-operation of the Government to defend and extend the institution.

As the storm increased in violence, the slaveholders claiming the right to secede, and Mr. Buchanan avowing that Congress had no power to prevent it, one of the most pitiable exhibitions of governmental imbecility was exhibited the world has ever seen. He declared that Congress had no power to enforce its laws in any State which had withdrawn, or which was attempting to withdraw from the Union. This was not the doctrine of Andrew Jackson, when, with his hand upon his sword-hilt, he exclaimed, "The Union must and shall be preserved!"

South Carolina seceded in December, 1860; nearly three months before the inauguration of President Lincoln. Mr. Buchanan looked on in listless despair. The rebel flag was raised in Charleston; Fort Sumpter was besieged; our forts, navy-yards and arsenals were seized; our depots of military stores were plundered; and our custom-houses and post-offices were appropriated by the rebels.

The energy of the rebels, and the imbecility of our Executive, were alike marvelous. The Nation looked on in agony, waiting for the slow weeks to glide away, and close the administration, so terrible in its weakness. At length the long-looked-for hour of deliverance came, when Abraham Lincoln was to receive the scepter.

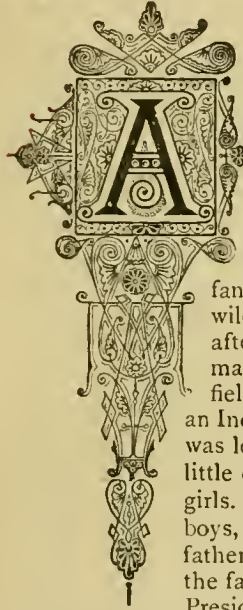
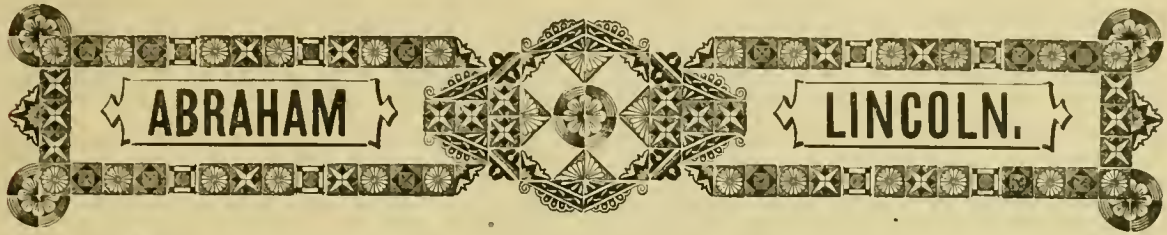
The administration of President Buchanan was certainly the most calamitous our country has experienced. His best friends cannot recall it with pleasure. And still more deplorable it is for his fame, that in that dreadful conflict which rolled its billows of flame and blood over our whole land, no word came from his lips to indicate his wish that our country's banner should triumph over the flag of the rebellion. He died at his Wheatland retreat, June 1, 1868.





Your friend & ever  
A. Lincoln





**A**BRAHAM LINCOLN, the sixteenth President of the United States, was born in Hardin Co., Ky., Feb. 12, 1809. About the year 1780, a man by the name of Abraham Lincoln left Virginia with his family and moved into the then wilds of Kentucky. Only two years after this emigration, still a young man, while working one day in a field, was stealthily approached by an Indian and shot dead. His widow was left in extreme poverty with five little children, three boys and two girls. Thomas, the youngest of the boys, was four years of age at his father's death. This Thomas was the father of Abraham Lincoln, the President of the United States

whose name must henceforth forever be enrolled with the most prominent in the annals of our world.

Of course no record has been kept of the life of one so lowly as Thomas Lincoln. He was among the poorest of the poor. His home was a wretched log-cabin; his food the coarsest and the meanest. Education he had none; he could never either read or write. As soon as he was able to do anything for himself, he was compelled to leave the cabin of his starving mother, and push out into the world, a friendless, wandering boy, seeking work. He hired himself out, and thus spent the whole of his youth as a laborer in the fields of others.

When twenty-eight years of age he built a log-cabin of his own, and married Nancy Hanks, the daughter of another family of poor Kentucky emigrants, who had also come from Virginia. Their second child was Abraham Lincoln, the subject of this sketch. The mother of Abraham was a noble woman, gentle, loving, pensive, created to adorn a palace, doomed to toil and pine, and die in a hovel. "All that I am, or hope to be," exclaims the grateful son "I owe to my angel-mother."

When he was eight years of age, his father sold his

cabin and small farm, and moved to Indiana. Where two years later his mother died.

Abraham soon became the scribe of the uneducated community around him. He could not have had a better school than this to teach him to put thoughts into words. He also became an eager reader. The books he could obtain were few; but these he read and re-read until they were almost committed to memory.

As the years rolled on, the lot of this lowly family was the usual lot of humanity. There were joys and griefs, weddings and funerals. Abraham's sister Sarah, to whom he was tenderly attached, was married when a child of but fourteen years of age, and soon died. The family was gradually scattered. Mr. Thomas Lincoln sold out his squatter's claim in 1830, and emigrated to Macon Co., Ill.

Abraham Lincoln was then twenty-one years of age. With vigorous hands he aided his father in rearing another log-cabin. Abraham worked diligently at this until he saw the family comfortably settled, and their small lot of enclosed prairie planted with corn, when he announced to his father his intention to leave home, and to go out into the world and seek his fortune. Little did he or his friends imagine how brilliant that fortune was to be. He saw the value of education, and was intensely earnest to improve his mind to the utmost of his power. He saw the ruin which ardent spirits were causing, and became strictly temperate; refusing to allow a drop of intoxicating liquor to pass his lips. And he had read in God's word, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain;" and a profane expression he was never heard to utter. Religion he revered. His morals were pure, and he was uncontaminated by a single vice.

Young Abraham worked for a time as a hired laborer among the farmers. Then he went to Springfield, where he was employed in building a large flat-boat. In this he took a herd of swine, floated them down the Sangamon to the Illinois, and thence by the Mississippi to New Orleans. Whatever Abraham Lincoln undertook, he performed so faithfully as to give great satisfaction to his employers. In this adven-

ture his employers were so well pleased, that upon his return they placed a store and mill under his care.

In 1832, at the outbreak of the Black Hawk war, he enlisted and was chosen captain of a company. He returned to Sangamon County, and although only 23 years of age, was a candidate for the Legislature, but was defeated. He soon after received from Andrew Jackson the appointment of Postmaster of New Salem. His only post-office was his hat. All the letters he received he carried there ready to deliver to those he chanced to meet. He studied surveying, and soon made this his business. In 1834 he again became a candidate for the Legislature, and was elected. Mr. Stuart, of Springfield, advised him to study law. He walked from New Salem to Springfield, borrowed of Mr. Stuart a load of books, carried them back and began his legal studies. When the Legislature assembled he trudged on foot with his pack on his back one hundred miles to Vandalia, then the capital. In 1836 he was re-elected to the Legislature. Here it was he first met Stephen A. Douglas. In 1839 he removed to Springfield and began the practice of law. His success with the jury was so great that he was soon engaged in almost every noted case in the circuit.

In 1854 the great discussion began between Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Douglas, on the slavery question. In the organization of the Republican party in Illinois, in 1856, he took an active part, and at once became one of the leaders in that party. Mr. Lincoln's speeches in opposition to Senator Douglas in the contest in 1858 for a seat in the Senate, form a most notable part of his history. The issue was on the slavery question, and he took the broad ground of the Declaration of Independence, that all men are created equal. Mr. Lincoln was defeated in this contest, but won a far higher prize.

The great Republican Convention met at Chicago on the 16th of June, 1860. The delegates and strangers who crowded the city amounted to twenty-five thousand. An immense building called "The Wigwam," was reared to accommodate the Convention. There were eleven candidates for whom votes were thrown. William H. Seward, a man whose fame as a statesman had long filled the land, was the most prominent. It was generally supposed he would be the nominee. Abraham Lincoln, however, received the nomination on the third ballot. Little did he then dream of the weary years of toil and care, and the bloody death, to which that nomination doomed him: and as little did he dream that he was to render services to his country, which would fix upon him the eyes of the whole civilized world, and which would give him a place in the affections of his countrymen, second only, if second, to that of Washington.

Election day came and Mr. Lincoln received 180 electoral votes out of 203 cast, and was, therefore, constitutionally elected President of the United States. The tirade of abuse that was poured upon this good

and merciful man, especially by the slaveholders, was greater than upon any other man ever elected to this high position. In February, 1861, Mr. Lincoln started for Washington, stopping in all the large cities on his way making speeches. The whole journey was fraught with much danger. Many of the Southern States had already seceded, and several attempts at assassination were afterwards brought to light. A gang in Baltimore had arranged, upon his arrival to "get up a row," and in the confusion to make sure of his death with revolvers and hand-grenades. A detective unravelled the plot. A secret and special train was provided to take him from Harrisburg, through Baltimore, at an unexpected hour of the night. The train started at half-past ten; and to prevent any possible communication on the part of the Secessionists with their Confederate gang in Baltimore, as soon as the train had started the telegraph-wires were cut. Mr. Lincoln reached Washington in safety and was inaugurated, although great anxiety was felt by all loyal people.

In the selection of his cabinet Mr. Lincoln gave to Mr. Seward the Department of State, and to other prominent opponents before the convention he gave important positions.

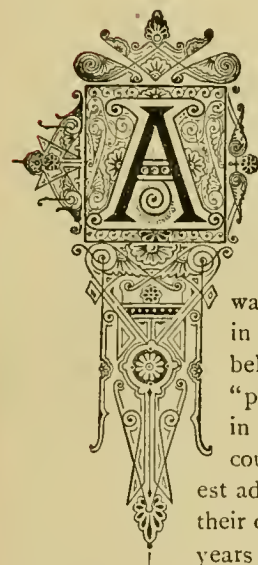
During no other administration have the duties devolving upon the President been so manifold, and the responsibilities so great, as those which fell to the lot of President Lincoln. Knowing this, and feeling his own weakness and inability to meet, and in his own strength to cope with, the difficulties, he learned early to seek Divine wisdom and guidance in determining his plans, and Divine comfort in all his trials, both personal and national. Contrary to his own estimate of himself, Mr. Lincoln was one of the most courageous of men. He went directly into the rebel capital just as the retreating foe was leaving, with no guard but a few sailors. From the time he had left Springfield, in 1861, however, plans had been made for his assassination, and he at last fell a victim to one of them. April 14, 1865, he, with Gen. Grant, was urgently invited to attend Ford's Theater. It was announced that they would be present. Gen. Grant, however, left the city. President Lincoln, feeling, with his characteristic kindness of heart, that it would be a disappointment if he should fail them, very reluctantly consented to go. While listening to the play an actor by the name of John Wilkes Booth entered the box where the President and family were seated, and fired a bullet into his brains. He died the next morning at seven o'clock.

Never before, in the history of the world was a nation plunged into such deep grief by the death of its ruler. Strong men met in the streets and wept in speechless anguish. It is not too much to say that a nation was in tears. His was a life which will fitly become a model. His name as the savior of his country will live with that of Washington's, its father; his countrymen being unable to decide which is the greater.





*Andrew Johnson*



ANDREW JOHNSON, seventeenth President of the United States. The early life of Andrew Johnson contains but the record of poverty, destitution and friendlessness. He was born December 29, 1808, in Raleigh, N. C. His parents, belonging to the class of the "poor whites" of the South, were in such circumstances, that they could not confer even the slightest advantages of education upon their child. When Andrew was five years of age, his father accidentally

lost his life while heroically endeavoring to save a friend from drowning. Until ten years of age, Andrew was a ragged boy about the streets, supported by the labor of his mother, who obtained her living with her own hands.

He then, having never attended a school one day, and being unable either to read or write, was apprenticed to a tailor in his native town. A gentleman was in the habit of going to the tailor's shop occasionally, and reading to the boys at work there. He often read from the speeches of distinguished British statesmen. Andrew, who was endowed with a mind of more than ordinary native ability, became much interested in these speeches; his ambition was roused, and he was inspired with a strong desire to learn to read.

He accordingly applied himself to the alphabet, and with the assistance of some of his fellow-workmen, learned his letters. He then called upon the gentleman to borrow the book of speeches. The owner,

pleased with his zeal, not only gave him the book, but assisted him in learning to combine the letters into words. Under such difficulties he pressed onward laboriously, spending usually ten or twelve hours at work in the shop, and then robbing himself of rest and recreation to devote such time as he could to reading.

He went to Tennessee in 1826, and located at Greenville, where he married a young lady who possessed some education. Under her instructions he learned to write and cipher. He became prominent in the village debating society, and a favorite with the students of Greenville College. In 1828, he organized a working man's party, which elected him alderman, and in 1830 elected him mayor, which position he held three years.

He now began to take a lively interest in political affairs; identifying himself with the working-classes, to which he belonged. In 1835, he was elected a member of the House of Representatives of Tennessee. He was then just twenty-seven years of age. He became a very active member of the legislature gave his adhesion to the Democratic party, and in 1840 "stumped the State," advocating Martin Van Buren's claims to the Presidency, in opposition to those of Gen. Harrison. In this campaign he acquired much readiness as a speaker, and extended and increased his reputation.

In 1841, he was elected State Senator; in 1843, he was elected a member of Congress, and by successive elections, held that important post for ten years. In 1853, he was elected Governor of Tennessee, and was re-elected in 1855. In all these responsible positions, he discharged his duties with distinguished abi-

ity, and proved himself the warm friend of the working classes. In 1857, Mr. Johnson was elected United States Senator.

Years before, in 1845, he had warmly advocated the annexation of Texas, stating however, as his reason, that he thought this annexation would probably prove "to be the gateway out of which the sable sons of Africa are to pass from bondage to freedom, and become merged in a population congenial to themselves." In 1850, he also supported the compromise measures, the two essential features of which were, that the white people of the Territories should be permitted to decide for themselves whether they would enslave the colored people or not, and that the free States of the North should return to the South persons who attempted to escape from slavery.

Mr. Johnson was never ashamed of his lowly origin: on the contrary, he often took pride in avowing that he owed his distinction to his own exertions. "Sir," said he on the floor of the Senate, "I do not forget that I am a mechanic; neither do I forget that Adam was a tailor and sewed fig-leaves, and that our Savior was the son of a carpenter."

In the Charleston-Baltimore convention of 1860, he was the choice of the Tennessee Democrats for the Presidency. In 1861, when the purpose of the Southern Democracy became apparent, he took a decided stand in favor of the Union, and held that "slavery must be held subordinate to the Union at whatever cost." He returned to Tennessee, and repeatedly imperiled his own life to protect the Unionists of Tennessee. Tennessee having seceded from the Union, President Lincoln, on March 4th, 1862, appointed him Military Governor of the State, and he established the most stringent military rule. His numerous proclamations attracted wide attention. In 1864, he was elected Vice-President of the United States, and upon the death of Mr. Lincoln, April 15, 1865, became President. In a speech two days later he said, "The American people must be taught, if they do not already feel, that treason is a crime and must be punished; that the Government will not always bear with its enemies; that it is strong not only to protect, but to punish. \* \* The people must understand that it (treason) is the blackest of crimes, and will surely be punished." Yet his whole administration, the history of which is so well known, was in utter inconsistency with, and the most violent

opposition to, the principles laid down in that speech.

In his loose policy of reconstruction and general amnesty, he was opposed by Congress; and he characterized Congress as a new rebellion, and lawlessly defied it, in everything possible, to the utmost. In the beginning of 1868, on account of "high crimes and misdemeanors," the principal of which was the removal of Secretary Stanton, in violation of the Tenure of Office Act, articles of impeachment were preferred against him, and the trial began March 23.

It was very tedious, continuing for nearly three months. A test article of the impeachment was at length submitted to the court for its action. It was certain that as the court voted upon that article so would it vote upon all. Thirty-four voices pronounced the President guilty. As a two-thirds vote was necessary to his condemnation, he was pronounced acquitted, notwithstanding the great majority against him. The change of one vote from the *not guilty* side would have sustained the impeachment.

The President, for the remainder of his term, was but little regarded. He continued, though impotently, his conflict with Congress. His own party did not think it expedient to renominate him for the Presidency. The Nation rallied, with enthusiasm unparalleled since the days of Washington, around the name of Gen. Grant. Andrew Johnson was forgotten. The bullet of the assassin introduced him to the President's chair. Notwithstanding this, never was there presented to a man a better opportunity to immortalize his name, and to win the gratitude of a nation. He failed utterly. He retired to his home in Greenville, Tenn., taking no very active part in politics until 1875. On Jan. 26, after an exciting struggle, he was chosen by the Legislature of Tennessee, United States Senator in the forty-fourth Congress, and took his seat in that body, at the special session convened by President Grant, on the 5th of March. On the 27th of July, 1875, the ex-President made a visit to his daughter's home, near Carter Station, Tenn. When he started on his journey, he was apparently in his usual vigorous health, but on reaching the residence of his child the following day, was stricken with paralysis, rendering him unconscious. He rallied occasionally, but finally passed away at 2 A. M., July 31, aged sixty-seven years. His funeral was attended at Greenville, on the 3d of August, with every demonstration of respect.



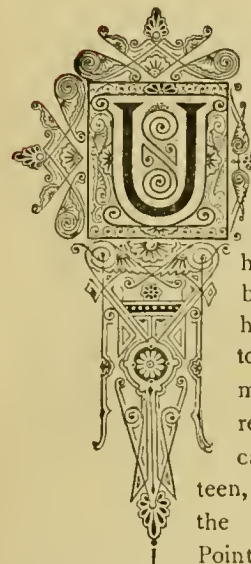


*A. S. Grant*





## ULYSSES S. GRANT.



ULYSSES S. GRANT, the eighteenth President of the United States, was born on the 29th of April, 1822, of Christian parents, in a humble home, at Point Pleasant, on the banks of the Ohio. Shortly after his father moved to Georgetown, Brown Co., O. In this remote frontier hamlet, Ulysses received a common-school education. At the age of seven-

teen, in the year 1839, he entered the Military Academy at West Point. Here he was regarded as a solid, sensible young man of fair abilities, and of sturdy, honest character. He took respectable rank as a scholar. In June, 1843, he graduated, about the middle in his class, and was sent as lieutenant of infantry to one of the distant military posts in the Missouri Territory. Two years he past in these dreary solitudes, watching the vagabond and exasperating Indians.

The war with Mexico came. Lieut. Grant was sent with his regiment to Corpus Christi. His first battle was at Palo Alto. There was no chance here for the exhibition of either skill or heroism, nor at Resaca de la Palma, his second battle. At the battle of Monterey, his third engagement, it is said that he performed a signal service of daring and skillful horsemanship. His brigade had exhausted its ammunition. A messenger must be sent for more, along a route exposed to the bullets of the foe. Lieut. Grant, adopting an expedient learned of the Indians, grasped the mane of his horse, and hanging upon one side of the animal, ran the gauntlet in entire safety.

From Monterey he was sent, with the fourth infantry, to aid Gen. Scott, at the siege of Vera Cruz. In preparation for the march to the city of Mexico, he was appointed quartermaster of his regiment. At the battle of Molino del Rey, he was promoted to a first lieutenantcy, and was brevetted captain at Chapultepec.

At the close of the Mexican War, Capt. Grant returned with his regiment to New York, and was again sent to one of the military posts on the frontier. The discovery of gold in California causing an immense tide of emigration to flow to the Pacific shores, Capt. Grant was sent with a battalion to Fort Dallas, in Oregon, for the protection of the interests of the immigrants. Life was wearisome in those wilds. Capt. Grant resigned his commission and returned to the States; and having married, entered upon the cultivation of a small farm near St. Louis, Mo. He had but little skill as a farmer. Finding his toil not remunerative, he turned to mercantile life, entering into the leather business, with a younger brother, at Galena, Ill. This was in the year 1860. As the tidings of the rebels firing on Fort Sumpter reached the ears of Capt. Grant in his counting-room, he said,—“Uncle Sam has educated me for the army; though I have served him through one war, I do not feel that I have yet repaid the debt. I am still ready to discharge my obligations. I shall therefore buckle on my sword and see Uncle Sam through this war too.”

He went into the streets, raised a company of volunteers, and led them as their captain to Springfield, the capital of the State, where their services were offered to Gov. Yates. The Governor, impressed by the zeal and straightforward executive ability of Capt. Grant, gave him a desk in his office, to assist in the volunteer organization that was being formed in the State in behalf of the Government. On the 15th of

June, 1861, Capt. Grant received a commission as Colonel of the Twenty-first Regiment of Illinois Volunteers. His merits as a West Point graduate, who had served for 15 years in the regular army, were such that he was soon promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General and was placed in command at Cairo. The rebels raised their banner at Paducah, near the mouth of the Tennessee River. Scarcely had its folds appeared in the breeze ere Gen. Grant was there. The rebels fled. Their banner fell, and the star and stripes were unfurled in its stead.

He entered the service with great determination and immediately began active duty. This was the beginning, and until the surrender of Lee at Richmond he was ever pushing the enemy with great vigor and effectiveness. At Belmont, a few days later, he surprised and routed the rebels, then at Fort Henry won another victory. Then came the brilliant fight at Fort Donelson. The nation was electrified by the victory, and the brave leader of the boys in blue was immediately made a Major-General, and the military district of Tennessee was assigned to him.

Like all great captains, Gen. Grant knew well how to secure the results of victory. He immediately pushed on to the enemies' lines. Then came the terrible battles of Pittsburg Landing, Corinth, and the siege of Vicksburg, where Gen. Pemberton made an unconditional surrender of the city with over thirty thousand men and one-hundred and seventy-two cannon. The fall of Vicksburg was by far the most severe blow which the rebels had thus far encountered, and opened up the Mississippi from Cairo to the Gulf.

Gen. Grant was next ordered to co-operate with Gen. Banks in a movement upon Texas, and proceeded to New Orleans, where he was thrown from his horse, and received severe injuries, from which he was laid up for months. He then rushed to the aid of Gens. Rosecrans and Thomas at Chattanooga, and by a wonderful series of strategic and technical measures put the Union Army in fighting condition. Then followed the bloody battles at Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, in which the rebels were routed with great loss. This won for him unbounded praise in the North. On the 4th of February, 1864, Congress revived the grade of lieutenant-general, and the rank was conferred on Gen. Grant. He repaired to Washington to receive his credentials and enter upon the duties of his new office.

Gen. Grant decided as soon as he took charge of the army to concentrate the widely-dispersed National troops for an attack upon Richmond, the nominal capital of the Rebellion, and endeavor there to destroy the rebel armies which would be promptly assembled from all quarters for its defence. The whole continent seemed to tremble under the tramp of these majestic armies, rushing to the decisive battle field. Steamers were crowded with troops. Railway trains were burdened with closely packed thousands. His plans were comprehensive and involved a series of campaigns, which were executed with remarkable energy and ability, and were consummated at the surrender of Lee, April 9, 1865.

The war was ended. The Union was saved. The almost unanimous voice of the Nation declared Gen. Grant to be the most prominent instrument in its salvation. The eminent services he had thus rendered the country brought him conspicuously forward as the Republican candidate for the Presidential chair.

At the Republican Convention held at Chicago, May 21, 1868, he was unanimously nominated for the Presidency, and at the autumn election received a majority of the popular vote, and 214 out of 294 electoral votes.

The National Convention of the Republican party which met at Philadelphia on the 5th of June, 1872, placed Gen. Grant in nomination for a second term by a unanimous vote. The selection was emphatically indorsed by the people five months later, 292 electoral votes being cast for him.

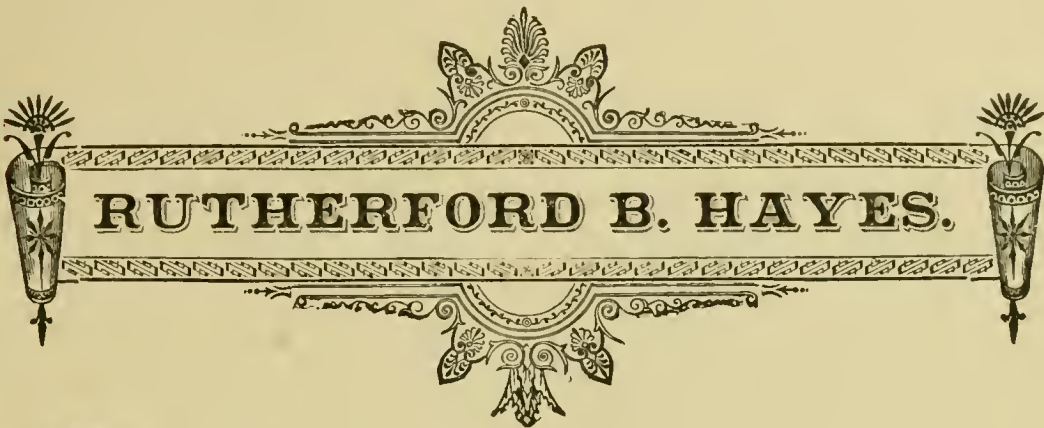
Soon after the close of his second term, Gen. Grant started upon his famous trip around the world. He visited almost every country of the civilized world, and was everywhere received with such ovations and demonstrations of respect and honor, private as well as public and official, as were never before bestowed upon any citizen of the United States.

He was the most prominent candidate before the Republican National Convention in 1880 for a re-nomination for President. He went to New York and embarked in the brokerage business under the firm name of Grant & Ward. The latter proved a villain, wrecked Grant's fortune, and for larceny was sent to the penitentiary. The General was attacked with cancer in the throat, but suffered in his stoic-like manner, never complaining. He was re-instated as General of the Army and retired by Congress. The cancer soon finished its deadly work, and July 23, 1885, the nation went in mourning over the death of the illustrious General.





Sincerely  
R. B. Hayes



## RUTHERFORD B. HAYES.

**R**UTHERFORD B. HAYES, the nineteenth President of the United States, was born in Delaware, O., Oct. 4, 1822, almost three months after the death of his father, Rutherford Hayes. His ancestry on both the paternal and maternal sides, was of the most honorable character. It can be traced, it is said, as far back as 1280, when Hayes and Rutherford were two Scottish chieftains, fighting side by side with Baliol, William Wallace and Robert Bruce. Both families belonged to the nobility, owned extensive estates, and had a large following. Misfortune overtaking the family, George Hayes left Scotland in 1680, and settled in Windsor, Conn. His son George was born in Windsor, and remained there during his life. Daniel Hayes, son of the latter, married Sarah Lee, and lived from the time of his marriage until his death in Simsbury, Conn. Ezekiel, son of Daniel, was born in 1724, and was a manufacturer of scythes at Bradford, Conn. Rutherford Hayes, son of Ezekiel and grandfather of President Hayes, was born in New Haven, in August, 1756. He was a farmer, blacksmith and tavern-keeper. He emigrated to Vermont at an unknown date, settling in Brattleboro, where he established a hotel. Here his son Rutherford Hayes the father of President Hayes, was

born. He was married, in September, 1813, to Sophia Birchard, of Wilmington, Vt., whose ancestors emigrated thither from Connecticut, they having been among the wealthiest and best families of Norwich. Her ancestry on the male side are traced back to 1635, to John Birchard, one of the principal founders of Norwich. Both of her grandfathers were soldiers in the Revolutionary War.

The father of President Hayes was an industrious, frugal and opened-hearted man. He was of a mechanical turn, and could mend a plow, knit a stocking, or do almost anything else that he choose to undertake. He was a member of the Church, active in all the benevolent enterprises of the town, and conducted his business on Christian principles. After the close of the war of 1812, for reasons inexplicable to his neighbors, he resolved to emigrate to Ohio.

The journey from Vermont to Ohio in that day, when there were no canals, steamers, nor railways, was a very serious affair. A tour of inspection was first made, occupying four months. Mr. Hayes determined to move to Delaware, where the family arrived in 1817. He died July 22, 1822, a victim of malarial fever, less than three months before the birth of the son, of whom we now write. Mrs. Hayes, in her sore bereavement, found the support she so much needed in her brother Sardis, who had been a member of the household from the day of its departure from Vermont, and in an orphan girl whom she had adopted some time before as an act of charity.

Mrs. Hayes at this period was very weak, and the

subject of this sketch was so feeble at birth that he was not expected to live beyond a month or two at most. As the months went by he grew weaker and weaker, so that the neighbors were in the habit of inquiring from time to time "if Mrs. Hayes' baby died last night." On one occasion a neighbor, who was on familiar terms with the family, after alluding to the boy's big head, and the mother's assiduous care of him, said in a bantering way, "That's right! Stick to him. You have got him a long so far, and I shouldn't wonder if he would really come to something yet."

"You need not laugh," said Mrs. Hayes. "You wait and see. You can't tell but I shall make him President of the United States yet." The boy lived, in spite of the universal predictions of his speedy death; and when, in 1825, his older brother was drowned, he became, if possible, still dearer to his mother.

The boy was seven years old before he went to school. His education, however, was not neglected. He probably learned as much from his mother and sister as he would have done at school. His sports were almost wholly within doors, his playmates being his sister and her associates. These circumstances tended, no doubt, to foster that gentleness of disposition, and that delicate consideration for the feelings of others, which are marked traits of his character.

His uncle Sardis Birchard took the deepest interest in his education; and as the boy's health had improved, and he was making good progress in his studies, he proposed to send him to college. His preparation commenced with a tutor at home; but he was afterwards sent for one year to a professor in the Wesleyan University, in Middletown, Conn. He entered Kenyon College in 1838, at the age of sixteen, and was graduated at the head of his class in 1842.

Immediately after his graduation he began the study of law in the office of Thomas Sparrow, Esq., in Columbus. Finding his opportunities for study in Columbus somewhat limited, he determined to enter the Law School at Cambridge, Mass., where he remained two years.

In 1845, after graduating at the Law School, he was admitted to the bar at Marietta, Ohio, and shortly afterward went into practice as an attorney-at-law with Ralph P. Buckland, of Fremont. Here he remained three years, acquiring but a limited practice, and apparently unambitious of distinction in his profession.

In 1849 he moved to Cincinnati, where his ambition found a new stimulus. For several years, however, his progress was slow. Two events, occurring at this period, had a powerful influence upon his subsequent life. One of these was his marriage with Miss Lucy Ware Webb, daughter of Dr. James Webb, of Chillicothe; the other was his introduction to the Cincinnati Literary Club, a body embracing among its members such men as Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase,

Gen. John Pope, Gov. Edward F. Noyes, and many others hardly less distinguished in after life. The marriage was a fortunate one in every respect, as everybody knows. Not one of all the wives of our Presidents was more universally admired, revered and beloved than was Mrs. Hayes, and no one did more than she to reflect honor upon American womanhood. The Literary Club brought Mr. Hayes into constant association with young men of high character and noble aims, and lured him to display the qualities so long hidden by his bashfulness and modesty.

In 1856 he was nominated to the office of Judge of the Court of Common Pleas; but he declined to accept the nomination. Two years later, the office of city solicitor becoming vacant, the City Council elected him for the unexpired term.

In 1861, when the Rebellion broke out, he was at the zenith of his professional life. His rank at the bar was among the first. But the news of the attack on Fort Sumpter found him eager to take his arms for the defense of his country.

His military record was bright and illustrious. In October, 1861, he was made Lieutenant-Colonel, and in August, 1862, promoted Colonel of the 79th Ohio regiment, but he refused to leave his old comrades and go among strangers. Subsequently, however, he was made Colonel of his old regiment. At the battle of South Mountain he received a wound, and while faint and bleeding displayed courage and fortitude that won admiration from all.

Col. Hayes was detached from his regiment, after his recovery, to act as Brigadier-General, and placed in command of the celebrated Kanawha division, and for gallant and meritorious services in the battles of Winchester, Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek, he was promoted Brigadier-General. He was also brevetted Major-General, "for gallant and distinguished services during the campaigns of 1864, in West Virginia." In the course of his arduous services, four horses were shot from under him, and he was wounded four times.

In 1864, Gen. Hayes was elected to Congress, from the Second Ohio District, which had long been Democratic. He was not present during the campaign, and after his election was importuned to resign his commission in the army; but he finally declared, "I shall never come to Washington until I can come by the way of Richmond." He was re-elected in 1866.

In 1867, Gen. Hayes was elected Governor of Ohio, over Hon. Allen G. Thurman, a popular Democrat. In 1869 was re-elected over George H. Pendleton. He was elected Governor for the third term in 1875.

In 1876 he was the standard bearer of the Republican Party in the Presidential contest, and after a hard long contest was chosen President, and was inaugurated Monday, March 5, 1875. He served his full term, not, however, with satisfaction to his party, but his administration was an average one.





*J. A. Garfield*





# JAMES A. GARFIELD.

**J**AMES A. GARFIELD, twentieth President of the United States, was born Nov. 19, 1831, in the woods of Orange, Cuyahoga Co., O. His parents were Abram and Eliza (Ballou) Garfield, both of New England ancestry and from families well known in the early history of that section of our country, but had moved to the Western Reserve, in Ohio, early in its settlement.

The house in which James A. was born was not unlike the houses of poor Ohio farmers of that day. It

was about 20 x 30 feet, built of logs, with the spaces between the logs filled with clay. His father was a hard working farmer, and he soon had his fields cleared, an orchard planted, and a log barn built. The household comprised the father and mother and their four children—Mehetabel, Thomas, Mary and James. In May, 1823, the father, from a cold contracted in helping to put out a forest fire, died. At this time James was about eighteen months old, and Thomas about ten years old. No one, perhaps, can tell how much James was indebted to his brother's toil and self-sacrifice during the twenty years succeeding his father's death, but undoubtedly very much. He now lives in Michigan, and the two sisters live in Solon, O., near their birthplace.

The early educational advantages young Garfield enjoyed were very limited, yet he made the most of them. He labored at farm work for others, did carpenter work, chopped wood, or did anything that would bring in a few dollars to aid his widowed mother in her struggles to keep the little family to-

gether. Nor was Gen. Garfield ever ashamed of his origin, and he never forgot the friends of his struggling childhood, youth and manhood, neither did they ever forget him. When in the highest seats of honor the humblest friend of his boyhood was as kindly greeted as ever. The poorest laborer was sure of the sympathy of one who had known all the bitterness of want and the sweetness of bread earned by the sweat of the brow. He was ever the simple, plain, modest gentleman.

The highest ambition of young Garfield until he was about sixteen years old was to be a captain of a vessel on Lake Erie. He was anxious to go aboard a vessel, which his mother strongly opposed. She finally consented to his going to Cleveland, with the understanding, however, that he should try to obtain some other kind of employment. He walked all the way to Cleveland. This was his first visit to the city. After making many applications for work, and trying to get aboard a lake vessel, and not meeting with success, he engaged as a driver for his cousin, Amos Letcher, on the Ohio & Pennsylvania Canal. He remained at this work but a short time when he went home, and attended the seminary at Chester for about three years, when he entered Hiram and the Eclectic Institute, teaching a few terms of school in the meantime, and doing other work. This school was started by the Disciples of Christ in 1850, of which church he was then a member. He became janitor and bell-ringer in order to help pay his way. He then became both teacher and pupil. He soon "exhausted Hiram" and needed more; hence, in the fall of 1854, he entered Williams College, from which he graduated in 1856, taking one of the highest honors of his class. He afterwards returned to Hiram College as its President. As above stated, he early united with the Christian or Disciples Church at Hiram, and was ever after a devoted, zealous member, often preaching in its pulpit and places where he happened to be. Dr. Noah Porter, President of Yale College, says of him in reference to his religion:

"President Garfield was more than a man of strong moral and religious convictions. His whole history, from boyhood to the last, shows that duty to man and to God, and devotion to Christ and life and faith and spiritual commission were controlling springs of his being, and to a more than usual degree. In my judgment there is no more interesting feature of his character than his loyal allegiance to the body of Christians in which he was trained, and the fervent sympathy which he ever showed in their Christian communion. Not many of the few 'wise and mighty and noble who are called' show a similar loyalty to the less stately and cultured Christian communions in which they have been reared. Too often it is true that as they step upward in social and political significance they step upward from one degree to another in some of the many types of fashionable Christianity. President Garfield adhered to the church of his mother, the church in which he was trained, and in which he served as a pillar and an evangelist, and yet with the largest and most unsectarian charity for all 'who love our Lord in sincerity.'"

Mr. Garfield was united in marriage with Miss Lucretia Rndolph, Nov. 11, 1858, who proved herself worthy as the wife of one whom all the world loved and mourned. To them were born seven children, five of whom are still living, four boys and one girl.

Mr. Garfield made his first political speeches in 1856, in Hiram and the neighboring villages, and three years later he began to speak at county mass-meetings, and became the favorite speaker wherever he was. During this year he was elected to the Ohio Senate. He also began to study law at Cleveland, and in 1861 was admitted to the bar. The great Rebellion broke out in the early part of this year, and Mr. Garfield at once resolved to fight as he had talked, and enlisted to defend the old flag. He received his commission as Lieut.-Colonel of the Forty-second Regiment of Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Aug. 14, 1861. He was immediately put into active service, and before he had ever seen a gun fired in action, was placed in command of four regiments of infantry and eight companies of cavalry, charged with the work of driving out of his native State the officer (Humphrey Marshall) reputed to be the ablest of those, not educated to war whom Kentucky had given to the Rebellion. This work was bravely and speedily accomplished, although against great odds. President Lincoln, on his success commissioned him Brigadier-General, Jan. 10, 1862; and as "he had been the youngest man in the Ohio Senate two years before, so now he was the youngest General in the army." He was with Gen. Buell's army at Shiloh, in its operations around Corinth and its march through Alabama. He was then detailed as a member of the General Court-Martial for the trial of Gen. Fitz-John Porter. He was then ordered to report to Gen. Rosecrans, and was assigned to the "Chief of Staff."

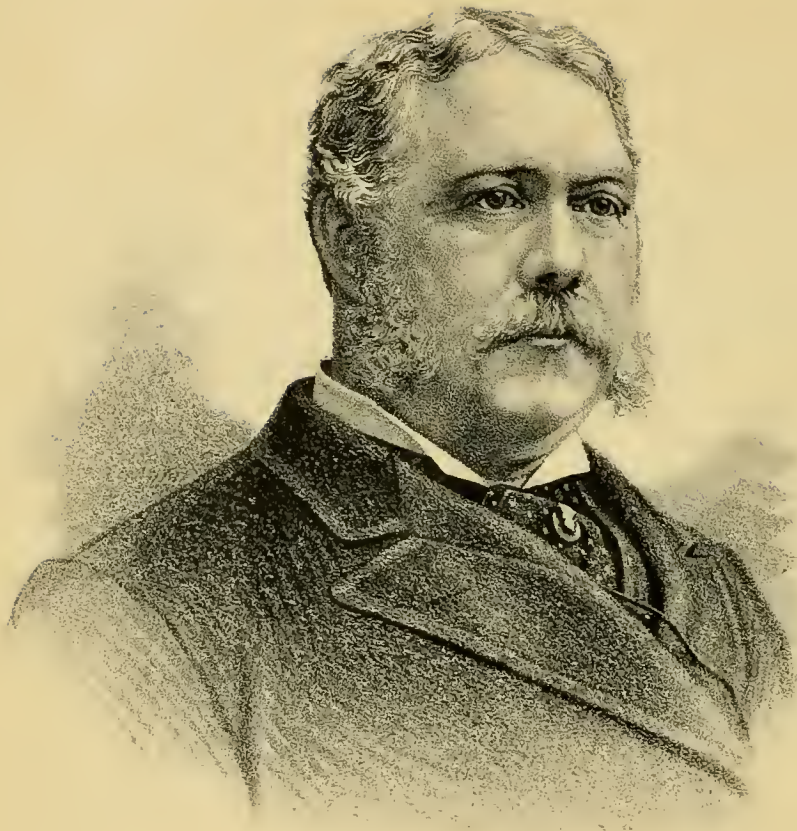
The military history of Gen. Garfield closed with

his brilliant services at Chickamauga, where he won the stars of the Major-General.

Without an effort on his part Gen. Garfield was elected to Congress in the fall of 1862 from the Nineteenth District of Ohio. This section of Ohio had been represented in Congress for sixty years mainly by two men—Elisha Whittlesey and Joshua R. Giddings. It was not without a struggle that he resigned his place in the army. At the time he entered Congress he was the youngest member in that body. There he remained by successive re-elections until he was elected President in 1880. Of his labors in Congress Senator Hoar says: "Since the year 1864 you cannot think of a question which has been debated in Congress, or discussed before a tribunal of the American people, in regard to which you will not find, if you wish instruction, the argument on one side stated, in almost every instance better than by anybody else, in some speech made in the House of Representatives or on the hustings by Mr. Garfield."

Upon Jan. 14, 1880, Gen. Garfield was elected to the U. S. Senate, and on the eighth of June, of the same year, was nominated as the candidate of his party for President at the great Chicago Convention. He was elected in the following November, and on March 4, 1881, was inaugurated. Probably no administration ever opened its existence under brighter auspices than that of President Garfield, and every day it grew in favor with the people, and by the first of July he had completed all the initiatory and preliminary work of his administration and was preparing to leave the city to meet his friends at Williams College. While on his way and at the depot, in company with Secretary Blaine, a man stepped behind him, drew a revolver, and fired directly at his back. The President tottered and fell, and as he did so the assassin fired a second shot, the bullet cutting the left coat sleeve of his victim, but inflicting no further injury. It has been very truthfully said that this was "the shot that was heard round the world." Never before in the history of the Nation had anything occurred which so nearly froze the blood of the people for the moment, as this awful deed. He was smitten on the brightest, gladdest day of all his life, and was at the summit of his power and hope. For eighty days, all during the hot months of July and August, he lingered and suffered. He, however, remained master of himself till the last, and by his magnificent bearing was teaching the country and the world the noblest of human lessons—how to live grandly in the very clutch of death. Great in life, he was surpassingly great in death. He passed serenely away Sept. 19, 1883, at Elheron, N. J., on the very bank of the ocean, where he had been taken shortly previous. The world wept at his death, as it never had done on the death of any other man who had ever lived upon it. The murderer was duly tried, found guilty and executed, in one year after he committed the foul deed.

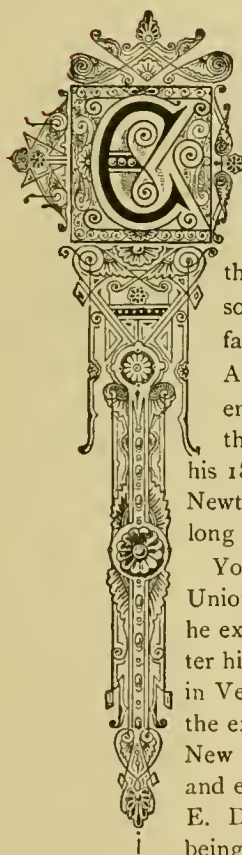




*C. A. Arthur*



CHESTER A. ARTHUR.



CHESTER A. ARTHUR, twenty-first President of the United States, was born in Franklin County, Vermont, on the fifth of October, 1830, and is the oldest of a family of two sons and five daughters. His father was the Rev. Dr. William Arthur, a Baptist clergyman, who emigrated to this country from the county Antrim, Ireland, in his 18th year, and died in 1875, in Newtonville, near Albany, after a long and successful ministry.

Young Arthur was educated at Union College, Schenectady, where he excelled in all his studies. After his graduation he taught school in Vermont for two years, and at the expiration of that time came to New York, with \$500 in his pocket, and entered the office of ex-Judge E. D. Culver as student. After being admitted to the bar he formed

a partnership with his intimate friend and room-mate, Henry D. Gardiner, with the intention of practicing in the West, and for three months they roamed about in the Western States in search of an eligible site, but in the end returned to New York, where they hung out their shingle, and entered upon a successful career almost from the start. General Arthur soon afterward married the daughter of Lieutenant

Herndon, of the United States Navy, who was lost at sea. Congress voted a gold medal to his widow in recognition of the bravery he displayed on that occasion. Mrs. Arthur died shortly before Mr. Arthur's nomination to the Vice Presidency, leaving two children.

Gen. Arthur obtained considerable legal celebrity in his first great case, the famous Lemmon suit, brought to recover possession of eight slaves who had been declared free by Judge Paine, of the Superior Court of New York City. It was in 1852 that Jonathan Lemmon, of Virginia, went to New York with his slaves, intending to ship them to Texas, when they were discovered and freed. The Judge decided that they could not be held by the owner under the Fugitive Slave Law. A howl of rage went up from the South, and the Virginia Legislature authorized the Attorney General of that State to assist in an appeal. Wm. M. Evarts and Chester A. Arthur were employed to represent the People, and they won their case, which then went to the Supreme Court of the United States. Charles O'Connor here espoused the cause of the slave-holders, but he too was beaten by Messrs. Evarts and Arthur, and a long step was taken toward the emancipation of the black race.

Another great service was rendered by General Arthur in the same cause in 1856. Lizzie Jennings, a respectable colored woman, was put off a Fourth Avenue car with violence after she had paid her fare. General Arthur sued on her behalf, and secured a verdict of \$500 damages. The next day the company issued an order to admit colored persons to ride on their cars, and the other car companies quickly

followed their example. Before that the Sixth Avenue Company ran a few special cars for colored persons and the other lines refused to let them ride at all.

General Arthur was a delegate to the Convention at Saratoga that founded the Republican party. Previous to the war he was Judge-Advocate of the Second Brigade of the State of New York, and Governor Morgan, of that State, appointed him Engineer-in-Chief of his staff. In 1861, he was made Inspector General, and soon afterward became Quartermaster-General. In each of these offices he rendered great service to the Government during the war. At the end of Governor Morgan's term he resumed the practice of the law, forming a partnership with Mr. Ransom, and then Mr. Phelps, the District Attorney of New York, was added to the firm. The legal practice of this well-known firm was very large and lucrative, each of the gentlemen composing it were able lawyers, and possessed a splendid local reputation, if not indeed one of national extent.

He always took a leading part in State and city politics. He was appointed Collector of the Port of New York by President Grant, Nov. 21 1872, to succeed Thomas Murphy, and held the office until July, 20, 1878, when he was succeeded by Collector Merritt.

Mr. Arthur was nominated on the Presidential ticket, with Gen. James A. Garfield, at the famous National Republican Convention held at Chicago in June, 1880. This was perhaps the greatest political convention that ever assembled on the continent. It was composed of the leading politicians of the Republican party, all able men, and each stood firm and fought vigorously and with signal tenacity for their respective candidates that were before the convention for the nomination. Finally Gen. Garfield received the nomination for President and Gen. Arthur for Vice-President. The campaign which followed was one of the most animated known in the history of our country. Gen. Hancock, the standard-bearer of the Democratic party, was a popular man, and his party made a valiant fight for his election.

Finally the election came and the country's choice was Garfield and Arthur. They were inaugurated March 4, 1881, as President and Vice-President. A few months only had passed ere the newly chosen President was the victim of the assassin's bullet. Then came terrible weeks of suffering,—those moments of anxious suspense, when the hearts of all civilized na-

tions were throbbing in unison, longing for the recovery of the noble, the good President. The remarkable patience that he manifested during those hours and weeks, and even months, of the most terrible suffering man has often been called upon to endure, was seemingly more than human. It was certainly God-like. During all this period of deepest anxiety Mr. Arthur's every move was watched, and be it said to his credit that his every action displayed only an earnest desire that the suffering Garfield might recover, to serve the remainder of the term he had so auspiciously begun. Not a selfish feeling was manifested in deed or look of this man, even though the most honored position in the world was at any moment likely to fall to him.

At last God in his mercy relieved President Garfield from further suffering, and the world, as never before in its history over the death of any other man, wept at his bier. Then it became the duty of the Vice President to assume the responsibilities of the high office, and he took the oath in New York, Sept. 20, 1881. The position was an embarrassing one to him, made doubly so from the facts that all eyes were on him, anxious to know what he would do, what policy he would pursue, and who he would select as advisers. The duties of the office had been greatly neglected during the President's long illness, and many important measures were to be immediately decided by him; and still farther to embarrass him he did not fail to realize under what circumstances he became President, and knew the feelings of many on this point. Under these trying circumstances President Arthur took the reins of the Government in his own hands; and, as embarrassing as were the condition of affairs, he happily surprised the nation, acting so wisely that but few criticised his administration. He served the nation well and faithfully, until the close of his administration, March 4, 1885, and was a popular candidate before his party for a second term. His name was ably presented before the convention at Chicago, and was received with great favor, and doubtless but for the personal popularity of one of the opposing candidates, he would have been selected as the standard-bearer of his party for another campaign. He retired to private life carrying with him the best wishes of the American people, whom he had served in a manner satisfactory to them and with credit to himself.



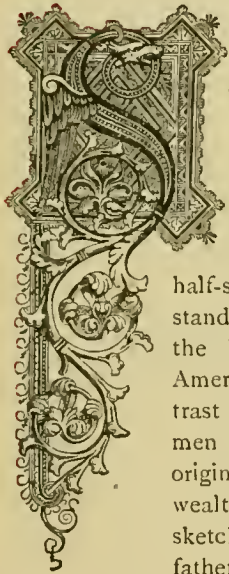


*Grover Cleveland*





S. Grover Cleveland.



STEPHEN GROVER CLEVELAND, the twenty-second President of the United States, was born in 1837, in the obscure town of Caldwell, Essex Co., N. J., and in a little two-and-a-

half-story white house which is still standing, characteristically to mark the humble birth-place of one of America's great men in striking contrast with the Old World, where all men high in office must be high in origin and born in the cradle of wealth. When the subject of this sketch was three years of age, his father, who was a Presbyterian minister,

with a large family and a small salary, moved, by way of the Hudson River and Erie Canal, to Fayetteville, in search of an increased income and a larger field of work. Fayetteville was then the most straggling of country villages, about five miles from Pompey Hill, where Governor Seymour was born.

At the last mentioned place young Grover commenced going to school in the "good, old-fashioned way," and presumably distinguished himself after the manner of all village boys, in doing the things he ought not to do. Such is the distinguishing trait of all geniuses and independent thinkers. When he arrived at the age of 14 years, he had outgrown the capacity of the village school and expressed a most

emphatic desire to be sent to an academy. To this his father decidedly objected. Academies in those days cost money; besides, his father wanted him to become self-supporting by the quickest possible means, and this at that time in Fayetteville seemed to be a position in a country store, where his father and the large family on his hands had considerable influence. Grover was to be paid \$50 for his services the first year, and if he proved trustworthy he was to receive \$100 the second year. Here the lad commenced his career as salesman, and in two years he had earned so good a reputation for trustworthiness that his employers desired to retain him for an indefinite length of time. Otherwise he did not exhibit as yet any particular "flashes of genius" or eccentricities of talent. He was simply a good boy.

But instead of remaining with this firm in Fayetteville, he went with the family in their removal to Clinton, where he had an opportunity of attending a high school. Here he industriously pursued his studies until the family removed with him to a point on Black River known as the "Holland Patent," a village of 500 or 600 people, 15 miles north of Utica, N. Y. At this place his father died, after preaching but three Sundays. This event broke up the family, and Grover set out for New York City to accept, at a small salary, the position of "under-teacher" in an asylum for the blind. He taught faithfully for two years, and although he obtained a good reputation in this capacity, he concluded that teaching was not his

calling for life, and, reversing the traditional order, he left the city to seek his fortune, instead of going to a city. He first thought of Cleveland, Ohio, as there was some charm in that name for him; but before proceeding to that place he went to Buffalo to ask the advice of his uncle, Lewis F. Allan, a noted stock-breeder of that place. The latter did not speak enthusiastically. "What is it you want to do, my boy?" he asked. "Well, sir, I want to study law," was the reply. "Good gracious!" remarked the old gentleman; "do you, indeed? What ever put that into your head? How much money have you got?" "Well, sir, to tell the truth, I haven't got any."

After a long consultation, his uncle offered him a place temporarily as assistant herd-keeper, at \$50 a year, while he could "look around." One day soon afterward he boldly walked into the office of Rogers, Bowen & Rogers, of Buffalo, and told them what he wanted. A number of young men were already engaged in the office, but Grover's persistency won, and he was finally permitted to come as an office boy and have the use of the law library, for the nominal sum of \$3 or \$4 a week. Out of this he had to pay for his board and washing. The walk to and from his uncle's was a long and rugged one; and, although the first winter was a memorably severe one, his shoes were out of repair and his overcoat—he had none—yet he was nevertheless prompt and regular. On the first day of his service here, his senior employer threw down a copy of Blackstone before him with a bang that made the dust fly, saying "That's where they all begin." A titter ran around the little circle of clerks and students, as they thought that was enough to scare young Grover out of his plans; but in due time he mastered that cumbersome volume. Then, as ever afterward, however, Mr. Cleveland exhibited a talent for executiveness rather than for chasing principles through all their metaphysical possibilities. "Let us quit talking and go and do it," was practically his motto.

The first public office to which Mr. Cleveland was elected was that of Sheriff of Erie Co., N. Y., in which Buffalo is situated; and in such capacity it fell to his duty to inflict capital punishment upon two criminals. In 1881 he was elected Mayor of the City of Buffalo, on the Democratic ticket, with especial reference to the bringing about certain reforms

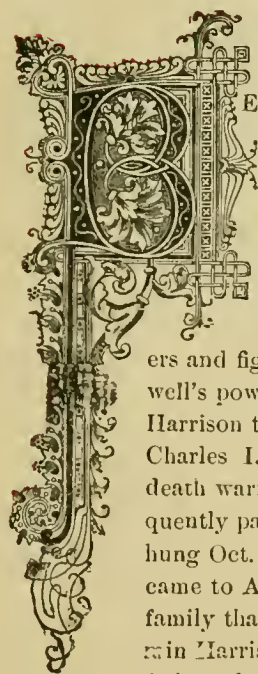
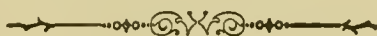
in the administration of the municipal affairs of that city. In this office, as well as that of Sheriff, his performance of duty has generally been considered fair, with possibly a few exceptions which were ferreted out and magnified during the last Presidential campaign. As a specimen of his plain language in a veto message, we quote from one vetoing an iniquitous street-cleaning contract: "This is a time for plain speech, and my objection to your action shall be plainly stated. I regard it as the culmination of a most bare-faced, impudent and shameless scheme to betray the interests of the people and to worse than squander the people's money." The *New York Sun* afterward very highly commended Mr. Cleveland's administration as Mayor of Buffalo, and thereupon recommended him for Governor of the Empire State. To the latter office he was elected in 1882, and his administration of the affairs of State was generally satisfactory. The mistakes he made, if any, were made very public throughout the nation after he was nominated for President of the United States. For this high office he was nominated July 11, 1884, by the National Democratic Convention at Chicago, when other competitors were Thomas F. Bayard, Roswell P. Flower, Thomas A. Hendricks, Benjamin F. Butler, Allen G. Thurman, etc.; and he was elected by the people, by a majority of about a thousand, over the brilliant and long-trying Republican statesman, James G. Blaine. President Cleveland resigned his office as Governor of New York in January, 1885, in order to prepare for his duties as the Chief Executive of the United States; in which capacity his term commenced at noon on the 4th of March, 1885. For his Cabinet officers he selected the following gentlemen: For Secretary of State, Thomas F. Bayard, of Delaware; Secretary of the Treasury, Daniel Manning, of New York; Secretary of War, William C. Endicott, of Massachusetts; Secretary of the Navy, William C. Whitney, of New York; Secretary of the Interior, L. Q. C. Lamar, of Mississippi; Postmaster-General, William F. Vilas, of Wisconsin; Attorney-General, A. H. Garland, of Arkansas.

The silver question precipitated a controversy between those who were in favor of the continuance of silver coinage and those who were opposed, Mr. Cleveland answering for the latter, even before his inauguration.





*Benj. Harrison*



ENJAMIN HARRISON, the twenty-third President, is the descendant of one of the historical families of this country. The head of the family was a Major General Harrison, one of Oliver Cromwell's trusted followers and fighters. In the zenith of Cromwell's power it became the duty of this Harrison to participate in the trial of Charles I, and afterward to sign the death warrant of the king. He subsequently paid for this with his life, being hung Oct. 13, 1660. His descendants came to America, and the next of the family that appears in history is Benjamin Harrison, of Virginia, great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch, and

after whom he was named. Benjamin Harrison was a member of the Continental Congress during the years 1774-5-6, and was one of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence. He was three times elected Governor of Virginia.

Gen. William Henry Harrison, the son of the

distinguished patriot of the Revolution, after a successful career as a soldier during the War of 1812, and with a clean record as Governor of the North-western Territory, was elected President of the United States in 1840. His career was cut short by death within one month after his inauguration.

President Harrison was born at North Bend, Hamilton Co., Ohio, Aug. 20, 1833. His life up to the time of his graduation by the Miami University, at Oxford, Ohio, was the uneventful one of a country lad of a family of small means. His father was able to give him a good education, and nothing more. He became engaged while at college to the daughter of Dr. Scott, Principal of a female school at Oxford. After graduating he determined to enter upon the study of the law. He went to Cincinnati and then read law for two years. At the expiration of that time young Harrison received the only inheritance of his life; his aunt dying left him a lot valued at \$800. He regarded this legacy as a fortune, and decided to get married at once, take this money and go to some Eastern town and begin the practice of law. He sold his lot, and with the money in his pocket, he started out with his young wife to fight for a place in the world. He

decided to go to Indianapolis, which was even at that time a town of promise. He met with slight encouragement at first, making scarcely anything the first year. He worked diligently, applying himself closely to his calling, built up an extensive practice and took a leading rank in the legal profession. He is the father of two children.

In 1860 Mr. Harrison was nominated for the position of Supreme Court Reporter, and then began his experience as a stump speaker. He canvassed the State thoroughly, and was elected by a handsome majority. In 1862 he raised the 17th Indiana Infantry, and was chosen its Colonel. His regiment was composed of the rawest of material, but Col. Harrison employed all his time at first mastering military tactics and drilling his men, when he therefore came to move toward the East with Sherman his regiment was one of the best drilled and organized in the army. At Resaca he especially distinguished himself, and for his bravery at Peachtree Creek he was made a Brigadier General, Gen. Hooker speaking of him in the most complimentary terms.

During the absence of Gen. Harrison in the field the Supreme Court declared the office of the Supreme Court Reporter vacant, and another person was elected to the position. From the time of leaving Indiana with his regiment until the fall of 1864 he had taken no leave of absence, but having been nominated that year for the same office, he got a thirty-day leave of absence, and during that time made a brilliant canvass of the State, and was elected for another term. He then started to rejoin Sherman, but on the way was stricken down with scarlet fever, and after a most trying siege made his way to the front in time to participate in the closing incidents of the war.

In 1868 Gen. Harrison declined a re-election as Reporter, and resumed the practice of law. In 1876 he was a candidate for Governor. Although defeated, the brilliant campaign he made won for him a National reputation, and he was much sought, especially in the East, to make speeches. In 1880, as usual, he took an active part in the campaign, and was elected to the United States Senate. Here he served six years, and was known as one of the ablest men, best lawyers and strongest debaters in

that body. With the expiration of his Senatorial term he returned to the practice of his profession, becoming the head of one of the strongest firms in the State.

The political campaign of 1888 was one of the most memorable in the history of our country. The convention which assembled in Chicago in June and named Mr. Harrison as the chief standard bearer of the Republican party, was great in every particular, and on this account, and the attitude it assumed upon the vital questions of the day, chief among which was the tariff, awoke a deep interest in the campaign throughout the Nation. Shortly after the nomination delegations began to visit Mr. Harrison at Indianapolis, his home. This movement became popular, and from all sections of the country societies, clubs and delegations journeyed thither to pay their respects to the distinguished statesman. The popularity of these was greatly increased on account of the remarkable speeches made by Mr. Harrison. He spoke daily all through the summer and autumn to these visiting delegations, and so varied, masterly and eloquent were his speeches that they at once placed him in the foremost rank of American orators and statesmen.

On account of his eloquence as a speaker and his power as a debater, he was called upon at an uncommonly early age to take part in the discussion of the great questions that then began to agitate the country. He was an uncompromising anti-slavery man, and was matched against some of the most eminent Democratic speakers of his State. No man who felt the touch of his blade desired to be pitted with him again. With all his eloquence as an orator he never spoke for oratorical effect, but his words always went like bullets to the mark. He is purely American in his ideas and is a splendid type of the American statesman. Gifted with quick perception, a logical mind and a ready tongue, he is one of the most distinguished impromptu speakers in the Nation. Many of these speeches sparkled with the rarest of eloquence and contained arguments of greatest weight. Many of his terse statements have already become aphorisms. Original in thought, precise in logic, terse in statement, yet without faultless in eloquence, he is recognized as the sound statesman and brilliant orator of the day.



# GOVERNORS.







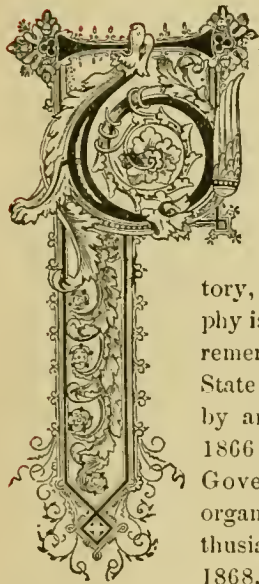




*David Butler*



# DAVID BUTLER.



THE HON. DAVID BUTLER. Closely connected with the early history and the development of Nebraska and associated with it at perhaps the most critical period of its history,

the gentleman whose biography is here sketched must ever be remembered by the citizens of the State in that association. Chosen by an overwhelming majority in 1866 to be the first to occupy the Governor's chair under the new organization; re-elected with enthusiasm to the same office in 1868, and yet again honored by

the confidence of the people in 1870, he has done perhaps as much as any one individual in safely launching the "Ship of State," Nebraska, upon her unparalleled voyage of ever-growing success.

Gov. Butler was born in Greene County, Ind., near the town of Linton, Dec. 15, 1829. He is the eldest son of ten children, of whom six survive. The grandfather of our subject, Thomas Butler, was a native of Virginia, and removed to Indiana and became one of the earliest pioneers of that Territory. As the country developed he was prominently identified with the various enterprises that helped to that end, and enjoyed the greatest confidence and respect of all who knew him. The maiden name of his wife was Mary Robinson.

The father of our subject was born in the year 1809, was reared upon the pioneer farm of his

father, and grew up amid surroundings that would to-day be anything but congenial by reason of the primitive condition. He became an enterprising and prosperous farmer, and also dealt very extensively in cattle. He became the husband of Nancy Christy, the daughter of Joseph Christy, Esq. Like her father, she was born in North Carolina.

The early life and boyhood of our subject were spent amid agricultural surroundings, and such education as he obtained was received first in a private school, where he was prepared for the public institution, in both of which he made rapid progress, and drank as deeply as was permitted at the fountain of knowledge. He remained upon the farm until he was twenty-one years of age, but long before attaining his majority was a thorough, practical farmer, and understood all that was necessary in regard to the management of stock. In his youth he had given promise of powers and intelligence, and though they lay dormant for many years, were bound to make themselves known and felt, as had been the case of the Virginian pioneer in Indiana to whom reference was made above.

Upon attaining his majority Mr. Butler began farming on his own account, supplementing the same by trading in cattle, which he drove through to Wisconsin, where they were at a premium, owing to the fact that the country was just being opened up for settlement. He continued thus engaged until the year 1852, when he embarked in mercantile pursuits, retaining, however, his interest in his cattle trade. These engagements, although somewhat diverse, were not incompatible, and in them he was quite prosperous until the financial

crash of 1857. He was a heavy loser at that time in the failure of the Citizens' Bank at Gosport, Ind., and also through the inability of many of his creditors to meet their payments from a like cause. He, however, struggled manfully against the relentless tide of difficulty that threatened utter ruin, and finally succeeded in paying dollar for dollar of every liability, with interest due. Mr. Butler in early youth took an unusual interest in political questions, and proved that he possessed a grasp of mind and independence of character by forsaking the Democratic traditions of his father's house, and casting his first vote for the Republican party at its birth. In 1856 he was nominated by the Republicans of the Twentieth District in Indiana for the State Senate. Not having had any political experience, and the opposition springing a third candidate, he was persuaded to withdraw before the election, not, however, without having made a spirited canvass, though a partial one.

In the fall of 1859 Mr. Butler removed to Pawnee City, Neb., and there associated himself with the Hon. W. B. Raper, and with that gentleman embarked again in business; but even here he retained his interest in the cattle trade, and was very shortly gratified to see his earnest efforts rewarded, and to be able to fill a larger place than had been possible before his trials in 1857. This partnership lasted until 1861, when Mr. Butler was elected a member of the Territorial Legislature.

In 1863 Mr. Butler was elected State Senator for a term of two years, representing the First District, which comprised the counties of Richardson, Pawnee, Johnson, Gage, Clay, Jefferson, and all the unorganized territory lying to the westward. Both in the House and Senate Mr. Butler made his mark, and did good service for his constituents and the State, and it was as a result of the ability then manifested and recognized, the personal worth and high character sustained by him, that he was nominated and by a large majority vote passed by the hand of the people to the highest chair of office within the gift of the people.

Among the services rendered the State by Mr. Butler while in the Legislature may be mentioned the introduction of a bill for the reapportioning of Nebraska, the passage of which he worked very hard to procure, but in Legislative halls as in every other the green-eyed monster of jealousy is bound to find admittance. It was so in this case, and to this was due the failure of our subject in spite of his hard work; but upon renewing the fight in the Senate he was successful, and the bill went through intact.

As above noted Mr. Butler was elected Governor in 1866 of the newly admitted State, and dur-

ing his term of office managed the affairs of State so wisely and so well as to receive at both the two subsequent elections the expression of a grateful people by re-election to the same high office. While serving his second term as Governor, the Legislature committed to his care the delicate and laborious work of removing the capital from the city of Omaha to a central position in the interior of the State, a part of Nebraska then almost uninhabited. This was successfully accomplished, and a State House, State University and Lunatic Asylum erected without the aid of legislative appropriations. The city of Lincoln with its public buildings is a monument of Gov. Butler's financial sagacity in the management of affairs of State.

After retiring from the Governorship Mr. Butler returned to and continued mercantile life, prosecuting the interest connected therewith even more extensively than before. He continued to make Pawnee City his headquarters until 1868, when he removed to Lincoln, the capital, residing there until 1874, when he located upon his present farm three miles west of Pawnee City. This beautiful property, which is known as the Uplands Stock Farm, comprises 320 acres, which is supplied with admirably arranged and substantially constructed buildings, such as would be needed for his purpose. Besides dealing in cattle, he raises and feeds quite a large number annually, while every winter considerable attention is paid to the fattening of cattle for the market. At one time he was a breeder of Short-horn cattle, and his farm was well stocked with thoroughbreds of the most favored breeds of both cattle and hogs.

The marriage of Mr. Butler was celebrated in January 1860, when he was united with Miss Lydia Storey, of Bloomington, Ind. The family circle of Gov. Butler comprises four children, who bear the names subjoined: Violet E., Seth D., Darias and Paul. At all times our subject has taken a most active interest in the political and general interests of Nebraska, and has been unflinching in his efforts to advance the same. On the 4th of September, 1888, he was nominated for Governor on the Union Labor ticket as their standard bearer, and stamped the State in behalf of the movement. He is a prominent member of the I. O. O. F., and is affiliated with Interior Lodge No. 9, at Pawnee City. Gov. Butler is a man of much reserve force, bright, clear intellect, possessing in no small measure the power that is indispensable in directing and managing enterprises of magnitude. He is at all times a true gentleman, strong in friendship, ever genial, affable and courteous, both winning and retaining the admiration, respect and friendship of his fellows.

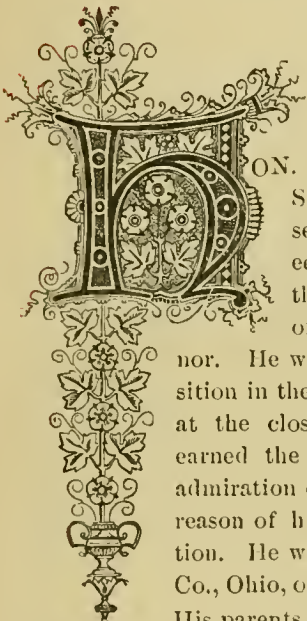




Roll. W. Furnas



# ROBERT W. FURNAS.



ON. ROBERT WILKINSON FURNAS was the second gentleman to receive from the people of the State the high honor of being elected Governor. He was chosen to fill this position in the year 1873, and retired at the close of his term, having earned the good-will, respect and admiration of the whole people by reason of his excellent administration. He was born in Troy, Miami Co., Ohio, on the 5th of May, 1824.

His parents were natives of South Carolina, in which State also the grandfather had been born. His great-grandfather was a member of a good old English family, and was born at Standing Stone, in the county of Cumberland, England. He was brought up and educated in his native place, and when a young man was there married, and then started with his wife for the New World. They landed in South Carolina about the year 1762. Thomas Furnas, the third child of John and Mary Furnas, was born in 1768, six years after the settlement of his parents in America, as above noted. William Furnas was the fifth child and only son of Thomas and Esther Furnas. The chosen occupation of this interesting family for several generations has been that of farming. The chief institution, at that time, of the South, in connection with all labor, especially field work, was that of slavery, and the members of the early generations of this

family were most conscientious members of the Quaker Church, which looked upon it as an abomination. This was the occasion finally of their removal to Ohio, which they did in 1804, settling in the Miami Valley. It was in the home there established that the subject of this sketch was born. He is the eldest of a family of three children, and the only one now living. His twin brother died in infancy, and his younger sister at the age of fifteen.

In 1832 the parents of our subject were stricken down by the ravages of that dreaded plague, the cholera, which swept over the country at that time, taking in its course, old and young, rich and poor, without distinction. In this trying time the natural guardians of the life of our subject, the directors of his footsteps, the instructors of his life, were removed, and he was left to struggle and battle in the conflict of life unaided by them. Then, when the clouds seemed darkest and thickest, his grandfather stepped forward in order to supply, at least in some measure, the place thus left vacant, and with him he remained until he reached his seventeenth year, working on the farm during the summer, and during the winter attending school. He seized every opportunity afforded for the increase of knowledge, and has ever continued to add to his store, and his reputation is that of a well-read, thoroughly educated gentleman.

As soon as our subject attained the above-mentioned age, he went to Covington, Ky., and there served an apprenticeship to the printing business, in the office of the *Licking Valley Register*, published by Richard C. Langdon. It was at that time one

of the most noted newspapers, and its editor, one of the first newspaper men in the West or South. Young Furnas remained in this office until 1843, and acquired a large store of practical knowledge of trade, general business, and life, as well as considerable information upon all ordinary topics, besides the specific attainment desired in the knowledge of the business. The benefit of this schooling is perhaps clearly traceable even in the present, and the immediate past. Leaving Covington he proceeded to Cincinnati, opened a book and job office, and continued in the printing business at that place for two years with good success.

Near the close of that time, and in the year 1845, our subject was united in marriage with Mary S. McComas, a native of Ohio, and a most excellent lady, one who has the power and ability to assist him in life, and fitted to grace any position in society, however high. There have been born of this union five children.

One of the first public engagements entered into by our subject when he became a voter was when, in company with several other young men, he felt the necessity of education as the means necessary to power in this life in any of its relations. They bound themselves to advocate the building of the school-house in Troy, and a lot was reserved for that purpose. Older citizens, perhaps not so well alive to the progressive spirit of the age, thought it unnecessary, and threw in the way a thousand objections. The young men were defeated at the polls the first year, but nothing daunted continued the contest, and the next year carried their point by a small majority, with the result that a \$17,000 school-house was erected, and has stood a monument to the enterprise and foresight of these young men. Upon the success of the above undertaking, Mr. Furnas was elected one of the School Directors, which he continued to be until his removal to Nebraska, when he resigned.

Our subject was only twenty-three years of age when he became proprietor of the *Troy Times*, an organ of the Whig party, of which also he was the editor and publisher, and by his trenchant articles did much service in the Taylor campaign. In 1852 he sold this paper, and was engaged first as Freight and Ticket Agent, afterward as conductor for the

Dayton & Michigan Railroad, continuing until 1856. In March of that year he emigrated to this State, established himself at Brownville, and in July of the same year established the *Brownville Advertiser*, and entered the arena of political life. He became a very zealous advocate of the agricultural and educational interests of the State, and in the fall of that year was elected to the Territorial Legislature. Here the masterly qualities that have since distinguished him before the State were made manifest.

During his term of office, as noted in the foregoing paragraph, our subject originated the school system of the Territory, which was modeled in its general features after the system of Ohio. In the year 1858 he was re-elected and again took his seat in the Legislature. In 1861 he was elected Chief Clerk, and early in the spring was commissioned Colonel in the United States Regular Army, and received orders from the Secretary of War to organize the loyal Indians and have them mustered into the service. He was successful in his mission and raised three regiments. These were fully equipped, and Col. Furnas commanded them in the Southern expedition under Gen. Blunt, which took in the borders of Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas and the Indian Territory. Resigning his commission after having done splendid work with his command, he returned and went to work to recruit, and established the 2d Nebraska Cavalry, and added fresh glories to the already brilliant record of military achievement. With this command he served under Gen. Sully in the now renowned "Sully expedition" against the Sioux Indians, wherein they were pursued to British Columbia.

The next four years our subject was employed as Indian Agent for the Omaha and Winnebago Indians, which he resigned to take his place at the helm of the State as already recorded. Among the many honors worn so gracefully, and in such manly spirit, are: Regent of the State University, President of the State Board of Agriculture, President of the State Agricultural Society, President of the State Soldiers' Union, Vice President of the National Pomological Association, Past Grand Master of the I. O. O. F., Past Grand High Priest, and Past Grand Commander of the Masonic bodies of the State of Nebraska.







*Silas Garber*



# SILAS GARBER.



SILAS GARBER. This distinguished and well-known citizen of Nebraska served the State most acceptably as its Governor for the two terms, from 1874 to 1878. He was born in Logan County, Ohio, Sept. 21, 1833. There he passed his boyhood days, attending the common schools and developing into a sturdy and promising young man. At the early age of seventeen years he was determined to strike out for himself and see what he could do toward making his own living. He was ambitious, yet we very much doubt whether the beard-

less young man who turned his face Westward in 1850 ever had the remotest idea that he would himself some day be at the head of a great commonwealth, that would be created still further toward the setting sun. At that time he came into Iowa, which was receiving such floods of emigrants from the older settled States. He located in Clayton County and engaged in agricultural pursuits, the occupation which has done so much toward developing some of the best men our Nation has produced. His life for some years was uneventful,

yet he was being disciplined and prepared for the honorable and useful positions he was to fill in after years. He took an active interest in all public matters, and was a well-informed, hard-working young man.

When the stars and stripes which had so long floated above Ft. Sumter were fired upon and the little garrison compelled to surrender, the patriotism of the North was aroused as never before in the history of the country. Thousands of the best men of the Nation immediately volunteered their services to aid in suppressing the monstrous rebellion, which had replaced the American banner with the stars and bars. Among this vast army of patriotic men might have been found Silas Garber. He was mustered into the 3d Missouri Infantry, which was known as the famous Lyon Regiment. He served with this regiment for one year, when he was mustered out and returned to Clayton County. He, however, did not long remain in the quiet of that peaceful section, for we soon again find him at the front. Now he is First Lieutenant of Company D, 27th Iowa Infantry, which he raised. His valiant services soon received recognition, and he was promoted to be Captain of the company, which position he faithfully and ably filled until the close of the war. He participated in all the battles of the Red River campaign, and

Pleasant Hill, La., the battles of Old Oaks, Miss., Nashville, Tenn., and others under the command of Gen. A. J. Smith.

Upon being mustered out of military service Capt. Garber returned to Clayton County, but soon thereafter went to California, where he passed the next four years. He came to Nebraska in the early part of 1870, and found a suitable location in Webster County, where he still resides, being the oldest resident in Red Cloud. He was indeed a pioneer of the Great West, for when he located in Webster County there were but two settlers in the county.

Upon locating in Red Cloud and ever since Mr. Garber has taken a most important part in both her business and political affairs. He engaged in farming and merchandising, and is to-day President of the Farmers' & Merchants' Banking Com-

pany of that city, and also largely identified with its material interests. He was chosen the first Probate Judge of the county, and also represented his district in the Legislature, and served for one year as Register of the United States Land Office at Lincoln.


Capt. Garber became popular both with the people and the politicians, and was nominated for Governor by the Republican Convention, which assembled at Lincoln Sept. 3, 1874, and was elected by a handsome majority. He served so acceptably that he was renominated by the convention which met Sept. 26, 1876. He was again endorsed at the polls in November, and served until the close of his term in 1878. He then retired to his home at Red Cloud, where he has since resided, a highly respected and useful citizen.



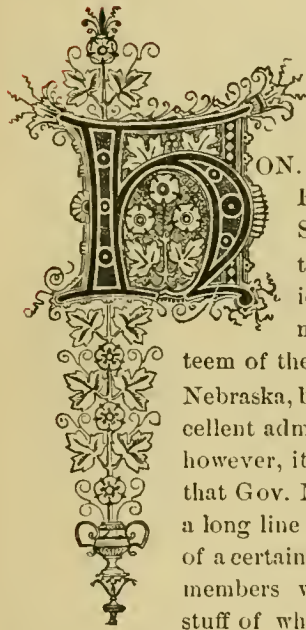




*Albion Hance*



## ALBINUS NANCE.



ON. ALBINUS NANCE, Fourth Governor of the State of Nebraska, and in that connection the recipient of the confidence, admiration and highest esteem of the people, not simply of Nebraska, but wherever his most excellent administration is known. If, however, it be but borne in mind that Gov. Nance is a descendant of a long line of noble representatives of a certain Huguenot family, whose members were of the stamp and stuff of which martyrs and heroes are made, and therefore persons of thought, conviction and strength of character, it is not surprising that he should possess the same, which under the more happy *regime* of present government and liberality of opinion, should bring him into prominence and enable him in his high station to sustain a reputation most brilliant.

The ancestors of Gov. Nance on his father's side were of that number driven from France by the religious intolerance and persecution that followed the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. With many others similarly situated they came to the New World and formed what became a very prosperous community in the State of North Carolina, their descendants moving North and Westward, ever

in the vanguard of progress, as section after section and district after district were located.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 30th of March, 1848, at Lafayette, Stark Co., Ill., and he is the oldest son of Dr. Hiram Nance, for many years one of the most successful physicians and able surgeons in Central Illinois. His settlement in that State dates back to 1836. It was the Far West of that period, and was filled with far more of danger, difficulty and hardship, and demanded more spirit, bravery and self-denial than is conceivable in these days, when the bands of steel pass by the door of the Western pioneer, and thus bring him into almost immediate contact with the great world of civilization. The ancestry of Gov. Nance upon the maternal side of the family was English. The maiden name of his mother was Sarah R. Smith, who was born in the State of Ohio.

At the outbreak of the Civil War Albinus was but a lad of thirteen, but his patriotic soul was fired with loyal enthusiasm, and he chafed severely at the restraint of years that prevented him taking a more able stand in defense of the Union. At a later period of the struggle and when just sixteen years of age, he enlisted in the 9th Illinois Cavalry. The youthful defender and intrepid young soldier was mustered in contrary to both the wishes and continued earnest protests of his parents and friends. But he could know no restraint in this matter, and was determined to follow the stars and stripes,

and to defend them if so needed until the death.

He continued in the service until the close of the war, and participated as an active combatant in the battles of Guntown, Hurricane Creek, Franklin, Nashville, Tupelo, Spring Hill and Columbia, Tenn. He was one in the line that made one of the most daring and gallant charges at the battle of Nashville, and was slightly wounded in the same.

The necessity for war being passed, Cavalryman Nance returned his saber to its sheath, and when the regiment disbanded returned to his home and became a student at Knox College, Galesburg, Ill., where he took part of the classic course. Soon after leaving college he commenced the study of law, and in 1870 was admitted to the bar by the Supreme Court of Illinois, after passing in the best possible manner a very rigid examination.

Standing upon the threshold of life, the future stretching before him, animated by the grandeur of the prospect supplied by hope and ambition, the subject of our sketch was more fascinated and impressed by the opportunities and inducements held out by the newer country, and pursuant thereto he decided to come to Nebraska, as the most promising of all the States and Territories of that magnificent field. This was in 1871. He secured a homestead in Polk County, devoting part of his time to farming, but the larger part to the practice of his chosen profession; but his experience was such as almost invariably follows—his ability was speedily recognized and his legal work rapidly grew upon his hands, and before long he left his farm to sow and reap in other fields, at once more congenial and lucrative.

In accordance with the decision referred to in the above paragraph, Mr. Nance removed to Osceola, the county seat of Polk County, where before very long he was fully established in legal practice. In 1873 his friends submitted his name to the Republican Convention of the Thirteenth District for Representative in the State Legislature. The counties of Adams, Butler, Clay, Fillmore, Hamilton, Platte, Polk and York sent their delegates, and these gentlemen thus representing the interests of a large body of citizens in those counties, comprised the convention to which his name was presented. There were seven candidates in

all, and each candidate had his circle of friends; these were diligent in season and out of season to advance the interests of the several candidates. Naturally a long and exciting contest was speedily commenced, and watched with deep interest by all. In order that the reader may appreciate the position occupied by the young lawyer in the estimation of the people, and the impress his character and ability had already made, we would notice that after several ballots had been taken the announcement was made that Albinus Nance had received the nomination, and thus began his political career with a clear sun and a fair sky.

The principal opponent of our subject in the convention, urged by his friends, and spurred on by his own, doubtless, laudable ambition, determined to enter the field as an independent candidate, and the most strenuous efforts were made to defeat the regular candidate of the convention, but without success. The election showed a majority of about 2,000 in favor of the subject of this writing.

In 1876 Mr. Nance was one of the six delegates chosen by the Republican State Convention to represent this State at the National Convention at Cincinnati, and was by his fellows elected Chairman of the delegation. During that year he was renominated for the Legislature, indeed, almost without opposition, and at the opening session of the Legislative body he was elected Speaker of the House. If he had made a reputation and record as a member, he more than established it, and added fresh luster in his more advanced position, thus necessarily bringing himself before the people, who at once recognized in him one worthy of additional honors. In 1878 the Republican State Convention nominated him for Governor, and he was elected by a large majority. In 1880 he was renominated by acclamation and with wild enthusiasm, and re-elected by a majority greatly in excess of any other candidate on the State ticket.

One of the happiest steps ever taken by Gov. Nance was that of his union in matrimony in 1875, when he became the husband of Miss Sarah White, daughter of Egbert and Mary White, of Farragut, Iowa, who presented her husband with a bright and beautiful little daughter, who bears the name of Nellie.








James W. James



# JAMES W. DAWES.



JAMES W. DAWES. This gentleman was elected Governor in the year 1883, and such was his official deportment that he was renominated with enthusiasm, and re-elected by an appreciative people. He continued to occupy his high position in the service of the State until the year 1887, and during the time gave every evidence that the confidence of those who had elected him in his honor, manhood and ability, was indeed well founded. He was the fifth Governor of the State. Gov.

Dawes was born at McConnellsville, Morgan Co., Ohio, on the 8th of January, 1845. He went with his parents when they removed to Wisconsin in 1856. The rudiments and foundation work of his education were received in Ohio, but in the Wisconsin schools the major part of the work was done, and from them our subject was graduated with a good practical English education, such as would serve in the daily affairs of life. As he advanced in years and was capable of doing more service upon the farm, he attended school only in the winters, devoting the summers to husbandry. In October, 1864, he was engaged in clerking for G. J. Hansen & Co., who were engaged as general merchants at Kilbourn

City, Wis., where he continued until October, 1868, and in these four years gained invaluable experience of men and business, adding materially to his store of information, and, unknown to himself, but none the less really, preparing for days of larger opportunity and more important engagements.

The next employment taken up by our subject was that of the study of law, which he began and carried on with his cousin, Julius H. Dawes, Esq., of Fox Lake, Wis., a prominent and successful lawyer. Here our subject devoted every attention, and became a careful, persevering and diligent student, so much so that his examination, which determined his admission to the bar, was unusually brilliant, and he was accordingly admitted with congratulations upon the 10th of January, 1871, and began the practice of his chosen profession, which, from its being eminently congenial and peculiarly well adapted to one of his ability and mental cast, was that in which success in life was more completely assured him.

Not long after the admission of our subject to the bar another, and if anything more important, event occurred. It was that of his marriage. Instances are far too common where an error of judgment or a misplaced confidence at such time has been fraught with disastrous results to both contracting parties; results all the more serious because of the nature and faults of the contract. It was the

happiness of Mr. Dawes and the lady of his choice to be mutually compatible in disposition, tastes, desires, and in fact all the varied points where difference of sentiment would in all probability lead, sooner or later, to a breach of confidence or worse. This union, therefore, has brought a more complete happiness, a more perfect felicity, into both lives, and has made the home all that could be desired. This interesting event occurred at Fox Lake, and was celebrated on the 11th of May, 1871.

Our subject located in Crete, of this State, on the 5th of September, 1871, with the intention of engaging for a time in mercantile pursuits. For some years he continued in this line of business with an ever-growing success and enlarging patronage. In March of 1877 he transferred his energies from commercial pursuits to the legal profession, opening a law office at Crete, and has since been one of the leading lights of the Nebraska bar. He became a member of the Nebraska Constitutional Convention of 1875, and the following year was elected State Senator. During his term of office he won from all golden opinions of his ability and power, and his sojourn in Senatorial halls was, if anything, more pleasant than usual, owing to his genial, affable and courteous manner, which won and retained many much valued friendships, and which was the means of affording him larger opportunities than might have otherwise been possible. His record in this connection is upon the books of the session, and is well known, and does not therefore call for detailed mention in such a writing as the present; suffice it here to remark that it was such as to ultimately lead to his election to the highest official chair in the State.

From May, 1876, to September, 1882, inclusive, the subject of this sketch continued to hold the position as Chairman of the Republican State Central Committee of Nebraska. The long continuance and the number of consecutive terms embraced within the above dates speak more clearly and emphatically his ability and power than anything that might be said in addition. Mr. Dawes was further honored by being elected delegate to the Republican National Convention at Chicago, in June of 1880. This it will be remembered was the convention that nominated the noble, but ill-fated, James A. Gar-

field. The delegation of which he was a member at this time unanimously named him as a member of the National Republican Committee for Nebraska for a term of four years, which it was his privilege to serve with every satisfaction to all parties concerned for that period.

Few men ever felt more the need of education for a people who governed themselves than Gov. Dawes. The absolute necessity of universal education, wide in scope, complete in curriculum, exhaustive in detail, practical in its aim and general utility, was evident to him, and he was therefore deeply interested in educational matters, and his sympathies were always assured for matters connected therewith. He has served in several offices connected with this department, the most important, perhaps, being those of Trustee and Secretary of the Doane College, which is situated at Crete. The duties of these offices have engaged his attention since the year 1875.

The crowning glory of the official life and public service of the subject of our sketch was that which identified him with the chief office of the State. In the year 1882 he was nominated by the Republican party for Governor. His life was well known, his character thoroughly understood, his past services remembered and appreciated, and accordingly he was received with much favor, and elected amid the plaudits of the whole people. He entered upon the duties of his high office in January, 1883, continuing to discharge the same throughout the usual period of two years. At the expiration thereof he was again nominated by his party and re-elected by the people, and for a second term continued to discharge his duties as before. Is any further proof of his ability, honor, manhood and faithfulness demanded? Can any mere verbose complimentary eulogium express as much as this, especially when it is reinforced by all the accompanying marks of confidence and regard of the people? Gov. Dawes will long be remembered, having won a warm place in the hearts and memories of the people, together with his most excellent administration of affairs, which from first to last materially assisted the onward march and development of Nebraska as a State, and aided in placing her among the very first of all States of the greatest Republic the world has ever known.

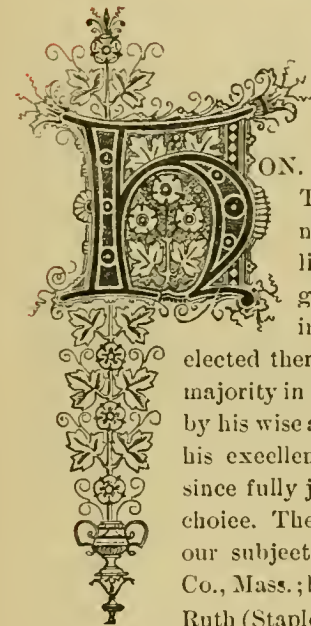




*John W. Thayer*



# JOHN M. THAYER.



ON. JOHN M. THAYER.

This distinguished gentleman, whom Nebraska delighted to honor by the gift of the highest office in its power to bestow, was

elected thereto by an overwhelming majority in the autumn of 1886, and by his wise administration of affairs, his excellent executive ability, has since fully justified this enthusiastic choice. The place of the nativity of our subject is Bellingham, Norfolk Co., Mass.; he is the son of Elias and Ruth (Staples) Thayer. The chosen

occupation of the father was farming, and in the physical and moral healthful environment of pastoral life our subject was brought up.

The smallest part of man is the physical, that can be weighed avoirdupois and measured with a tape line; a far greater and nobler is that of stamp divine—the mind, which is the true “standard of the man.” Having in mind the importance of proper instruction, in order to the proper use of this most wonderful instrument, our subject, after the usual preparatory instruction, attended the classes at Brown University, from which institution he was graduated in 1847. The law was the chosen profession of our subject, and at it he worked assiduously until the year 1854, still continuing a resident of his native State, and at that time he removed to the State of Nebraska.

Omaha, then a rising young town, with a newly opened and undeveloped territory all around it, afforded a good field for a young man of education, enterprise, enthusiasm and energy, to “rise up with the country.” In the year 1855 the political arena was entered. Mr. Thayer became one of four candidates for Congressional honors; a splendid run for the office, however, resulted only in defeat, the successful candidate being Fenner Ferguson. The following year was remarkable as that in which the now “grand old party” was organized. The convention was held at Bellevue, and our subject was a candidate for the party nomination, but was defeated by Mr. Daily. This experience was repeated in every particular in June of 1860. He was successful in receiving the nomination to the Territorial Legislature, and served the session of 1860–61.

Our subject entered the service of the United States at the beginning of the Civil War, and received the commission of Colonel of the 1st Nebraska Infantry. In the year 1855 he had been elected by the Territorial Legislature Brigadier General of the Territorial Militia, and afterward promoted to that of Major General of the militia. While in these positions he was frequently led into engagements more or less serious on the frontier, the enemies being the aborigines of that section, who at that time had not entirely ceased their old habits of depredation. The intimate knowledge of our subject concerning the Indians, their surroundings, their attitude, their feelings, and their chiefs, were all of immense value to him. As a case in

point, which we might mention, our subject was appointed by Gov. Izard to act in conjunction with Gov. O. D. Richardson, to inquire into certain outrages by Pawnees, to meet them in council and effect a treaty with them; in this they were fairly successful. But later events proved the lesson was but poorly learned by the Indians. In 1858, with a command of 194 volunteers, our subject went out after the same tribe, certain of their number having murdered, maltreated and robbed the settlers. He captured the entire tribe after a stubbornly contested battle, which was fought on the grounds occupied by the town of Battle Creek, which derives its name from that event.

As Colonel of the 1st Nebraska Infantry, our subject did good work in behalf of the Union, and it was not long before his superior military powers attracted attention, and he was promoted to be Brigadier General and breveted Major General. At Ft. Donelson and Shiloh he commanded a brigade in such excellent manner as led to the above honor. Through the siege of Vicksburg and the capture of Jackson, Miss., he also commanded a brigade, and for a time a division. The confidence of the commanders in him was such that at the assault at Chickasaw Bayou, one of the storming columns was confided to his care. In this fight he had his horse shot under him, and again while leading a charge at Arkansas Post. All the essential features, characteristics and traits of the successful soldier were possessed by him, and this being recognized resulted in the Army of the Frontier being given him to command. Throughout his service in military life he was a true soldier, a favorite with his men, who were confident that he would lead them to success and victory; respected by his officers, who well knew his sagacity and military genius, largely the result of his long experience on the frontier.

In political matters our subject was a Democrat until the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. He sympathized with the Free-Soil movement, but being in the Territory he could not vote. In the year 1856 he supported Fremont, and since that time has continued a staunch Republican. Upon the admission of Nebraska as a State, Mr. Thayer was elected United States Senator in the election of 1866, and served faithfully until the close of his term. At the

expiration thereof he was appointed by Gen. Grant the Governor of Wyoming Territory. In this office the qualities that had made him successful in civil life, that had made him a military leader and commander, the ability that had been developed for the handling of large bodies of men, the harmonizing of heterogeneous elements, combined to make his Governorship one worthy of note, and, doubtless, was the cause of the confidence expressed by the people of Nebraska in after days.

The home of our subject is one that bears in its every-day life and happiness a brightness and completeness that is more to be desired than the amassing of riches, the accumulation of power, or the right to sway the scepter of authority. He was united in the holy bonds of matrimony with Mary T. Allen, a lady possessing a disposition, character and intelligence, most beautiful, admirable and clear, one who has been trained to follow closely the Great Exemplar of the true life. She is the daughter of the Rev. John Allen, a clergyman of the Baptist Church, a native of Massachusetts.

Gov. Thayer, though not a member of any special denomination, is a firm believer in the Christian religion, and always has been. His family adhere to the faith of the Baptist Church, of which also his parents were members. In that communion, also, he was trained and brought up, and he has always retained a great desire to help forward every movement of religious nature; whenever it has been possible to elevate the moral standard of the people, his active sympathies were engaged. One feature of his Governorship has been his evident anxiety that a more general and hearty acquiescence to a higher moral and religious standard should obtain, and whatever enterprises, projects, societies or associations, looked to this as their aim and object, were at all times sure of his hearty sympathy and support.

As noted above, our subject stood before the people of Nebraska in the year 1886 as candidate for Governor. He was warmly received, actively and heartily supported, and enthusiastically elected by a majority of 25,000, in which he ran about 2,000 ahead of his ticket. His administration has revealed the wisdom of this choice, and it is not too much to say that the citizens of Nebraska have at no time had occasion to repent of their choice.





**BUFFALO COUNTY.**





## BIOGRAPHICAL.

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**W**ILLIAM M. CRAVEN, the pioneer merchant of Armada, Nebr., was born in Randolph county, N. C., August 12, 1836. His father, L. D. Craven, was born in the same county and state, October 29, 1811. He emigrated to Morgan county, Indiana, in 1836, but subsequently removed to Owen county, where he resided until he came to Nebraska in April, 1871. He was a shoemaker during the early part of his life, but found farming a more congenial occupation. His wife, Lovey Spoon, died in November, 1884, a member of the Methodist church, of which Mr. Craven is also a member. The grandparents on both sides were Carolinians by birth. William M. Craven served an apprenticeship at carpentering before he had reached the age of maturity, and at the age of twenty-one he was a contractor and builder, at which occupation he continued until the war began, when he enlisted in May, 1861, in the Fourteenth Indiana infantry and was sent immediately to the scene of conflict. He participated in the battles of Rich mountain, Cheat mountain, Greenbrier and Winchester. He was in the Army of the Potomac until August,

1862, and then re-enlisted at brigade headquarters, this time in the 1st brigade, 3d division and 15th corps, and marched with Sherman from Huntsville, Alabama, to the sea, and was mustered out July 9, 1865, at Louisville, Kentucky. He came out of his long and honorable service without a scar, but not without great suffering from the exposure incident to camp life. During his encampment on Cheat mountain it rained every day, except nine, for three months. After the war he returned to Indiana and resumed his former occupation of contracting. He was married August 24, 1865, to Miss Myra Starbuck. They have seven children—Elfie M., Myrtie M., Mettie F., Osa L., Charlie E., Josie M. L., and Nevie F.

William M. Craven came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, in the Spring of 1871, and took up a homestead near Shelton, where he remained until 1876. He then spent nearly three years farming in Arkansas, but he was not pleased with the country and concluded to return to Nebraska. Shortly after his return to this county he moved to Buffalo precinct, where he purchased ten acres of land near the

present thriving little town of Armada, and erected a small sod house, in which he kept a little store, in the fall of 1881. He started on a capital of \$9, but by honest dealing he has prospered until he is now doing a flourishing business in a neat little store on one of the prominent four corners of Armada. When he commenced business there was no town thought of, the postoffice then being located three miles east of there. A petition was finally circulated and the postoffice was removed to Armada town, and Mr. Craven was made postmaster. He now has twenty acres of land adjoining the town, and has also one hundred and sixty acres in the township. When Mr. Craven first came to the county it was exceedingly wild and sparsely settled. He has seen as many as two thousand Indians in one body going to and coming from their hunting expeditions. Wild game, such as buffalo, antelope and deer, was plenty almost anywhere. His crop was completely destroyed three years in succession by the grasshoppers and he and his family were subjected to great inconvenience and suffering thereby. It was just at this period that he concluded to emigrate to Arkansas. He has been postmaster for five years and has filled various local offices. He belongs to the Odd Fellows and Masonic lodges, and is a member of the G. A. R.

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**J**OHAN H. WILSON, an enterprising boot and shoe merchant at Armada, Nebr., was born in Woodford county, Ill., October 27, 1857, and is the son of William S., and Mary (Tomb) Wilson. His father was born in Highland county,

Ohio, March 10, 1833, but moved to Illinois when a young man. He served in the war of the rebellion, enlisting in the fall of 1864, in the Eighth Illinois infantry, and had served only about eight months, when he was killed in the battle of Fort Gaines, Ala. He had always lived an upright, consistent life, was an active member of the Christian church and was highly respected by all who knew him. His wife is still living, is also a devoted and conscientious worker in the cause of religion, and is a member in the highest standing in the Christian church. But little is known of the paternal grandfather of the subject of this brief biographical sketch, except that his name was James Wilson, and that he died about 1856. The maternal grandfather is Matthew W. Tomb, who is a native of Ohio, but who emigrated to Illinois in 1855. He is a leading agriculturist and a prominent man in the community where he resides, has held various local offices and is a respected member of the Christian church. He and his faithful wife, who bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Moore, are still living. John H. Wilson is the eldest of six children, one of whom is now dead, and upon him devolved largely the care and responsibility of his mother, with whom he remained until eighteen years of age. He began life for himself at twenty-one as a farmer in Illinois. In the spring of 1885, he immigrated to Buffalo county, Nebr., and purchased railroad land near Armada, which he successfully cultivated for three years. In the meantime he purchased eighty acres more land, making in all 240 acres, a good portion of which he now has under special cultivation. His land lies within one and one-half miles of the town

of Armada and is also in what is known as the Wood River valley.

In September, 1888, Mr. Wilson moved to Armada and engaged in the boot and shoe business. He began with a limited amount of capital, and by industry and fair dealing he has succeeded in building up a substantial business, with a rapidly increasing trade. He enjoys the entire confidence of all his patrons and has built up a reputation for selling goods that are "all wool and a yard wide." He was married January 3, 1883, to Miss De Laura T. Foster, and this union has been blessed with two children—Stanley A. and John F. Mrs. Wilson was born in Marshall county, W. Va., December 4, 1857, and is the daughter of James and Etheline (Wellman) Foster, both natives of that state. Her father died in 1878, but her mother is still living. Her paternal grandfather, James Foster, was born in Ireland, emigrated to America in an early day, and first settled in Pennsylvania, but later in West Virginia. He died in 1865, at the age of eighty-four. His wife was a native of Pennsylvania and died in 1881. The maternal grandparents of Mrs. Wilson were Virginians by birth.

Mr. Wilson has held various town offices of responsibility and has several times been re-elected assessor for his township. He and his estimable wife are both members of the Christian church and earnest advocates of temperance.

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**R**ICHARD DARBYSHIRE, a young and enterprising man of Armada, Nebr., was born in Burlington, Iowa, September 16, 1859. His father, Thomas Darbyshire, was born in

England and came to America when nine years of age. He lived in Iowa, principally at Burlington. He followed farming mostly, and died in 1884. Richard's mother, who bore the maiden name of Naomi Adams, was a native of Kentucky, as were also her parents. Richard Darbyshire remained with his parents until he was twenty-one and then began farming for himself. After he had farmed a couple of years he began dealing in horses, in which business he had marked success. He came to Nebraska in 1884 and resided near Armada for two years, then bought and sold farms and made considerable money in his various real estate transactions. In 1886, he began driving the stage on the Kearney and Broken Bow line and continued for about eight months, during which he had an interesting experience. He frequently drove sixty miles a day when the thermometer registered from thirty-three to thirty-four degrees below zero, and was often compelled to shovel his way through snow banks and make schedule time in all kinds of weather. He drove for days at a time when he would be the only team on the roads. The rules of the mail service imposed a heavy fine on mail carriers for being behind time without a most satisfactory excuse, but he was never fined the entire winter, which was one of the severest in the history of the country. The Union Pacific Railway Company was fined frequently for being late with the mails that winter, but the disagreeable weather was no barrier to young Darbyshire in preventing him from delivering the mails on time. He is now in the livery business at Miller, Nebraska, and has one of the best barns in the county.

CHARLES F. PATTERSON was born at Mt. Sterling, Brown county, Ill., March 17, 1837, and was the son of Kentucky parents, named John D. and Mary Ann (Smith) Patterson. Charles F. Patterson went to Arkansas when seventeen years old and engaged in the manufacture of staves, which he found a ready market for in New Orleans. After a few years' experience in the great forests of Arkansas, he went to Bonaparte, Iowa, where he was engaged by Isaiah Meek, a leading stockman of Van Buren county, as foreman of his large stock farm. In 1861 he went to California in search of gold, and was there about eighteen months, during which time he was employed in a quartz mill. He then returned to Iowa and accepted his former position as foreman of the Meek stock farm. In 1878 he came to Nebraska and took a homestead in Dawson county, just over the line from Buffalo county, and there built a sod house and prepared to make such improvements as were necessary to render his farm profitable under cultivation. He brought with him from Iowa about 400 head of cattle, which he kept on shares for a few years. The settlement then was sparse, there being no houses between his home and Elm creek, about fifteen miles south.

In 1885 he began selling cattle for O. W. Mead, of Boston, who was a large owner of live-stock ranches in the West. The cattle were shipped to Mr. Patterson, who disposed of them to feeders in Nebraska, he acting as Mead's agent for eighteen months, during which time he sold many thousand dollars' worth of cattle. He was the agent, also, of Philip

Dater & Co., of Cheyenne, for two years, and was also engaged with Tabor & Skinner, the former being ex-Gov. Tabor, of Colorado. He traveled all over the West, visiting their ranches and gathering up cattle, which he sold to Nebraska feeders.

Charles F. Patterson died of heart difficulty, November 12, 1888, after a brief illness of only a few weeks. He was an Odd Fellow, and a gentleman who enjoyed the respect and confidence of his neighbors and fellow-citizens in general. He was married, November 1, 1860, to Miss Lydia C., daughter of Peter and Mary Ann (Lichty) Miller, and born in Westmoreland county, Pa., September 29, 1836. Her parents were born in Somerset, Pa., her father being the first white male child born in that town. They emigrated to Van Buren county, Iowa, in 1854, with a family of twelve children, and there most of them now reside, but Peter Miller died in 1875, having been a life-long member of the German Baptist church. The children of Charles F. and Lydia Patterson are named as follows: John Wesley, Mary Ann, Maggie J., William Richard and Charles M. They have all had splendid opportunities for securing an education, and some are now engaged in teaching. The Patterson homestead consists of 320 acres, well improved, and on which has recently been erected a handsome and substantial brick residence.

BENJAMIN F. PEASE is a well-to-do farmer in Armada township, Buffalo county, Nebr., was born in Ontario county, N. Y., and is the son of Granger and Anna (Fish) Pease, the

former of whom was born in Connecticut and the latter in New York. His parents moved to Michigan in 1839, where his father died in 1858; his mother was a Quakeress and passed to the eternal land in 1842.

B. F. Pease began to learn the cooper trade when he was eighteen, and followed it for five years. He was married October 24, 1859, to Martha Judd, by whom he had one child—Herbert. She was born in 1838, and was the daughter of Henry and Elvira Judd; the former was a native of Connecticut and the latter of Massachusetts. Mrs. Pease died in 1868, and Mr. Pease was next married, May 30, 1872, to Charlotte Odell, by whom he had three children—Charles, Salina and Floyd. Mr. Pease enlisted, August 12, 1861, in the Eighth Michigan infantry and served four years. He participated in the battles of Coosaw, S. C.; Pulaski, Wilmington, Ga.; and James Island, S. C., where he was taken prisoner, but was exchanged four months afterwards; and was also in the battles of Blue Springs, Ky.; Jackson, Miss., and Knoxville, Tenn. His brigade was under Gen. W. T. Sherman after the siege of Knoxville, but re-organized and joined the Army of the Potomac. He served with his regiment in every engagement, from the Wilderness to the evacuation of Petersburg, April, 1865; re-enlisted January 1, 1864, and was mustered out July 30, 1865, having entered the army as a private and rising to the rank of first lieutenant. He came to Nebraska in May, 1884, and settled in Armada township, Buffalo county. He took a soldier's homestead, which he now has well improved, and has increased his acreage until his farm now contains 320

acres under a good state of cultivation. He and his estimable wife are members of the Methodist church, and he is a member of the G. A. R., and a highly respected citizen in the community.

**J**OHAN MERCER is one of the substantial farmers and stockmen of Armada township, Buffalo county. He was born in Roxburghshire, Scotland, August 31, 1845, and is the son of George and Isabel (Locky) Mercer, both of whom are natives of Scotland. His father came to America in 1852, and settled in Canada, his wife and family following in 1861. He was a shoemaker by trade, and a member of the old established Church of Scotland, and died in 1862. Young Mercer identified himself with the Union cause by enlisting in the navy August 18, 1864, and belonged to a crew on board the Miami, which was ordered up the James river and lay at Dutch Gap canal during the winter of 1864-5. He received his discharge at Philadelphia in June, 1865. After the war he went to Watertown, N. Y., where his mother and two brothers had moved, and engaged with Smith & Lamb, woolen manufacturers; he also worked in the large steam woolen mills at Utica, and at Bridgetown, Me. He afterwards came west and worked in woolen factories in Ohio and Michigan, and as he was thoroughly familiar with almost every department connected with the manufacture of woolen goods, found no trouble in procuring employment at any first-class factory. In the fall of 1873 he concluded to "go west and grow up with the country," and accordingly he turned up in Buffalo county, Nebr., and within a reasonably short time

he was a proprietor of a No. 1 homestead, located in the rich and fertile valley of the Wood river, of which he was one of the first actual settlers. The country was naturally wild and exceedingly dreary to one coming from the far East, and it made no other impression on the mind of young Mereer. He was forty miles from any town, in a country where elk, antelope and deer roamed at will, and along the small streams of which were plenty of beaver and wild-cats. He was fond of hunting, and followed it almost exclusively for three or four winters. It afforded him considerable amusement, and besides it was quite profitable. In fact, there was no other way of making money, and even a bachelor like Mr. Mercer could not live in a wild prairie country without money. He lived in a dug-out, which, in those days, was the only house that guaranteed its occupant absolute shelter from the frequent atmospherical disturbances. But even his dug-out did not protect him from the ravages of the grass-hoppers in 1874-5-6. He has seen them three inches thick, and they didn't seem to smother each other either. A good many settlers got discouraged and left, but he concluded to stick by his claim as long as he could live. He would go to the hill, shoot a deer and trade it for flour and such articles of food as he stood in need of, and in that way he managed to get along. In the fall of 1880 a prairie fire swept everything he had, including his hay and grain in the stack,—everything, in fact, except a patch of sod corn.

John Mercer was married October 11, 1885, to Pauline, daughter of James and Rachael (Spriggs) Stewart. She was born in Marshall county, Ill., February 15, 1854,

and has borne him two children—John C., born December 24, 1887, and Edward James, born March 26, 1890. Mr. Mereer belongs to the G. A. R., and is a republican in whom there is no guile. He has two hundred and forty acres of fertile land and takes great pride in breeding good horses, of which he is a splendid judge.

**A**RTHUR F. BURT was born in Delaware county, Ind., January 18, 1833, and is the son of Dickerson and Margaret (Killough) Burt, the former of whom was reared in Massachusetts and the latter in Ohio. Dickerson Burt first taught school after he came to Ohio, and subsequently graduated from a Cincinnati medical college. He practiced his profession at Muncie, Ind., and also had the honor of being appointed the first postmaster of that town. He was married to Margaret Killough, March 3, 1827, by whom he had four children, and whom he lost by death February 9, 1835. Arthur Burt lived with Cornelius Vaursdell, an old Christain preacher, until he was thirteen, and then started out for himself, and followed railroading for several years. In 1852 he made quite an extensive tour of the country, after which he followed farming in Ross county, Ohio, for several years. He was married January 13, 1859, to Elizabeth Campbell. They have seven children—Christena A., Juda V., John A., Dora L., Rosa E., Lizzie L., and Mary B.

Mr. Burt served in the late war, enlisting August 15, 1862, in the One Hundred and Third Illinois infantry. He participated in the struggle at Holly Springs,



but being injured on the march to Vicksburg, he was afterwards transferred from field service to the veteran reserve corps, and put on detached service, being sent to Rock Island, Ill., where he ran the machinery connected with the government prison until mustered out in July, 1865. He followed farming in Illinois for several years after he returned from the war, and went to Missouri in 1872, where he spent four years. He came to Armada, Nebr., in May, 1879, and took up a homestead. He was among the first to settle in the country south of Armada, and had no neighbors on the south of him nearer than twelve miles. He is independent in politics and is an esteemed and worthy citizen. Mr. Burt has recently been appointed inspector for the K. B. & H. R. R., in which position he is giving full satisfaction.

**C**HARLES M. HOUSTON, editor and proprietor of the *Miller Union*, was born at Sidney, Iowa, June 8, 1869, and is a son of Harry A. and Jane E. (Irwin) Houston. His father is a native of Pennsylvania and his mother of Ohio. His father has been actively engaged in the newspaper business for more than twenty years, during which time he has published papers in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Wisconsin. He is a clear and forcible writer, and at one time was a member of the editorial staff of the *Kansas State Journal*.

Charles M. Houston, the subject of this sketch, learned the printing business in the home office at Sidney, Iowa, and is thoroughly familiar with every department of a well-regulated country news-

paper office. He went to Armada, Buffalo county, Nebr., in April, 1889, and immediately purchased the office of *The Armada Watchman*, which paper he published until July, 1890, when he removed said paper to the new town of Miller, and changed the name to *Miller Union*. The paper was started in May, 1888, by W. A. Hale, who conducted it till December, 1888, when it passed into the hands of The Watchman Publishing Company, with R. A. Reed as editor. After the paper became the property of Mr. Houston, it was materially improved in tone and general make-up. It was republican in politics, and enjoyed a fair advertising patronage. Young Houston, at the age of nineteen only at that time, made a success in the newspaper field where two publishers had failed before him. He is a chip off the old block, and will make a reputation in the newspaper world equal to that of his father.

Early in the spring of 1890, the Union Pacific Railroad Company decided on constructing the Kearney and Black Hills branch, and in speaking of this decision the *Miller Union*, of August 28, states that "The Hancock Land & Improvement Company owned a section of land to the south and west of old Armada, about a mile through which the railroad was graded. Early in the month of June, the said Hancock Company had their land re-surveyed and platted into a town-site and made the people of Armada the following proposition: To all those engaged in business in Armada and owning either business or dwelling-houses, the Hancock Company would give them lots in the 'new town' (which they had named Miller), and would move their buildings from

Armada to Miller free of cost to the owners. And to those business men who were not owners of buildings in the village of Armada who wished to build houses they would give them warrantee deeds to lots when buildings were erected. \* \* \* \* \* The people of Armada, seeing the determination of the Hancock people to build up Miller, and knowing of the vast advantages they would have over Armada, came to the conclusion that it was about time that they were taking steps whereby they might become citizens of Miller. Accordingly, most of the citizens of Armada accepted the proposition of the Miller people; and about July 1st the first building was begun in Miller, which was a residence built by L. A. Hazzard on corner of Stephenson avenue and Fifth street. July 17th, the *Miller Union* made its first appearance and was issued from a barn, which had been hurriedly erected for a shelter from the weather until better quarters could be secured."

At present, besides churches, there are over thirty business firms in the place, including banks, and twenty-one dwelling-houses, and others under contract to be built.

**M**ASON A. YOUNG, one of the prominent farmers of Cedar township, Buffalo county, was born in Zanesville, Ohio, May 15, 1842. His parents, Mason and Luticie (Leggit) Young, were Pennsylvanians by birth. About 1838 they moved to Muskingum county, Ohio, and engaged in farming. The senior Young died in 1872, and his estimable wife followed him to the land

of rest March 24, 1881. Three children were born to them, one of whom, Washington, is dead, leaving Mason A. and James, the only living representatives of the family. When Mason A. Young was seventeen years of age he enlisted, August 2, 1862, in Company C, One Hundred and Twenty-second Ohio volunteers, and served three years. He participated in the engagements at Brandy Station and Locust Grove, and followed Gen. Grant through the terrible battles of the Wilderness. He also fought with might and main at Winchester, Adar Creek and Fisher's Hill, and was mustered out in June, 1865. Soon after the war he met Miss Jennie Butler, whom he married December 3, 1869. She was born in Maryland, February 26, 1846, and is the daughter of John Wesley and Sarah Ann (Fisher) Butler. Her parents emigrated to Ohio, where her father died in 1853. This union has resulted in the birth of six children, namely—John Wilson, born May 19, 1871; Annie, born July 13, 1873; Zettie E., born December 30, 1875; Amy, born March 24, 1877; Charles E., born March 29, 1885; and Frank, born April 26, 1887. Their daughter Zettie was the first white child born in Cedar township. Soon after marriage Mr. Young moved to Cedar county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming for a few years. In April of 1873 he moved to Buffalo county, Nebr., and settled in Cedar township, taking up a homestead on which he has since continued to reside. The country thereabouts was new and exceedingly wild at that time, there being only two or three families in the entire township. He dug the first well and erected the first frame house that far west in the region known as the

Loup country. Fire swept the surrounding prairie that year and consequently there was no grass left to cut for hay. Corn had to be hauled from Grand Island, and the high price of everything in the shape of provisions compelled the few scattering settlers to be as economical as possible. The drought and grasshoppers got away with the small acreage of crop the first few years, and for a time there was little to encourage the ambitious settlers. There were plenty of antelope and deer, and some buffalo were yet to be seen along the Loup. There were Indians in the country in those days, and, while they were generally considered peaceable, Mr. Young made up his mind to always be prepared for any emergency that might arise, and to that end he purchased a sixteen shooter Winchester with five hundred rounds of ammunition. Mr. Young has one of the best improved farms, and, in fact, is one of the most substantial farmers in Cedar township. He is industrious and systematic in everything he does and stands high socially and morally in the community. He has been supervisor of his township, and has held various other local offices. He is a member of the G. A. R. and in politics is a staunch republican.

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**E**LEAZER W. CARPENTER was born in New Hampshire, June 23, 1827. His parents, Willard and Betsey (Wason) Carpenter, were natives of New Hampshire, the former having been born in 1789. They were married in 1812 and had two children—Miranda, born in 1820, and Eleazer W., born in 1827; the former died in 1863. The father

died in New York in 1841, and the mother died in Wisconsin in 1864. Eleazer W. Carpenter was married November 19, 1854, to Miss Emily M., daughter of John and Hulda (George) Plumer. She was born in New Hampshire, June 25, 1830. Her father was born in 1808, and was the son of Nathaniel Plumer, who was born May 29, 1764. The family of E. W. Carpenter consists of seven children, namely—John W., born May 15, 1856; Stephen-born November 16, 1858; Hulda, born March 7, 1861; Cyril, born September 4, 1863; Marion, born March 31, 1866; Miranda, born October 14, 1868, and Lydia, born May 31, 1871. Mr. Carpenter went with his parents from their native state, in 1840, to New York, where, at the age of sixteen, he hired out by the month to work on a farm. His next move was to Wisconsin in 1854, where he was married and settled down to farming. He enlisted in September, 1864, in the First regiment, Minnesota heavy artillery. His regiment was stationed at Chattanooga, Tenn., and performed garrison duty during most of the service. He was mustered out June 17, 1865. In the fall of 1872 he started West to prospect for his future home. He arrived at Gibbon, Buffalo county, Nebr., after a long and wearisome journey made with an ox team. He remained here until the following spring; in the meantime, however, he busied himself looking for a location. He was especially pleased with the land in the Cedar Creek valley, and he finally took up a homestead there. He built a frame house, sod being the material mostly employed at this early date. There was scarcely any settlement in this section at that time, and wild game was

plenty, especially deer and antelope. There were hundreds of wild-cats and beaver along the creek, and hunting and trapping constituted the chief occupation of several of the early settlers. Mr. Carpenter had barely succeeded in getting his family comfortably housed, when one of the severest storms in the history of the country began raging. It was a blizzard of the most pronounced type and lasted for three days, during which snow fell and drifted to a great depth. Hundreds of cattle and other stock, without shelter, perished. In a sod house near Mr. Carpenter's dwelling, lived a lady by the name of Mrs. Davis. During the awful storm a part of the roof of the house fell in, and the poor woman, whose husband was away at the time, became alarmed and started out in the blinding storm in the hope, it is supposed, of reaching the home of Mr. Carpenter. Soon after the storm ceased it was ascertained that Mrs. Davis was missing; a diligent search was at once instituted, which soon resulted in the recovery of her remains, frozen stiff on the prairie. Incidents of this kind are not uncommon among the frontiersmen. Mr. Carpenter was also among the early pioneers who suffered from the grasshopper raid. He describes them as appearing in the horizon like numerous black clouds, and as striking against his house like descending hail.

The first school district in the township was organized in 1874, and the first term of school was taught by Mrs. Carpenter in one of the rooms of her own house. Mr. Carpenter has served as justice of the peace of his township for eleven years and has been elected supervisor, the most im-

portant office in the town. He has also been postmaster of Major's postoffice since February, 1879. He is republican in politics and is one of the recognized party representatives in Buffalo county.

**S**AMUEL HIGGINS, the first actual settler in the township of Cedar, Buffalo county, was born on the banks of the Penobscot river, in Maine, March 30, 1811. His paternal grandfather made his home on the banks of this beautiful stream prior to the revolutionary war, and his father, William Higgins, was the second white male child born along its wooded banks. William Higgins was an active participant in the war of 1812. He accidentally crossed the picket lines and was captured by the English, but afterwards escaped. He died in 1838. Samuel Higgins, the subject of this sketch, left his parental home in Maine in 1837, and determined to see some of the country in which he lived. He visited several of the principal states in the Union, remaining for a short time in each. After a few years profitably spent in traveling, he settled on a farm in Grant county, Wis., where he remained for thirteen years. He was one of the pioneer residents of that territory, and voted for it to become a state.

It was on November 10, 1872, when Mr. Higgins came to Buffalo county, Nebr. He built a small shanty in the town of Gibbon, then the county seat, where he left his family while he prospected for a claim. He finally settled on a homestead in Cedar township and also took a timber claim adjoining. His first house consisted

of a "dug-out," in which he spent the winter of 1873-4, which was very mild and dry. His visitors consisted almost exclusively of Indians, who often called and asked for food or feed for their ponies. He fried pan-cakes once, but the Indians were not satisfied unless he provided coffee to drink. An Indian is a hard customer to please. Occasionally one would call in an exceedingly bad humor and would refuse to extend the hand of friendship. They were always armed to the teeth, and strenuously objected to the whites killing any wild game. On one dark night Indians tried to break in the door of his "dug-out," but were frightened away. Mr. Higgins was always careful not to incur the ill-will of the red men, for he was the only white settler in all that region at that time, and he knew it meant sure death to him if he offended an Indian. In the spring of 1873, settlers began to come in and it was not long before quite a settlement was effected. One of the notable incidents of the early settlement was the terrible snowstorm or blizzard in April of 1873. At that time Mr. Higgins' live chattels consisted of two horses, a cow and a calf. The cow was completely snowed under and smothered, while the calf was dug out of the snow four days afterwards alive, but pretty hungry. It was the worst storm in the history of the country, and there has been no blizzard since anywhere equal to it. Mr. Higgins always possessed unbounded faith from the first in the future development of this country, and although many tried to discourage him, yet he went straight ahead setting out trees and preparing to do his share towards improving the country, notwithstanding the fact

that he had had thirty acres of corn destroyed for three consecutive years by grasshoppers. His grove of timber is now one of the very finest in the country and consists of cottonwood, ash, maple and boxelder.

Mr. Higgins was married twice. His first wife bore him nine children, and his second, two — one of whom is dead. His farm consists of one hundred and sixty acres, and is one of the best improved in the county. He has frequently held various offices of responsibility, but has as often refused to accept office, and was at one time treasurer of the Boonesborough Manufacturing Company, of Boonesborough, Iowa, a position of great trust and responsibility. When the war broke out he offered his services to his country, but was rejected on account of his extreme age. He has been an earnest and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church for sixty years, and has always taken great interest in religious affairs, and especially in the Sunday-school. Mr. Higgins has written some very fine essays, but the object and scope of this work are such as to preclude the insertion here of one of his productions.

**J**OSEPH CLAYTON was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, in 1844. His father, Henry Clayton, was also a native of Ohio, and was born in 1808. He moved to Indiana in 1852, and engaged in farming, but when the war broke out was one of the first to enlist. He served three years and lost a foot at the battle of Peach Tree creek. He also bore an honorable record as a soldier in

the Mexican war. He married Margaret Young, by whom he had four children — Henry, Martha, Mary and Joseph. After the death of his mother in 1850, Joseph Clayton, then a lad of six years, lived with Thomas Alexander for eight years. When the war began he was one among the first to offer his services, and although but a mere boy, enlisted August 17, 1861, in the First Ohio cavalry, and performed four long years of honorable service. His first experience in a battle was had at West Liberty, Ky. He also participated in the siege of Corinth. His company for some time served as special escort to Gen. Mitchell while at Cincinnati. He was shot in the lung at the terrible battle of Russellville, Ala., on the 3d of July, 1862, and for several months afterwards was closely confined in a hospital. He was mustered out of the service January 20, 1865. After the war he spent a few years at farming in Ohio, from which state he went to Iowa, where he remained two years. The spring of 1873 found him on a homestead in Cedar township, Buffalo county, Nebr. He was one of the first actual settlers in the township, and there was but one house on the road between his homestead and Kearney, the county seat. He built a good, comfortable sod house, and proved upon his claim in 1875. The Pawnee Indians frequently passed through the settlement during the first year or so of his residence there, but he never experienced any difficulty with them. He had more fault to find with the grasshoppers in 1874 than with the occasional presence of a few Indians. The former took, without asking, everything he had that was green, while the latter usually begged hard for what little

they got. Joseph Clayton was married May 8, 1879, to Miss Rosey Ewer. She is the daughter of Rural and Ellen (Wamsley) Ewer, and was born in Grant county, Wis., March 9, 1859. Her father was a Pennsylvanian by birth, but emigrated to Wisconsin when a small boy. He was a soldier in the late war, and died in the service at Helena, Ark. Her mother was born in England, but when a mere child came to America with her parents. Three bright children bless the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton — Raymond E., born July 9, 1882; and Mary May, born May 5, 1887; and Earnest, born March 4, 1890. Mr. Clayton owns a splendid farm in the Cedar Creek valley, and has it well improved. He has always had great faith in the future development of this country, and even when the grasshoppers robbed him of his crop he did not become discouraged. He always believed exactly the opposite from the man who said, "It is simply a fight between the grasshoppers and drought on the one hand and the plow on the other, and he believed the former would win." He has held various local offices, and is commander of Cedar Mountain Post, No. 220, Department of Nebraska, G. A. R.

CHARLES R. WATERS first saw the light of day at Springville, Vernon county, Wis., August 4, 1860. His parents, Henry and Arminda (Harkness) Waters, were natives of Illinois, the former having been born in Knox county in 1823. The senior Waters moved to Wisconsin in 1848, where his wife died in 1875. He came to Nebraska in 1876.

but is now enjoying the pleasures afforded by a residence in California. He was the father of ten children, seven boys and three girls. He served as supervisor of Cedar township, Buffalo county, Nebr., two years. He also served three years in the war. Young Waters accompanied his father to Nebraska in the spring of 1876, and began life for himself about that time. He worked out by the month for a year or so, then engaged in farming for himself. The country in that portion of Cedar township, Buffalo county, Nebr., was very sparsely settled, there being only a few houses in sight. He pre-empted a claim in 1880 and proved up on it soon after. He now has one hundred and sixty acres well improved, and is a prosperous young farmer.

**W**ILLIAM H. KILLGORE came from Bradford county, Pa., to Buffalo county, Nebr., in February, 1872, locating in section 12, township 9, range 15, remaining here about four years. In 1876, going into the stock-raising business, he went to what is now Custer county, helping to organize that county and serving as commissioner several terms. In 1880 he pre-empted a quarter-section, and in 1883 he came to Kearney City, feeding cattle for one year. He then went to the territories of Utah, Idaho and Montana. He remained in Montana a short time only, although he had intended to make it his home, and left for Iowa and Minnesota; not liking these states, he again returned to Kearney, and bought some land on Drover Island, directly opposite old Fort Kear-

ney, in Platte river. He there owns five quarter-sections of the finest hay and grazing lands in the state, and on Farm Island four quarter-sections, one hundred and fifty acres of which are under cultivation, producing corn and oats. He also raises a quantity of stock. When he came West, he had \$3,000; he now owns fifteen hundred acres of land and a number of town lots, together with improvements, which he rents out at Kearney. He has upwards of two hundred head of cattle, seventy horses and a large number of hogs. Mr. Killgore was born in Bradford county, Pa., in August, 1839, on a farm. His father, John Killgore, a native of New Jersey, went to Pennsylvania, where he engaged in the tailoring business; but, leaving this, he engaged in farming. He is still residing in Pennsylvania at the ripe age of eighty-one years. His wife, Lydia W. Haynes, was a native of New York. To this union were born eleven children, William being the fourth. At the age of thirteen he ran away from home, going to a lumber camp; remaining at this a short time, he went into the butchering business, remaining in this several years; then, returning home, he worked at carpentering. The war breaking out in 1861, he enlisted in April with Battery E, First Pennsylvania light artillery, serving the first two years as quartermaster's sergeant. He was then promoted to a second, and shortly after to a first, lieutenant, serving in all four years and three months. His battery was the first to go into Richmond. He sustained a rupture during one of the numerous battles in which he was engaged, for which he is now drawing a pension. After being mustered out at Philadelphia,

he returned home and started a saw-mill. In 1867 he married Miss Sophie Dilts, a daughter of Philip Dilts, of New Jersey. Her father died in 1876; her mother is still living in Pennsylvania. This union has not been blessed by any children. In politics Mr. Killgore is an ardent republican, and is also a member of the Loyal Legion of the United States. As a citizen he is highly respected.

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**A**LLEXANDER ST. PETERS was born in Paris, France, December 15, 1807, and is the son of Lewis and Mary Ann St. Peters. Alexander St. Peters came to Canada with his parents in 1815. They settled at Three Rivers, where the father died, in October, 1839. Young St. Peters began farming for himself at the age of eighteen. He immigrated to the United States before becoming of age and settled in Vermont. In 1835, he moved to Massachusetts, where he remained about eighteen months, and in 1837 moved to Iowa, settling in Benton county. He purchased a farm there and followed his chosen occupation for several years. In April, 1874, he moved to Nebraska and took up a claim in Cedar township, Buffalo county. The country was new then and settlers were few and far between. Wild game, especially elk, antelope and deer, was quite plenty, and it was not an unusual thing to see a few Indians passing back and forth to their hunting grounds.

Mr. St. Peters built a sod house, barn and other necessary buildings, and has since devoted himself diligently to improving his farm, which is, by the way, one

of the best in the township. He suffered severely the first year or so from the grasshoppers, and at a time, too, when the destruction of an entire crop meant a great deal to him. He witnessed a great deal of terrible suffering among the settlers in those days, many of whom came near starving to death. They were indeed trying times, and the courage of men was put to the severest test. Alexander St. Peters married Mary Ann Hatcot, a native of Canada and of English descent. She bore him eleven children, as follows—Mary Jane (deceased), Franklin (deceased), Silvia, John J., Alba E., Annie, Laura, Charles, Stephen, William E., and Emma B. Both Mr. St. Peters and his estimable wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. St. Peters enlisted in August, 1862, in the Fortieth Iowa infantry, and served seventeen months. He was taken sick during his service, and after being confined in a hospital for some time was discharged. He is a modest, unassuming man and always tries to do what is right by his fellow-man.

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**W**H. ANDERSON, one of the representative farmers of Buffalo county, Nebraska, was born in New York City, October 10, 1852. His father, James Anderson, also a native of New York City, was born in 1812, and there he was raised, following the carpenter trade for many years. He moved to Lake county, Indiana, however, and remained there a short time; he then returned to New York; then moved again to Indiana, and in October, 1862, came to



Nebraska, settling on Wood river, near what is now known as Wood River Station, remaining three years. He then went East, living at Woodford county, Illinois. Returning to Nebraska in March, 1879, he settled in Center township four miles east of Kearney. Subsequently growing old and infirm, his son, William H., brought him to his own residence, where he died August 8, 1886, at the age of seventy-four years—a prominent member of the Evangelical church. His wife, Isabella, was a daughter of William Hodge, a native of Scotland, a blind musician, who came to this country, settling on Long Island, N. Y. There he died in 1884 at the age of ninety-nine. Mrs. Isabella Anderson is still living. This marriage was blessed with seven children, viz.—Isabella (deceased), Robert (deceased), James, Mary Ann, David, Alexander and William H. James Anderson, Junior, served in the late war in the union ranks and now lives at Newton, Kansas. Sarah is the wife of A. B. Cherry; Mary is the wife of V. B. Smith, of David City, Nebr. David was, for several terms, sheriff of Buffalo county, Nebr. and died but a few years ago; Alexander was killed by Indians at Wood River Station, February 3, 1862, when he was fourteen years of age.

William H. Anderson first saw Nebraska in 1862, his parents having moved here when he was but ten years of age. He was raised mainly in Illinois, to which state he was taken by his father. He again came to Nebraska in March, 1879, and has lived in Buffalo county ever since. He owns two hundred and sixty-five acres of land lying on the Platte river, in Center township, six miles southeast of Kearney, most of which is in grass. In 1873 he married

Mary A., daughter of Peter Berg, of El Paso, Illinois. She was born in Pennsylvania, near Johnstown, in Cambria county. To this union have been born three children—Walter, Guy and Estella May. Mr. Anderson is a member of the Evangelical church, a staunch republican, and has served as township treasurer. He has also served on the school board. His integrity and faithfulness while in those positions have fully won him the regard and esteem of his fellow-citizens.

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**S** J. WALDRON, one of the representative farmers of Buffalo county, Nebr., was born and raised in Macomb county, Mich. His father, Evert J. Waldron, was born and reared in Saratoga county, N. Y. In 1834 he moved to Macomb county, Mich., where he married Catherine, daughter of Jacob Straup, who had moved to Macomb county the same year with his family from Genesee Falls, N. Y., where this lady was born and reared. After his marriage, Evert Waldron moved to Michigan, settling in Macomb county and actively engaging in farming. There the worthy couple still reside, he in his seventy-ninth year. Their union has been blessed with twelve children.

Mr. S. J. Waldron came from Macomb county, Mich., to this state, settling in Buffalo county, in September, 1872, and entering into a mercantile life at Kearney, which he followed eight years. He then moved on his farm, consisting of the north half of section 8, township 8, range 15, 100 acres of which he has under thorough cultivation; the remainder consists of fine hay land. The

farm is situated not two miles from Kearney, and on account of its situation it is one of the finest in the county. Mr. Waldron has given it all his attention since 1880, and as a natural result he has been rewarded by fine crops. His homestead is the northwest quarter of section 8, and has undergone the most perfect improvements. He has on his farm the first frame building that was erected in the City of Kearney. It is a small box house, now used for a granary. Mr. Waldron has experienced all the vicissitudes of farm life in Nebraska, having undauntedly gone through grasshopper visitations and dry seasons. He enjoys single blessedness, and the respect of his neighbors, who honor him as a genial and upright citizen.

**M**RS. SARAH L. LAYTON came to Nebraska in 1872, locating at Loup City. She remained there one year, and then took up her residence where she now resides, consisting of the northeast quarter of section 35, township 9, range 15, it being then in the military reservation. Here she lived as a squatter two years before she could file papers for her claim, and seven years before proving it, as the papers were filed in the name of her husband, he having died before the claim could be proven. She is, in fact, one of the pioneers of the county, there being but a few houses in Kearney when she came. Time brings its changes, and she has lived to see the then struggling village of Kearney grow to be a prosperous city—one that is gradually assuming a metropolitan air. With her own hands and very little help, she

has so improved her farm that it is now producing excellent crops, and is estimated as one of the best in the county, it having always yielded well, excepting only the grasshopper year of 1874. Mrs. Layton is the daughter of Solomon Kinner, a native of New York, who is at present residing in Pennsylvania at the advanced age of ninety-three, being perfectly deaf and blind. Mrs. Layton's mother was born in 1813, and is still living at the age of seventy-seven. Mr. and Mrs. Kinner were devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and were the parents of nine children.

Mrs. Layton, the sixth child, was born July, 1845, in Pennsylvania, and passed her childhood there. In 1865 she married Jacob Layton, and the couple went to New Jersey, where they remained four years; thence they went to Virginia. Not liking the climate, they removed to Nebraska, where her husband died. She has three sons, viz.—Carlos S., Arthur P. and Walter A. Mrs. Layton belongs to the Evangelical church. To her as well as to many others is due the gratitude of the noble sons of Nebraska for the cheering of the weary days when they toiled to make the great country which at the present is before the citizens of this state as an example of what industry can accomplish.

**W**ILBERT S. HORMEL. With the many representative and successful farmers of Buffalo county, Nebr., is Wilbert S. Hormel, born in Warren county, Ohio, in March, 1857. His father, Joel Hormel, a native of Ohio and a carpenter by trade, married Miss





F. G. HAMER.

Jane Hoffman, also a native of Ohio. To this union were born two sons — Wilbert S. and Benjamin. Wilbert passed his early days in Warren county, receiving an education at the common school. In September, 1874, with his father, he came to Nebraska, settling in Buffalo county on the southeast quarter of section 10, township 9, range 15. Here he improved the land and lived fifteen years. In 1879 he bought his father out, and became the sole owner of the farm, which he afterwards so successfully managed until the fall of 1888, when he sold this property and bought his present farm. This tract of eighty acres is situated in the south half of the southeast quarter of section 15, township 9, range 15, consisting of the finest improved land in the county. He has built a commodious house, fine barn, granaries and outhouses, also a large wind-mill for grinding grain. He raises mixed crops, and is giving considerable attention to the dairy business.

At the age of twenty-seven, Mr. Hormel married Miss Jennie Willhelmy, a daughter of Theodore Willhelmy, a native of Wisconsin, who came to Nebraska and located on a farm in the neighborhood. Of this union was born three children, viz. — Bertha, Francis and Earl S. Politically Mr. Hormel is an ardent democrat and his fellow-citizens have honored him by electing him four consecutive terms as school director. He is also a member of the Farmers' Alliance. The mother of the subject of this sketch died in 1859, and Joel Hormel took for his second wife, Miss Anna, daughter of James Ward, of Ohio, and to this union were born seven children, all of whom are residents of Nebraska. This lady died in 1879. Joel

Hormel served in the late war about three months, and is now making his home in Nebraska. W. S. Hormel, although only thirty-three years of age, has demonstrated his ability to conduct a farm on strictly business principles. He exhibits good taste in all things, and his wisdom is shown in his selection of the best agricultural implements and the convenient arrangement of his barns and other outbuildings, and the cheerful and neat appearance of his comfortable dwelling.

**F**RANCIS G. HAMER was born in a log cabin, on a farm near Fostoria, Seneca county, Ohio, February 20, 1843. The cabin was built of unhewn logs and floored with puncheons, and one of the first important events which he remembers was the building of an addition to this cabin.

At the age of five years his father carried him to school and he began the pursuit of knowledge seated on a slab, supported by four legs made from a sapling and with no back. His little feet did not reach the floor, and he remembers his position yet as one of discomfort. Before he was ten years old, his mother died and his father moved to another farm near Delphi, Carroll county, Ind. The house occupied was a slight improvement on the first cabin. It was built of hewn logs, but the floor was still made of puncheons, and a chimney, built of mud and sticks, permitted the smoke to rise from the fireplace, where huge back-logs roasted in the winter. The school-house was still a cabin, and the seats were rough boards

without backs, but it contained an innovation, being warmed by a wood stove. In these good old days nearly everybody wore homespun, and he well remembers his first store coat. In winter the mental instruction was procured at revival meetings, spelling schools and debating societies. In summer, the corn-field and harvest fields furnished occupation, and instruction was obtained at the quarterly and camp-meetings. It was a Methodist neighborhood, and the arrival of the presiding elder was looked forward to with great interest. He could preach a sermon, and from miles about the farmers came in wagons, driving along corduroy roads and were delighted to listen to the man who could instruct and entertain. The spelling school and debating society were everyday affairs, and in them young Hamer learned to spell, and at twelve years of age spelled down the whole school, and went home with more glory than he has ever had since, or hopes to obtain. In speaking he had more trouble; he began to declaim at nine and tried to debate at fifteen, and at eighteen years of age, he was participating as best he could with those who had more or less experience on the stump—men who had been members of the legislature, or practicing lawyers. Before he was sixteen, he attended school at the county seat, returning to the district school at home during the winter.

Before he was eighteen he began life as a Hoosier school master, and the succeeding summer, having borrowed a copy of Blackstone from a lawyer at the county seat, he began to prosecute his legal studies, regretting that he could not be admitted to practice for three long years, or until he became twenty-one. For three

successive winters, including his eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth birth-days, he taught school, read law, and attended the debating societies, and during the corresponding summers he farmed and raised corn and wheat and pigs, and tried to accumulate money to pay the expenses of attending a law school. In the spring succeeding his twentieth birth-day, he went to Indianapolis and became a student in the law office of Perrin & Manlove, and shortly after entered the law school, then under the management of the Hon. Samuel E. Perkins, who was for many years one the supreme judges of Indiana, and a lawyer with a national reputation. He was admitted to practice on his twenty-first birth-day, or as soon as was honestly practicable. He then returned home and began farming and stock-raising, for the purpose of accumulating money to support himself during the first years of his practice as a lawyer. After watching the struggles of young lawyers in a city he doubted his own ability to make a living at the commencement of his proposed professional career. He still attended the debating society, read law and literature, and occasionally contributed to neighboring newspapers. At twenty-six, he formed a partnership with P. A. Brown, a lawyer of Indianapolis, and together they were, for a short time, engaged in the real estate business in Chicago. December 6, 1869, at Eddyville, Iowa, he was married to Miss R. A. McCord, of Delphi, Ind. Together the young partners came to Lincoln, Nebr., and began house-keeping in the humblest sort of way. One small room was rented for \$10 a month, and in this for the time being they lived. Desk room was obtained in a real estate office for \$8

per month, and here the subject of our sketch, at the age of twenty-seven, earned his first money as a lawyer. It was only \$2.50, but it gave promise of the means of a living. In five months he began to earn enough to support himself and wife. He held his office in Lincoln a little more than two years, but during five months of this time he lived in the country, six miles from the town. During the first nine weeks of his residence in the country he walked to and from his office, making a daily walk of twelve miles. Half-past 7 o'clock usually found him in his office, fresh from the invigorating labor of his six-mile tramp. When his day's labor was at an end, he returned. Some times the trial of a case ran into the night, and on such occasions he did not reach his home until midnight, or later. On one such occasion, the lawsuit ended about 11 o'clock; the ground was covered with slush and mud, which prevented the usual rapid walk, and it was 3 o'clock in the morning when the tired young lawyer arrived at his humble domicile. Shortly after this, he was able to buy a pony and pay cash for it, and the long walks were discontinued.

During his residence in Indianapolis he became acquainted with Gen. A. H. Connor, at that time, one of the leading citizens of the Hoosier state. He knew him to be a strong lawyer, and an eloquent advocate, and when General Connor found a home in Lincoln, he and the subject of this sketch formed a partnership which lasted through twelve long years, and until Mr. Hamer's appointment as district judge. In May, 1872, Mr. Hamer removed from Lincoln to the present site of Kearney. At that time there was no

town, only a prospect for one, and Mr. Hamer's first efforts were made in the direction of discovering a claim for himself and partner. For himself he found a pre-emption between the present site of the State Industrial School and the city. For General Connor, he found another claim lying a short distance north of the city. The result of this day's discovery was a removal of the firm and its effects from Lincoln to Kearney, Mr. Hamer coming a short time in advance of his partner. A small building containing two or three hundred dollars' worth of goods and the postoffice, was at that time, the only business house in Kearney, the proprietor being Mr. F. W. Dart. Mr. Hamer needed an office, and Mr. Dart kindly informed him that there was plenty of room in his store. The building was only 14x20, but he thought there was plenty of room for a store, postoffice and law office. A little corner was fenced off by a rough plank, which could be used as a table, and behind this was placed an empty nail-keg, covered with a sheep-skin, and on this seat one of the future judges of Nebraska installed himself, and spreading the statutes out before him, was ready for business with the first law office in Kearney.

Immediately upon his arrival at Kearney, he and Mrs. Hamer began to reside upon the pre-emption, where sod was broken and Mr. Hamer personally planted his first crop of sod corn. The residence was an unpainted shanty, 12x16, ceiled with tar paper tacked upon the studding, and in this they lived two winters and two summers. The winters, however, are remembered more vividly than the summers.

In the fall of 1880, Mr. Hamer was nominated as the republican candidate

for representative in the state legislature. Mr. Hamer was supposed to favor Judge Elmer S. Dundy, who, it was known, would be a candidate before the legislature for United States senator, but other republicans favored the election of Senator Paddock to that position. Mr. Hamer was defeated by the joint vote of democrats and Paddock republicans. Mr. Simon C. Ayer, independent republican, became the successful candidate. After the senatorial contest which followed, Paddock and Dundy were both defeated by C. H. VanWyck. As is well known, Senator Paddock since defeated VanWyck and is one of the United States senators from Nebraska. Two years later, Mr. Hamer actively supported his law partner Gen. Connor, who was brought out as a candidate against Mr. Luman R. Moore. Mr. Moore was an excellent and public-spirited man, but he had been nominated as a candidate for state senator by the same faction of republicans that had defeated Mr. Hamer. Gen. Connor made a vigorous canvass on his own account, thoroughly discussing the arbitrary exercise of corporate power before the people and the dangers which menaced their welfare, and he was elected over his competitor by a large majority. A year later, Mr. Hamer was the favorite candidate in the republican state convention of the people of the central and western part of the state for the office of justice of the supreme court. He was beaten by a majority of thirty-five, by M. B. Reese, of Wahoo. On the death of Judge Sam'l L. Savage, Mr. Hamer was appointed in December, 1883, judge of the Tenth judicial district, by Gov. Dawes, and he immediately entered upon the discharge

of his duties. He was also elected, in the fall of 1884, running on the republican ticket against Judge Barnd, the democratic nominee. His majority was 1,700, and in the fall of 1887, he was re-elected. This time his competitor was the Hon. Wm. L. Greene, democratic and labor candidate, and one of the best stump orators in the state. Mr. Hamer's majority at this election was a little short of 5,000 votes.

The task of building up a new town is one of great labor. Upon those who have public spirit and a patriotic love of home, this task always falls. No enterprise for the benefit of his town, county and state has yet been presented that has not received Mr. Hamer's cordial and energetic support. He has given months of his time to enterprises in which he had no personal interest beyond that of the common good of his section, and has repeatedly pledged his future earnings to subscription lists for the benefit of his city. His first efforts of a public nature in Buffalo county were directed toward the defeat of a bill introduced into the state legislature for the purpose of dividing the county. This bill, if it had become a law, would have placed Kearney on the western boundary of Buffalo county, and would have prevented it from becoming a county seat. His next efforts were directed towards the establishment of a bridge across the Platte river at Kearney. He also participated in the matter of locating the State Industrial School, he was a subscriber to the fund which procured the building of the Midway hotel, and was an earnest advocate of the canal and water power. He has helped to erect every church in the city and on all occasions has given time and money for the



public good of his city and section. As a lawyer, Mr. Hamer is careful, pains-taking, laborious and much in earnest. He aspires to a thorough knowledge of the law and facts pertaining to his case rather than to a display of rhetoric. As a judge, he is a persistent and unremitting worker. The Tenth judicial district is the largest in the state, and contains fifteen counties, in thirteen of which courts are held. Until the appointment of Judge Church, of North Platte, about one year ago, Judge Hamer heard all the cases in all this immense territory—a territory about three hundred miles long and about one hundred miles wide. He annually disposes of about twenty-five hundred cases.

Judge Hamer is of English stock on his father's side. His great-grandfather, John Hamer, was born in the state of New York a century and a quarter ago, and his grandfather, William Hamer, was born in the same state and moved to Pennsylvania, where his eldest daughter, Mary, was born, and shortly thereafter he moved to Stark county, Ohio, where his other children were born, including Francis Hamer, the father of the subject of this sketch. Francis Hamer married Mary Mahan, and removed from Stark county to Seneca county, Ohio, about the year 1840, and three years later his son, Francis G. was born. Francis G. has no brothers or sisters living. A brother and sister died in infancy, and Thomas L., another brother, died in the Union army, at the age of sixteen, in 1864. Francis Hamer, the Judge's father, David Hamer, his uncle, Oliver Hamer, his half brother, and Mrs. Martha Shallenbarger and Mrs. Amanda Allen, half sisters, reside near Delphi, Carroll county, Indiana. The

Judge's father is a farmer, as were his grandfather and great-grandfather, and the Judge himself is also quite a farmer. He owns several valuable farms well stocked with fine cattle, horses and hogs, and has had crops growing every year but one since he was eighteen. While he has worked hard as a lawyer and as judge, he has not forgotten the farm nor left it.

JOHN W. KING, M. D., a young, well-read physician of excellent natural ability of Armada, Buffalo county, Nebr., was born near Indianapolis, Ind., February 10, 1859, and is the son of John G. and Martha (Park) King. The latter was born in Virginia, September 20, 1831, and is still living. John G. King was born in Indiana, February 28, 1831, and was a farmer. He enlisted in Company G, Twenty-sixth Indiana infantry, but only served about thirteen months, when he died in a hospital at Springfield, Mo., August, 1862. He was married to Miss Martha Park, September 21, 1854, by whom he had three children—Bertha (deceased), John W., and Fannie K. Dr. King was reared on a farm near Indianapolis, and provided for his widowed mother after his father's death. He attended the normal school at Valparaiso, Ind., for two years, after which he spent two years on the old homestead. He began to read medicine with Dr. J. G. Gressler of Bluff Creek, Ind., and afterwards attended a course of lectures at Bennett's Medical College, Chicago. He then practiced about eighteen months at Waverly, Ind., and in Decem-

ber, 1882, entered the Eclectic Medical Institute at Cincinnati, Ohio, from which he graduated in June, 1883, and then located at Waverly, Ind., where he practiced with excellent success for two years. He came to Armada, Nebr., in June, 1888, where he has since continued the practice of his profession. Dr. King was married to Miss Mary Cheatham, September 22, 1880. She was born June 24, 1856, and was the daughter of William Cheatham, who was a Virginian by birth. She died April 19, 1889, leaving three children—Martha B., Ossie L., and John W. Dr. King is a member of the Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen, and Knights of Pythias.

**J**OHAN D. LOEWENSTEIN was born in Birmingham, a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pa., January 23, 1854. His father, Daniel Loewenstein, was born in Ahlen, Hesse Cassel, Germany, where he spent his early days learning the cabinet, making trade, and following this in the old country. In 1852 he came to America and, abandoning his trade, engaged in wagon-making. He is still living. Elizabeth, mother of John D., was also born in Ahlen, Hesse Cassel, Germany. To these parents were born six children, viz.—John D., Henry, Amelia (deceased), Frederick, Elizabeth and Mary. In 1855 Mr. Loewenstein, with his parents, moved West, settling in Iowa City, where he passed his youth. March 28, 1873, he went to Denver, Colo., and August 2, 1875, to Georgetown, Colo. In September, 1876, he took an overland trip from Georgetown to Deadwood, Dak., and

acquired a pretty fair idea of frontier life, and in January, 1877, returned to Iowa City. December 11, 1878, he married Mary Schmidt, daughter of John Schmidt, a native of Iowa. To this marriage have been born six children, viz.—Daniel J., William H., Frank J., Alva A., Christina and Ida May. Mr. Loewenstein settled in Buffalo county, Nebr., April 15, 1878, on the northwest quarter of section 17, township 9, range 15. This land is now under the highest state of cultivation, producing large quantities of grain. He has built a comfortable dwelling house, a large commodious barn and many other outbuildings. In politics he is an ardent democrat; as a farmer, he is progressive, belonging to that prudent, thrifty class of German Americans, who make the best of citizens. His harvest implements are never left standing in the field where last used, but carefully stored under shelter nightly, setting an example that might be profitably followed by many a farmer.

**J**OSEPH A. WATERS is one of the most successful farmers in Buffalo county, Nebr., as his finely improved farm in Center township indicates. He was born April 1, 1847, in Coshocton county, Ohio, and is of Scotch-Irish descent; his father, Allen Waters, a farmer by occupation, having been born in Scotland, and his mother, Frances (Foster) Waters, in Ireland. There were seven children in the paternal family, Joseph being the fourth. Joseph lived at home in Ohio until about twenty-one years of age, during which time he attended the neighboring school and helped cultivate the farm. In 1867 he

emigrated west and located in Scotland county, Mo., where for six years he engaged in farming and worked at the carpenter trade, which trade he still follows at odd intervals. Not being satisfied with his general surroundings in Missouri, he decided to emigrate still further west and take up government land; accordingly, in the spring of 1873, he came to Buffalo county, Nebr., and filed his claim, April 12, under the homestead law, on the quarter section in Center township on which he still resides. The country was very new at that time and settlers were few and far between. There were plenty of deer, elk and antelope and a few remaining Pawnee Indians. The first summer was put in principally at work at the carpenter trade. The following year (1874) he put out corn, oats and wheat, but harvested only a few bushels of wheat, the corn and oats having been totally destroyed by the grasshoppers. The following year he raised a fair crop, but in 1876 again lost nearly everything by the grasshoppers, but he has had good average crops ever since. In 1877, he set out trees on his farm, which are now large and thrifty and present an imposing appearance in the front of his spacious frame residence. He now has two apple orchards, which have borne fruit for five years—a very rare thing in this country—and has had extraordinary success in fruit growing.

Mr. Waters was married November 2, 1871, to Lyia A. Turner, by whom he has one child, Eva, who was born September 9, 1880, but lived to be only three weeks old. Mr. and Mrs. Waters are both members of the Methodist church. In politics, Mr. Waters is a republican.

**J**OHAN E. LUND (deceased) was a native of Norway, born January 22, 1832, and came to this country in early life, locating at Minneapolis, Minn., where he resided for a number of years, and in 1868 located at Omaha, Nebr., and for four years was engaged as a mechanic in the car-shops at that place. He was married in April, 1869, to Annie M. Erickson, who is a native of Canada and was born October 6, 1852. Mr. and Mrs. Lund lived at Omaha until 1874, when, on account of close confinement in the shops, his health failed him and they decided to come farther west and take up government land and farm, in hopes of improving his health. They accordingly located in Buffalo county, Nebr., and filed a claim under the homestead law on a quarter-section in Center township, four miles east of Kearney. The country was comparatively new and very sparsely settled. Wild game was plentiful and along the Platte river there were a good many Indians, who frequently called at their house to beg. For the first two years, having no team and being too poor to purchase one, he raised but little produce, and that little was destroyed by grasshoppers. Mr. Lund therefore worked at his trade in town and earned money to keep family, but after the first two years crops were good and he had abundant success. Mr. Lund died May 19, 1885, and since that date Mrs. Lund has conducted the farm and has been very successful in her management of its affairs.

The union of Mr. and Mrs. Lund resulted in the birth of four children, as follows—Alvin, born February 25, 1870; Earnest, born August 25, 1876; Emma, born July 1, 1879; and Albert, born Sep-

tember 6, 1881. Mrs. Lund is a member of the Evangelical church, and the manner in which she is rearing her family is such as to elicit favorable comment among her neighbors.

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**A**NTHONY SHOVEL, one of the old and respected citizens of Center township, was born September 21, 1830, in Montreal, Canada. He is a son of Mitchel and Catherine (Palmer) Shovel, both of whom were born in Canada, January 8, 1800, and were of French descent. His paternal grandfather, Mitchel Shovel, was a native of France, but he died in Canada in 1840. His maternal grandfather was Anthony Palmer, and was a native of France also. He died in Canada in 1848. Anthony Shovel's parents died when he was quite young, and he was left to look out for himself at ten years of age. He worked on a farm until he was fourteen, and then served an apprenticeship at the blacksmithing. He crossed over to the United States in 1849, and visited many of the large cities in this country, going as far south as New Orleans, and worked at his trade a quarter of a century. He came from Ohio to Nebraska in September, 1871, took up a homestead in Center township, Buffalo county, immediately, and determined to make this his home. The country was very wild, but he had great confidence in its future, and believed he would live to see the time when it would be regarded with great promise. He had many interesting experiences with the Indians, and received many calls from them at his house. September 13, 1855,

he married Susan Culpeper, a daughter of William and Susan (Lockhart) Culpeper, and born July 2, 1834. Her father was born in Culpeper county, Va., and died in 1835. Her mother was born in the same county and died in 1834. They have no children of their own, but adopted James A. McMannis, when eight years of age. He has since gone by the name of James Shovel. They also adopted Maud May Reed, when five months old. She was born May 6, 1881, and is now a bright little girl.

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**W**ILLIAM D. GODBEY is the son of John and Ellen (Void) Godbey, and was born at Terre Haute, Ind., May 8, 1830. His father was a native of Virginia and was born in the year 1786. He farmed quite extensively in Virginia until the year 1828, when he emigrated to Indiana, locating near Terre Haute. Here he continued his occupation of farming until the year 1840, when he removed to what was then considered the Western frontier, locating in Des Moines county, Iowa. After a residence there of three years, during which time he farmed, he moved to Mahaska county, Iowa, where he spent the remainder of his life. W. D. Godbey's mother was a native of Indiana and was born in the year 1818. There were eight children in the family, four boys and four girls.

William D., the subject of this sketch, was married September 26, 1853, to Ingala Ryan, daughter of Jesse B. and Mahala Ryan, both natives of Barbour county, W. Va.; the former was born May 12, 1814, and the latter March 1, 1813. Mr.

and Mrs. Ryan were married October 3, 1833, and lived on a farm in Barbour county until 1846, when they moved to Union county, Ohio, where they resided until 1851, when they moved to Delaware county, Ind., and two years later to Mahaska county, Iowa. There were six children in the family—three boys and three girls.

Immediately after marriage, Mr. and Mrs. William D. Godbey settled on a farm in Mahaska county, and continued their residence there for twenty-five years. They emigrated west in 1878, locating in Cass county, Nebr., where they resided until March, 1884, when they removed to Buffalo county. Their union has been blessed with fourteen children, as follows—Emery, born August 26, 1854; Harriet A. born December 12, 1855; John C., born April 13, 1857; Jesse B., born January 19, 1859; Emily A., born November 12, 1861; Mahala E., born September 20, 1863; Ulyssus S., born November 29, 1865; Charlie, born April 30, 1867; Olive, born March 30, 1869; Cyrus H., born December 11, 1870; Nora, born April 1, 1872; William, born January 30, 1875; Martha E., born November 12, 1876; and Della J., born June 19, 1880. Mr. Godbey is independent in politics.

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**H**ENRY W. MORSE was born in Richmond, Vermont, February 6, 1845, and is the son of Adam and Mary (Hunter) Morse, natives of Vermont. His father was engaged in mercantile and farming business until he moved to Stark county, Ill., in 1863, where he followed farming for several

years. In 1880 he moved to Nebraska, where he has since been engaged in agricultural pursuits. His faithful wife, however, died in 1877. Both were active members of the Baptist church. H. W. Morse, when a lad of sixteen, found employment in a woolen factory in Winooski, Vermont, where he worked until soon after the war broke out. In July, 1862, at the age of seventeen, he enlisted in the One Hundred and Forty-second regiment, New York volunteers, and served with credit to his country for three years. He participated in the engagements at Cold Harbor, Fort Darling, Petersburg and Chapin's farm, under the command of the invincible Ben. Butler. He also followed the brilliant Gen. Terry through North Carolina and Smithville, where he was discharged June 15, 1865. He returned to New York, but soon departed for the prairies of Illinois. In 1866 he entered the Cherokee Nation with a large number of cattle. The year 1867 found him back in Illinois again, where he spent two years. In 1870 he went to Dallas county, Iowa, and from there to Stewart, where he conducted a meat market for some time. In 1872 he landed in Gibbon, Buffalo county, Nebr., where he resided four years, after which he spent two years in Wyoming Territory, in charge of a gang of railroad men. When he first came to Buffalo county he took a timber claim, which he proved up several years afterwards, receiving patent No. 2, signed by President Chester A. Arthur.

Henry W. Morse was married on Christmas day, 1872, to Miss Ida, daughter of Lewis and Mary (Diamond) Throop. She was born in Illinois, May 21, 1855. Her father was a New Yorker by birth and

her mother was born in England. Four children were born of this union—Willie A., born August 28, 1875; Arthur, born November 28, 1878; Lillian, born November 28, 1880; and May Jane, born March 21, 1883. Mr. Morse is one of the leading farmers and stock-raisers of Center township, Buffalo county, making a speciality of hogs and cattle. He is a republican in politics and has held various local offices. He is, besides, a member of the Masonic order, Odd Fellows' society, G. A. R. and A. O. U. W.

**J**OSEPHUS MOORE was born in Ohio, in 1851. His early boyhood was spent in a very similar way to that of other boys of that time. His father was Hamilton Moore, a native of Philadelphia, Pa., but who moved to Columbiana county, Ohio, thence to Clay county, Ind., and from there migrated to Dawson county, Nebr., in 1873; he then moved to Elm Creek township, Buffalo county, and here remained until 1885, when he returned to Indiana. He died October 15, the following year. Politically, he was a republican. Mrs. (Brisco) Moore, the subject's mother, was a native of Virginia, born in 1820. She moved with her parents to Ohio and was married there in 1836. Mr. and Mrs. Moore were both honored members of the Christian church, and to them were born twelve children, viz.—Mary E. (Mrs. Mills), Sylvanus, Frances Ann (Mrs. Gonnug), Silas, Eliza Jane (Mrs. Tuttle), Josephus, John R., and five that are dead.

Josephus, the subject of this sketch, migrated with his parents to Nebraska in 1873, settling in Dawson county, and there

entering a homestead claim of one hundred and sixty acres. In 1886 he moved to the village of Elm Creek, where he has since been running a restaurant. Mr. Moore is universally respected by all who know him for his excellent traits of character, being always congenial and hospitable. He was married, in 1886, to Miss Ann Shay, a native of Michigan, born in 1870, Mr. Hull, county judge, officiating. Mr. Moore is allied in politics to the republicans.

**N**T. BLISS, the subject of this sketch, is one of the progressive young men who came west to grow up with the country. He is a son of N. T. and Hannah M. (Collins) Bliss, and was born in Luzerne county, Pa., February 9, 1852. His father was a native of New York, and his mother of Pennsylvania; the former died in 1866, and the latter in 1888. N. T. Bliss is one of a family of eight children, five of whom are now living. Young Bliss attended the common schools, and also spent about eighteen months in a seminary. At sixteen, he became an engineer in the mining regions of Pennsylvania, but he soon saw that it was almost impossible to lay up money while he continued in this line, and he determined to come west. He arrived in Buffalo county, Nebr., in March, 1878, and homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 20, in Gardner township, built a small house, and began breaking at once.

Mr. Bliss was married August 17, 1882, the lady of his choice being Miss Edith M. Rodgers, a native of England. Their home is blessed with three bright chil-

dren, namely—Clarence, born May 10, 1883; Leilah, born March 23, 1885, and Earl E., born January 28, 1889. Mr. Bliss is a republican in politics, and, while he has not been an aspirant for public office, he has been called upon to fill the office of justice of the peace. He owns a well improved farm, and takes considerable interest in raising blooded cattle, having now some fine specimens of the imported Hereford class. He came west with limited means, but is now classed among the successful and enterprising farmers of Buffalo county.

**D**AVID INMAN, born November 5, 1836, is one of the first settlers of Buffalo county. He is the son of Powers and Mary (Durst) Inman, both natives of Pennsylvania. The former, a mechanic, was born in the year 1801, and departed this life in 1865; the latter was born January 5, 1805. There were born to them ten children—three boys and seven girls—our subject being the fourth child.

David Inman lived at home in Meigs county, Ohio, until he was eighteen years of age, during which time he served an apprenticeship and worked at the carpenter's trade, which business he has followed at odd intervals through life. In 1859 he made a trip through Missouri and Kansas with a view of locating in the West, but finally returned home and settled down to his trade.

September 20, 1861, he responded to his country's call for troops, enlisting in Company K, Eighteenth regiment Ohio volunteers, and served nearly four years. His regiment left Camp Dennison November 5, 1861, and proceeded to Cincinnati,

Louisville, Elizabethtown, Bacon Creek, Bowling Green, Ky., and Nashville, Tenn., engaging in a number of skirmishes; from there on to Huntsville, Ala. He participated in battles at Huntsville, Decatur, Tusculumbia and Athens, Ala., after which he was confined for two months in the hospital at Shelbyville and Talahoma (Tenn.), on account of disabilities incurred in marching. He joined his regiment in August, 1862, and took part in the siege of Nashville, battle of Stone River and numerous minor battles, up to the taking of Stoneman's Gap, soon after which he was taken with erysipelas and confined in hospital at Talahoma and Nashville, Tenn., until September, 1863, when he joined his regiment and took part in the battle of Chickamauga, the siege of Chattanooga, and the battle of Mission Ridge. He was discharged November 9, 1864, and returned to Meigs county, where he followed bridge-building until the spring of 1873, when he immigrated to Buffalo county, Nebr., and homesteaded the southeast quarter of section 28, township 10, range 16, where he still resides.

Mr. Inman was one of the first to settle in Divide township, and, on account of the severe droughts and the grasshoppers which prevailed at that time, was unable to raise much grain for the first four years. He worked at his trade in Kearney at odd times, and was thus able to provide for the family wants. Deer, elk and antelope were plentiful in those times, and furnished part of the family meat.

Mr. Inman was married April 12, 1865, to Martha Cowdery, a native of Meigs county, Ohio, who was born April 14,

1845. She is the daughter of George W. and Susan (Sayre) Cowdery, both natives of Meigs county, Ohio; the former a lawyer, was born January 15, 1820; the latter was born February 28, 1817. To Mr. and Mrs. David Inman there have been born nine children, as follows—Minerva A., born January 5, 1866; Robert P., born July 23, 1868; Harry, born July 7, 1871; Stella E., born December 5, 1873; Mary E., born April 13, 1876; Nora E., born March 14, 1879; George W., born March 7, 1881; Ruth A., born October 17, 1883, and David P., born August 22, 1885.

**J**OSEPH FITZ. Among the many fine and prosperous-looking places that greet the eye of a traveler on the main road running north from Kearney, through Divide township, is that of this gentleman. He was born in County Down, Ireland, September 15, 1839, and comes of Scotch-Irish descent. His father, Joseph Fitz, a cooper and gunsmith by trade, was a native of Scotland, born in the year 1797; and his mother, Ellen (Murphy) Fitz, a native of Ireland, was born in 1808. There were eight children in the father's family—all boys. His parents were both zealous members of the Episcopal church.

Mr. Fitz, the subject proper of this sketch, resided with his father in Ireland until eighteen years of age, coming to this country in July, 1847, and locating at Ledgesdale, Wayne county, Pa. Here he resided for thirteen years, during which time he served an apprenticeship and worked at the carpenter trade, and was

overseer of teams for the Moss Tanning Company. In 1860 he removed to Bradford county, and worked at carpentering for two years, after which he returned to Ledgesdale, and in the spring of 1872, on account of the great demand for carpenters, caused by the big fire of the fall before, he moved to Chicago. Here he pursued his trade until the spring of 1874, when he concluded to seek his fortune in the then far West. He, accordingly, came to Buffalo county that spring, and purchased the southeast quarter of section 23, township 10, range 16, his present residence. The same spring he took a timber claim—the southwest quarter of section 14, same township and range. The following fall he bought two car loads of lumber from Chicago, built a small frame house, and broke a portion of his raw land. In 1876 he had thirty acres in corn and fifty acres in wheat, but, on account of drought and grasshoppers, he lost all his corn and harvested but three bushels of wheat to the acre. There was a general failure in crops that year, and many settlers became discouraged and left the country. Mr. Fitz offered the quarter section on which he lived for \$400, but could not sell even at that low figure. He has had good average crops ever since, and a palatial residence, together with other valuable improvements, show his prosperity and speak for his industrious and economical habits. In the meantime, however, he worked at his trade for ten months in Chicago. He has in all three hundred and twenty acres of the best land in Divide township, and has broken in all one hundred and eighty acres. He has eleven acres of thrifty growing timber, which of itself is a valuable addition to a farm in this



country, where little timber is to be found. He is also owner of over eighty head of horses and cattle.

Mr. Fitz was married April 15, 1867, to Elizabeth Patterson, who was born in the city of Rondout, Ulster county, N. Y., July 9, 1851. Her father, Robert Patterson, a native of Ireland, was born in 1828, and her mother, Jane (Henry) Patterson, also a native of Ireland, was born in 1830. There were three children in the father's family—one boy and two girls—of which Mrs. Fitz is the eldest. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Fitz has been blessed with a family of children, as follows—Jane, born August 7, 1869 (deceased); Robert P., born October 10, 1870; William J., born February 17, 1873; John H., born April 3, 1875 (deceased); Lilly M., born May 23, 1878; Jane E., born December 9, 1880. Mr. and Mrs. Fitz are both members of the Presbyterian church, and take an active interest in church affairs. The former has been a member of the church since 1877; the latter, since October, 1869. Mr. Fitz affiliates with the republican party.

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**F**RANK RICE, one of the highly prosperous and influential farmers of Divide township, Buffalo county, Nebr., was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, November 20, 1835. His father, Jesse Rice, was a native of West Virginia, born in the year 1812. At an early age Jesse emigrated with his father's family to Hamilton county, Ohio, where he learned the trade of a blacksmith, which he followed for some years. Here he met and married, in 1834, Amassie Erskine, which

union was blessed with eight children—five boys and three girls. He moved to Peoria, Ill., in 1836, where for the remainder of his life he was engaged as a steamboat engineer on the Mississippi and Illinois rivers. He died at Peoria in 1874; his wife survived him but two years, dying in 1876.

Frank Rice, the subject of this sketch, began life on his own account at the age of nineteen, serving an apprenticeship of one year at type-setting in the office of the Peoria *Morning News*. He became quite proficient in the typographical art and afterwards worked on the Lacon *Gazette*, a paper published at Lacon, Ill. For several years he ran an engine in several large distilleries at Peoria, and in 1862 moved to Fulton county, Ill., where he engaged in the distilling business for five years. In 1867 he emigrated to Linn county, Iowa, and engaged in milling for one year, then returned to Fulton county, Ill., and engaged in farming. In 1869 he moved to Clinton county, Iowa, where he engaged in the distilling business. He came to Buffalo county, October 31, 1882 and bought four hundred acres of the choicest land in the township, to which he has since added a quarter section, making in all five hundred and sixty acres, on which he now resides. Mr. Rice is one of the most extensive farmers in the county, having raised this year over eight hundred acres of crop—principally corn and flax. He is one of the largest flax growers in the state, and this year raised and marketed thirty-five hundred bushels of seed.

Mr. Rice was married September 2, 1859, to Joanna Kline, who was born in Prussia, but, coming to this country at the age of ten years, has little remembrance

of her ancestors. She was reared by an English family at Peoria, Ill. By her he has two sons—Julian, born May 31, 1860, and Clarence, born December 3, 1868.

Mr. Rice is a republican in politics and has served a term of two years as supervisor of his township and has just been re-elected for another term. He is a strong high license man and don't believe in sumptuary legislation of any kind.

**J**OHAN F. YOUNG is one of the earliest settlers of Buffalo county, and a man much respected for his honorable and upright course in life. He was born in Union county, Ill., May 26, 1843. His father, Alexander Young, a farmer by occupation, was a native of Kentucky, and was born April 30, 1803. He died in 1844 at the age of forty-one years. His mother, Margaret (Wilgus) Young, is a native of Pennsylvania, and was born October 2, 1809. She is still living, hale and hearty, at eighty years of age. There were eight children in the father's family, as follows—Elizabeth, Sarah A., Hester, Eliot, Naney, Julia, Mary and John F. The father died when John F., whose name appears at the head of this sketch, was a mere babe, and when two years old his mother moved to Logan county, Ohio, and in this and Union county John F. spent his boyhood days. He attended the neighboring school and labored on the farm until the war broke out, when he was one of the first to respond to his country's call, enlisting April 25, 1861, in Company F, Eighth Indiana infantry. He went with his

regiment to West Virginia, where, under Gen. Rosecrans, he participated in the battle of Rich Mountain. At the expiration of his time he was discharged August 6, 1861, at Indianapolis. He next enlisted, September 28, 1861, at Columbus, Ohio, in Company K, First Ohio cavalry, and was in Gen. Thomas' division until the re-organization of the cavalry into brigades in the fall of 1862, after which he was in the Army of the Cumberland. April 15, 1862, he was taken sick with the typhoid fever at Pittsburgh landing, and was sent to Camp Dennison hospital. Later, he obtained a thirty-day furlough, and returned home. Joining his regiment the latter part of July, he participated in an engagement at Tallahoma, Tenn., and the battle of Chickamauga in September, at which battle he was wounded in the left forearm and sent to the Cumberland hospital at Nashville, where he remained one month and was transferred to the hospital at Covington, Ky., where he was confined until the latter part of February following, when he returned to Nashville and re-enlisted as a veteran, March 11, 1864, in the same company and regiment. Altogether, he participated in battles and skirmishes at Calhoun, Tenn.; Decatur, Ala.; Moulton, Ala.; Kennesaw Mountain, Noonday Creek, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta, Jonesborough, Lovejoy Station, Rome, Dalton and Jasper, Ga.; Ebenezer Church, Ala.; Selma, Ala., Columbus and Alpine, Ga.; Liberty, Perryville and Franklin, Ky., and Dobson's Ford. Mr. Young was one of a small company of men under Captain Joseph A. O. Yoeman, who, disguised in rebel uniform, was sent from Macon, Ga., in search of, and assisted in the capture

of, Jefferson Davis. They were twice taken prisoners by the Union forces but were released on producing papers showing their identity. Mr. Young, for his individual service in the capture of Jeff. Davis, received a special bounty from the government of \$329.00. He was discharged at Hilton Head, S. C., September 13, 1865, and now gets a pension of \$2.00 per month for disabilities incurred in the war.

He moved, in November, 1866, to Philadelphia, Pa., where he labored in the lumber industry for three years, after which here turned to Ohio, and in Madison and Union counties was engaged in farming until 1873. In May, 1873, he emigrated west and located in Buffalo county, Nebr., taking a claim in section 22, township 10, range 16. In those days that section of the country was very sparsely settled and wild game was plentiful. Mr. Young reports having frequently shot elk, antelope and deer. There were very few buffalo remaining, but now and then one was to be seen. In 1873 he had out ten acres of sod-corn, but, on account of extreme drought, got but little for his labor. In 1874 he broke up more land and put out more crops, but, the grasshoppers coming that year, he harvested only a few bushels of wheat. He lost in like manner his corn in 1875. In 1876 he put out larger crops than ever, but that year the grasshoppers destroyed every growing thing, and even ate the dry bark from off his bean poles. From seventy acres of wheat, that year, he harvested but thirty-three bushels. The suffering and privation his family had to endure can better be imagined than described. The three following years brought good crops. In

1880, he moved back to Ohio, locating at Marion, where, for six years, he had a fruit and confectionery store. In 1886, he returned to Buffalo county, Nebr., and has since been engaged in farming.

He was married April 2, 1864, to Sarah E. King, who was born June 16, 1848, and is the adopted daughter of William and Elizabeth (Kimsey) King; the former was born June 15, 1797, and the latter, June 26, 1797. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Young has been blessed with the birth of eight children, as follows—Anna E., born October 20, 1866; Eliot (deceased), born July 26, 1869; Margaret, born November 8, 1870; Joanna (deceased) born February 11, 1873; Nellie C., born August 20, 1875; William R., born July 11, 1877; Bessie M., born June 25, 1881, and John M., born April 7, 1883.

Mr. and Mrs. Young are both active members of the Methodist Episcopal church and have so reared their children in that belief that their home is one which may truly be characterized a model home.

**S**AMUEL M. FORNEY is a prosperous farmer in Divide township, Buffalo county, Nebr., much respected by his neighbors and acquaintances for his honesty and integrity. He was born October 23, 1836, in Somerset county, Pa. His father, Michael Forney, a farmer by occupation, was also a native of Somerset county, Pa., and was born in the year 1811. His mother, Rachel (Horner) Forney, was likewise a native of the same county and state, and was born May 5, 1817. There were ten children in the father's family, as follows—Mary, Samuel,

Edmund, Sally, David, John, Susan, Catharine A., Nancy, and Amanda. The paternal grandfather, John Forney, a farmer, carpenter and minister in the Dunkard church, was born in the year 1770, and married Susannah Beachly. Of the other grand parents, little or nothing is known.

Samuel M., the subject of this sketch, resided at home with his father in Somerset county until twenty-one years of age, attending school and helping on the farm, and then moved with his father to Olney, Richmond county, Ill., where he engaged in farming, which he continued until March, 1881, when he emigrated west and located in Buffalo county, Nebr., purchasing his present farm—a timber claim at that time—in section 24, township 10, range 16, which he afterwards entered as a homestead. Mr. Forney is an industrious farmer and has raised good crops every year since he came. His wheat has averaged him from fifteen to twenty-two bushels per acre, and oats about forty five bushels per acre. He now has one hundred and twenty acres broken in all.

He was married September 18, 1862, to Catharine Kimmel, who was born December 9, 1845, and is the daughter of Jacob and Nancy (Tombaugh) Kimmel, both natives of Stark county, Ohio; the former was born in 1820 and the latter in 1825. There were ten children in her father's family—four boys and six girls—as follows—Johnathan, Catherine, Mathias, Sarah, Louis, Serena, two that died in infancy, Elizabeth and Susan.

The union in marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Forney has been blessed with the birth of eight children, as follows—Nancy, born September 10, 1863; Rachel (deceased), born December 29, 1864; Susan, born

August 15, 1866; Lydia, born July 19, 1868; Elizabeth and Edmund (twins), born July 6, 1871 (the former of whom is deceased); Mary, born January 20, 1877, and Martha, born March 15, 1879.

Mr. and Mrs. Forney are both believers in the Dunkard faith, like all their ancestry, as far back as they are able to trace. Mr. Forney was appointed minister in the church in 1859 and for thirty years has filled that appointment, together with his other duties. Politically, he is a republican.

**G**EORGE D. ASPINWALL, the subject of this sketch, was born in Henderson, Jefferson county, N. Y., August 19, 1849. He is a son of Joel A. Aspinwall, a native of Vermont, but now residing in Jefferson county, Wisconsin. His mother was a native of New York, and bore the maiden name of Sarah E. Rose. She died in Jefferson county, Wis., in March, 1858, at the age of thirty-six. The Aspinwall family are of English extraction, the original ancestor on American soil being the great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch.

In 1850 Mr. Aspinwall moved with his parents to Wisconsin, where he was reared on his father's farm. He is the eldest of three children, of whom Salmon C. lives in Wisconsin, and Sarah E., wife of Merritt Rose, resides in Jefferson county, N. Y. He received a common school education and followed farming up to December, 1880. He immigrated to Nebraska, and settled in Buffalo county, where he took up a claim in December, 1873. Here he endured the hardships of pioneer life and



GEORGE D. ASPINWALL.



the deprivations of the famous grasshopper period. He has worked himself up and no one can better appreciate the luxuries and conveniences of life than one of these old-timers who has known what it is to see the fruits of years of toil swept away by such calamities as the grasshopper scourge, and know what it is to be in want in a land where money has no purchasing power.

In December, 1880, he left the farm and moved to Kearney, where he has since resided. January 1, 1881, he was appointed deputy county clerk, the duties of which position he performed the succeeding two years. He then began business on his own account as a real estate and loan agent, in which he continued only one year, when he was elected clerk of the district court, his term of office expiring in 1887. In this position he gave general satisfaction. At the expiration of his term of office he again opened a real estate, loan and abstract office, which he continued to operate till April, 1890, when he was elected secretary and general manager of the Midway Loan and Trust Company and cashier of the Kearney Savings Bank. He assisted in the organization of and is a large stock-holder in both of these institutions. He was married, April 4, 1872, to Miss Cecelia L., daughter of Harvey Ransom, of Jefferson county, Wis. She shared with her husband the hardships of frontier life and proved a help-mate and comfort in times that tried men's souls.

No man is better known in Buffalo county than Mr. Aspinwall. His strict adherence to principle, sterling integrity and business ability render him one of Kearney's leading business men and most substantial citizens; always alive to every

public movement for the common good, he is personally popular with all classes. Conservative without being non-progressive, generous without being extravagant, he ranks among the safe, level-headed men of the community. His home is as unostentatious and simple as his business career has been upright and successful. In his little family circle, tranquil and happy, we leave him to the enjoyment of the peace and plenty, which a lifetime of patient untiring industry has bequeathed him.

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ALEXANDER BRUKER is an early settler of Buffalo county, Nebr., and one of the most prosperous farmers in Divide township. He was born June 17, 1842, in Alsace, France, and came to America in 1854, when but twelve years of age. He located at Burlington, Iowa, and secured employment at one of the hotels, where he labored for nearly two years. He next procured a position in a job-printing office, which he held for two years. Having been economical in his habits, he saved quite a little sum of money and leased land near Burlington for nine years and engaged in raising fruit and making wine. He followed this industry until the war broke out, when, true to the country which he had adopted, he enlisted, in September, 1861, in the First United States lancers. The troops camped near Burlington for two months and then disbanded. He next enlisted, November 11, 1861, in Company H, Eleventh Illinois cavalry, which was made up at Peoria, Ill. Under this enlistment, he participated in the battle of Pittsburg

Landing and the first siege of Corinth, after which, for some time, he was on duty as a scout. On account of weak lungs and liver trouble, he was discharged from further service, July 6, 1862. He grew better of his ailments and in September of the same year, enlisted in Company E, Twenty-fifth Iowa regiment. He was able to continue with his regiment but two weeks, when his health failed him and he was obliged to abandon entirely the expedition. He returned to Burlington, Iowa, where he followed farming until he emigrated west and located in Buffalo county in October, 1875, filing claims on 160 acres in section 6, township 10, range 16, on which he still resides. The country immediately surrounding him was, at that time, new and very sparsely settled, his nearest neighbor living some three miles distant. The following year he broke a portion of his land and put it into corn. His crop flourished for a time and gave promise of an abundant harvest, but in August the grasshoppers came and devoured it all. He succeeded in smoking them off the first time they came, but three weeks later they came in such abundance that he could do nothing but submit to the inevitable. That summer and fall he was compelled to live on corn bread, barley and wild game—the latter consisting of deer, elk and jack-rabbits, which were quite plentiful in those days, Mr. Bruker having seen, near his place, one drove of fifteen elk. He drove his team back to Burlington that fall and spent the winter there, returning in the spring. He has had good average crops since the grasshopper times and now has a well improved farm, with 120 acres broken and neat frame buildings.

Mr. Bruker was married June 15, 1884,

to Julia Streit, who is a native of Austria, born June 4, 1858, and came to this country, April 11, 1884. They are both members of the Catholic church. In politics, Mr. Bruker is a republican.

**R** N. VOLK. Although but few years a resident of Elm Creek, Mr. Volk has become a valued citizen by the publication of *The Elm Creek Sun*. His father, John Volk, was a native of New York City, and was born in 1804. He was a very prosperous man in business, being for years proprietor of an extensive chair manufactory in his native city. In 1840 he moved to New Jersey and there remained till death, which occurred in 1887. He was an active member of the Presbyterian church and his death caused a long-felt vacancy. Mr. Volk was a supporter of the whig platform, and when that party merged into the republican, he still remained loyal to their principles. In 1826 Mr. Volk was married to Miss Rebecca Bennett, a native of New Jersey, also a member of the Presbyterian church. For years she was an untiring and faithful worker and unto her might the Master truthfully say: "Well done, good and faithful servant." Mr. and Mrs. Volk shared in the choicest blessings of earth, for to them were given eleven children, viz.—Henrietta, William, Thomas, Christiana, Abram (died when twenty-three years old), Maria (died when an infant), John, Samuel, Silas, Mary and R. N. R. N. Volk was born in Croton, N. J., in 1844. When two years of age his parents moved to Flemington, N. J., where his father was postmaster. At the



age of nineteen he went to Trenton, N. J., as compositor on a daily newspaper, and there remained twenty years. He then came West, locating first at Plum Creek, but soon afterwards moved to Elm Creek, Buffalo county, Nebr., where he still resides. His first issue of *The Elm Creek Sun* was on June 2, 1886.

In 1866, while in Trenton, N. J., Mr. Volk was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Krier, of Trenton, by the Rev. John Heisler. Mrs. Mary E. Volk was born in Pennsylvania in 1850, and for years has been an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Six children have brought sunshine into their hearts and home, viz.—Eva (deceased), Bessie, Mary, Richey, George and Robert Newton (died September 18, 1886). Mr. Volk has served four years as clerk of Elm Creek township, and three years as clerk of the village of Elm Creek, Nebr.

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**G**EORGE MILBOURN. There are few more worthy of honorable mention in this biographical work than the subject of this memoir. While he has not achieved what the world calls greatness, he has gained the highest regard of his townsmen, and those with whom he is intimately associated. He is the son of Jacob Milbourn, a native of Virginia, born in 1792. Jacob first moved to Ohio, settling in Carroll county, and thence to Columbiana county. He was for some time foreman of the Davis mills, after which he purchased the Chambersburgh mills. Mr. Milbourn was a whig in politics. He was married in 1823 to Miss Marie Monohan, a native of Carroll county,

Ohio. She was a member of the Quaker society, and continued a devout adherent to the faith until death. Seven children were born to them—Enos, Abigail, Jane, Henry (died in infancy), George, Samuel (deceased) and Washington, who was born in Carroll county, Ohio, and from there, with his parents, moved to Columbiana county and thence to Stark county. He there learned the blacksmith trade. He then moved to Woodford county, Ill., and there enlisted in the Union service, in the Eighth Illinois infantry; was in the engagement at Mobile and was mustered out at New Orleans in 1865. In 1872 he located in Nebraska, settling in section 26, township 9, range 18, in Elm Creek township, Buffalo county. He married Susan Phllassheim in 1850, a native of Germany. Mrs. Milbourn has been a member of the Presbyterian church for years. They are the parents of six living children—George F., William F., Abraham L., Addie L., Dora, Rosa Ann, and Emma (died in infancy).

George, the subject of this notice, was born in Ohio, in 1831; he migrated, with his parents, to Woodford county, Ill., in 1861 and there farmed till 1862. Being true to the impulses of a patriotic nature, he enlisted in the Hundred and Twelfth Illinois infantry, in 1862, at Galva, Henry county, Ill. He was one hundred and twenty-two times under fire, and was in twenty-two principal engagements and one hundred skirmishes, and passed through them all without receiving a wound. Following is a list of the engagements in which he participated: Monticello, Ky.; Richmond, Ky.; Calhoun, Philadelphia, Campbell Station, Knoxville, Beard's Station, Dandridge, Mud Creek and Kelley's

Ford, all in Tennessee; Pine Mountain, Ottoy Creek, Atlanta, Rough and Ready and Jonesboro, all in Georgia; Columbia, Franklin and Nashville, all in Tennessee; Fort Anderson, Town Creek, Wilmington and Goldsboro, all in North Carolina. He was mustered out at Greensborough, N. C., and thence went to Chicago, and from there to Ohio, and in 1867 he returned to Illinois. He remained there till 1871, at which date he came to Nebraska, settling on section 26, township 9, range 18 west, in Elm Creek township, Buffalo county. Mr. Milbourn is a supporter of the republican ticket, and is one of the most enthusiastic members of the G. A. R. organization.

Mr. Milbourn was united in marriage in 1868 to Miss Martha Moore, a native of White Oak Grove, Ill. She is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and possesses congenial, motherly characteristics, which make her so beloved and admired by all who are intimately associated with her. To Mr. and Mrs. Milbourn have been born thirteen children—L. M., James, Lucy, Mary E., Johnny, Reson (deceased), Enos, Eddie, Renben (deceased), Eunice M. (deceased), Allie, Carrie (deceased), and Lottie V.

**H**ENRY S. STEELE, one of the respected farmers of Elm Creek township, Buffalo county, Nebr., is the only son of James and Caroline Steele, natives of Virginia. Mr. Steele, having lost his father and mother in early childhood, was thrown upon his own resources at a tender age. Without the caressing hand, the admonishing words and earnest prayers of a loving mother, he was compelled to steer his own bark. He

was a native of Virginia, born in 1840; from there he moved to Ohio, settling in Ross county, thence to Fayette county, where he engaged in farming; thence to Woodford county, Ill., remaining there seven years; he then moved to Nebraska, in 1871, settling in Buffalo county. He was here through grasshopper times; lost all his crops, excepting wheat, for three successive years; but, not despairing of better times coming, he still continued to plant, and from 1877 has reaped good harvests.

In 1870 Mr. Steele was married to Miss Mary Frances Lucas, a native of Kentucky born in 1851. She is connected with the Methodist Episcopal church, but for years has been an invalid, consequently unable to take an active part in church work, but at home lives a life consistent with her profession. Their family consists of six boys and one girl, viz.—Laura May, born August 26, 1871; Charlie Lee, born January 1, 1876; Bertie, born March 22, 1881; Elmer and Ellsworth (twins), born July 18, 1884; Clifford, born Sept. 30, 1885; Wm. Henry, born, Nov. 8, 1889.

Mr. Steele enlisted at South Plymouth, Fayette county, Ohio, in Company A, Fifty-fourth Ohio infantry, under S. B. Yoeman, and was in the following engagements: Shiloh, Chickasaw Swamps, Fort Heinman, Corinth, Vicksburg, Atlanta and Jonesburg, also in a number of skirmishes. At Shiloh he had the bottom shot out of his canteen; also had a minie-ball pass through his belt, his musket knocked out of his hand and just escaped a spent cannon-ball. Notwithstanding these narrow escapes, Mr. Steele passed through over three years of service without receiving a wound. He was mustered out in 1864 at Cincinnati, Ohio.

**R**OBERT K. POTTER is one of the pioneer settlers of Elm Creek township, but this of itself does not entitle him to mention in this compilation of memoirs; there are many who shared with him the experiences of pioneer life whose names will not be perpetuated. Ability wisely directed and a magnanimous nature, make him deserving of honorable mention. Mr. Potter is the son of Wellington and Elizabeth (Ailsworth) Potter; the former was born in Luzerne county, Pa., in 1825. In 1881 he came to Nebraska, settling in Elm Creek township, Buffalo county, and there remained five years, then returned to Luzerne county, Pa. He is a machinest by trade, but of late years has been engaged in farming. Politically, he is a supporter of the republican ticket. He was married in 1850, at Packsville, Luzerne county, Pa., to Miss Elizabeth Ailsworth, a native of the same county. They are both members of the Methodist Episcopal church. To them were born four children, viz.—Robert K., Ella (Mrs. Skinner), living in Elm Creek; Edwin W., postmaster of Elm Creek, and Viola (Mrs. Preece), living in Kansas. The paternal grandfather of Mr. Potter was Robert K. Potter, a native of Rhode Island; his maternal grandfather, David Ailsworth, was a native of Pennsylvania.

Robert K., Jr., the subject of this sketch, was born in Luzerne county, Pa., in 1852. He remained at home till 1866, when he encountered the stern realities of life for himself. He remained in Luzerne county till 1878, when he came West. While in Luzerne county he married Miss M. Burnette, a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1856. She was a member of the Presbyterian church, not alone in name

but in heart, evincing it by a life of good works. To Mr. and Mrs. Potter were born five children, viz.—Libbie, Chandler, Willie, Carrie, and one, the fifth, that died in infancy. In 1881 Mrs. Potter died, and to her death the immortal words of Bryant are appropriate. She so lived that when the summons came to join the innumerable caravan which moves to that mysterious realm, by an unfaltering trust, she approached the grave like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams. Mr. Potter was next married to Miss Maggie Dunlap, and to them have been born two children. Mr. Potter has been eminently successful in his business career, his success being greatly due to shrewdness and the closest attention to business. He is largely interested in different branches of business and all come under his immediate supervision. His stock business alone approximates \$300,000 annually. He is now but thirty-seven years old, and although he settled in Buffalo county but eleven years ago, with only a few dollars and the advantages of Nebraska for a start, he is now one of the representative business men of the county. Politically, Mr. Potter is a staunch republican, and is now representing Buffalo county in the legislature.

**G**EORGE E. MILLER, a well-to-do farmer of Buffalo county, is the third child of George Miller, Sr., a native of historic Virginia. The father was a man possessing those virtues that commanded the respect of all who formed his acquaintance. He was a carpenter by trade, and also engaged in farm-

ing. In politics he was a republican. He moved from Virginia to Mason county, Ill., and in 1858 was united in matrimony to Miss Isabel Smith, of Warren county, Ill., but a native of Virginia. Mrs. Miller was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. and Mrs. Miller's home has been filled with the music of five children, viz.—J. C., a farmer in Buffalo county; Ida Bell (Mrs. Smith), in Dawson county; George E.; Nora (Mrs. Heaton), in Buffalo county, and Susan (Mrs. McNim).

George E. Miller was born in Logan county, Ill., in 1866. From there he went to York county, Nebr., where he remained two years, thence he removed to Buffalo county, his present home. At the age of fifteen he began life for himself. He started with nothing, and now owns a well-improved quarter section, with all the necessary farming implements. Mr. Miller is a young man, favorably known for thrift, honesty and sobriety. He was married to Miss Mollie Bartrop in 1888, Judge Glespie officiating. Mrs. Miller is a native of Ohio, born in 1871. To them has been born one child—Marrette, December 5, 1888. Mr. Miller is a republican in politics.

**J**OHAN P. ARENDT is the son of Michael and Mary (Ketch) Arendt; the former was a native of France, and there remained till death, which occurred in 1887. He was engaged in farming, taking special interest in raising thoroughbred horses. Mr. Arendt, at the time of his death, was in very good circumstances. He was united in marriage to Miss Mary Ketch, and he and wife

were members of the Catholic church. Charity was one of his characteristic graces, of which the following is sufficient proof: A traveler was thrown from his conveyance and had his leg broken; Mr. Arendt took him to his home and cared for him as he would for his own son, and when he was sufficiently recovered, he went on his way, Mr. Arendt asking no compensation. Their family consisted of two girls and five boys—Michael, living in France; John, in France; Cristine, in France; Michael died in Wisconsin; Mary, living in Minnesota; Hanos, lives in France, and John P., the subject of this memoir, who was born in France in 1832. When fourteen years of age, he came to America, stopping in Milwaukee, Wis.; thence he moved to Kewaunee county, Wis., and there engaged in farming and lumbering. At the breaking out of the war, he was sheriff of Kewaunee county, but, true to the impulses of a patriotic nature, he resigned and enlisted in the Twenty-seventh Wisconsin infantry volunteers, Company A, under Capt. Cunningham. On a march from Little Rock, Ark., to Mobile, Ala., he was sunstruck, from which he has suffered ever since. He was mustered out at Brownsville, Tex., the 29th of August, 1865. He then returned to Kewaunee county, Wis., and there remained until coming to Nebraska in 1872, first locating on section 28, township 9, range 18 west, Elm Creek township, thence moving to Elm Creek village, where he engaged in the mercantile and lumber business, continuing in this business till 1876, at which time he retired. Mr. Arendt laid out the present site of Elm Creek, platting eighty acres. He was its first postmaster and also one of the first

commissioners of Buffalo county. He was married, in 1859, to Miss Catherine Tyler, a native of Buffalo, N. Y. To them were born seven children, viz.—Mary (Mrs. Carey), in Overton, Nebr.; Annie (Mrs. Bond), in Elm Creek, Nebr.; Minnie (Mrs. Connell), in Boulder, Colo.; George, now in the employ of the U. P. R. R. Co., as agent at Elm Creek, which position he has filled creditably three years; Maggie, Eva and Rose.

In politics, Mr. Arendt is a democrat, and he and family are identified with the Catholic church.

**D**AVID I. BROWN, a highly respected resident of Elm Creek, Buffalo county, is a native of Highland county, Ohio, and is the tenth in a family of eleven children. His father, Edgar Brown, was a native of Culpeper county, Va., born in 1796, but when four years of age, moved with his parents to Highland county, Ohio. Although he attended but three months of school, by economizing time and studying whenever opportunity offered itself, he became quite proficient as a civil engineer. He was a preacher in the Quaker society for a number of years, and in this capacity was popularly known throughout Ohio. He was distinguished as a kind, hospitable and generous man, always ready to help the needy. In politics he was a supporter of the republican platform. He was married to Miss Mary Huff (born, 1800, died 1874), a native of North Carolina, who, also, was a member of the Quaker society, and, true to Quaker characteristics, was prompt to

respond to calls for help in times of sickness. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Brown, viz.—Sarah (died 1871); three of the older died in infancy; William (died 1870); James (lives in Salem, Henry county, Iowa, engaged in farming and stock-raising); Lydia (lives in Ohio); Clinton (who was a practicing physician, was killed by overwork, dying in 1874); Elgar (died in 1884, was engaged in farming and teaching, and was principal of the public schools of Rainsborough, and was quite a clever poet); David I. and Mary (Mrs. Barrerre, who was a graduate of the female seminary of Hillsborough, Ohio, and later became a teacher in that institution).

David I., the subject of this sketch, remained in Highland county, Ohio, the place of his nativity, till 1858, at which time he migrated to Missouri; there he engaged in teaching till the breaking out of the war, when he returned to Ohio. He enlisted at Rainsborough in 1863, in the Second Ohio heavy artillery, and was principally on garrison duty, and was mustered out at Nashville, Tenn., in 1865. While in the service he contracted chronic diarrhœa. Mr. Brown was married, in 1862, to Miss Mare E. Davis, a native of Ohio, Rev. A. Shinn performing the ceremony. To them have been born six children, viz.—Carrie, born 1863; Mary J., born 1866 (married March, 1890); Washington E., born 1867; Ella K., born 1869 (died March 4, 1876); William O., born 1871, and Eddy, born 1873. Mrs. Brown was a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church, actively engaged in all the departments of its work. She departed this life in 1875. Mr. Brown settled in section 4, township 8, range

18, Elm Creek township, Buffalo county, and there remained for a few years, then moved to the village of Elm Creek.

Mr. Brown is a republican in politics. He has at various times held different offices in the gift of the people. He was commissioner of Buffalo county in 1879-80 and 1881, and for thirteen years has been justice of the peace and six years postmaster at Elm Creek. In 1881 Mr. Brown took for his second wife Miss Carrie P. Gile, a native of Iowa, born in 1860, Rev. A. Collins officiating. Mrs. Brown was a successful teacher for two years in Iowa before coming to Nebraska, then taught one year in Nebraska. To them have been born two children, viz.—Jesse G. (born 1882) and Leslie M. (born 1884).

Mrs. Brown is a native of Allamakee county, Iowa, and is the fourth of a family of seven children, her father and mother settling there in 1852. Seven children were born to them—Gordon H., born in 1853, burned in a prairie fire in Dakota in 1879; Edward S., born in 1855; Wells, born in 1857; Carrie P., born in 1860; Ida M., born in 1862; Rufe S., born in 1864, and William, born in 1867.

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**W**ILLIAM C. KEEP. Comparatively speaking, few homes in this broad land retain for generations family faces and kindred. In a few years and the "boys and girls" have left the home of their nativity and wandered into other and distant lands to make for themselves a home and fortune. It must be so, to verify the old saying that "Westward the star of Empire takes its way."

Among the vast number that has swelled the tide of westward emigration is the subject of this sketch, William C. Keep. He is the son of Joel Keep, a native of Massachusetts, and was born in 1809. His paternal grandfather was Samuel Keep, also a native of Massachusetts; his maternal grandfather was John Handrick, a native of Massachusetts, and his maternal grandmother was Dortha (Gibbs) Handrick, a native of Vermont. From Connecticut, Joel Keep moved to Ann Arbor, Mich., thence to Pennsylvania, where he remained until death, which occurred in 1881, at New Milford, Susquehanna county. His occupation was farming, but for some time he was engaged in the lumber business. He possessed excellent business qualities and his honesty and generosity won the respect of all who knew him. In politics he was a republican. In 1855, he married Miss Lucy Ann Handrick, a native of New Milford, Penn. Mrs. Keep was born in 1822, and has born her husband three children, two sons and one daughter, all of whom are living, viz.—William C., Edwin A. and Mary F. (Keep) Very, all living in Dawson county, Nebr., having come West in April, 1890, and occupied in farming. For many years Mrs. Keep has been an active member and supporter of the Presbyterian church.

William C. Keep was born in Pennsylvania in 1856. In 1879 he immigrated to Nebraska, locating in Elm Creek; soon after he took a homestead and timber claim in section 24, township 10, range 19, Dawson county, which he still owns. These form only a part of his possessions.

He is a republican in politics, and at present a much esteemed member of the town council. In 1886 he was married, at

Elm Creek, to Miss Elizabeth G. Wells, the ceremony being performed by Rev. J. G. Hurlbert. Mrs. E. G. (Wells) Keep was born in Harrisville, Ohio, in 1868. In 1881 her home was changed to Green Dale, Nebr., where she resided until her marriage.

**W**ALTER SHREEVE is a native of Norwich, England, born January 31, 1850, and is the son of Alfred and Elizabeth (Davy) Shreeve, also natives of England. His maternal grandfather was heir to a large fortune, but lost it all in a chancery suit lasting twenty years. He was a contractor in mason work by occupation. The subject's father was a laborer, fishing, in season, in the English channel off the coast of Yarmouth. He came to New York City in the fall of 1852, and was there robbed of everything, including money, by baggage thieves. After a terrible winter of sickness in New York City, he moved to Medina, New York; while there, in 1861, the subject's mother died, and in 1864 his father married again, his second wife being Mrs. Susan (Wholston) Greengrass, a native of England. His first wife bore him six children, viz.—Emma (Mrs. William Cobb), lives in Albion, N. Y.; Walter (the subject); Nellie (Mrs. Mooney), deceased; Amanley, a carriage painter, lives in Lincoln, Nebr.; Alva E., lives in Dawes county, Nebr.; Libbie (died in infancy). To Mr. Shreeve's second marriage have been born two children, viz.—Fred and Libbie. Both are married. The former, with father and mother, lives

in Marshal county, Dak.; the latter in New York State. Walter Shreeve, the subject of the sketch, when beginning life for himself was first employed on the Erie canal as driver. He tried to enlist in the army as drummer boy in 1862-63, but his father prevented. He left the canal at Albany, N. Y., and went to New York City and shipped on the clipper David C. Crockett, A. M. Burgess, captain. It was freighted and bound for San Francisco, Cal., at which place they arrived in December, 1864, after one hundred and seven days' voyage, being the quickest trip that year, but one. The "Sea Serpent" of the same line made the trip in one hundred days. In San Francisco he left the clipper and his pay, then due, and enlisted in Company B, Third United States artillery, February 17, 1865, stationed at Camp Reynolds, Angel Island, San Francisco harbor. It was ordered to recruit and join the regiment before Richmond, but before enough men could be raised to fill the company the battle was won. Then he was transferred to Battery D, Second United States artillery, and soon after sent to Black Point, San Francisco harbor, Cal., at which place he served the balance of his time, three years. He was discharged at Black Point, San Francisco harbor, February 17, 1868. On the 25th of the same month, he sailed on a "Vanderbilt" steamer for New York City, by way of the San Juan River and Graytown route through New Guatemala Isthmus; from New York he came to Buffalo county, Nebr., in 1872, landing at the old Kearney Station, with \$5.37 cash. Board was \$7 per week, but fortunately he found employment the next morning, carrying mail across the Platte river to Dobytown, Fort

Kearney and Sydenham, then called by Moses H. Sydenham, Centoria, the center of the United States of America, the future capital of the state and of the United States. After carrying mail a month he filed a soldier's homestead claim on lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, in section 6, township 8, range 18 west, in Buffalo county, near the station of Elm Creek, which claim he was obliged to sell on account of bad luck and sickness. Then he filed a pre-empted claim on the southeast quarter of section 30, township 9, range 18, in the fall of 1883, on which he made final proof May 25, 1885, and on which he still resides. Has been a resident of Elm Creek since 1872, except two years during the Black Hills excitement, which time was mostly spent in the employ of the Black Hills transfer company called the Pratt & Ferris, or P. & F. Outfit, the largest company hauling freight to the Hills. The years 1881 and 1882 were spent in a trip through Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah and Colorado for health. He worked most of the winter of 1881 for the Rufus B. Hatch Company in getting out material for the first hotel built at the Mammoth Hot Springs in the National Park, Wyoming. A Mr. Hobart was foreman, a brother of the company's president, Mr. Hobart, of New York City.

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**M**RS. MARY BARRON. There is, perhaps, none more worthy of special mention in this work than Mrs. Mary Barron. Her parents were natives of Ireland and devoted members of the Catholic church, and both

were highly esteemed by rich and poor alike, for their kindness and generosity to those in need or distress. The father, John Powers, was a thrifty, frugal farmer. Her paternal grandfather, Patrick Powers, was also a native of Ireland and a farmer, and her paternal grandmother, Bridget Cunningham, was likewise a native of the same country. John Powers married, in Ireland, Miss Kittie Kennedy, and died in 1864 at the age of seventy-five years. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Powers came to America and remained five years, then returned to Ireland. To her union with Mr. Powers were born eight children, viz.—Edward (deceased); Patrick and Thomas, who live in Ireland; John (died at Vicksburg, Miss.); Martin, living in New York City; Margaret (deceased); Bridget, living in Australia; Johana (deceased), and Mary, the subject of this memoir. In 1863, at the age of seventeen, she came to America from her native country, stopping first in Clinton county, Pa.; there she remained one year, and after a trip west returned to Pennsylvania and was married to Mr. William Barron, also a native of Ireland. Mr. Barron was born in 1840 and when twenty-three years of age immigrated to America, locating in Pennsylvania. Soon after his marriage he moved to Omaha, Nebr., and from there to Elm Creek, where his widow still resides. He was a devoted and consistent member of the Catholic church, and every one who knew him esteemed him highly for his kindness of heart and honorable dealing. Those persons who tried to honestly help themselves, always found a good friend and helper in Mr. Barron. For fifteen years he was section boss on the Union Pacific Rail-



road, but in 1872 he pre-empted and turned it into a timber claim, in '74, what is now a well improved farm. He began life with nothing. In politics, Mr. Barron was a democrat; was a member of the Order of United Workmen and also the Grange. While Mr. Barron was working on the railroad, he narrowly escaped death at the hands of the Indians. One morning upon reaching their place of work, he and a few others with him, discovered that seven Indians, not far away, were endeavoring to surround him and his companions so as to cut off all chance of escape. The section men immediately started back toward Elm Creek. Mr. Barron had with him his gun and two bullets; one he fired at the Indian in front of him, but did no serious damage; the second bullet did not kill the Indian, for he did not fire to kill, but to scare away, and it did scare. They then made their escape to Elm Creek.

**F**REDERICK DAUL is a native of Germany—a country proverbial for the industry, thrift and frugality of its people—and was born in the year 1818, in Baden. He is the son of Frank and Urechale (Fehning) Daul—the former born in 1775, the latter in 1780. Both were natives of Germany, and members of the Catholic church from childhood. Mr. Frank Daul's occupation was farming. Frederick Daul came to America at the age of twenty-two, locating first in York State. From there he moved to Wisconsin, and in 1873 came to Nebraska, locating on section 31, township 9, range 18 west. Soon after, he went across the

line into Dawson county, homesteading on section 2, township 8, range 19, where he now resides. In politics, Mr. Daul is a democrat. While in Wisconsin he served as township assessor for two years; also held the office of township treasurer. Mr. Daul was twice married. His first wife was Anna Dengal; the second is Mary Martener, both natives of Germany. Five children were born by the first marriage, viz.—John, living in Buffalo county; Adam, at home; Anna (Mrs. Niekle), living in Kearney county; Catharine (Mrs. Milbourn), living in Buffalo county; Maggie (Mrs. Milbourn), living in Dawson county. When Mr. Daul came to Buffalo county there were only fifteen houses in the city of Kearney, and the Indians and buffalo roamed over the prairie.

John, the eldest son, was born in 1852, in Washington county, Wisconsin. When twenty-one years of age he came to Nebraska, settling in Buffalo county. He now resides on section 3, township 9, range 18 west. His farm is well stocked with horses and cattle, and, together with his father, and brother Adam, he owns over 1,000 acres of land. Politically, he is a democrat. In 1880 he married Miss Addie Milbourn, a native of Illinois, but then residing in Buffalo county, Nebraska. Two children have been born to them, viz.—Johnnie, in 1881, and Freddie, in 1884.

**G**EORGE W. WITMER is the son of Jacob A. and Caroline (Swanger) Witmer, the former a native of Blair county, Pa. Jacob A. enlisted at Shippensburgh, in the Third Penn-

sylvania cavalry, Company H, and was in the engagement at Williamsburgh and Antietam and in the Seven Days' fight. He was injured in the back by the falling of his horse, when crossing a trench, and this so disabled him that he received his discharge. He next enlisted in the Twelfth Pennsylvania, and was in the engagement at Winchester. He was mustered out at Philadelphia in 1865. He then returned to Blair county, Pa., where he remained until coming to Nebraska, in 1881, settling in the northern part of Elm Creek township. He was married to Miss Caroline Swanger, a native of Pennsylvania, in 1850. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and was a kind, exemplary christian woman, not known to have an enemy. She died in 1880, followed by her husband four years later. G. W. Witmer's paternal grandfather was Jacob Witmer; his paternal grandmother was Catherine Airmen) Witmer; his maternal grandfather was Peter Swanger; and his maternal grandmother was Mary (Donohue) Swanger, all natives of Pennsylvania. Geo. W. Witmer, our subject, was born in Cumberland county, Pa., in 1853. In 1865 he moved with his parents to Blair county, and for a number of years was engaged in the plumbing and gasfitting business in Altoona, Pa. At the earnest solicitation of his father, he came to Nebraska in 1882, and settled on section 2, township 9, range 18 west, in Elm Creek township, Buffalo county. Mr. Witmer is favorably known throughout the county as an intelligent, hospitable and prosperous farmer. He was married, in 1877, to Miss Elizabeth Lathero, a native of Huntington county, Pa., Rev. Luckey performing the ceremony. To Mr. and Mrs. Witmer two children have

been born, viz.—Frankie H., August, 1885, and Carrie E., born December 8, 1887. Mr. and Mrs. Witmer are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Politically, Mr. Witmer is a democrat.

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**J**OHAN I. ULRICH, an industrious and thrifty farmer of Elm Creek township, Buffalo county, was born on the third of March, 1834, in Prussia, of German parentage. His father, Joseph Ulrich, was a man who commanded the highest respect of every one. He was a wagon-maker by trade, and also engaged in farming. For over twenty years he faithfully served the public as justice of the peace. He was a good man, and from childhood was a devoted member of the Catholic church. In 1828, at the home of her father, he was married to Miss Margeritte Meir, who was born in Prussia, in 1801, and, with her husband, was a very consistent member of the Catholic church. She was a very kind, tender and loving wife and mother.

John I. Ulrich came to America in the summer of 1850, and worked at his trade in Dayton, Ohio, and at Fort Wayne, Ind. When the cholera broke out at the latter place, he went to Green Bay, Wis., and there continued at his trade for sixteen years. In 1873 he joined the tide of emigration, and settled in Elm Creek, Buffalo county, on section 6, township 8, range 18 west. He shared the common fate during "grasshopper times," and was left so destitute that he would very quickly have returned had it been possible. But he staid through, and since then has had

good crops every year but one. He has owned 1,340 acres, including the 880 acres given to his two elder sons, and upon which he has built two houses, and provided each son with all necessary farming implements. Politically, Mr. Ulrich is independent. In January, 1858, Mr. Ulrich was married to Miss Euphrosina Karcher, a native of Baden, Germany. She was born in 1836, and came to America in 1857, settling in Green Bay, Wis., and was married at New Franken, Brown county, that state. Both she and her husband are devoted members of the Catholic church, and at the present writing, Mr. Ulrich is causing to be built an addition to the church, which has become too small for present use.

Mr. and Mrs. Ulrich are the parents of eleven children, viz.—Joseph, in Buffalo county; Caroline (Mrs. Riger), in California; August, in Buffalo county; Anna (died 1861); Theresa (Mrs. Swayne), in Dawson county; one still-born; Conrad (died 1867); and Mary, Ursula, Eva and William, still at home.

**J**OHAN DEMUTH was born in Prussia Germany, in 1855. His father, John Demuth, Sr., was in comparatively good circumstances, and was a man highly respected for his manly virtues. He came to America in 1856, locating first in New York, thence moving to Brown county, Wisconsin. He is a staunch democrat in politics, and has been a devout member of the Catholic church from childhood. His wife was Elizabeth Lieser, before marriage, a native of Ger-

many and also a devout member of the Catholic church. To Mr. and Mrs. Demuth have been born four children, viz.—Matthias, lives in Fort Howard, Wis., John; Elizabeth, lives in Green Bay, Wis., and the youngest died in infancy.

John, our subject, immigrated to America in 1867, settling in Brown county, Wisconsin; thence he came to Nebraska, in 1878, locating on section 10, township 9, range 18 west. Mr. Demuth began life in Nebraska in 1878 with comparatively nothing, but now has three hundred and twenty acres of well improved land, well stocked and supplied with all necessary farming implements. His success is due to his giving attention to the details of his business, economizing time as well as money. In 1887 he was married to Miss Anna Nitshe, a native of Austria, born in 1870. They are both connected with the Catholic church. To them one son has been born—Willie John, born December 27, 1888.

**G**EORGE W. SNYDER was born in Lyons, Wayne county, N. Y., in 1849. He is the son of Sidney W. Snyder, of the same place, and a resident until 1850, when he moved to Branch county, Mich., where he resided until 1876, engaged in farming and blacksmithing. From Michigan he moved, with his family, consisting of wife and two children, to Buffalo county, Nebr., locating on section 20, township 9, range 18 west. For years S. W. Snyder has been an active member of the Methodist Episco-

pal church and was a local preacher for about fifteen years. Mr. Snyder is a republican in politics. In 1848 he was married to Miss Susan Gordon, a native of Lyons, and a very exemplary lady. She was also a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, a quiet but active christian woman. She was born in 1830 and is the mother of four children, viz.—George and Adelbert, living in Buffalo county, Nebr.; Myron and Sarah, who both died when young. George Snyder, the subject, was about one year old when his parents moved to Michigan, where they remained until 1876. He began for himself as an engineer, when twenty-two years of age. For three years he had charge of an engine in a saw-mill and then, for four years, was on one of the steamers plying between Chicago and Buffalo. He was once on a vessel that was wrecked near Ashtabula, Ohio, and out of the crew of eight, five were lost. The steamer was out from twelve o'clock at night until three o'clock the next afternoon in cold November weather, and only one-half a mile from shore. Mr. Snyder is a member of the masonic order and, in politics, is a republican. In 1879 he was married to Miss Laura Magden, of Buffalo county, Nebr. She was born in Wayne county, N. Y., in 1842, and lived there till five years of age, then came to Nebraska in 1878; has taught school in four states, namely—Michigan, Indiana, Iowa and Nebraska. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and a great worker in the church and Sunday-school. To Mr. and Mrs. Snyder have been born three children, viz.—one that died before being named; Robert, born in 1883, and Gordon, born in 1887, both living at home.

**D**AVID McCOMB was born in Dane county, Wis., in 1858. His father, Robert McComb, was a native of Ireland, was born in 1807 in county Down, and migrated to America, settling in Dane county, Wis. There he engaged in farming until 1872, when he immigrated to Furnas county, Nebr. Here he became very prosperous in stock-raising and speculating, and in 1882, while on a business trip to Wisconsin, he sickened and died. For years he had been an active and energetic member of the Christian church, and his presence and counsel were deeply missed. He was a good man and very kind to the poor and distressed. He was so devoted to his church that he would often walk six or seven miles to attend service. In 1850 he was married to Miss Catherine Patterson, a native of Pittsburg, Pa., where she resided until her marriage. She was born in 1824 and is the mother of ten children, viz.—William, in Furnas county, Nebr., farming and stock-raising; Maggie (Mrs. Crooks), in Kearney, her husband being a carpenter; James, in Furnas county, farming and stock-raising; John, in Furnas county, farming and stock-raising; Robert, living in Wisconsin; Nancy (Mrs. Downing), in Kearney, her husband being in the lumber and grain business; Charles, in Furnas county, stock-raising; Amazon (Mrs. Banister), in Kearney, her husband being a speculator, and Mary (Mrs. Tuttle), whose husband is in the livery business. In 1875, after three years of traveling, David McComb located in Furnas county, Nebr. In 1883 he moved to Elm Creek, to take the management of the Downing Elevator Company, where he still remains. He is a master workman of the A. O. U. W. In

1879, at Wilsonville, Furnas county, he was married to Miss Clara Backus, a native of Iowa and born in 1862. She had been a teacher for some time and was also an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church. She is the mother of two children, viz.—Robert, born in 1882, and Harry, born in 1885.

**W**C. PETTETT, is a native of England and the fourth child of Herbert Pettett, a farmer who formerly resided near Maidstone, Kent county, about fifty miles from London. The father was born in 1830 and in 1871 immigrated with his family to America, locating near Port Byron, Rock Island county, Ill. There he was one of the most prosperous and energetic farmers of the county. In 1852, under the chime of Marden church bells, he was married to Amy Ann Honeysett, a native of Sutton, Kent county, England, Rev. Deeds officiating. Mrs. Amy Ann Pettett was born in 1832. She is an active member in the Methodist church in Illinois, and is a woman of great perseverance and energy; she is very charitable to those that are in need. She is the mother of the following children: Harriet, who married Edward Gilbert, a native of England, now living on a farm in Illinois; Ellen, who married Mr. Gemung, living on a farm in Illinois; George, died of consumption when nineteen years of age; W. C., A. E., and Alfred, living in Buffalo county, Nebr., and Anna, who married Mr. Sallows, a native of Illinois, and now living in Illinois.

A. E. Pettett was born in England in

1859 and came with his parents to America. When twenty-one years of age he began farming for himself, having about \$1,000 to start with. After five years' farming in Illinois, and with about \$1,500, he came to Nebraska, settling on section 5, township 9, range 18 west. He now owns a well improved farm of two hundred acres well stocked. In politics Mr. Pettett is independent. For years Mr. Pettett has been an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church and has been class leader, also Sunday-school superintendent for several years. At Fairfield in Illinois in 1881 he was married to Miss Mary E. Flickinger, a native of Illinois, also an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church and also church organist for several years. To them have been born four children, viz.—Charles E., born in 1882; Rosa May, born in 1884; Anna Bertha, born in 1886; Susie Pearl, born in 1889.

W. C. Pettett, an older brother and subject of this memoir, was born July 13, 1858, in Marden, Kent county, England, and with his parents immigrated to Port Byron, Rock Island county, Ill. In 1885 he immigrated to Nebraska, locating on section 5, township 9, range 18 west, in Buffalo county. Proper attention to his business has brought to him that success which always attends honest effort. He now owns a well improved farm of two hundred acres, well stocked. Politically, Mr. Pettett is independent, being a strong alliance man at present. For years he has been an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and also a trustee and enthusiastic Sunday-school worker. Mr. Pettett was joined in marriage to Miss Annie B. McConnell, at the home of her parents, in Scott county, Iowa,

on February 23, 1881, by Rev. S. S. Ralston. Mrs. Pettett is a native of Allegheny county, Pa. In 1867, when eight years old, she was taken by her parents to Port Byron, Rock Island county, Ill., and in the spring of 1878 to Scott county, Iowa, where she was married.

In 1889 her parents, Andrew and Doreas McConnell, moved from Iowa to Nebraska, purchasing a farm in Cedar township, Buffalo county, where they now reside. Mrs. Pettett's ancestors were among the earliest settlers of Pennsylvania; her great-grandfather, Joseph Worley, being taken captive by the Indians. Mrs. Pettett's father, Andrew M. McConnell, was born in the year 1829. He has always been a faithful member of the United Presbyterian church. His parents are some of the old settlers of Pennsylvania. His occupation has always been farming. He was married, in 1857, to Doreas L. Allen, also a resident of same place. Their occupation was also farming. They were members of the Presbyterian church. Mrs. Pettett has five brothers and one sister. Joseph F., the oldest, married Miss Della Edgington, and are living at Malcolm, Poweshiek county, Iowa; Robert, died when nineteen months old; the other boys are living at home; their names are David A., Albert M. and Clarence A. McConnell; her sister's name was Jennie H. She married Joseph Duncan, of Scott county, Iowa. They have since moved to Cedar township, Buffalo county, Nebr. When seventeen years of age, Mrs. Pettett joined the United Presbyterian church, and continued in membership with that church until coming to Nebraska, when she united with the Methodist Episcopal church at Elm Creek. Mr. and Mrs. Pettett are the

parents of four children, viz.—Jennie Florence, born January 4, 1883, in Illinois; Albert Finley, born December 1, 1884, in Illinois; William Robert, born March 31, 1887, and Daisy Ellen, born December 26, 1889, at Elm Creek, Nebr.

**R**OSS GAMBLE, the subject of this biographical notice, is one of Kearney's foremost business men and her chief benefactor. He is not an old settler, strictly speaking, but he has been in Kearney long enough and identified with her interests intimately enough to rank, in point of accomplishments, beyond many who came even while the "buffalo were here." Mr. Gamble came to this country in 1879, reaching Kearney on the fourth day of July, that year. He has been a resident of the town continuously since, and is one of the few men who have made a success of all their business undertakings since coming here. Having a good record as a business man prior to that time, his biography will be of value to many and will be read with interest by all.

Mr. Gamble is a native of Maine, having been born in the village of Linneus, county of Aroostook, that state, August 15, 1834. He is of Scotch extraction, his parents being both natives of Scotland, where they were married. They came to this country, however, when young, where they began life. His father was Alexander Gamble, and his mother bore the maiden name of Mary Reed. In 1847, after their marriage, they moved to Rhode Island, and in 1850 to Wisconsin, settling in the vicinity of old Fort Winneberg, then on the outskirts of civilization. The



ROSS GAMBLE.





old fort is no longer remembered, but Portage City, which has grown up on its site, is a town of some pretensions, and is recognized as the old family seat of this branch of the Gamble family in the West. There the father died in 1876, aged sixty-six, and the mother in 1883, also well advanced in years. There the children, of which they had eight, the subject hereof being next to the oldest, grew up, and from that point took their several starts in life.

From the dates already given, it will be seen that our subject was sixteen years of age when his parents moved to Wisconsin. Two years later he left home, went into the pineries on the Wisconsin river and began life for himself. He at first went to work as a laborer in the lumber districts, accumulated some capital, and afterwards went into business for himself. He spent twenty-seven years of the best part of his life in this locality, and engaged in this business. His beginning was humble enough, but his success in the end was complete. He built up one of the largest trades in the Northwest, and at the time he gave up his interest there had acquaintances and business connections in every town from Wausaw and Stephen's Point, where he operated to St. Louis, covering an area of several hundred miles, and embracing some of the largest lumber jobbing points, as well as general business centers, in the country. Mr. Gamble decided to quit the lumber business in 1879 and to change his place of residence. He came, as above stated, to Nebraska that year, and established a ranch twenty-five miles northwest of Kearney, in Buffalo county, on the South Loup, and stocked it with cattle. A year and a half later he sold

this and established another between the Dismal and Middle Loup, to the northwest, which he conducted successfully for four years. In the spring of 1884, he sold out his entire ranching interests and also his lumber interests in Wisconsin, a large part of which he had retained up to that date and purchased of Wiley Bros., of Kearney, the Buffalo County Bank. This bank was then a private institution, and he conducted it as such until July, 1886, when having interested others in it, he re-organized it as a national bank, increasing the capital from \$60,000 to \$100,000. Mr. Gamble became president and still holds that position. The Buffalo County National Bank is one of the most prosperous institutions of the kind in the city of Kearney. It has paid good dividends from the beginning, and has accumulated a surplus of over \$50,000, besides some of the best business men of Kearney and Buffalo county are stockholders in it, and its board of directors is composed of men of unquestioned ability and integrity. Mr. Gamble is the recognized head of the institution, and to his judgment and good management is due much of the success it has attained. In April, 1889, Mr. Gamble, in connection with others, organized the Midway Loan and Trust Company of Kearney, with a capital of \$100,000. Of this he was elected treasurer and now holds that position. July following, he, with others, started the Kearney Savings Bank, organizing it under the state laws. It has a capital of \$100,000. He is president of it. The Savings Bank is comparatively new, but starts out under favorable auspices. It occupies an elegant three-story brick block, on the corner of Central avenue and Twenty-third street. This

is one of the most commodious and striking buildings in the city. In its construction Mr. Gamble has taken a lively interest and looks with some pride, as he has every reason to do, on the work accomplished. Besides his interests in these three corporations, Mr. Gamble owns considerable realty in Kearney, and some also in Wisconsin, having a fine farm in Columbia county, that state, and timber lands on the Wisconsin river.

From these facts it is clear that Mr. Gamble's life has been an active and an eminently successful one, far more so than that of the average business man. The secret of his success, if there be any secret in it, is to be found in two qualities which he possesses in a large measure, namely, persevering industry and strict attention to business. He was brought up to hard work and his whole life has been one of constant, unremitting labor. He has eschewed politics and the fatal allurements of office, and all other distracting pursuits and diversions, and concentrated his whole time and thought on his own personal affairs. And should one step into his office in the bank any time, he can always be found at his desk at work, receiving callers, considering applications for loans, answering letters and giving directions about the business of the bank. His life is a splendid vindication of the dignity of labor and a most excellent example of the success that crowns attention to details. Yet when this is said the best has not been told of him. Men may make money by fortunate speculation, or they may accumulate it by niggardly practices, living hard themselves and denying help to others, or they may get it by the exercise of the better virtues of industry, persever-

ance and reasonable self-denial, and yet their lives fall short of the true standard of manhood and fail to teach any valuable lasting lesson. The proper use of money is the true test of wisdom and the best evidence of manly character. If the subject of this sketch has established a reputation for anything in the city of his adoption it is for disinterested public spirit, benevolence, charity. Giving wisely, yet with a liberal hand, his wealth has blessed all on whom it has been bestowed. The evidences are on every hand. To mention only a few of his contributions to public improvements: he gave for the erection of the Midway hotel, \$600; to the Kearney Street Railway Company, \$700; to the pickle factory, \$250; to the pork packing establishment, \$500; to the paper mill, \$200; to the *Enterprise* newspaper, \$1,000, and to the First Methodist church, \$300. In smaller amounts he has contributed liberally to numberless other purposes, and to the poor, destitute and distressed he always extends a helping hand.

Mr. Gamble has a family—a wife and two sons. He was married in July, 1862, in Portage City, Wis. His wife was Elizabeth S., daughter of Russell Spieer, and she was born and reared in Portage City. Mr. Gamble's sons are grown, and each has an interest with and occupies a position of trust under him; Albert T., the elder, being cashier of, and Walter R., teller in, the Buffalo County National Bank.

Mr. Gamble and family attend the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mrs. Gamble is a member. He was a zealous member of the Masonic fraternity in former years and took all the degrees con-

ferred in this state. Lately, however, he has not been an active worker. In personal appearance Mr. Gamble is plain and unpretentious. In conversation he is somewhat reserved, unless warmed up on a subject in which he feels a special interest. He is very conservative, and, to one who does not know him, his slowness to act might be taken as an evidence of indecision of character, but it is only his habitual way of feeling the ground before he steps. He has made but few false moves in life, and he owes it to the fact that he has always insisted, whatever the pressure, on feeling his way and being assured of the security of his footing. Such men are usually men of positiveness, men of individuality, men of character. They are the ones around whom weaker natures generally revolve. They are a recognized force in affairs. They do not say or do brilliant things. They have not taste or talent for shining. They weigh and consider. They see events as they shape themselves with reference to causes. They estimate things at their real value. To the rash they are often stumbling blocks; to the weak of heart and short of sight they are towers of strength and beacons of light. Men who aspire to be leaders are often found in council with them. Perhaps the highest quality of intellect ever attributed to them is "level-headedness." But "level-headedness" in the race of life is much, and this joined to the heart that beats in tender sympathy with the wants of struggling humanity, constitutes Heaven's best gift to the race. In these qualities the subject of this brief biographical notice rises to the full stature of man. Mr. Gamble has a beautiful residence on Avenue "A," No. 2108, where he and his family reside.

**M**ARION H. SMITH was born in Marion county, Iowa, in 1859. His father, Joseph Smith, was born in Pennsylvania, in 1834, and moved from there to Indiana, and from there to Iowa, and thence to California, locating in Woodland. He was a wagon-maker by trade. He married Elizabeth Neal, in 1854. She was a native of Ohio, born in 1839, and to this union four children were born—Jennie and William, who live in California; Marion, the subject of this sketch, and Cleo, now living in Indiana. Marion, at the tender age of ten, began to do for himself. The first twelve years of his self-dependency were spent in Missouri and Iowa, and from the latter state he migrated to Nebraska, in 1882, and remained in the state three years, in the employ of S. R. Black; then went to Denver, Colo. He spent the summer in Denver, and was there engaged at the stock-yards, at \$30 per month. By additional money, earned by doing errands, at the end of three months he had saved about \$125. He decided to return home on a visit, but on his way was robbed of his money. He consequently sought work, and was employed by S. R. Black, with whom he remained for six years. He gained the entire confidence of Mr. Black and all with whom he dealt. His word is considered as good as a bankable note. By frugality and good management, Mr. Smith, although young, has amassed a competency for himself and family the remainder of their lives. He owns one hundred and sixty-five acres of excellent land, town property, and a well established business. He married Mary Cox, a native of Missouri, in 1888. She is the daughter of Noah and Louise (Packer) Cox, the former a

native of Indiana, born in 1837; the latter a native of Illinois, born in 1836. To Mr. and Mrs. Smith one child has been born to cheer their home—Cleo, born December 17, 1888. Although Mr. Smith is not enthusiastic in politics, he is immutably a republican.

**SHERMAN UPTON.** The subject of this sketch is in the eighth generation of the Upton line, which is descended from the first American progenitor, John Upton, a Scotchman by birth, who came to this country about the year 1650, and settled at what was then known as Salem Village, but for more than a century past has been known as Danvers, in Massachusetts. The maternal ancestors of his grandfather, Daniel Upton, are in direct descent from that eminent Puritan, Samuel Morse, who came from England in 1637, and settled in Dedham, Mass., and his own maternal ancestors trace back in direct line to John Moss, who came from England about the same date, and settled in New Haven, Conn., in 1639. Sherman Upton is one of a family of four sons and six daughters, all of whom, with the parents, John B. Upton and Julia Sherman Upton, are now living. John B. Upton was one of a family of seven sons and six daughters, all of whom lived to years of maturity, and eleven were present at the golden wedding of their parents, celebrated September 30, 1871. These venerable grandparents of our subject lived to celebrate the sixty-sixth anniversary of their marriage. Sherman Upton was born in

Batavia, N. Y., June 9, 1858; removed with his parents to Lawrence, Van Buren county, Mich., in 1859; changed residence with the family to Decatur, same county, in 1869, and there entered upon the earnest labors of life, attending public school and working on a farm during vacations. In 1875 he entered Olivet college, Mich., where he remained two years. The family changed residence, in 1876, to Big Rapids, Mecosta county, Mich., where our subject joined them on leaving Olivet.

He entered Michigan Agricultural College in the spring of 1878, and continued the course to graduation in August, 1881. The vacations from this course were filled with district school work. While in college his love of art work was much stimulated by the drawings that were given to him to do in illustration of scientific works, the most important of these being drawings of dissected bees, published in a work on bee culture, by Prof. Cook, of that college. He also made great proficiency in character drawing, and, being chosen class prophet, gave the subject in a series of drawings in ink on glass, which, presented by the aid of a stereopticon, gave to his classmates views of the future that, however little they may be realized, will never be forgotten, owing to the numerous sharp hits given to so many personal peculiarities. Upon leaving college, portrait work offered inducements, as also did illustrative newspaper work; but trade seeming to promise something more substantial, he abandoned these in 1883, and entered upon a clerkship in the hardware trade with an uncle in Vermillion, Dak. He engaged in trade for himself in May, 1887, in Elm Creek, Nebr., following N. O. Calkins in the furniture and implement business.

Being a man of versatile talent, and having a keen sense of the sentiment of human faces, it is no surprise that he has added photographing and portraits to his regular line. Having marked ability in the way of reproducing the peculiar natural look in the human face, so dear to friends and so hard to be secured, it is desirable that this departure from the regular, monotonous routine of business shall be a success, as it undoubtedly will be when followed to a finish, and Elm Creek can name among her solid men, this portrait artist of high rank.

**JOSHUA BOYD**, one of Buffalo county's prosperous farmers, was born in 1850, in Woodford county, Ill. His father, George Boyd, a native of Christian county, Ky., was born in 1816.

In 1849, he pre-empted land in Woodford county, Ill., and, being industrious, was soon in good circumstances. For forty years he was a devoted member of the Christian church, being one of its liberal supporters; also, the temperance cause received his liberal support. Honesty and sobriety were the ruling elements of his life. He was allied with the republican party from the beginning of Lincoln's administration, and for a number of years he was supervisor of Cruger township.

His parents were Hardy and Mary (Tosian) Boyd, who were born in Virginia, east of the Blue Ridge mountains, on the Potomac river. In 1846, in Hopkinsville, Ky., he was married to Eliza J. Pierce, also a native of the same county and state; she was born in 1822, and, like

her husband, was a member of the Christian church. Mr. Boyd passed from earth, November 14, 1890.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd were the parents of nine children, viz.—Lucy Ann (Mrs. Major), Illinois; Joshua, John, of Illinois; Sarah V. (Mrs. Hedges); Alice (Mrs. E. M. Boyd), deceased; Susie, of Illinois, deceased; Charlica (Mrs. Miller); Peter and Belle died in infancy.

Joshua Boyd, the subject of this sketch, began life for himself in 1873, and started with fifty acres of land and necessary farming implements. In 1884 he migrated to Elm Creek, Nebr., and located on section 27, township 9, range 18 west. He now owns a quarter section, most of which is under cultivation, valued at \$40 per acre. Mr. Boyd is engaged in the stock business, and is the owner of some of that famous stock, La Perch (Bertrand) and was one of the first to embark in the business in Buffalo county. Mr. Boyd is a republican in politics, also a member of the A. O. U. W. Lodge; for many years he has been a member of the Christian church, always willing to respond to the calls for charity. In 1874, at Eureka, Ill., he was married to Miss Calista R. Gould, a native of Virginia, having moved from Bethany, Va., to Eureka, Ill., with her parents while young. Her father, Lewis B. Gould, was born in Brattleboro, Vt., in 1820. Her mother was a native of Bethany, Va.

Mrs. Boyd is a member of the Methodist church.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd are the parents of eight children, viz.—Clarence R., Virginia Belle, Vida Ellen, Edward O., Susie May, Mima Olive (living), Jay G. and Claudius J. died in infancy.

**W**ILLIAM H. DEMPSTER, farmer of Garfield township, Buffalo county, Nebr., was born in Adams county, Ill., in May, 1851, and was reared on a farm. His father, George Dempster, was a native of Ohio, who, when a young man, located in Illinois, and after living there for some years, married Miss Elizabeth Lewton of that state. Some years after marrying, he came to Nebraska (in 1872), and is now a resident of Hall county, this state. William H. Dempster is the eldest of a family of ten children, all of whom are living in Nebraska, excepting one brother, who is in Minnesota. William H. came to Nebraska in 1872 with his parents and other members of the family, and first located near Hastings, Hall county, where he pre-empted a quarter section of land while yet a single man, but made no improvements thereon. In 1876 he married Miss Augusta F., daughter of William H. and Mary A. Denman, who came from Illinois to Nebraska in 1858. Mr. Denman, a cattle ranchman, was a native of Ohio and died in 1886, at the age of sixty-eight years; his widow is now about seventy-four years old. To the union of W. H. Dempster and wife were born five children, viz.—Mattie M., Edgar, Evelyn and Ella, all living, and a twin to Ella who died at three months of age. Mr. Dempster, after his marriage, resided in Hall county, until fall of 1880, moved to Buffalo county, and entered a homestead and also a timber claim, one quarter section each, on the east half of section 20, township 12, range 14, about two miles from what is now Ravenna, and has ninety acres under cultivation in mixed crops; he also is engaged in stock-

raising. When he first came to his present locality there had been but little improvement made, but he has seen railroads come in, towns spring up and the prairie put under cultivation and beautified. In the early day trading was done at Gibbon, and deer and other game was the chief meat supply. Mr. Dempster and wife are members of the Christian church and stand high in the esteem of their neighbors. In politics, Mr. Dempster is a republican, was the first clerk of his township, and has been road overseer since its organization three years ago.

**F**RITZ STARK, miller of Garfield township, Buffalo county, Nebr., was born in Holstein, Germany, November 28, 1834. His father, Friedrich Wilhelm Stark, was superintendent of a large farm in the old country; he married Lucy Schall, and by her became the father of five children, of whom Fritz is the youngest. Fritz Stark came to America alone, landing in New York, June 16, 1864; from that city he went to Davenport, Iowa, and for three years followed his trade as miller; from Davenport he came to Nebraska in February, 1867, and until the first day of May of the same year resided at Omaha; thence he went to Grand Island, where he remained until October, 1870; then he moved to Fremont and to Council Bluffs, being employed as an elevator hand at the latter place; he next returned to Grand Island, in April, 1871, and later started a saw-mill on Oak Creek, but the mill was not profitable, and he passed two more years at Grand

Island; he then passed two and a half years in the milling business at Gibbon, and in 1876 located on his present homestead, it being one-half of section 2, Garfield township. One quarter section is a homestead and the other quarter is a timber claim. He has sixty acres under cultivation in mixed crops, has good buildings and most of his farm fenced in. His residence and barns are large frame structures, surrounded by fine orchards and groves. The farm shows thrift and good management, and is situated opposite the town of Nantasket in the valley of Loup river, with water convenient for his stock. Mr. Stark was married at Grand Island, in 1877, to Miss Wilhelmina Gaden, a native of Germany, and two children bless this union—William and Anna. Mr. Stark has two brothers in this country—John C., a plasterer and mason, living at Grand Island; and Carl, a farmer, living near Litchfield, Sherman county. Mr. Stark is in politics independent and unfavorable to prohibition. He takes great interest in the development of his country, and is a true American citizen.

**O** H. SMALLEY is the youngest child of Charles and Delina Smalley, both natives of Vermont. Charles Smalley was born in 1815, at Bellows Falls. A man of irreproachable character, upright and honorable in all his dealings, he won the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. His occupation was farming, but the hard work of the farm did not prevent the development of his kind and generous nature. He belonged to the republican party. In 1837,

at Grafton, Vt., he was married to Miss Delina Davis, who bore him six children, as follows—Charles, born in Vermont, now in the livery business in Kansas City; Emerline, died in 1885; Mary (Mrs. Zeull), whose husband is a foreman in a cab shop in Springfield, Vt.; David, in a sale stable, Bellows Falls, Vt.; Levi, farming in Kansas, and O. H., the subject of this memoir.

O. H. Smalley was born in Vermont in 1851. At the age of twenty-one he gave his father \$500 of his earnings and then went to Galva, Ill., there engaging in the livery business, and in this he continued until 1883, when he moved to Elm Creek, Nebr., here engaging in farming and stock-raising. At the present writing, O. H. Smalley owns nine hundred and seventy acres of good land and feeds about one hundred head of stock. Mr. Smalley is a supporter of the democrat platform, also a member of the Masonic order. In 1875, while at Galva, Ill., he was married to Miss Ada Smith, a native of that place, born in 1856. After a course in the Knoxville seminary she became a teacher and taught three years previous to her marriage. To them one child has been born—Jessie, born January 30, 1878.

**J**ACOB L. BLUE, M. D., hotel proprietor, Nantasket, Nebr., was born in New Market, Middlesex county, N. J., February 24, 1826. His father, Henry Blue, also a native of New Jersey, was a manufacturer of shoes at one time, but afterwards became a merchant. He married Miss Mary, daughter of Harmon and Charity Staley, both natives of New Jersey and of German and French descent,

respectively. Harmon Staley was a farmer and he and family were highly respected in the neighborhood in which they lived. To the union of Henry and Mary Blue were born twelve children—nine girls and three boys—the subject of these lines being the fifth child. Henry Blue died in his native state in 1861. Jacob L. Blue was educated in the common schools of New Jersey, and at the age of fourteen years began learning the trade of millwright, at which he continued four years. He then went to an uncle, a practicing physician at New Brunswick, N. J., and with him as preceptor studied medicine, was admitted to practice and became a partner or assistant to his uncle and preceptor. In 1844 he purchased a farm and was married. He followed agriculture about three years, then sold and went to Orange, N. J., where he entered mercantile trade, together with building and dealing in real estate. Three years later he sold out all his possessions and moved to Ohio, where for two years he followed farming, and then for a year practiced medicine. Again returning to New Jersey, he resumed the real estate business and was appointed marshal of Orange.

September 3, 1862, he was enrolled as a private in Company G, Twenty-sixth New Jersey volunteers. For nine months he was on detailed duty as recruiting officer, and after the regiment was fully organized he was appointed librarian. But in a short time the regiment became actively engaged, and Mr. Blue was compelled to abandon the library and follow his regiment, which had been ordered to Washington, where it was assigned to the Sixth army corps. He was a participant in

some of the most memorable battles of Virginia, in which state the greater part of his duty was performed, and he served gallantly until the close of his term of enlistment. On one occasion, he was detailed to take pontoon boats out of the Rappahannock river; the night being very very dark he was caught between two boats and was badly crushed, and from the internal hemorrhage caused by this accident he has never fully recovered—neither has the government recognized his claim for a pension. He was treated for his injury in the hospital at Washington, and after re-enlisting was employed in that institution during his convalescence, but was stricken down by typhoid fever, and had therefore to be treated for the complication of two disorders. He recovered sufficiently, however, to return to his post of duty, but soon after received his discharge. After a brief stay at home he revisited Washington, where he was employed for a month as guardian of public property; resigning, he joined Gen. Grant's engineering corps; but a short time afterwards returned to Washington and was re-instated in his former position, which he held until the close of the war.

After another brief visit to his native state, Dr. Blue bought a farm in Maryland, on which he resided two years, practicing medicine. He then sold out and returned to New Jersey, where for a year he engaged in merchandising; then for three years he filled a position in the state asylum, and, after that, passed nine months in the West. On his return to his native state, he sold out all his effects, raised a colony, and in April, 1876, again started for the West. His first visit to Nebraska was in 1875; his second coming,



as intimated above, was less than a year later. He, his family and colony, numbering forty-three in all, settled in Buffalo county, in Buckeye valley, which, since its organization, is known as Valley township. He pre-empted a quarter-section, and, like the rest of the colony, began the work of improvement. For three years he followed farming and the practice of medicine, then sold out and went to Burgh, where he practiced medicine and held the offices of postmaster and justice of the peace for three years; and in September, 1882, he moved to Gibbon, where he lived ten months, then settled in Garfield township, where he located his homestead in the northwest quarter of section 22, township 12, range 14. He here, after two years, relinquished the regular practice of his profession—attending only old friends and patients—and devoted himself to the development of his farm, on which he lived five years, proved up his claim and still owns. In the interval, he purchased a hotel property in Nantasket, and is now making his home in that town. He has been dealing to some extent in real estate the past few years, and besides his hotel property he owns over twenty-eight town lots and also owns and conducts a flour and feed store.

Dr. Blue was first married, in 1844, to Olivia Stetson, daughter of Stephen Stetson, a hat manufacturer of Orange, N. J. To this union six children were born and named in the following order: Alonzo, Caroline, Melissa, Susan, Stephen and Martha. The mother and two of the children (Stephen and Martha), died in 1866, while the doctor and his family were residing in Maryland. The doctor afterwards married Miss Alice, daughter of Charles

Crampton, of Roekaway, N. J. To this union have been born six children, viz.—Ella (deceased), Lizzie, Amos (deceased), Clarence, Lucinda and Albert.

While living in New Jersey, Dr. Blue was a member of the Baptist church, but on reaching Nebraska, finding no congregation of that denomination here, he united with the Presbyterians, and has always since been a faithful member. He has always taken great interest in the moral training of the young and has devoted much time to this purpose since he took up his residence in Nebraska. While living in Buckeye valley he established a union Sabbath-school at Burgh, and has been prime mover in establishing seven other Sabbath-schools. For three years he has been superintendent of two of these schools, and is director of a day-school. He is now an elder of his church and has also held all the more important offices thereof, including those of treasurer and secretary. In civic matters he has filled the office of justice of the peace; and is at present the deputy postmaster at Nantasket, the postoffice being in his own store and his son-in-law being the postmaster. Mr. Blue is a member of the society of American Mechanics, as well as of the G. A. R., of which last-named body he is chaplain. Mr. Blue has purchased a building in Nantasket, which he furnishes for church privileges, never charging anything for rent. It is needless to make any comment upon the career of so progressive a man as Jacob L. Blue.

In politics, Mr. Blue is an active prohibitionist, striking hard blows for the cause, wherever he lives.

**D**AVID H. HUTCHISON, farmer, was born in Steuben county, N. Y., May 4, 1849, but at the age of six years was taken by his parents to Michigan and thence to Wisconsin, and in the latter state lived until he reached manhood. When about twenty-one he went to Illinois and followed for a living common laboring work in the vicinity of Dixon and Chicago. From Illinois he went to Iowa, in 1877, and for five years engaged in farming on rented land. In March, 1882, he came to Nebraska and bought from the railroad company his present farm—the northeast quarter of section 7, township 12, range 14—then all wild and raw. He has now eighty acres in cultivation, raising mixed crops and graded live stock, including Clydesdale horses. On his first coming here he found no railroad, no town, and was compelled to go through all the hardships and inconveniences of pioneer life, but he bravely went to work and improved his homestead and now finds himself comfortably situated, with his postoffice at Ravenna, one and one-half miles to the southeast, and railroad facilities at the same point.

William Hutchison, the father of the subject of this sketch, was also a native of the State of New York, was a wagon-maker by trade and was also engaged in the saw-mill and lumber business. He married Miss Esther Sweet, who bore him thirteen children. Of these David H. is the fifth, and beside himself there are three of his brothers living in Buffalo county, Nebr., and there are also three of his brothers living in Cherry county, same state. In March, 1877, while in Illinois, David H. Hutchison married Miss Sarah,

daughter of Calvin and Marietta Buffington, of Pennsylvania. The father of Mrs. Hutchison was a farmer, and settled near Dixon, Illinois, in 1856, and there died about ten years later. To the marriage of David H. and Sarah Hutchison have been born seven children in the following order—Frank, Marietta, Fred, Jessie (died in 1883, at the age of eleven months), Seth, Charles and Malcolm. In politics Mr. Hutchison is a republican. Mrs. Hutchison is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, but Mr. Hutchison, although a member of the same church when he was a resident of Illinois, does not at present affiliate with any religious society, but his upright and moral life wins for him the full respect of the community with which he has so happily cast his lot.

**J**OHN S. SALSBURY, a farmer of Garfield township, Buffalo county, Nebr., was born in Saratoga county, in the State of New York, October 8, 1842. His father, James Salsbury, was also a native of New York State, and by occupation was a farmer, which vocation he followed until his death, November 4, 1844; but while pursuing his life-work on the farm, was much interested in politics, and was honored, by his fellow-citizens, with several positions of trust and duty. He married Miss Caroline, daughter of John W. Creal, of New York State, and to this marriage were born two children—Polly M., who died June 7, 1844, and John S., the subject proper of this sketch. In July, 1864, John S. Salsbury married Miss Rachel H., daughter of John and Anna

Runnels, natives of Ohio, who first moved to Indiana, and then to Iowa, of which latter state Mr. Salsbury was a resident when his marriage took place. To the union of John S. and Rachel H. Salsbury have been born seven children, in the following order--Elmer W., Annie C., Rachel P., Cady M., Mary E., Roy C. and Guy A. Of these children, Elmer died while yet an infant; Cady M. died June 8, 1883, at the age of twelve years; Rachel P. died in February, 1886, at the age of seventeen.

John S. Salsbury came to Nebraska, January 1, 1879, and located first in Sherman county. In May, 1881, he changed to Buffalo county, and entered a homestead claim on the northwest quarter of section 34, township 12, range 14, where he first built a sod house and went to work at getting his farm ready for cultivation, breaking twenty-five acres the first year. He has since built a good, large frame dwelling, has one hundred and ten acres under cultivation, has a fine orchard started, and is possessed of every convenience to make a comfortable home. He has always been successful in raising good mixed crops, since his residence here, and live stock has received much of his attention. On his first coming here, there were only three farms opened up in the township, but now the whole township is dotted with flourishing farms, among which his is one of the best, owing to his industry and skillful management. Railroads have come in, and towns have been built up, and Mr. Salsbury is now close to a market and a shipping point. Reared to be a farmer in the State of Iowa, to which state his parents had moved while he was yet but a lad, he gained a full

knowledge of agricultural work, and hence comes his success in that pursuit in Nebraska. While in Iowa, Mr. Salsbury enlisted, in June, 1861, at Clarinda, Page county, in company F, First Nebraska infantry, and served in Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky and Arkansas; he veteranized in January, 1864, and the latter part of his service took place on the Western plains. He was mustered out in July, 1866. During his service in the army he was transferred from the infantry to the cavalry branch of the service. At the fight at Helena, Ark., he was taken prisoner, and for a week or so was confined at Little Rock. Released on parole, he went to St. Louis, Mo., and thence to his home, where he was arrested as a deserter, but, after the President's proclamation, returned to his regiment, then at Cape Girardeau, and served with it until the close of the struggle, without further mishap. On his return to Iowa, he engaged in building bridges, and was also engaged in the milling business--the latter business occupying his attention until the time of his coming to Nebraska. After his arrival here, Mr. Salsbury was made the first justice of the peace of the township in which he located, and served two terms; subsequently he was elected supervisor, and in this capacity served also two terms. He has also served as assessor and road overseer, and in every position gave the utmost satisfaction to his constituents. Mr. Salsbury and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and are devoted in their attention to its services and discipline. Mr. Salsbury is also commander of Cedar Mountain Post, No. 220, G. A. R., in which he takes the utmost interest. His interest in the granger

movement is likewise unbounded, and he with much ability, acts as lecturer and state delegate for the Farmers' alliance. His habits are strictly temperate, and he is a strong advocate for the prohibition of the manufacture or sale of intoxicants in the state. His politics he confines altogether to the republican party. His standing before the public is of the highest, and the various positions of honor and trust which he has held, unsolicited, give evidence of the esteem in which he is held by his neighbors.

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**H**ENRY NANTKER was born in Pittsburg, Pa., in 1848. He is the son of William and Mary (Laingkamp) Nantker, natives of Holland. The former was born in 1816, and, when nineteen years of age, came to America, settling in Pittsburg, Pa., where, for a number of years, he was in the employ of Jones & Cooley, a firm handling steamboats' supplies. Later he formed a partnership with his sons in the wholesale flour, feed and grain trade, in which he continued until retiring from active business. In 1844, he was married to Miss Mary Laingkamp, and to this union have been born three children, viz.—William, Henry and John, the first and third living in Pittsburg. Mr. and Mrs. Nantker were both active members of the Evangelical church. Mr. Nantker was a democrat in politics and his popularity was such that he was elected repeatedly to the office of treasurer of South Pittsburg. Henry Nantker, the subject of this biographical notice, was engaged in the flour, feed and

grain business in Pittsburg for a number of years with his father. His popularity was such, while there, that he was elected councilman of the city, in which capacity he served for some time. In 1879, he migrated to Nebraska, settling in Elm Creek township, Buffalo county, first locating on section 1, township 8, range 18 west, there remaining four years, and then moving to section 36, township 9, range 18, and remaining three years, and from there he moved to the village, where he now resides, engaged in the druggist and notion business. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity. Mr. Nantker married Miss Matilda Borman, a native of Pittsburg, born in 1857. Their union has been blessed with three children, viz.—Addie, born July 20, 1877; William and Harry. Previous to coming to Nebraska, Mr. and Mrs. Nantker were honored members of the Evangelical Lutheran church. Mr. Nantker is a supporter of the democratic platform, and, since coming to Elm Creek, has held various offices in the gift of the people. In 1886 he was nominee for the legislature.

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**W**ILLIAM W. POOL, farmer, and secretary and manager of the Nebraska Land and Cattle Company, with headquarters at Ravenna, Nebr., was born in Niagara county, N. Y., March 17, 1844. His father, William H. Pool, a native of Massachusetts, was reared a farmer, and in 1844 emigrated to Michigan, in which state he is still residing at the advanced age of eighty-

two years—his earliest recollection of any notable object being a sight of the soldiers of the war of 1812. He married Miss Irena, daughter of Obed Smith, and this union was blest with the following children—A. H. Pool, now living nine miles north of Kearney, Nebr.; A. S. Pool, in the coal business at Chicago, Ill.; B. F. Pool, a farmer near Romeo, Mich.; Harriet M. Pool, unmarried and living at Romeo, Mich., and William W., the subject proper of these lines.

At the age of four years, William W. Pool was taken by his parents to Michigan, in which state he remained until he was eighteen years old, when he went to Oil City, Pa. He was reared chiefly on a farm, but had a taste for general business, and although he received but a limited share of schooling, acquired later a practical education, which enabled him to transact or enter into any branch of trade. In 1872, Mr. Pool married Miss Eva H., adopted daughter of Charles Williams, a foundry and millman of Wellsborough, Pa., who died in 1889; her mother, Sophia J. Hoyt, having died in 1854, and her father, Joseph B. Hoyt, having been killed while serving his country in the Union army in 1861. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Pool have been born four children—Ella; Bartlett F., who died in January, 1880, at the age of five years; Gertie S., and Eva L., who died when but six weeks old.

William W. Pool came to Nebraska in October, 1876, and at first pre-empted a quarter section, in section 12, township 11, range 15; subsequently, he secured a homestead claim of a quarter section, and a timber claim for another quarter, both in section 6, township 11, range 14;

he at once commenced to improve his farm, erecting substantial buildings and farming until 1883, when he, with others, organized the Nebraska Land and Cattle Company, under the laws of the State of New York; in 1889, however, the company was re-organized under the laws of Nebraska. To this company Mr. Pool disposed of one-quarter section of his land, reserving one-half section for his home. The company owns ten thousand acres of land, and is engaged in raising and handling live stock, and its officers are B. F. Peck, of East Bethany, N. Y., president; R. L. Downing, of Kearney, Nebr., vice-president; and W. W. Pool, the subject of this sketch, secretary and manager, and for the last named position no better selection could have been made. In addition to stock-raising and trading, the company cultivate three thousand five hundred acres in mixed crops, and in 1889 grew eight hundred acres in wheat, with a fair yield. The average number of cattle raised, fattened and shipped annually, is one thousand, two hundred head, and hogs are also handled. The average number of hands employed by the company is thirty, and it requires about one hundred and fifty horses to do its work. Mr. Pool has a fine residence in Ravenna, but pays daily visits to the company's ranch, and gives its affairs special attention. Telegraphic communication is had between the ranch and his residence, the two being about five miles apart. Besides being the manager of this large business, in which he has been a stockholder from the beginning, Mr. Pool is vice-president of the First National Bank of Ravenna, and president of the Ravenna Creamery

Company. Since becoming a resident of Nebraska, he has served as justice of the peace, and at present is a member of the town board, although he is not an aspirant for office, and takes no particularly active part in politics.

When Mr. Pool settled on his pre-emptiou, neighbors were few and far apart, and but few improvements were to be seen, but soon the prairie began to be settled up, and was dotted with houses and farm improvements; the railroad was run through, the town of Ravenna sprang up, and the development of the country is still going on rapidly, and much of this improvement is due to the enterprise and push of such men as the subject of this sketch, William W. Pool.

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**E**RASTUS SMITH, a retired capitalist, at Ravenna, Buffalo county, Nebr., was born near Shelbyville, Ind., August 3, 1830, and was reared on a farm until seventeen years of age. He received his education at the common schools, and at the seminary in Shelbyville, in which latter institution he studied civil engineering, following this as a profession for many years, and helping to locate and build a number of railroads. His father, Jonas Smith, was a native of Vermont and a farmer, who moved to Indiana in 1818, and settled near Shelbyville, where he ended his days in 1852. His wife, the mother of Erastus, was Abigail, daughter of Elisha Mayhew; was a native of Maine, and both of English descent, the ancestors having come to America before the Revolutionary war.

The children born to Jonas Smith and wife were twelve in number, of whom Erastus is the fourth.

At the age of twenty-four years, Erastus Smith went to Iowa and entered four hundred acres of land near Des Moines, lived there two years, and then sold out and came to Nebraska, in 1856, and located in Omaha, where he was engaged in real estate business until 1858. He then became a commercial traveler, and when the war broke out, in 1861, he was at Burning Springs, West Va., in the interest of oil wells. Of course, his business was brought to a standstill through the war. Mr. Smith then went to Polk county, Iowa, and for several years taught school, and for ten years engaged in farming. In 1874, he came back to Nebraska and settled his homestead on the northeast quarter of section 8, township 12, range 14, and at once began improving for a farm and cattle ranch; he also located a timber claim, and bought five hundred and forty acres of railroad land in addition, and continued farming and stock-raising in later years, keeping on hand an average of one hundred and fifty head of graded Durham cattle. January 1, 1886, the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad Company began to push their road through, and the same month Mr. Smith sold to the Lincoln Land Company a two-third interest in a section of land for a town site, he retaining every third lot. The town was laid out in June, 1886, the first lots were sold in July, and Mr. Davis, banker, erected the first building. The town has had a steady and healthy growth, the population on January 1, 1890, being about one thousand. The sale of lots and land by Mr. Smith has placed him in most

comfortable circumstances financially, and he has retired from active business, with the exception of looking after his town interests, as he has some buildings for rent or for sale. Mr. Smith is the pioneer of his township, and about his first experience was the loss of his crop by grasshoppers in 1874 and 1876, which disaster, at that time, was a serious loss, but he possessed indomitable courage and energy, and went to work to recover his fortune, and it will have been seen that in this he has been successful. His neighbors in the early days were but few, and for several years his children were the only children within nine square miles, with section 8 as its center.

In 1864 Mr. Smith was married, in Iowa, to Miss Mary J., daughter of Aaron and Mary J. (Dudley) Pearson, of New England. Mr. Pearson was a cattle dealer, and died in Iowa in 1874. The marriage of Mr. Smith has been blessed by the birth of five children, as follows—Laura, who is married to Charles Davidson; Mary B., married to F. P. Boyd; Charles D., who died in December, 1886, at the age of seventeen years; Eva E. and Clara, at home. Mr. Smith in politics is a republican, and while a resident of Iowa was a member of the Masonic fraternity, but the absence of Masonic lodges in the West caused him to become delinquent, and he is now non-affiliating.

Mr. Smith does not owe his prosperity simply to good luck; it is the result of his own foresight and prudence. His early experience as a civil engineer on railroads, and the geography of the country before him, satisfied his mind that a railroad would be run to the Northwest, and he located his land with a view of

availing himself of any benefit that might accrue from its construction. He has not reasoned in vain, nor has he been disappointed. The road has been built, the town is here, and wealth has resulted to reward his sagacity and business tact.

**J** W. HARREL is a representative business man of the town of Gibbon, Buffalo county. He is not an old timer, and the record of his experience does not therefore run back to the early days of the colony. He settled in Gibbon in February, 1879, and is a man of comparatively recent growth. As the common saying goes, he started "at the bottom round of the ladder," and although not yet rich or famous, he has secured a footing, and is in a fair way to get on in the world. Given the case of a young man age twenty-five, married, thrown into this new western country, among strangers and without a dollar to go on, what will he do? His first impulse will be to return home. If he overcomes this impulse and decides to stay, the chances are that he will hear in a short time of some more attractive place further west, and, catching the migratory fever, will move on toward the front. If he "strikes it rich," he will settle down, but failing in this he goes out with the next exodus, and so he drifts from place to place in his wandering pursuit of wealth till fortune graciously smiles upon him or death comes at last to his relief. The race for wealth, the contest for glory, become too absorbing to admit of the tedious process of growth and development, the idea being

to get to the front, to get there on territory, to get there in time, to get there in point of success, and to get there fully, freely and unmistakably. The subject of this sketch, when he decided to stay West, made up his mind to locate in one place and remain there. In April following the date of his locating in Gibbon, Mr. Harrel engaged in the mercantile establishment of A. D. George, in whose employ he remained for six years. Here he gathered the knowledge of the local trade and formed an acquaintance with the buying public which have since stood him in good stead. At the end of the six years he had saved enough from his earnings to begin business for himself. He opened a grocery store in Gibbon in the spring of 1885, and has been engaged exclusively in the grocery business since. His business has been reasonably prosperous, and measured by his means and opportunities, he may be considered a fairly successful man. The secret of what success he has attained, if there be any secret about it, is to be found in his industry, economy and strict application to business. He has followed steadily one purpose—that of developing his business interests in accordance with his means and opportunities. He has allowed no distracting pursuits or diversions to lead him away from this purpose.

In politics Mr. Harrel is a republican—a stanch believer in the principles of his party—but not a politician even in the mildest sense of the word. As a citizen he is alive to the welfare of his community, ever ready to help, to the extent of his means and ability, any enterprise of general interest—a liberal contributor to all charitable purposes and a zealous worker

in that most benevolent organization, the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

Mr. Harrel possesses an agreeable presence. He is large of mold and generous of heart. He has an open, frank face, and a hearty manner. He is somewhat of the style of "rough and ready." He has his own opinions and speaks them freely to friends and strangers. He is broad in his views and believes in each one having the largest amount of personal liberty consistent with the public good. He asks nothing for himself that he is not willing to grant to others. He is, in short, an industrious, useful citizen, a successful business man, a clever companionable fellow, whom everybody knows and familiarly greets as "Joe."

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**M**AURICE A. HOOVER, M. D., was born in Marion county, Ind., near Indianapolis, April 6, 1858, and is a son of Perry C. and Catherine M. (Bender) Hoover, the former of whom was born September 13, 1832, in Marion county, Ind., and is now a substantial grocery merchant of Indianapolis; the mother is a native of Boiling Springs, Pa., and was born November 13, 1836. His father is a son of Andrew Hoover, one of the first settlers of Indianapolis, Ind., whose homestead was one mile from the western boundary of the city. The section of six hundred and forty acres was purchased of the government by Andrew Hoover, and it is intact and owned by four of his children. The old deed with the president's signature is still in their possession. Of four children, the





M. A. HOOVER.



subject of this sketch is the eldest, and is the only one residing in Nebraska. He was educated at Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Ind., where he took, in addition to his literary studies, a special two-years' course in the study of chemistry. In 1879 he began reading medicine with Drs. P. H. & H. Jammerson, of Indianapolis, and March 3, 1881, graduated, with the degree of M. D., from the Butler University Medical College of Indiana, of that city. He began the practice of his profession at Mount Jackson, Ind., but a year later moved to Indianapolis, and until March, 1883, continued practice there, meeting with more than ordinary success. April, of the same year, he came to Kearney, Nebr., where his abilities were soon recognized, and professional success naturally followed. It was not a long time, either, before his genial manners and social qualities attracted attention, and in the fall of 1884 his friends elected him coroner of the county for the term of two years.

November 3, 1883, he was married to Miss Eva A. Cox, daughter of B. F. Cox, a prominent citizen for many years of Crawfordsville, Ind. Dr. and Mrs. Hoover have one child, Bessie B., five years old.

Dr. Hoover is one of the leading physicians of central Nebraska, and enjoys a large and growing practice. He is a member of the Nebraska State Medical Association, and was a member of the Indiana State Medical Association while a resident of that state. He is also a member of the National Surgeons' Society, composed of railway surgeons, and is resident surgeon for the Union Pacific and Burlington & Missouri River railroads. At the organization of the United States Pension

Board, in 1887, at Kearney, Dr. Hoover was elected secretary, and has held that position ever since. He was appointed examining physician of the board of insanity by Judge Hamer in 1887, and still retains that office.

The doctor and wife are members of the Methodist church. Of a cheerful disposition, he prescribes bountifully of the "medicine of mirth," which makes him a very popular guest of the sick-room. He is thoroughly in sympathy with the big-hearted West, and gives cheerfully of his time and means for its development.

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**A** D. GEORGE. Another man who settled in the vicinity of Gibbon at an early day is A. D. George. Mr. George came to Buffalo county in September, 1872, and located one mile east of the town of Gibbon, taking as a homestead the south half of the southeast quarter of section 18, township 9, range 13 west. To this he subsequently added by purchase the north half of the same section. He began his improvements soon after making his selection, starting in a humble way, as did all the old settlers. For eleven years he lived on his homestead and followed farming and stock raising. During this period he passed through the trying times of the grasshopper season and the dry years, and there fell to him the usual hard experiences that fell to the common lot of all. What these experiences were are known to all the old settlers, but not so well known to, or properly appreciated by, those who have come in at a later date. The case of

Mr. George was even different from that of the average settler, and the situation thereby rendered the more discouraging. Prior to coming to Nebraska he had spent all his maturer years in the mercantile business. Farming was practically new to him. He was in a new country and launched at once into an untried condition of agriculture, far from market and unsurrounded by any of the helps and conveniences common in the old communities of the East. To make a success from the beginning could hardly be expected. Simply how to live, soon became a problem. But Mr. George had confidence in the ultimate outcome. He believed in the country, believed in the soil, in the climate and in the ability of himself and his associates to make something out of them. He never allowed his courage to weaken, nor his interest to flag. He stuck to his farm and pursued his fixed purpose to labor and to wait. The succeeding years brought their reward. The logic of events has demonstrated the correctness of his views. His present condition—the success he has attained—is a signal vindication of his position and a befitting remuneration for his long years of patient toil. In 1879 Mr. George purchased the mercantile establishment of Henry Cook & Son, at Gibbon. Since that date he has been actively engaged in the business, being now one of the oldest and most successful merchants of Gibbon. For the mercantile business Mr. George possesses a special aptitude, and for its successful pursuit he is well qualified by experience. He has spent the greater part of his life in a store. When a lad he began as a clerk in Canton, Mass., and afterwards going to Boston, he was

engaged as a clerk there for ten years, being seven years with one house, Hiram M. Stearnes, and three years with Newell & Rankin. At the end of that time he engaged in business for himself, opening a gentlemen's furnishing goods establishment in Boston. He was so engaged for five years. In the meantime he started a laundry business which has since grown to be one of the largest anywhere in the East. It was ill-health, brought on by the exacting nature of these business interests that brought Mr. George west. He never possessed a robust constitution. Tying himself down when a boy to the exacting duties of a clerk, the confinement told on his physical development, and the cares of his personal concerns in later years aggravated his troubles. It was due to this fact of ill-health that Mr. George was never accepted for military service during the late war, although he twice offered himself as a volunteer and was once drafted.

A. D. George is a New Englander by birth and in his physical, mental and moral make-up preserves, in a large measure, some of the prominent characteristics of the people of his section. He was born in the town of Sunapee, Sullivan county, N. H., January 25, 1836. His father, Rodney George, was also a native of Sunapee, as was also his paternal grandfather. His father lived in Sunapee to middle age, moved thence to New Jersey, and later to Nebraska, Buffalo county, where he died in 1881, at the age of seventy-four. Mr. George's mother bore the maiden name of Achsa Dodge and was a daughter of Benjamin Dodge, of New Boston, N. H. She was born in that place and was herself a descendant of an

old New Hampshire family. Mr. George is one of a family of eight children, as follows: Amanda, John A., Amos D., Marcia A., Ira P., Jason R., Alice and Mary M. All of these reached maturity and most of them became citizens of Nebraska, moving west about the same time the subject of this sketch did.

In his own domestic relations, Mr. George has been happy, yet he has not escaped some of the afflictions which fall to the lot of humanity. He was married in Marlboro, Mass., in November, 1859, to Miss Lucy M. Chipman, of that place. This lady died in 1869, leaving one child, Edith, now widow of George E. Nathecut. Mr. George next married November 25th, 1869, Miss Abbie M. March, of Garland, Me. By this marriage he has an interesting family of children.

Mr. George's career has been that of a business man strictly. He has devoted his whole life to his own personal affairs. Yet he is not a man whose sole aim is to make money. He is not lacking in enterprise or public spirit. He possesses pronounced views on most matters of general interest, and while he avoids the wranglings of politics, he does not neglect his duty as a citizen. He has affiliated with the republican party since its organization until the last year or two, and is still an advocate of its principles on national matters. But with all its achievements in the way of progress and reform, he considers the party lacking in aggressiveness in dealing with some of the most momentous issues of the day. In other words, he is a progressive republican. The principal issue on which he differs with his party is the temperance question. He is an ardent temperance man and believes that it is the

duty of all good citizens and every association of citizens and every party or organization having at heart the public welfare, to take a decisive stand on the temperance question and to labor individually and by co-operation for the suppression of the vice of intemperance. On this question Mr. George is outspoken, and, what is more, he lives up to his preaching in a way equalled by few, even of the most zealous advocates. He believes that a vast number of the men who are lured into the paths of drunkenness start with the smaller vices and approach their ruin imperceptibly. For this reason he opposes the use of tobacco, and although he has been in the mercantile business for years where the handling of tobacco might be profitable, he has not suffered a pound of the article to be sold in any shape over his counters since the year he opened business. As might be inferred from this, Mr. George is a man who takes the liveliest interest in the welfare of his fellow-men. He is a man of the broadest charities, the most benevolent impulses. He has been almost a life-long member of the Baptist church, taking an active interest in all church work. In the matter of education he has exhibited equal zeal, and his efforts have not failed of the reward they merited. He was one of the organizing members of the First Baptist church of Gibbon and has, since the date of the founding of that church, been one of its chief pillars. While the State Baptist seminary was located at Gibbon, Mr. George occupied the responsible position of treasurer of the institution, and during the last term it was in operation he bore the entire expense of running it. He is a liberal contributor to all charitable purposes.

Personally, Mr. George is modest and unassuming, and has no desire to make a fuss in the world. What he does as a citizen is simply the outgrowth of his convictions. He is not the apostle of any new faith nor the exponent of any new political idea. He works along the lines pursued by the worthies of the past. The most notable feature of his faith and the distinguishing trait of his character is that he believes in the philosophy of things well done—the gospel of true labor—as contradistinguished from pretense and profession. For church, for school, for home, for all that helps to keep men and women from the slippery paths of sin and win them to lives of usefulness, sobriety and happiness, fitting them for the best possible life here and hereafter, the name of A. D. George stands pledged, and in all these things he himself rises to the full stature of a man.

**H**ORACE P. SMITH is one of the young, intelligent and progressive farmers of Gibbon township, Buffalo county, who, having come into the county at a comparatively recent date, and availing himself of his opportunities, has secured a good start and is in a fair way to grow into a land-holder of means and a citizen of influence. Mr. Smith came to Buffalo county in October, 1878, looked over the country, went back home and returned in the spring of 1879 and located. He bought a small tract of land in section 27, township 9, range 14 west, lying three and a half miles southwest of the town of Gibbon, on which he settled

and made improvements. Mr. Smith came west with limited means, and his first purchase of land was, accordingly, not large. He has added, however, to this by subsequent purchases, until now he is the owner of three hundred and seventy acres, all of which is under cultivation except a tract of eighty acres reserved for hay-land. Mr. Smith has made the money with which he has bought this land by his own labor. The improvements on it he has also placed there. It is well improved, desirably located, and, better than all, is paid for. This, of course, has not been done without much labor; it represents also good management. Mr. Smith is an industrious, thrifty, economical farmer, looks after the details of his affairs with great care, and studies the condition of his soil, its necessities and capabilities. He keeps considerable stock and sells but little raw material. He is careful to see that his annual income exceeds his annual expenditures by as large a margin as possible, and judiciously avoids debt. He has the proper material in his make-up to succeed. This material is not altogether a personal trait. To some extent it is a hereditary gift. He comes of good stock, and he has been properly trained. His ancestry will bear historical research.

Horace P. Smith is a son of George T. and Sarah (Farnham) Smith and a grandson on his paternal side of Parsons and Nancy (Waters) Smith. His grandfather, Parsons Smith, whose name in part he bears, was a native of Massachusetts, a son of a revolutionary soldier, and himself for twenty-one years in the service of the United States government. He was in the war of 1812, serving with credit to

himself and fidelity to his country during that war, and afterwards continuing in the service in the regular army for years, a large part of which time he was in the United States arsenal at Watertown, Mass. After a life of great activity and usefulness, the best years of which were spent in behalf of his country, he died at the advanced age of seventy-four.

Mr. Smith's paternal grandmother, Nancy Waters, whose father was also a revolutionary soldier and was killed at the battle of Bunker Hill, was a native of Massachusetts. She was born in a house which stood half in old Charlestown and half in Cambridge, and first saw light on the morning of the memorable day on which the battle of Bunker Hill was fought. It is a tradition of the family that only a half-hour before she was born a thirty-two-pound shot from a British cannon tore its way through the upper part of the house in which her mother lay and lodged in a beam overhead. Mr. Smith's father, George T. Smith, was born in the United States arsenal at Watertown, Mass., September 7, 1818, lived there till thirty years of age, going thence in 1847 to Maine, where in February of the following year he married Sarah Farnham, of the town of Mercer, Somerset county, and there lived till 1866, except the time he was in the army. He went into the service late, enlisting March 17, 1864, and entering Company K, Thirty-first Maine infantry. His regiment was organized in March and April of 1864, and leaving the state the 18th of the latter month, it proceeded at once to Alexandria, Va., where it was assigned to duty in the 2d brigade, 2d division, 9th corps. In less than a month after

it left home it went into action at the Wilderness and following that the engagements at Spottsylvania, Bethsaida church, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Poplar Springs church, and all intermediate affairs, in all of which its losses were heavy. In less than one year's time the Thirty-first Maine lost six hundred and seventy-four men, killed or wounded in action, three-fourths of this loss occurring in May, June and July, 1864. Mr. Smith's father followed the fortunes of the fighting Thirty-first till the close of the war, being mustered out July 17, 1865. In 1866 he moved west and settled in Illinois, where he lived till 1882, when he came to Buffalo county, this state, following his son, Horace P., and settling where he now resides, in Gibbon township, on an adjoining farm to the subject of this sketch.

Mr. H. P. Smith's mother, who bore the maiden name of Sarah Farnham, was born and reared in the town of Mercer, Somerset county, Maine, and is a descendant of a respectable, well-to-do family of that place. She is also yet living.

To George T. and Sarah (Farnham) Smith have been born a family of eight children, as follows—Waitstill J., Mary M., Horace P., whose name heads this article; George W., Tena A., Cora E., William A. and Nellie M. These have all reached maturity, and most of them are now married and are themselves the heads of family.

Horace P. Smith and Mary L. Mercer were married in February, 1881, Mary L. Mercer Smith being a daughter of Vernon T. and Nancy Rebecca Mercer, whose biographies will be found in this work. Mrs. Smith was mainly reared in Buffalo county, this state, her parents coming here

in 1871. She has by long usage become familiar with farm life, and especially that part of it that relates to household affairs, her recollections running back to the sod shanty of the "seventies," when what are necessities now were luxuries then, and the housewife's ways and means of getting on with her economic duties were by no means what they are now, albeit they are none too luxurious at this time.

Mrs. Smith is a lady of intelligence and kindness, and possesses the greatest of all virtues, genuine hospitality.

**W**N. JACKSON. A man of good personal record as a citizen, of exceptionally good record as an old soldier, and withal, one of the old settlers of his locality, is W. N. Jackson, of Gibbon township, Buffalo county. Mr. Jackson settled in Buffalo county in the spring of 1871—the date, it will be remembered, that the Soldiers' Free Homestead Colony was located at Gibbon and the settlement of the county properly begun. He filed a soldiers' homestead claim on the northeast quarter of section 28, township 9, range 14 west, lying three miles west and south of the village of Gibbon. There he located, and there he has continued to reside since, except during temporary absence at intervals. He improved his homestead in accordance with the law and secured a patent for it. One hundred acres of it are now under cultivation, and the remainder in hay-land, pastures and groves. It is provided with comfortable and commodious buildings for

man and beast, and in every respect gives evidence of the industry, thrift and good management that have prevailed there. The land lies well, being every foot susceptible of cultivation, is in a good neighborhood, has at hand good school and church facilities, and is convenient to market. The place is richly worth \$50 an acre, and probably could not be bought for that. Mr. Jackson has been farming since coming to Buffalo county, and is recognized as one of the prosperous, well-to-do agriculturists of his locality.

Mr. Jackson came from Elmira, N. Y., to Nebraska, having been a resident of New York state some years prior to moving west in 1871. He is a native of Canada, having been born in the province of Ontario, in March, 1838, and was reared there to the age of twenty. He then came to the States, locating in New York. His parents were both Canadians by birth—his father of English extraction and his mother of German. These are still living in Canada, and are named David and Debby (Huffman) Jackson.

Mr. Jackson passed his youth and part of his maturer years in York state, and it was there that he met and married the lady who has borne him companionship for nearly twenty-five years. This lady's maiden name was Susan Ann Davis, a daughter of Henry E. and Jane (Corruthers) Davis, of Elmira, N. Y. Mrs. Jackson is a native of Ulster county, N. Y., and is a descendant of an old York state family. Mr. and Mrs. Jackson were married in August, 1863. They have but one child, William E. Jackson, born in Bradford county, Pa., July 9th, 1866.

When the country was torn asunder with civil discord, and the hydra-headed



monster, treason, was threatening the destruction of our institutions, Mr. Jackson was one of the men who shouldered his musket and patriotically marched to the front in defense of the common good. He enlisted for two years in the service, in April, 1861, entering Company K, Thirty-fifth (Jefferson county) New York volunteers. His command served with the Army of the Potomac. Mr. Jackson was present and participated in the following engagements—The second Bull Run; Fredericksburg; second Manassas; Fairfax court house; Culpeper court house; Cedar mountain and Rappahannock station, besides numerous smaller ones. After the expiration of his term of enlistment in the Thirty-fifth New York, he re-enlisted, entering the Fifth New Jersey independent battery of light artillery in September, 1863. This command had six light twelve-pound guns and one hundred horses. It participated in the following engagements—Howlett's house, May 9, 1864; Clover Hill station, May 14, 1864; Drury's bluff, May 15, 1864; Petersburg, June 8, 1864; Bermuda Hundred, June 16, 1864; Deep Bottom, July 16, 1864; Dutch gap, August 13, 1864; Harehouse battery, near Petersburg, September 2 and 10, 1864, and Darbytown road, October 7, 1864.

Mr. Jackson entered this command as a private, was promoted to corporal December 4, 1863, and to sergeant, August 23, 1864. During his first term of service he was twice wounded—once in the left side and once in the right leg. These wounds were received at the second Bull Run. He lost the hearing of his right ear in the battery service at Drury's

bluff. He was mustered out of the service in June, 1865. Comment on these facts is unnecessary. They speak for themselves. They show how faithfully Mr. Jackson discharged his duty to his country in its time of need. He bears on his person the marks of his heroic efforts and patient endurance.

With such a record, and the mental constitution which Mr. Jackson has, it would be next to impossible for him to be anything but a republican in politics. At any rate, he is a staunch supporter of the republican party, and has been a firm adherent of that party since the date of its organization. He cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln when he was a candidate the first time for the presidency, and he has voted the straight ticket since.

Mr. Jackson is a man of plain manners, and has led an unassuming life. He is hard-working, frugal in habits, and strictly attentive to his own personal concerns. He is progressive in his ideas, public-spirited and generous with his means, possessing a kind and benevolent disposition.

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**P** E. FOXWORTHY. An old settler of Buffalo county, although not one of the first, is P. E. Foxworthy of Gibbon township. He moved into Buffalo county, in June, 1876, and for a short time rented a place north of the town of Gibbon, but in July following settled on the east half of the west half of section 35, township 9, range 14 west, being part of the old Fort Kearney military reservation. He simply squatted on

this claim, as the reservation had not then been thrown open to settlement, but as soon as it was opened he made his filing, improved his claim and got his patent to it, and has since resided there. His place lies on the lower bottomland of the Platte river and is more suitable for grazing and hay-making than for agricultural purposes. Mr. Foxworthy has not, therefore, broken out a great deal of it. Besides, hay has always been a commodity in good demand in local markets, whereas the sovereign product, corn, has not. Putting these things together as a sensible farmer would, Mr. Foxworthy has devoted his attention mainly to stock-raising and hay-making. At this he has succeeded reasonably well. Like most of the farmers who settled in Buffalo county twelve and fourteen years ago, Mr. Foxworthy began on limited means and the first few years of his residence were marked more for their hardships and privations than for the progress they witnessed in the way of making a home. What these hardships and privations were need not here be recounted. They have become part of the history of those times and it will do the subject of this sketch sufficient justice from a historical point of view to say that he passed through those times, bearing his full share, and more, of the suffering that fell to the common lot. One instance which will be decisive on this point, may here be given. Mr. Foxworthy relates that when he and his family reached the county they had just \$18.00 in money and a limited amount of household goods and wearing apparel. With these they began the struggle for existence in the last and hardest year of the grasshopper season. The fact that he has succeeded as well as

he has, is an admirable tribute to his pluck, energy and patient self-denial, extending through long years of discouraging vicissitudes. But Mr. Foxworthy was and is the man to endure such trials. He comes of an ancestry that heroically fought similar, or, perhaps, more fiercely contested, battles on the frontier before him, and his own early training and personal experiences well fitted him for an undertaking of this character.

P. E. Foxworthy is a son of Phillip A. and Martha (Evans) Foxworthy. His father, a native of Virginia, went to Kentucky when a young man, married there, and not long afterwards moved to Indiana and settled in Morgan county in territorial days. He made that his home until his death in 1875, in the eighty-third year of his age. In his earlier years he followed the business of a carpenter—later he devoted himself to farming. He led the life of the average farmer and met with a fair degree of success.

Mr. Foxworthy's mother, who bore the maiden name of Martha Evans, was a daughter of Andrew Evans, who moved from Kentucky to Indiana at an early day and settled in Owen county. She died in Morgan county, in September, 1843. Her husband had been married prior to his marriage to her and married again also after her death, but it is not deemed necessary to encumber this article with the details of these two marriages. The subject of this sketch is the only offspring of the marriage to Martha (Evans) Foxworthy, and with his history and life-work we are more especially concerned.

P. E. Foxworthy was born in Morgan county, Ind., in September, 1843. He had the great misfortune to lose his

mother in his infancy, she dying when he was but two weeks old. His earlier years, however, were watched over by a kind father and he grew up under as good training as could be had at the hands of one parent. Mr. Foxworthy had just turned into his eighteenth year when the clouds of civil war burst over this country and he, like thousands of other patriotic young men when the call was made for volunteers to defend the Union, quit his plow and bravely marched to the front. He enlisted in August, 1861, as a private in Company H, Thirty-third Indiana volunteer infantry, commanded by Colonel Coburn, of Indianapolis, and was assigned to duty as a drummer. His regiment left Indianapolis in September, 1861, and moved across the line into Kentucky. It saw its first service at Wildeat, Kentucky, and was in a series of skirmishes about Cumberland gap, finally driving the confederate forces from their position there, and after foraging for more than three months, holding the advantages thus gained, it was forced back across the Ohio river for supplies. Returning, it was engaged during the winter of 1862-63 in chasing the wily cavalry chieftain and guerrilla, John Morgan, over the mountains of Kentucky. It then moved into Tennessee, and at Franklin, that state, was formed part of the brigade sent out to capture Van Dorn's mounted infantry. In the affair at Thompson station, March 4 and 5, 1863, its casualties were thirteen killed, eighty-five wounded and four hundred and seven missing. Almost the entire regiment was captured; Mr. Foxworthy, however, luckily escaped. In January, 1864, the regiment veteranized, was placed in the Twentieth

(Hooker's) corps, and immediately entered on the Atlantic campaign. Mr. Foxworthy was then carrying a musket. Beginning with the engagement at Resaca, he was in the continuous series of engagements down to Kenesaw mountain, where he was wounded June 23d, having a rib of his left side broken and an ugly hole made through him by a ball from the enemy's guns. He was sent back to Nashville for hospital treatment, and from there, as soon as able, secured a furlough and went home. When his wounds had sufficiently healed he started back to his command, which was then under Sherman on his "March to the Sea." But at Chattanooga, Mr. Foxworthy met Thomas on his return into Tennessee and was placed in Thomas' army and participated in the remainder of that campaign. After the defeat of Hood at Nashville he was engaged till the following spring in chasing fragments of confederate forces around through Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama. In March, 1865, he was ordered to join his own command, which was then on the Carolina campaigns. Going around by way of Washington he reached Sherman's army at Goldsboro, N. C., just before the surrender. He was present when the capitulation took place between Sherman and Johnson, returned home with his regiment and was mustered out at Indianapolis in June, 1865. The Thirty-third made a splendid record during its term of service, and inasmuch as Mr. Foxworthy was with it nearly all the time and helped to make that record, another fact or two of general interest in connection with the history of his regiment may be given here: At the date the Thirty-third veteranized it re-enlisted four hundred and sixty men,

being the largest re-enlistment by more than twenty men made by any Indiana regiment. Its loss in killed and wounded was one hundred and sixteen; its loss by disease, accident and deaths in prison was one hundred and eighty-two; making a total loss of two hundred and ninety-eight. Eloquent figures, they speak volumes for the courage, endurance and heroic bearing of the "Fighting Thirty-third."

At the close of the war Mr. Foxworthy resumed the peaceful pursuits of life with the same courage and sense of duty that distinguished him on the battle-field, and being then a young man with but little to go on he resolutely set about to make his way in the world in a manner becoming a man. He married in September, 1866, Miss Elizabeth Applegate, a daughter of Hezekiah and Margaret (Whittaker) Applegate, of Owen county, Ind. Mrs. Foxworthy is a native of Owen county, and is one of four children born to her parents, the others being John M., a farmer of Buffalo county; James, of Owen county, Ind.; and Juliet, wife of William Myers, of Colorado. Mrs. Foxworthy's parents were both natives of Kentucky, and were among the first settlers of Owen county, Ind., where her father died in 1874 at the age of fifty-four, and where her mother yet continues to reside.

Mr. and Mrs. Foxworthy have been the parents of five children, three of whom are now living. These children in the order of their ages are as follows—John, who died in infancy; Ollie, who died July 4, 1888, at the age of eighteen; Clara, Alice and Cora.

Mr. and Mrs. Foxworthy are members of the Christian church, and, having been reared in a knowledge of the great truths

of the gospel themselves, they are bringing up the little ones committed to their charge in the same knowledge, thus fitting them for the greatest usefulness and happiness here and hereafter.

It seems natural and in every way becoming that a man of Mr. Foxworthy's history, experience and family traditions should be a republican in politics. His first vote was cast for Abraham Lincoln when he was a candidate for the presidency the second time, and he has voted the straight ticket since.

All in all, it can be recorded of the subject of this sketch, without any stretch of language, that he is not only an old soldier of good record, but a citizen distinguished for his integrity, industry and benevolent christian character.

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**O** E. THOMPSON, of Shelton township, is one of the oldest settlers of Buffalo county and one of its most intelligent and best informed citizens. He accompanied his parents to Nebraska in October, 1857, being then a mere lad. For two years and a half they resided at the village of Genoa, at the mouth of Beaver creek on Pawnee reservation, coming in March 1860 to what is now Buffalo county, and settling on Wood river, one mile west of the present town of Shelton, since which time he has resided in that vicinity excepting temporary absence when he was away in the United States service or scouting among the Indians on the plains. Thirty years in Buffalo county, Nebr., and the West! Let the reader take up a state map bearing

the above date and one of the present time, and after refreshing his memory on the historical incidents connected with the making of this portion of the great West, let him reflect for a moment what a world of observation and an unlimited wealth of experience a man must have had who has lived for the last thirty years as far west as Buffalo county, this state. The bare mention of the fact suggests to the imagination an historical perspective seldom met with even in the lives of the oldest pioneers. Thirty years ago Nebraska had been but recently organized as a territory. The permanent settlements were confined to the Missouri river trading posts and a few inland points, while the vast territory comprised within the central and western part of the state was one unbroken prairie, threaded by a few streams and dominated by the aboriginal red man and roaming herds of buffalo. The county of Buffalo had not then been marked on the map. All that was known of its geological boundaries and physical features was known of it as part of the great valley of the Platte, which in turn formed a part of the great plains over which the persecuted Mormon and the venturous gold-seeker, bound for the Pacific slope or Pike's Peak, toiled their weary way, long before the railroads had belted the continent with their glittering bands of steel, or even the lumbering stage-coach had developed into the institution which it subsequently proved to be. "Life on the Plains!" What memories are awakened by these words. The literature of the country has been flooded for the last quarter of a century with descriptive articles, personal recollections, incidents of travel, poems and novels, all seeking to portray some phase

of the pioneer's life in the West. But who yet knows what it was save the pioneer himself? "I came on the plains in the fifties or sixties," are words which when spoken by the sturdy old pioneer mean a vast deal more than the man of this day can understand. When Mr. Thompson settled on Wood river there was a stage station at Shelton, a few families scattered along the river in that vicinity. To the west, north, south and one might almost say to the east, the country was simply part of the unknown world so far at least as the abodes of white men were concerned. The Union Pacific railroad had not then been projected, this part of the great public domain had not then been surveyed, and the country at large was considered worthless except as a hunting-ground for the Indians. These were present in great numbers and comprised some of the most powerful and war-like tribes on the continent. The Cheyennes, Sioux and Pawnees roamed over this part of the country then, and they not unfrequently left the evidences of their savagery in murdered men and women and in desolated homes. To people of a later generation, not one in ten of whom, probably, ever saw a "painted red devil," it is hard to convey an adequate idea of the terror these prowling bands of savages spread through the country, and the constant strain under which the settlers labored in consequence. Not the Indians, however, nor their free-booting white brothers of the plains formed the greatest impediment to the settlement of this country nor scattered the greatest desolation, suffering and death among the early pioneers. The invisible forces of nature and the hardships and privations almost inseparably connected

with the opening of a new country formed the greatest obstacles to the advance of civilization, and called for the exercise of more heroic qualities than did the warding off of Indian forays and the attacks of pillaging bands of free-booters. Little do the people of this day know of the want, suffering and heart-aches which the first settlers were called on to endure. And what is here said of the old settler in general applies with special force and significance to the subject of this sketch. All that others saw and endured he saw and endured. He was among the first and he has stuck steadfastly to the home of his adoption even up to the present time.

As noted above, when Mr. Thompson came to Nebraska he was small and came with his parents. Let us take up his history and give its brief outlines.

Oliver Edwin Thompson was born in Warwickshire, England, September 16, 1846, and is the second of three children—Hannah, Oliver Edwin, and Johnnie, born to William and Jane (Matthews) Thompson, natives of the same place. His parents immigrated to America in the spring of 1850, and settled in St. Louis, Mo., where the father died, August 4th, that year, followed later by the youngest child. The mother was re-married in 1855, being married to a countryman of hers, Henry Dugdale, now remembered by the old settlers of Buffalo county as one of the pioneers of central Nebraska. The family came to Nebraska, settling, after a temporary residence on the Pawnee reservation, in Buffalo county, where the subject of this sketch was reared and began the race of life. His earlier years were spent on the old home-place west of Shelton, and he grew up as a boy on the frontier might

be expected to, alternately engaged in the stirring sports of the field with the stern contest for bread and butter. He traveled extensively, being out with freighters and scouts, and ranged all the way from central Nebraska to the Rocky mountains. December 26, 1862, being then in his seventeenth year, he entered the United States army, enlisting in Company K, Third California infantry, at Camp Douglas, Utah. He served in Utah, Colorado and Idaho, being in the frontier service and engaged in keeping down Indian and Mormon troubles. It was his command that fought the famous battle at Bear river, Idaho, on the 29th of January, 1863, where the United States troops, one hundred and fifty cavalry and ninety infantry, fought the Indians and Mormons, killing three hundred Indians out of three hundred and six engaged. Mr. Thompson gives an interesting description of that battle, fought, as it was, amid the mountains, with the snows two feet deep and hundreds of miles from civilization. He gives the Indians credit for having displayed a vast deal more courage and manhood than the Mormons; for, he says, the former fought bravely, even the squaws, old men and children bearing a part in the battle, while the latter, after having instigated the Indians to the contest, refused to give them aid. Mr. Thompson was in the United States service on the frontier till October 31, 1865, being mustered out at that date at Denver, Colo. He served as a private, entering as a fifer, but after two months taking a gun, which he carried till the expiration of the term of his enlistment.

Returning to Buffalo county in the fall of 1865, he settled down to farming and

stock-raising, and followed the uneventful life of a frontier bachelor till 1871, when on the 6th day of August that year, he married Miss Clara Lew, a young lady who had come to the county that spring with the Gibbon colony. Having previously taken a homestead in Shelton township, two and a half miles south and east of the budding town of Gibbon, Mr. Thompson settled there, and began the serious duties of life in earnest. He began on limited means, as did all the old settlers, and, although he had previously seen much hardship, all his ways were not ways of pleasantness, nor were his paths all paths of peace. He had his struggles with the grasshoppers, drouth, hail and hard times, and he had his courage and endurance tested to their utmost stretch, like all his neighbors who remained through all those dreary years. Mr. Thompson, however, remained steadfastly by the home of his adoption, and the gradual improvement of the country witnessed a gradual improvement in his condition. He is to-day one of the best fixed and most prosperous farmers in the county. He owns four hundred acres of land lying in Shelton township, all of which is susceptible of cultivation, and most of which he has improved and well stocked. He is one of the few men of the township who never gave a mortgage, who is out of debt, and whose paper is good in any bank in the county without collateral security.

It could hardly happen that a man who has resided in the county as long as Mr. Thompson has, and who possesses the sound intelligence and business qualifications that he does, should not have been called on to fill some positions of a public nature. He was appointed sheriff of Buf-

falo and Dawson counties, in February, 1870; served out an unexpired term, and was elected in the fall of 1871, and served two years, during which time he served also as register of the county, having received the appointment to that office in the meantime. He has never aspired to anything like a public life, being content to pursue his own personal affairs, in which he finds his greatest pleasure, as well as his highest reward.

This sketch, long as it is, would not be complete without further mention than has been made of the excellent lady whom Mr. Thompson selected to share his life's fortunes. Like himself, she is something of a historical character in Buffalo county. She came to the county in April, 1871, as a member of the old Soldiers' Free-Homestead Colony, being one of the two unmarried ladies of that colony. She came from West Farmington, Ohio, where she was born and reared, accompanying to this state some old friends and neighbors. She is descended from pioneer ancestry, and is, in every essential, a pioneer herself. Her father, Joseph Lew, was a native of New York, having been born near the present city of Rochester. He immigrated to Ohio, and settled on the Western Reserve, in 1832, where he some years afterwards married a lady, Miss Martha Hatch, and there lived till his death. Mrs. Thompson's mother, who is still living, being a member now of her daughter's household, is a native of Vermont, and a descendant of New England ancestors. Her father moved to Ohio in 1834, and settled on the Western Reserve. Mrs. Thompson was the only child born to her parents. She grew up in her native place, and received a good common school train-

ing; also attended the Western Reserve seminary, West Farmington, Ohio, taking a three years' course; commenced teaching at the age of fifteen, closing her twenty-third term of school the day before starting for Nebraska; so that when she came to Nebraska, in the general division of labor among the colonists, the position of teacher naturally fell to her. She taught the first school in the county, taking it in the summer of 1871. She taught in a sod school-house, one mile west of the present town of Shelton, her district embracing all the surrounding country, she even having pupils from Hall county and old Fort Kearney, across the Platte river. She only taught one session, marrying, as already noted, in the summer of 1871, after which she joined her husband on the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have a pleasant home, to which they welcome friend and stranger with that warmth, hospitality and tender touch of nature that makes all the world akin. They both possess intelligence and culture, and their home, conduct and conversation, give evidence of refinement not met with among all of the "old timers." Their friends are numbered by their acquaintances, and even the casual visitor retains a happy recollection of them.

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**W**ILLIAM W. GIBSON. One of the oldest settlers of Gibbon township, as he is one of the most industrious and highly esteemed citizens of the township, is William W. Gibson, the subject of this sketch. Mr. Gibson is a brother of A. F. Gibson, of the

town of Gibbon, a sketch of whom appears in this work, in which sketch will be found the facts pertaining to the ancestral history so far as they are of interest or value to this record.

William W. Gibson was born in Lawrence county, Pa., August 7, 1845, and was reared in his native place, growing up on the farm, receiving a common school education in the district schools of the community where he was reared, and being trained also to the habits of industry and usefulness that mark the farmer's life. He enlisted in the Union army at the age of twenty, entering February 1, 1865, as a member of Company B, One Hundredth Pennsylvania infantry. He saw his chief service in front of Petersburg, Va., participating in the siege of that place and taking part in the mine engagement. In this siege he was severely wounded in the right wrist by a fragment of a mortar shell. He was in the service till July 27, 1865, being mustered out at Harrisburg on that date. He served as a private and had the good fortune never to be captured or wounded. He belonged to a historic regiment, the old Hundredth being known also as the "Roundheads" and proving themselves worthy upon many a battle-field of their historic name. The regiment was present at twenty-three of the principal battles of the war, in only four of which it did not take an active part. It lost in killed and wounded eight hundred and eighty-seven men out of a total enlistment of two thousand and fourteen, all but twenty-nine of its losses occurring in actual conflict in the field, twenty-nine being the number that was lost in Confederate prisons. The number killed outright in open engagements was



two hundred and twenty-four, being a little over eleven per cent. It fought in widely separated localities and made long journeys by sea and land.

Returning to Lawrence county when the war was over, Mr. Gibson settled down to farming and remained there till the spring of 1871, when he in company with his brother, A. F. Gibson, joined the Soldier's Free Homestead Colony and came to Nebraska, settling in Gibbon township, where he took a homestead and has since remained. Mr. Gibson's place lies about a mile north of the town of Gibbon, being the northeast quarter of section 12, township 9, range 13 west. He has resided on this place for more than nineteen years, taking it when it was a raw prairie bearing fresh marks of the buffalo, which had only a few years previously roamed over it undisturbed. It is now well improved, half of it being under cultivation and the remainder in pasture, furnished with comfortable buildings and ornamented with groves, natural and artificial. For several years after coming to the state, Mr. Gibson lived a bachelor, having too much regard for the tender feelings and gentle nature of the opposite sex to ask any woman to share with him the hardships and privations which fell to his lot in the earlier years. But with the improvement of his worldly condition, the gradual settlement of the country and the appearance of better times, he got the consent of his mind to change his lot of single blessedness, and, as was most natural in such a case, his eyes reverted to his old home in Lawrence county, Pa. In 1878, February 13th, he led to the marriage altar Miss Virginia McGary of that county, a lady whom he had known

from early childhood, she, like himself, being a native of that county. Mrs. Gibson comes of Pennsylvania parentage, his father, John McGary, having been born and reared in Lawrence county, where he always lived and where he died in 1875 at the age of sixty-two, and her mother, a native of Armstrong county and still living, being a resident of Lawrence county. Mrs. Gibson is one of a family of twelve children, of whom, besides herself, two daughters and one son reside in Buffalo county, viz.—Mrs. Mary Thompson, Miss Nan E. McGary, and James McGary. Mr. and Mrs. Gibson have only one child, John M., a bright, intelligent boy, around whom their chief hopes and ambitions gather, and who gives every evidence of being the realization of their fondest expectations.

**W**ILLIAM ROACH. A man who has lived in Gibbon township, Buffalo county, sufficiently long to be called an old settler and a man who has been one of the most successful, as he is one of the most highly esteemed, citizens of the locality where he resides, is William Roach, the subject of this biographical notice. Mr. Roach is an Englishman by birth, having been born and reared to the age of seventeen in that famous island, which has furnished the world more navigators, explorers, pioneer settlers, empire makers and city builders than any other spot on earth. He comes of good old English stock, the Anglo-Saxon strains running through his ancestral line from time immemorial. He is a native of Cornwall, and was born October 20, 1830. His father was Thomas

Roach, a native also of Cornwall, and his mother bore the maiden name of Jennie Hare, being a daughter of William Hare, and a native of the same county. His parents immigrated to Canada in 1847, bringing their family, but remained there only about one year, when they came across into "the states," settling in Erie county, Pa. There, after a residence of a few years, the mother died, leaving, surviving her, her husband and nine children. Her father, accompanying his son, the subject of this sketch, to Nebraska, died here the 12th of June, 1888, at the advanced age of seventy-nine. He was a plain man of quiet tastes and orderly habits, having led an industrious, upright, useful life.

William Roach, our subject, was reared on the farm and adopted farming as the calling of his life. He married in Erie county, Pa., having grown to maturity in that county, the lady whom he selected for a life companion being a native of Pennsylvania, reared mainly in Erie county—Miss Caroline Ames. As his family began to grow up around him, like a thoughtful parent solicitous for the welfare of his children, Mr. Roach decided to move West, where opportunities were better for getting on in the world than in the more thickly settled communities of the East. He came to Nebraska in the fall of 1871, settling in Gibbon township, where he took a homestead about three miles north of the town of Gibbon, and where he has since resided. Starting with the limited means at his command, Mr. Roach has steadily progressed from year to year in spite of the obstacles, failures and discouragements that fell to his lot in common with most of the old settlers at

an early day, and also since, until now he is one of the best-to-do farmers in Buffalo county, owning more than seven hundred acres of land, mostly in this county, a large part of which he has under cultivation, well stocked and otherwise well improved. He gives particular attention to the raising of horses, having several Norman and Clydesdale thoroughbreds and a number of high-grade animals on his place. He is a thoughtful, industrious, progressive farmer and deserves all the success he has attained.

Mr. Roach has a pleasant home, and is surrounded by an interesting family of children, having been the father of eight—Charles, George, Frederick, Julia, Perry, Mark, Clinton and Pearly. Of these, three are deceased. The third, Frederick, was born in Erie county, Pa., September 1, 1868.\* Coming to Nebraska with his parents in 1871, he has been reared mainly in this state, growing up on the old home place in Gibbon township, Buffalo county. He has received a good common-school education and has been reared to habits of industry and usefulness. He has always taken great interest in farming and stock-raising, being a great fancier of good horses; and with the energy, thrift and self-reliance born to his nature and encouraged by the judicious training of his father, he began to accumulate when small, and his savings have gradually grown until now; although he is but little past his twenty-first year, he is in a much better condition financially than the majority of men who are many years his seniors in age. He is a sober, intelligent, hard-working young man, and will one day be a man of wealth, position and influence.





D. P. ASHBURN.

**D**P. ASHBURN came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, April 4, 1871, as a member of the Soldiers' Free Homestead Temperance Colony, and settled at that date at Gibbon, where, with the exception of temporary absence, he has since resided. He has been identified with the leading interests of his locality, material, political and social, and is probably one of the best known, as he has been one of the most active and useful men, not only of his township, but of his county and state.

Mr. Ashburn is a native of Ohio, having been born and reared in Trumbull county, that state. He was brought up on the farm, and has always been more or less interested in agricultural pursuits, having, also, in his earlier years, followed the carpenter's trade. He married in his native county, and resided there till coming to Nebraska. His original homestead, where he settled on coming to the county, lies only about a mile west of the town of Gibbon, he still holding the title to it, and having resided there, more or less, since living in the county. Mr. Ashburn has been, and is now, a man of diversified pursuits and manifold interests, and has spent not a little of his time in the public service. For the first few years after he located in Gibbon, he was mainly engaged in contracting and building, and farming. Then, when the grasshopper invasion came, followed by the dry years, and the problem of life narrowed down to a struggle for bread and butter, he was for a few years in the employ of the Union Pacific Railway Company as express messenger, running west from Omaha. Resuming his farming pursuits, with the return of good crops, in 1876, he was so

engaged till 1879, when he left the farm, and, moving into Gibbon, began the grain trade, building a grain elevator, which he subsequently sold to the parties who built and operate the present one there. In 1881 he built the Gibbon creamery, which he continues to own and operate, and which bears the distinction of being one of the most successful enterprises of the kind in central or western Nebraska.

Mr. Ashburn has filled a number of public offices, and has done a vast amount of labor of an official and semi-official nature. He was elected justice of the peace of Gibbon township in the fall of 1871, and held that office for one term. In the fall of 1872 he was placed in the field by his friends as the republican candidate for the legislature, against the then well-known frontiersman and since celebrated showman, "Buffalo Bill," democratic candidate. Mr. Ashburn received a majority of the votes cast, but by mistake, the returns from Franklin and Harlan counties were sent to the city of Lincoln instead of the county seat of Lincoln county (North Platte), as the law required, and these returns were not before the canvassing board. The remaining returns showed a majority for "Buffalo Bill," and he received the certificate of election. Mr. Ashburn brought a contest, and, producing the returns of all the counties in the district, proved his majority and was seated by a unanimous vote of the house, "Buffalo Bill" not appearing or claiming the seat. His district, the twenty-sixth, embraced all that portion of the state lying west of a line extending through the state from north to south, parallel with the east line of Buffalo and Kearney counties, thus giving him a large

area of country to look after. He took an active part in the general legislation before the house and in the committee rooms. During the last session of the legislature, he was selected by his county board as a delegate from his county to act in connection with others similarly selected to consider the revision, and propose measures for the recasting of the township laws of the state, and at the first meeting of those delegates, held at Columbus, he was made chairman of the convention, and at the second meeting, held at Lincoln, he was sent as a delegate from that convention, to urge before the legislature the passage of the measures proposed by the convention, nine out of twelve of which measures were passed and became laws. He also had in charge a measure from the Nebraska State Dairymen's Association, asking for an annual appropriation of \$1,000, for which he drafted a bill and secured its passage. He has been particularly active in behalf of the dairying interests of the state, being now president of the State Dairymen's Association. He has served his township on the county board of supervisors, being the present member of the board from Gibbon township, and has been a member of the town council of Gibbon several terms, and active in its municipal affairs. In January, 1889, he was admitted to the Buffalo county bar, having since given some time and attention to the practice of law, and, in July, 1889, he was appointed postmaster at Gibbon, an office which he continues to hold.

With these interests and pursuits, Mr. Ashburn's life has been and continues to be, an active, not to say laborious, one; yet, as exacting as his duties have been

and are, he has discharged them with entire satisfaction to those concerned, and has succeeded in his own personal affairs far beyond the average of business men. It would be doing injustice to his most excellent and deserving wife not to say in this connection, that in his labors, both of a public and private nature, he has been materially assisted by her, and not a little of the success he has attained has been reached through her efficient labors and zealous co-operation. As has already been noted, Mr. Ashburn married in his native county, in Ohio. The lady whom he selected to share his life's fortunes was Miss Emily Amanda Brown, who was reared in Trumbull county, Ohio, but was a native of New York. Mr. and Mrs. Ashburn were married August 3, 1862, since which time they have borne each other the cherished companionship which they sought with each others' hands, and have reared, almost to maturity, an interesting family of children. For these duties, as well as for those in the more extended sphere, in which she has been called in connection with her husband's business, Mrs. Ashburn is admirably fitted, being a lady of not only sound intelligence, but of an abundance of practical sagacity, discriminating judgment and business methods and accomplishments, possessing, withal, a well-cultured mind and a nature rich in the treasures of her sex.

I D. LABARRE, the first man who ever sold a dollar's worth of goods in the town of Gibbon, is still a resident of that place and is yet engaged in mercantile business there. He settled on the

present town site of Gibbon on April 7, 1871, being a member of the Soldiers' Free Homestead Temperance Colony, by which the village of Gibbon and most of Gibbon township was settled. Most of the members of this colony, as appears in the history thereof, were from Ohio, but it was recruited by volunteers from other states who fell in at different points, there being in all representatives of more than twenty states. Mr. LaBarre came from New York, of which state he is a native. He is a descendant of two old York state families, the advent of whose ancestors on this continent runs back into the mists of the past, and he is of French extraction and Huguenot stock on both sides. The family name is variously spelled and abbreviated, appearing as LaBar, De LaBar, LaBarre and LaBaire, and representatives of the name are now found in many parts of the United States, especially scattered over the states of New York, Pennsylvania and western states. Mr. LaBarre's father, grandfather and great grandfather were natives of York state, and it is highly probable that his first ancestors on American soil were as many as four or five generations removed from himself. The LaBarres, DuBoises, LeFevers and Beviers were early settled families of New York, as appears from the mention of their names in connection with the first settlement of the French Protestant refugees there. Whether his people belonged to the Ulster County colony or the Staten Island colony is not known, but in either case his ancestry would run back to the early part of the seventeenth century, as these colonies were settled about the same time the colony at Jamestown was.

I. D. LaBarre is the second of seven children born to John and Rosetta (Walker) LaBarre and first saw light August 4, 1834, in Hartford, Washington county, N. Y. He was reared in Washington and Essex counties, which join, and was brought up as a sailor on Lake Champlain and Hudson river and off the coast of New York. He married in January, 1856, Miss Mary W., a daughter of Minus Winter, his wife having been born and reared in the same community with himself and being like himself a descendant of old settlers of the northern part of York state. He engaged in business in his native county and in Essex, and was so engaged when he decided to move west. The circumstances which led to his coming to Nebraska were such as have happened to many others and doubtless have been given to print many times before. He became dissatisfied with the overcrowded condition of things in his own state and wanted to get into a new country, where opportunities for getting on in the world were better than they were where he was. He cut loose from friends, relatives and business connections in the spring of 1871, and started west, not knowing at that time where he would cast his lot. He left Washington county in company with Dr. I. P. George, who will be remembered by all the old settlers, and as above stated fell in with the Old Soldiers' Homestead Colony and became one of the founders of the town of Gibbon, Buffalo county. Mr. LaBarre's first experience as the first merchant of Gibbon was sufficiently novel to satisfy the taste of any lover of pioneer methods. He opened his first stock of goods in a box-car, on a part of the train which was side-tracked where

Gibbon now stands and used by the colonists until houses were erected, and this stock of goods he brought with him and began selling the day after his arrival. As soon as the town site was located he secured a lot and built a store house and moved in, becoming one of the fixtures of the place. This lot adjoins the one on the west of that on which his store now stands. Business, never very prosperous in the early days, grew distressingly dull after the first year or two. The men who settled in Gibbon and vicinity, like the early settlers of all new countries, were men of brawn and brain, but not men of means. They came west to better their condition. Their wants were few and their ability to buy limited. In the early days, at least, the town was not a place where small tradesmen could soon bloom out as merchant princes. The tradesman shared the lot that fell to the average citizen. In many instances he fared worse. When the hard years came, the years when the grasshoppers and drouth spread suffering over the land, the shopkeeper found it as difficult to maintain his foothold and keep starvation from his door as did the poor homesteader. Yielding to the pressure of hard times Mr. LaBarre went out of business in 1874, and remained out till the return of good crops brought a revival of trade. With the exception of this period of general distress, when all of the old settlers had to resort to one makeshift and another to live, hardly anyone remaining at his accustomed business, Mr. LaBarre has been engaged actively in the mercantile business in Gibbon since the date of the founding of the colony in 1871 to the present time. His is the oldest establishment of the kind in the place and he is in

point of residence Gibbon's first merchant. He has seen all the changes which have marked the growth and development of the town and vicinity—has seen a country which twenty years ago was one unending stretch of prairie rapidly settled up with a thrifty class of citizens and become dotted over with peaceful and happy homes. He has seen the spot where the pioneers of Buffalo county first pitched their tents grow from a train of box cars to a prosperous town of several hundred people, having all the conveniences and comforts of an eastern village, and he has seen many of the first settlers, whose earlier years on the plains were marked by a prolonged and arduous struggle for bread and butter, become well-to-do citizens, owning broad acres, well improved and furnished with commodious and elegant buildings. Thousands of dollars' worth of goods have been brought to Gibbon, sold and consumed, since Mr. LaBarre sold his first article of merchandise from a box car in 1871. Store buildings have been erected by the score and merchants have come and gone, many of whom are not now remembered. Through all the changing years and all the varying seasons, except only the grasshopper period, the subject of this sketch has remained practically on the spot where he built his first building and has continued to supply the local trade with whatever was wanted in his line.

Mr. LaBarre, although an old-timer, is not a type of the Western rustlers in business such as have passed into common fame and newspaper notoriety. He is destitute of the grasping, money-getting spirit characteristic of the average Westerner. The restlessness, scheming, worry



and annoyance that come of that spirit he is singularly exempt from. He believes to the fullest extent in the maxim, "Live and let live." He believes in accumulating by natural but not by artificial means. As a merchant he sells to supply demand, but does not seek to create a demand by clap-trap advertising, or other means, that he may supply it. For this spirit of fairness, his equanimity and settled habits, he is largely indebted to heredity. The people from whom he is descended were distinguished for their liberality, their largeness of thought and fairness in dealing; for their settled convictions, the evenness of their temper and the general serenity of their lives. Strongly religious and shockingly persecuted for religion's sake, they learned to deal with others in a spirit of charity unequalled by any other sect. They exemplified in their daily lives in a truly admirable manner the wholesomeness of the maxim, "Live and let live."

It is hardly necessary to say that Mr. LaBarre has never mixed in politics. He has no taste for the wranglings of public life. He held the position of postmaster at Gibbon during Grant's administration—the only position of a public nature he has ever filled. He is a republican in politics and a strong believer in the teachings of his party. In the matter of religion, he adheres to the doctrines of his fathers, being a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. LaBarre has but one child, a daughter grown and married—Mrs. Cora LaBarre White, wife of Alva White, of Gibbon.

Socially, Mr. LaBarre and his family are among the foremost of the community.

GEORGE H. SILVERNAIL is one of the old settlers of Gibbon township, Buffalo county, having come with the Soldiers' Homestead Colony in April, 1871. He is a native of Geauga county, Ohio, and was born in July, 1845. He comes of pioneer stock; his parents were born in New York, but settled early on the Ohio frontier. His father, Calvin Silvernail, and his mother, Abigail Rathburn, are still living, being residents of Gibbon and now well advanced in years. Besides himself there were six children in the family to which the subject of this sketch belongs, the full list being—Elizabeth, George H., Eugenia R., John H., James, Eliza and Frederick.

The subject of this notice, George H., was reared in his native county to the age of sixteen, moving thence in 1861 to Wisconsin. There, in September, 1864, at the age of nineteen, he enlisted in the Union army, entering Company K, Fifth Wisconsin, on its re-organization, and serving with it until the surrender. He took part in all the battles in which his regiment participated, chief among them being those at Petersburg, Hatcher's run and Appomattox. He was mustered out in September, 1865, at Ball's Hill, Wis. The following six years he lived in Wisconsin and Michigan, coming to Nebraska, in April, 1871. He was accompanied to this state by his brother John H., now of Kearney, and two others, Daniel R. Davis and Samuel Mattice. In the choice for homesteads these four cast their lots together and agreed to locate as near each other as possible, one man to draw, as was the arrangement, for the entire four. Mr. Silvernail drew for his comrades and himself, getting the twenty-eighth choice

He and his friends took claims on the south side of Wood river, a short distance west of the town of Gibbon, but not liking the soil they gave up their claims there and selected others in section 10, just north of the river. There they located, and our subject, being the only old soldier in the crowd, got one hundred and sixty acres while the others took eighty each. He filed on the southwest quarter of the section, improved it and lived there till 1883, except one year he resided in Gibbon. Selling this he afterward moved to his present place of residence, four miles north of Gibbon, in Valley township. He has been steadily engaged in farming and has filled the usual number of local offices, having been the first precinct assessor (elected in the fall of 1871), one of the organizers of his school district and for several years a member of the school board and more recently clerk of Valley township.

Mr. Silvernail was a single man when he came to Buffalo county, but married in the fall of 1872, November 17th, taking for a companion a young lady who, like himself, braved the hardships and privations of frontier life at that date in search of a home—Miss Marcia E. Howe, a native of Newport, N. H., her father, George W. Howe, and her mother, Sarah M. Carr, both being natives of Newport; the father died in the town of Marlow, that state, in 1884, at the age of seventy-three, but the mother is still residing there. Mrs. Silvernail is one of a family of six children, two of whom besides herself were among the early settlers of Buffalo county, Nebr.; these being Mrs. E. C. Griffin, now of Gibbon; and Mrs. Dr. Ira P. George, of Elkins, Colfax county, N. M. Mrs. Silver-

nail came to Buffalo county in the fall of 1871. Three children, all boys, have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Silvernail—Merton L., Errol H. and Halbert G. Among the few remaining old settlers of Gibbon township, those who came early and in the arduous undertaking of subduing nature and planting the seeds of civilization, "bore the heat and burden of the day," none have been more faithful in the task imposed on them and none are more highly esteemed than George H. Silvernail and his estimable wife, whose memory and the part they took in the settlement of their adopted home are here commemorated.

**D**R. M. V. CHAPMAN, veterinary surgeon and farmer, of Gibbon Buffalo county, is a native of the town of Worestor, Otsego county, N. Y., and was born June 16, 1834. He comes of York state parentage, his father and mother, Jonas and Polly B. Chapman, both having been born and reared in the "Empire State." The father was killed by the explosion of a steamboat boiler while returning from New Orleans, in 1840, and the mother died in Pennsylvania in 1870. There were six children born to these, all of whom reached maturity, and five of whom are now living, the full list being—Leonora, now wife of Huron Daniels; Oreelia, deceased; Rosabella, wife of L. Close; Andrew Jackson; Stephen Mayne and Martin Van Buren.

The subject of this notice, the youngest of the above children, was reared to the age of twenty years in Otsego and Cayuga counties, N. Y., coming West at that

date, and settling in Steuben county, Ind. There, on the 20th of April, 1855, he married Miss Delia McLouth, daughter of Rev. B. McLouth, of that county, and settled down to the pursuit of agriculture. In December, 1863, he entered the Union army, enlisting in Company F, Twenty-seventh Michigan volunteer infantry. His was one of the historic regiments of the Union army and did excellent service during the two years it was in the field. It took part in seventeen strongly contested engagements, and lost, in killed and wounded, over eight hundred men out of one thousand, four hundred and eighty-five. Those actually killed in battle were two hundred and twenty-five, being over fifteen per cent. Its heaviest losses occurred at the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Bethsaida church and at Petersburg, it being in the assault, the mine explosion and the trenches at the last named place. Our subject was not with his regiment, however, during its entire term of service. During the latter part of the war he was on detached duty. After the surrender he was assigned to a place in the department of the Freedman's Bureau, being assistant superintendent and provost-marshal for Halifax county, Va. He quit the public service in October, 1865, and returned at that date to Steuben county, Ind., where he resumed farming and his other private pursuits. Being a great fancier of horse flesh, a man of close observation and studious habits, our subject began, when only a youth, to give his attention to veterinary matters, reading such books as fell into his hands, and "doctoring" his own and neighbors' horses. With the increase of years, he gathered increased knowledge

and experience, and discovered in himself a growing taste for the profession of a veterinary surgeon, until at last he made up his mind to perfect himself for this as a pursuit and did so, having followed it successfully for some years. He came to Nebraska in 1878 and purchased land north of Gibbon in Buffalo county, locating there and residing in that vicinity since. He has at different times been largely interested in Buffalo county real estate, but has recently closed out most of his interests of this nature. He is also interested in the state bank of Gibbon, being a stockholder therein. He has a pleasant home one mile north of the town of Gibbon, lying on the banks of Wood river. Having had the misfortune to lose his wife in 1871, Dr. Chapman married again in August, 1872, the lady whom he selected as a companion the second time being Miss Mary Stiles, of Sauk Center, Minn. He has had born to him a number of children; three surviving of his first marriage, and six of the second. In private intercourse, Dr. Chapman is pleasant and affable, being of a quiet, unobtrusive disposition and very thoughtful for the feelings and welfare of others. He is a man of good intelligence and possesses a large fund of general information. He has never aspired to public office, being content to pursue the even tenor of his way as a humble citizen of the community where he has lived. In politics he is independent, though he formerly affiliated with the republican party and still votes that ticket in national elections, but for local men and measures he follows his judgment, believing in the survival of the fittest, regardless of party affiliations or personal predilection.

**A** EDDY, an old settler of Gibbon township, Buffalo county, a prominent and successful farmer, and as kind-hearted a christian gentleman as lives in the State of Nebraska, is A. Eddy, the subject of this short biography. Mr. Eddy has been a resident of the locality where he lives since May, 1874, and he has been identified with the best material, social and moral interests of that locality since settling there. He is well known throughout the county, and those who know him never mention his name but to speak his praise.

Mr. Eddy is a native of Wyoming county, N. Y., and comes of two of the early settled families of western York state. His father, John Eddy, was born in Rhode Island, December 9, 1795, and was taken to western New York by his parents when a lad, settling in Genesee county, where, December 17, 1817, he married Caroline Ward, and there subsequently lived and died. He was a farmer, a man of plain tastes, settled habits and uneventful life. He died, February 14, 1881, after a long life of great activity and usefulness. His wife, mother of our subject, was born January 6, 1799, and died October 29, 1881, after a life of pious, christian endeavor.

In the family to which Mr. Eddy belongs there were eleven children, as follows—Alfred, born November 2, 1818, married February 21, 1843, died October 2, 1887; Lydia, born May 20, 1820, married to Lewis W. Gill October 7, 1841; Laura, born February 1, 1822, married to George Nichols February 6, 1851; Asahel, subject of this sketch, born October 2, 1823, and married January 1, 1845; Parthena, born September

27, 1825, and married September 28, 1842, to Joseph Dickerson; Edwin, born March 30, 1829, and married March 10, 1850; James, born May 30, 1832, and married February 19, 1857; Caroline, born June 13, 1834, and married, May 14, 1856, to Elliott Barber; John, Jr., born October 7, 1836, married March 23, 1859, and killed May 31, 1862, at the battle of Fair Oaks, Va.; Rachel, born January 22, 1840, and married, January 6, 1861, to Abram Thompson; and Spaulding, born January 5, 1843, and died July 25, 1843.

The subject of this sketch was reared mainly in his native county, passing his maturer years in the county of Wyoming. He was brought up on his father's farm, receiving as good common-school training as could be had in the public schools of those days, and being brought up to the habits of industry and usefulness common to farm life. January 1, 1845, he married a neighbor girl, Sarah Cook, a daughter of Samuel and Chloe (Warner) Cook, early settlers in western New York. Mrs. Eddy, born August 10, 1825, is a native of Vermont, as were also her parents, but was reared in York state. Her father and mother died in Buffalo in 1831, during the great cholera scourge. Mr. Eddy settled down to the pursuit of agriculture after marriage, and followed it successfully a short time in Wyoming county, but moved West, without any family, and settled in McHenry county, Ill. He was residing there when the trouble came on that resulted in the great Civil war, and like the patriot he was, when the call was made for volunteers to defend the Union, he shouldered his musket and went to the front, enlisting August, 1862, in Company

E, Ninety-fifth Illinois volunteer infantry. He served with the army in the West and took part in the Vicksburg campaign, being present at the engagements at and around Vicksburg, continuing actively on the front for one year, when, on account of failure of health, he was compelled to take a place as prison guard, in which capacity he served till the end of the war, at Rock Island, Ill.

Returning to Illinois he resided there, engaged in farming, till the spring of 1874, when his mind once more turned towards the great West and he decided to take up his abode on the rich prairies west of the Missouri river. He landed at Gibbon, Buffalo county, May 1st, that year. He at once purchased a place, buying the historic tract of land known as "Boyd's Ranch," lying about a mile west of Gibbon on Wood river, and there located and has since resided there. Mr. Eddy has bought and sold several tracts of land since he made this purchase, owning now as much as four hundred acres in Buffalo county. He has been steadily engaged in farming and stock-raising, at which he has been successful far beyond the average old settler. His home place is one of the most desirable places in the famous Wood River valley, noted as that valley is for its many fine farms. He has his entire farm under cultivation and it yields him an abundance of Nebraska's sovereign products, corn and hay. It has an abundance of native timber, and, lying on the banks of Wood river, it is furnished with an ample sufficiency of flowing water. It is in as moral a community as there is in Buffalo county; being only one mile from the town of Gibbon it has all needful market, school, church and social advantages.

Mr. Eddy is the father of nine children, eight of whom, four boys and four girls, are living and married. These are Amanda C., born July 13, 1847, and married October 2, 1866, to A. Watenpaugh; Spaulding, born November 14, 1849, and married August 9, 1871, to Amanda E. Norton; Henry A., born February 14, 1852, and married March 9, 1887, to Rebecca Peoples; Laura Belle, born June 17, 1854, and married July 2, 1873, to L. S. Buck; Caroline E., born April 15, 1857, and married July 26, 1875, to E. B. Dunkin; George A., born August 2, 1859, and married November 21, 1881, to Martha Trout; Frank D., born December 2, 1861, married January 2, 1887, to Mary E. Hays; Mary R., born October 27, 1866, and married May 10, 1887, to Bailey E. Vesey. Mr. and Mrs. Eddy's first child, a son born February 1, 1846, died in infancy.

In politics Mr. Eddy was reared a democrat and voted the democratic ticket up to the war. He then affiliated with the republican party and for many years voted that ticket straight through on all national and state issues. Of late years, however, he has been an independent republican with decided convictions on the prohibition of the drink traffic. He possesses strong temperance views and is outspoken in his opinion on temperance issues. He is active in his efforts towards temperance reform, and now has enlisted in the great uprising of the farmers to free us from the corporate rule into which the old parties political have fallen and which legislate for the few at the expense of the many.

Mr. and Mrs. Eddy are both members of the Baptist church, having belonged to that church for many years and reared most of their family in that church.

C. C. HOLLOWAY. It must not be inferred from the great number of sketches of old settlers of Buffalo county, which appear in this volume, that all the positions of trust and emolument, and all the avenues of success, have been monopolized by the first settlers, and that they only have done things worthy of preservation in a memorial record like this. There are numbers of young men and new recruits, as it were, to the army of workers, who, for the length of their residence, and measured by their means and opportunities, have accomplished quite as much, since casting their lots in the county, as the majority of the old timers. While yielding, therefore, to the pioneers the prominence which is due them, by reason of the greater length of their residence, and the hardships which fell to them in the earlier years, it is still in keeping with the character and purpose of this volume to give a fair share of space to the younger men and the new-comers, in order to tell something of their accomplishments here, and to preserve for those of heir name, who may in after years read this record, an account of their ancestral and personal history.

One of the men of this class deserving of mention in this connection, is C. C. Holloway, cashier of the State bank of Gibbon, Buffalo county. Mr. Holloway came to Gibbon in May, 1886. His father, Ira Holloway, had previously made investments in Gibbon, and it was to take charge of these investments that the subject of this sketch became a resident of the place. The interests here referred to, consisted mainly of stock in the State bank, of which Mr. Holloway's father was one of the founders. The State bank, one of the

institutions of the town of Gibbon, was organized July 1, 1885, under the state banking laws, succeeding at that date, a private banking firm. It was organized with a capital of \$50,000, the charter members being Ira Holloway, H. F. Flint, C. E. Woodruff, D. M. Fulmer, F. C. Hitchcock and W. H. Morrow. Ira Holloway became president; H. F. Flint, vice-president, and F. C. Hitchcock, cashier. Several changes have since taken place in the official organization and working force of the bank. At present, C. E. Woodruff is president; C. M. Beck, vice-president, and C. C. Holloway, cashier; Mr. Holloway having the general supervision and practical management of the institution and its concerns. The bank was started with a view of meeting the demand for local banking facilities. Its business has increased with the general increase of business of the town of Gibbon and vicinity, and its affairs are now in a fairly prosperous condition. Being organized under the state banking law, it is founded on a sufficiently solid basis to insure its permanent existence, and being backed by men of recognized means and ability, its affairs are managed in accordance with the best business principles and methods. It has, for the past year or two, had to divide business with the First National Bank of Gibbon, which has been started since the State bank was organized, but it has nevertheless held its own, and has gone steadily forward in its career of prosperity.

Mr. Holloway is a banker somewhat by accident. He was not trained to the business, but took it up on locating in Gibbon. He was a teacher by profession prior to coming to Nebraska, having received a thorough education in his youth, graduat-

ing from the Normal School of Milan, Erie county, Ohio, and for a number of years being actively and successfully engaged in school-room work. In many respects he is admirably qualified for the profession of teaching, being a good scholar, the first requisite. He has received the necessary training to enable him to impart his knowledge in a clear and concise way, is a hard worker, possesses executive ability above the average, and is painstaking and systematic in his methods. And he is, withal, an ardent advocate of thorough training for the young and a warm sympathizer with youth in its struggles for the rudiments of knowledge. These qualities have also helped to make him a success in his present business and would go far towards helping him on to success in any business he might choose. They are not qualities necessarily peculiar to him, but are qualities held in common by the great mass of successful business men. In a general way they are qualities characteristic of the average American. It is the possession of these qualities that enables the general man of affairs to turn his hand with equal facility from one business to another and to prosecute all with a fair degree of success. Besides the excellent school advantages enjoyed by Mr. Holloway in his youth, he gained a good insight into the affairs of the world through his father, who was a highly successful business man. The elder Holloway was a native of New York state, but moved to Huron county, Ohio, when a lad, where he settled, married and subsequently lived until 1883, when he removed to Lenawee county, Mich., where he resided until his death, September 3, 1887, at the advanced age of seventy-five

years. He was variously engaged during his earlier years, but retired in late life. He was distinguished for his industry and conscientious devotion to his own personal matters, and much of the success that crowned his life was due to the possession of these admirable qualities. He died about two years ago, somewhat advanced in age, but retaining up to the close of his life the full possession of all his faculties and exhibiting the same marked interest in his business matters and the success and welfare of his family that distinguished him in the more active years of his career.

Mr. Holloway's mother bore the maiden name of Aelsa Broughton. She is still living. She was born in Lorain county, Ohio, of which her parents were among the first settlers.

Mr. Holloway himself is next to the youngest of a family of ten children, all of whom reached maturity and most of whom are now living. He was born in the town of Peru, Huron county, Ohio, and there raised. He lived there and in adjoining counties till coming to Nebraska four years ago, and, as already stated, was engaged in teaching. He was married in Lucas county, in September, 1880, the lady of his choice being Miss Ruth Smith, of that county.

If more of Mr. Holloway need be said, what he is and what he has done may be summarized in the statement that he is an honest, industrious, capable man of business; an enterprising, intelligent, useful citizen and a pleasant, genial gentleman—a valuable acquisition to the community where he has cast his fortune, and one whom his fellow-citizens rightly appreciate and will willingly indorse what is here said of him.

**W**L. RANDALL. A young man in years but a comparatively old settler and one of the most progressive, enterprising and public spirited man of his locality, is W. L. Randall, the famous, one-price, cash merchant of the town of Gibbon, Buffalo county. Mr. Randall came to the county when about seventeen years of age; while therefore he is hardly "to the manor born" he is nevertheless almost a product of the soil, having grown up in the community where he resides and having been identified with the best interests of that community from his earliest days. He is a son of a former well-known citizen and old settler of Gibbon township, now deceased, and before entering on the record of the subject of this notice it will be proper to refer to a few facts of his father's history.

John D. Randall was born in New York and was reared there to the age of seventeen, being brought thence to Ohio by his parents, who settled in Clermont county. There he grew up and married a neighbor girl, Jane Beatty, a daughter of John Beatty, one of the first settlers of that county, and settled down to the peaceful pursuits of agriculture. He was so engaged till the clouds of a civil war burst over his unhappy country. Then, with an alacrity born of the patriotism in him, he offered his services for the preservation of the Union, enlisting in September, 1861, in Company C, commanded by his brother, W. S. B. Randall, Second Ohio volunteer infantry, commanded by his brother-in-law, Col. William T. Beatty. His regiment was assigned to duty in the western department, and, beginning its services in Kentucky, it was in the en-

gagements at Perryville, that state; Ivy mountain and Stone river, Tennessee; Chickamauga, Lookout mountain and Missionary ridge, and then, entering the Atlanta campaign, down to the taking of Atlanta. He entered as a private and was discharged as a sergeant, having served out the term of his enlistment. Returning to Ohio he resumed farming and continued there so engaged till 1877, when with his family he moved to Nebraska and settled in Gibbon township, Buffalo county, four miles west of the town of Gibbon, where he lived till his death, which occurred July 23, 1887, he having attained his seventieth year. He never had any aspirations for public life, but filled a number of local offices both in Ohio and this state with credit to himself and satisfaction to his fellow-citizens. He was a man of plain tastes, quiet habits and settled disposition, leading an active, industrious, useful life, and laying down his burden at the end of his journey with a consciousness of duty well done, and bearing with him to his grave the sincere regret of those whose friendship and esteem he had enjoyed while living. He was for many years a zealous member of the Methodist church and a liberal contributor to all charitable purposes. Being an old soldier, he took much interest in Grand Army matters, and no man had a warmer place in his bosom for an old comrade than he. He left surviving him a widow and six children, one having preceded him to the unknown world. His widow is still living at Gibbon, and his children are all married and are themselves the heads of families. These are Mrs. Jane Seeley, wife of C. G. Seeley of Goshen, Ohio; Mrs. Lida Osborn of Wilmington,



Ohio, wife of I. H. Osborn, who moved to Gibbon, September 11, 1890; Mrs. Caroline Schooley, wife of N. Schooley, of Gibbon, Buffalo county, this state; Mrs. Kate Huffman, wife of Amos Huffman of Wilmington, Ohio; John B. of Buffalo county, and William L., the subject proper of this sketch, the one that died being Frank, the second child in point of age.

William L. Randall was born in Clermont county, Ohio, September 5, 1860. He was reared in that and Buffalo county, this state, growing up on his father's farm and receiving a fair common-school education. His earlier pursuits were of an agricultural nature. He quit the farm, however, in 1884, and after spending two years in the Gibbon creamery and running the Commercial hotel of that place, he went to Wood River, in Hall county, where he began the mercantile business. Returning to Gibbon in July, 1889, he opened his present store, inaugurating at that date the well remembered era of low prices for people of that vicinity. Having been brought up on the farm and having spent the greater part of his life among the farmers, he knows their wants perfectly, and is in entire sympathy with them, and is therefore prepared to furnish them what they need and do it at living prices to them. Mr. Randall has built up an immense trade for the time he has been in business and the volume of his business is constantly increasing. He is no respecter of persons or prices when they conflict with his sense of justice to his patronage. He reserves the right to buy where he can get the best for the least money and to sell at such figures as he sees fit to put on his goods. He is thoroughly independent, and is a man of good intelligence,

shrewd and practical, attending strictly to his own affairs but discharging his duties as a citizen with promptness and fidelity. He has a family, having married April 19, 1882, the lady whom he selected for a wife being Miss Emma Wescoatt, daughter of Riley Wescoatt, a merchant of Wood River, Hall county, Nebr., and a native of Albia, Iowa, but reared mainly in Hall county, whither her parents moved in 1876. Mr. Randall has a pleasant home and a host of warm friends. He was elected member of the board of trustees in April, 1890, and took his seat as same the first Monday in May, 1890. He has enlarged his store to double its former capacity and now carries the largest and best assortment of general merchandise in the city. He also runs a large stock of general merchandise at Wood River, Hall county, he having bought his father-in-law's stock at that place.

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**M** II. NOBLE. The observation is frequently made that the second crop of settlers in a new country always reap the fruits of the labors of the pioneers. Strictly speaking this is not correct, but the general statement contains considerable truth. The qualities that make a good pioneer do not necessarily make a successful man of the world, and it is a fact that, as a new country becomes settled up, the old-timers, as a rule, move on to the more sparsely settled districts while the new-comers pick up the desirable locations and not unfrequently monopolize the most lucrative professions and absorb the best paying business enterprises. There is something

in the free and easy way of living practiced by the old settlers that seems to unfit them for coping successfully with the aggressive forces that come with the better settlement of the country. On the other hand the more newly arrived settler, fresh from the over-crowded communities of the East and thoroughly practiced in all the approved methods of getting on in the world, feels freer for his change and sees opportunities where his discouraged neighbor can not, and not being slow to avail himself of the opportunities he soon forges to the front and begins to attract attention as a man who "has come in recently but is making it pay right along."

One of the citizens of Buffalo county who falls within the designation of "second-crop of settlers" is M. H. Noble, a representative business man of the town of Gibbon. Mr. Noble came to Buffalo county July 31, 1879, more than eight years after the town was located and the county properly opened to settlement. He had friends who were residents of Gibbon and who were among the first settlers of the place, and it was from a knowledge of the country gained through them that he decided to make his home in Nebraska. On his arrival here Mr. Noble went to work in the Gibbon mills, where he learned the business of milling. He was in the employ of the Gibbon mills for three years and a half, the last year of which time he was first miller. From the mills he went on the ranch of I. N. Davis in Valley township, four miles north of Gibbon, and there remained two years and a half. He put up the buildings on this ranch, did a large part of the fencing and superintended the breaking out of a

considerable portion of it. He raised three crops and was getting in a fair way to make of the place one of the best ranches in the county, when, on account of failure of health of wife, he was forced to give up. He moved into Gibbon and bought out the half interest of James A. Kelsey in the drug house of Kelsey & Murnen, entering into partnership with Mr. Murnen, the firm becoming Murnen & Noble. Later he bought out his partner's interest, since which time he has been alone. He has the best drug house in the town of Gibbon and one that would do credit to a town twice the size of Gibbon, carrying a clean, neat, well-selected stock and sufficiently large to meet all local demands. He drives a prosperous business and may be set down as one of the money-makers of his town.

Mr. Noble received exceptionally good training for the mercantile business in youth and doubtless his success is due, in no small measure, to the knowledge he so acquired and the methods he learned. For five years prior to coming to Nebraska he was in the mercantile establishment of William Bell & Co., of Cincinnati, Ohio, entering that establishment as cash boy and quitting it as cashier. During this time he had abundant opportunities to learn all the "ins and outs" of the mercantile business—wholesale and retail—city and country. He availed himself of these opportunities as a quick, active young fellow might be expected to, and he came away from Cincinnati with the foundation of a successful business career well laid.

Mr. Noble is a native of Clermont county, Ohio, and was born October 4, 1858. He is a son of Alfred and Susan

(Longstreth) Noble, his father being a native of Virginia and his mother a native of Indiana. His father was a physician of excellent attainments, being thoroughly enamored of his profession and enjoying an extensive practice. Unfortunately for his family and for the community where he lived, he was cut off in the midst of an enviable professional career and in the prime of life. He died July 26, 1858, at the age of fifty-five.

Mr. Noble's mother was a daughter of William Longstreth, of Philadelphia, Pa., an old, honored and useful citizen of that county. She is yet living, and is the second wife of Dr. Noble, he having been previously married and having by his former marriage two children, both of whom are now living. These are Alfred B. Noble, now a resident of Hamburg, Iowa, and Mrs. Addie Bell, wife of William H. Bell, of Knightstown, Ind. To Dr. Alfred and Susan (Longstreth) Noble were born a family of seven children. These were Julia, wife of L. C. Simpkins, of Cincinnati, Ohio; John, now a resident of Ft. Wayne, Ind., and an electrician of some note; William, a resident of Colorado; Adelia, wife of M. S. Cook, of Gibbon, Nebr.; Frank, of Rome, Ga.; Charles, of Ft. Wayne, Ind., and Milton H., whose name is placed at the head of this article. The last two are twins.

Milton H. Noble was reared in his native county, and received an ordinary common-school education. What his career might have been had his father lived to superintend his training and counsel him in the selection of his life-work, can not now of course be told. So far as this is concerned, only the sad fact remains to be recorded that he never saw his father, and

that what training he got in youth was such as fell to the average boy; all he has and all he is he owes to himself, aided, as he was in his earlier years, by a kind and faithful mother.

In his domestic life Mr. Noble's lines, like those of many others, have fallen partly in sunshine and partly in shadow. He was married, in September, 1882, to Miss Ida E. Day, of Alfred, Me. This lady died in January, 1883. He married again July 15, 1884, his second wife being Miss Blanch Seaver, a daughter of Parley Seaver, of Stockholm, St. Lawrence county, N. Y., in which city Mrs. Noble was also born.

Mr. Noble has never aspired to be more than a man of business. He has devoted himself strictly to the pursuit of his own personal affairs, to the discharge of his duties as a citizen and to those dependent on him. He is a liberal-minded, open-handed man, ready to help any worthy enterprise or deserving person to the extent of his means in an honest purpose or endeavor; and this is not the opinion of a stranger to him, but it is the report given of him by his neighbors and acquaintances who have lived by him and have done business with him for years, and whose opinions are therefore entitled to consideration on this point.

**V** T. MERCER. An old settler and highly esteemed citizen of Gibbon township, Buffalo county, is V. T. Mercer, the subject of this notice. Mr. Mercer is a native of Delaware county, Pa., and was born in July, 1828. He is

next to the youngest of a family of eleven children born to Euclid and Mary (Watts) Mercer. His father was also a native of Pennsylvania, was reared and married there and moved from there to Ohio, settling in what was then Guernsey, now Noble county, from which, after a residence of some years, he moved to Fulton county, Ill., where he died with the cholera. He was an industrious farmer and an honored and useful citizen. Mr. Mercer's mother was a native of Maryland, moving with her parents when young to Pennsylvania, where she met and was married to Euclid Mercer. She survived her husband twenty-eight years, dying also in Fulton county, Ill. Of the eleven children born to them six were boys and five girls; all of them reached maturity, and, with the exception of three, are now living. Their christian names in the order of their ages are as follows: John, Elizabeth, Richard, Job, Chalkley, Hannah, Julia Ann, Sarah, Susan, Vernon T. and Hiram B.

Vernon T., the subject of this sketch, was reared mainly in Guernsey (afterwards Noble) county, Ohio. He was brought up on the farm and trained to the habits of industry and usefulness common to farm life, receiving during the winter months, according to the custom of those days, the rudiments of a common-school education by attendance at the country schools of the neighborhood. In 1860 he married Nancy Rebecca Waggoner, daughter of John and Elizabeth Waggoner, of Noble county, she being a native of that county and a young lady whom he had known from early childhood. He settled down to the pursuit of agriculture and was so engaged when the Civil war came on. He entered the Union army in

1864, enlisting in Company F, One Hundred and Seventy-fourth Ohio volunteer infantry, his regiment being attached to the Army of the Cumberland, with which he served, being mustered out in May, 1865. Returning to Ohio he remained there, engaged in farming, till the spring of 1871, when he moved to Nebraska, settling in Gibbon township, Buffalo county, in June that year. He took a homestead in section 26, township 9, range 14 west, being 162.88 acres and embracing a fractional part of the old Fort Kearney military reservation. There he located and has since resided, having been steadily engaged in farming. He has one of the best places in Gibbon township. It lies only about two miles from the corporate limits of the town of Gibbon and is thus sufficiently near mills, markets, schools and churches. Every foot of it is susceptible of cultivation and it lies near enough to the Platte bottoms to place it in reach of an abundance of hay and grazing land. It has growing on it an excellent grove of trees, the result of Mr. Mercer's industry and foresight, and is supplied with all other needful conveniences. Mr. Mercer has never aspired to be more than a humble citizen of the community where he resides, being content to follow the even tenor of his way, finding therein his chief pleasure as well as his highest reward. He has reared up around himself an interesting family of children, all of whom are now grown and some of whom are married and are themselves the heads of families. His children are—Charles Wilbur, Mollie L. (now wife of H. P. Smith, a sketch of whom appears in this work), John B. and Flora K.





F. G. KEENS.

F. G. KEENS came to Kearney in July, 1872, and is, therefore, one of the earliest settlers. The town site was not surveyed until the September following, nor the town organized until January, 1873. But it is not this fact alone that entitles him to special mention in this volume. There are hundreds who settled in Kearney during the years of 1872-3, whose names will never find their way to honorable mention in this or in any other collection of biographical sketches. It is a significant fact, that a majority of the heavy capitalists and representative business men of Kearney, to-day, were not among the first who cast their lots here. The "old timer" has either "moved on," like the red man and the buffalo, whose trail he has covered, or he has complacently settled down on his original lot, and has devoted his energies in his own way to the solution of the bread and butter question. All the more credit, therefore, is due to the old settler who has stuck it out and has risen to some eminence, here and there, among his comrades of former years, who has shown himself keenly alive to the advantages of his early opportunities, who has grown as the country has grown, and more especially, who has had the pluck, energy and practical wisdom to enable him to hold his own amidst the inrolling tide of brains and capital from the older states and countries of the East.

F. G. Keens is one of the pioneers of Buffalo county and of the city of Kearney, who has achieved marked success. Considering his advantages, none have excelled him. Measured by dollars and cents, he has outstripped by far any of his associates of former days, many of whom started

in the race far ahead of him. There is a lesson in such a life, for it can be laid down as a fixed fact that such success could not have been achieved without the exercise of some of the best virtues of the race. Mr. Keens' has been a long and arduous struggle, beginning under the most discouraging circumstances, and pursued at each step, until late years, against obstacles that would have weakened any but the most dauntless spirit. He literally began his career afoot, and all that he is and all that he has he owes to his own unaided efforts. He was born in Exeter, England, November 7th, 1853; came to America in April, 1869, a lad, unaccompanied by friend or relative. He had no money, no trade. He stopped in Hillsboro, Ill., and went to work in a woolen mill. Later, he picked up a knowledge of a trade, and starting West, he took a steamboat from St. Louis to Omaha, and reached Lincoln, this state, in June, 1870, riding into that town on a load of lumber, ahead of the railroad then building. After a sojourn there of two years, during which time he busily worked at his trade, he, in July, 1872, footed it into Kearney, coming in advance of the B. & M. R. R., which was then building into this place. Having accumulated some money, he put up a store building, which was the first erected on the town-site of Kearney, and began to sell goods. A year and a half later, the county seat having come to Kearney, he was appointed deputy county clerk, and later still, deputy county treasurer, serving in the two offices three years. He then started the insurance and loan business. His business in this line prospered, and he invested his surplus funds, as he accumulated from

year to year, in land and town lots. He believed in the future of Kearney and Buffalo county, and he steadfastly held on to all he acquired in the way of realty. The lapse of years and the logic of events have demonstrated the correctness of his judgment, and he owes a portion of what he is worth to the rise in real estate values. He owns a large amount of town property, and owns and gives his attention to the management of thirty-five farms. His wealth in real estate alone runs up into the neighborhood of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. He has a good loan business — real estate — operating largely on his own funds. His insurance agency has kept pace with the progress of the town, and has gradually grown to be one of the largest and strongest agencies in central Nebraska. It is composed of twelve of the leading companies of the world, representing a total capitalization of several million dollars and assets amounting to many millions more. He writes fire, life and accident, and has placed more risks in Kearney and Buffalo county than any other man in it. To this branch of his business, like all others, he gives his personal attention. In January, 1889, Mr. Keens, in connection with other representative men of Kearney, organized the City National Bank of Kearney, of which he was elected president, and now holds that position. The City National has a capital of \$100,000.00. Among its stockholders are some of the best business men of Kearney, and its board of directors is composed of men of recognized ability and integrity. Mr. Keens, as head of the institution, gives considerable attention to its affairs. And to his clear and dis-

criminating judgment, wise and conservative council, is due much of the success it has so far attained. Mr. Keens is not a boomer. He is a grower, a developer, a constructor. His name is not, therefore, found among those of the professional "rustlers." He has but little faith in artificial surface development. He believes in natural growth, and for the natural, real, substantial growth and development of Kearney, he has always been ready to help, giving liberally of his time, money and own personal efforts. He was one of the originators of the Kearney Canal and Water Supply Company, to the success of which much of Kearney's recent prosperity is due, and to which it chiefly owes its name abroad. He was a director in and secretary of this company from the date of its organization till its sale and capitalization recently, and as such was actively identified with all its affairs. He was also grand secretary of the Independent Order of Good Templars from 1873 to 1880, and chief secretary of the entire order from 1880 to 1884. Mr. Keens' career has been strictly a business one. He has never been afflicted with the itch for office, and even when taking part in movements of a semi-public nature, he has accepted positions of trust where he could be useful rather than where he could shine. He was formed by nature for a man of affairs, and his own self-training has served to perfect his natural endowments. He possesses untiring industry, is as tenacious as a Scotch thistle, and is the embodiment of order and system. He is neat and prompt in his work, dispatching each day's business in the time allotted to it, doing a large portion of it himself and personally see-



ing that what is assigned to others is done in the time and manner outlined by him. He sees clearly, thinks rapidly, and acts promptly. He is capable of doing any amount of work himself, being of that compact, closely-knit structure that will stand wear and tear for days and weeks without giving any perceptible sign of breaking down. The most striking thing about him to a stranger is the immense amount of reserve force which he seems to have. He looks like a bundle of physical and mental vigor. His seems to be one of those natures which hard work only serves to develop into greater robustness. The strong points of an Englishman and an American are admirably blended in him. To his thoroughgoing, sturdy, self-reliant English make-up he has added the sirenness, the practical sagacity and dispatch that characterizes his "smart" American associates. All in all, for a clever, level-headed, successful business man, Mr. Keens would be hard to equal. He is passionately fond of travel, having crossed the Atlantic five times besides traveling extensively in old Mexico, and in Alaska. In his domestic relations he has been happy. He married, in November, 1875, Miss Nellie Grant, of Romeo, Mich., and has one of the finest houses, loveliest grounds and most pleasant homes in the city of Kearney. He has three boys, to whom he is devotedly attached, and in whose rearing and training he finds his chief pleasure. He is in every way a man eminently fitted for the task; for he has led an exceptionally systematic, temperate, moral life, and can, therefore, add to the strength of his teaching the force of a most wholesome example in his own person.

**J**D. DRURY. One of the most industrious and most deserving citizens of the town of Gibbon, Buffalo county—a town noted for its many industrious and deserving citizens—is James DeLoss Drury, the subject of this sketch. Mr. Drury came to Buffalo county in October, 1871, since which time he has been a resident of the county, having passed through all the trials and hardships that the earlier settlers were called on to undergo, making his way, as most of them did, against great odds through many long years of patient toil and heroic endurance. Mr. Drury came to Nebraska direct from his native place, Erie county, Pa. His parents still reside in Erie county, his mother having been born and reared there and his father having passed all his maturer years there. His mother's maiden name was Mary Ann Sheppard, being a daughter of Jacob Sheppard. His father, Peter Drury, was born in Wesleyville, N. Y., followed the business of a sailor on Lake Erie for some years, and afterwards settled in Erie county, Pa., where he married and has since resided. Only two children were born to these—William C. and James DeLoss, both now residents of the town of Gibbon, Buffalo county.

James DeLoss Drury was born April 19, 1850. He was reared in his native place, growing up on his father's farm, receiving a good common school training and afterwards learning the trade of a barber. January 13, 1870, he married Miss Ida Ames, daughter of Alva Ames, of Erie county, Mrs. Drury being a native of that county and she and her husband having passed their younger days together as school-mates. Of the five children born to Mr. and Mrs. Drury, three are still

living, viz.—Mabel A., born September 25, 1873; Dollie F., born August 31, 1875, and Willie V., born March 20, 1880. The two deceased were Lillian G., born December 25, 1870, in Erie county, Pa., and died April 8, 1879, and Gertrude, born December 9, 1877, and died July 13, 1879.

October 26, 1871, Mr. Drury took a homestead in the northwestern part of the township, filing on the northeast quarter of section 8, township 9, range 14 west, and after spending the winter of 1871-2 in Gibbon, he moved out on to his claim the following spring and began active operations as a farmer.

What has been said in this volume of the trials and hardships of numbers of other old settlers is true in an even greater degree of Mr. Drury. The first few years of his residence in Buffalo county were filled with struggles, often of an apparently hopeless nature, and nothing but the pluck, energy and endurance which he brought to bear in the contest would have brought him through them. His crops were swept away year after year either by the grasshoppers, hail or drouths. And then on top of these discouragements there came family sickness, extending through the long and wearisome months, ending at last with the visitation of the grim monster death, robbing him of two little ones, first pledges of his early married life. But Mr. Drury never gave up. He labored hard and trusted to the future. Oftentimes he would work all the week on the farm, turn his team out on Saturday afternoon, walk into Gibbon, six miles, and work till midnight at his barber's chair, returning home in the early morning hours, frequently having to lie down by the wayside to rest, not reaching home

till Sunday morning. Through such toils and hardships he labored for nearly ten years, slowly accumulating some means and reaching a position where he could in some degree become master of his circumstances. In the spring of 1882 he gave up his farm, bought property in Gibbon and went there to reside, his family following in August. His first step was to build, erecting at that date a building on the lot he had purchased, where he opened a barber shop and billiard room, since continuing at the same place and at the same business. He has improved his property, owning now one of the best business houses in the town, it being a two-story frame with a basement, located on Railroad street, opposite the Union Pacific depot. Mr. Drury has confined himself strictly to business, attending to his own personal affairs, and finding in so doing his greatest pleasure as well as his highest reward. He has many friends and is universally liked, being regarded as an energetic, progressive, hard-working man, who is deserving of the best that the future may have in store for him. He has a pleasant home—the good wife who gave up the home and friends of her youth to share his fortunes in the rugged life of the West still abiding with him and bearing him the cherished companionship which he sought with her hand.

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**J** B. WHEELER. An old settler of Buffalo county and a man of good personal record, and one, therefore, deserving of recognition in this volume, is J. B. Wheeler, of the town of Gibbon. Mr. Wheeler came to Buffalo county in Oct.

1873, and settled on the southeast quarter of section 28, township 10, range 14 west, lying in Valley township, on which quarter section he filed a soldier's homestead claim. He made his improvements, secured his patent and lived on his homestead, engaged in farming for a period of nine years, at the end of which time he sold his place and moved in September, 1882, into the town of Gibbon, where he has since resided. He has been variously engaged in recent years, among other things having held the office of constable of Gibbon township for six years, having been appointed to that office in 1884 to fill a vacancy and subsequently elected and re-elected till the beginning of the present year. He has also been the auctioneer of the town and township for more than four years, in which capacity he has done a vast amount of work of an official and semi-official nature.

• It is needless to rehearse the incidents attending Mr. Wheeler's settlement in Buffalo county at an early date, and the subsequent trials through which he passed in his efforts to make for himself and family a home in the West. It will be sufficient to say that since he cast his lot in the county he has been a resident there, and that he passed through the season of grasshoppers and dry years and the hard times which these brought, enduring as much of the hardships and privations as any, and fighting the battle as heroically to the end as did even the most courageous. Men are to be measured by their means and opportunities, and praise and blame are to be apportioned according to one's chances and endowments. So judged it may be recorded that the subject of this sketch has borne his part in the settlement

of his adopted county, and, if he has not succeeded quite so well financially as others, he has the satisfaction of knowing that he has made the best of his opportunities for himself, and in so doing has well served the common good.

Mr. Wheeler is the only representative of his family in the county or even in the state; it will be well, therefore, to record some of the facts of his earlier personal career and his ancestral history for the benefit of those of his name who may have to resort to this volume in years to come as the only existing repository of these facts.

Jervis B. Wheeler is a New Englander by birth and a descendant of Puritan stock. His people have been natives of Massachusetts for several generations. His father, Avery P. Wheeler, was born and reared in Acton, Mass., and lived there most of his life. He was a mechanic and led an honest, industrious, useful life. He died at Dracut in his native state, in 1887, at the advanced age of eighty-four. Mr. Wheeler's mother bore the maiden name of Adeline Bates, and she was born and reared in Bellingham, Mass., of old Bay State stock; was a woman of great strength of character and kind christian impulses, being a life-long member of the Methodist church. She died in July, 1883, at the age of seventy-six. These were the parents of nine children, all of whom reached maturity, became the heads of families, and are now living. These are—Avery Gilbert, Jervis B., Albert B., Cephas E., Adelaid and Adeline, twins; Darwin E., Sybil and Sarah. The second of these, Jervis B., with whom this sketch is especially concerned, was born in Mendon, Mass., November 14, 1833. He was

reared in Mendon, South Brookfield and Hopkinton, Mass., mainly, however, in the last-mentioned place, and subsequently lived at Framingham and Yarmouth, the same state, being a resident of Hopkinton in 1862, when he went into the army. Mr. Wheeler was only one of the many gallant men whom the patriotic old Bay State furnished for the defense of the Union, but inasmuch as the command in which he served has a record distinguished for gallant fighting and heroic endurance above the ordinary, which record he helped to make, it will be appropriate in this sketch to give the outlines of his military career somewhat in full. Mr. Wheeler enlisted in the service August 7, 1862, going into the First Massachusetts heavy artillery. The history of his regiment shows that it was recruited in Essex county as the Fourteenth infantry. It left the state in August, 1861, proceeding to Washington, where it was placed on garrison duty. It was changed to heavy artillery in January, 1862, receiving new recruits for each company of the original organization, and two new companies, of one of which Mr. Wheeler was a member. The first battalion was ordered on field service at Maryland Heights, but the regiment proper did not go to the front till May, 1864. It then served as an infantry command to Grant's Virginia campaign. It joined the Army of the Potomac, May 17, 1864, having been assigned to Tyler's division of heavy artillery, then serving as infantry. It was in the engagements at Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor and Petersburg, and intermediate smaller affairs, sustaining heavy losses in each. At Spottsylvania it suffered a loss of fifty killed, three hundred and twelve

wounded and twenty-eight missing, and at Petersburg its loss in killed was thirty-one, wounded two hundred and twenty-two, and missing, one hundred and ninety-four. Mr. Wheeler's term of enlistment having expired in July, 1864, he did not serve after that date. But it may be added that his command, which thus gallantly began its duty in the field, continued to the close of the war gathering new honors for itself in each succeeding engagement. It was one of the nine heavy artillery regiments of the Union army that sustained a loss of over two hundred men actually killed in battle. It was one of the sixty regiments, out of the entire two thousand of the Union army, that sustained the greatest losses in confederate prisons, its loss by incarceration being one hundred and two men. Its total loss in killed, wounded, captured and missing was nine hundred and eight-four men out of a total enrollment of two thousand five hundred and twenty-four. These figures are eloquent. They speak volumes for the living and for the dead of the gallant First Massachusetts heavy artillery.

At the close of his term of service, Mr. Wheeler returned to Massachusetts, where he lived engaged in various occupations till coming to Nebraska in 1873.

One more fact, without which this sketch would be incomplete, must now be recorded—the fact of Mr. Wheeler's marriage. He was united in matrimony March 30, 1858, to Paulina Walker, of Wareham, Mass. Mrs. Wheeler was born at Plymouth, and is a daughter of Elijah and Hannah (Vaughn) Walker, her father being a native of Vermont and her mother a native of Massachusetts. Her father was a farmer in earlier years and worked

in the iron foundries in late life. He was a sober, industrious, upright man, greatly devoted to his family and setting before them in his own life an example of industry, sobriety and self-help worthy of their following. He died in Massachusetts, where he had lived the greater part of his life, in the fall of 1887, at the age of eighty. Mrs. Wheeler's mother, who was a kind-hearted christian woman, died in her native state in the fall of 1888, at the age of eighty-four. These were the parents of eight children, of whom Mrs. Wheeler is the sixth, the others being—Sarah, Elizabeth, Annette and two boys, who died in early childhood, and Hannah A. and Rebecca. Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler are the parents of four children, whose christian names are—Willie C., Harry E., Edith A. and Lena A.

It would be next to impossible for a man of Mr. Wheeler's personal history and family traditions to be anything but a republican in politics. He has voted that ticket since the formation of the party and is a staunch believer in the principles of his party. He and his wife are zealous members of the Methodist church and contribute in accordance with their means to all charitable purposes.

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**N**ELSON W. SHORT. An old settler of Gibbon township, Buffalo county, an old soldier with an honorable record, and a citizen of exemplary habits and blameless private life, is Nelson W. Short, whose eventful career this article is designed to commemorate. Mr. Short is a native of Ohio, and is a

descendant of two of the first settled families of that state, his grandparents on both sides being pioneers of the " Buckeye regions " of the Northwest Territory. His paternal grandfather, Elihu Short, moved from Delaware into Ohio, in 1810, and settled in Perry county, where he lived for several years, then moved to Sandusky county, where he subsequently lived and died. Mr. Short's father, Moulton H. Short, was born in Delaware but reared mainly in Ohio, being eleven years of age when his parents moved to that state. He grew up on the borders of civilization, as it were, and being fascinated with the free life of the frontier he in turn became a pioneer, becoming one of the first settlers of Fremont, Ohio. He died there in 1864, at the age of sixty-five years. He was an industrious farmer and led the plain and uneventful life common to his calling. Mr. Short's mother, Matilda Tracy, being a daughter of Phillip and Nancy Tracy, was born in Cumberland county, Pa., and was brought by her parents, when a child, to Ohio, settling in Sandusky county, where she was reared and where she afterwards lived and died. Her father was a Pennsylvanian by birth and her mother a native of Germany. To Moulton H. and Matilda Short were born a large family of children, thirteen of whom reached maturity, these being—Celia, Susan, John, Phillip, Elihu, Rachel, Nelson W., George, Mary, Frank, Sarah, Matilda and James.

The subject of this notice, Nelson W., was born in Ohio in March, 1835. He was reared in his native place and married there in 1856, and shortly afterwards immigrated West and settled in Missouri, where he was residing when the war came

on. With an alacrity born of the patriotism in him—a patriotism characteristic of the sons of Ohio—he offered his services to the Union cause, enlisting in 1862 in Company H, Third Missouri state militia, and served in this command till local troubles were quelled and confidence was established in the Union cause, and Southern sympathizers were either driven out of the country or forced to go into the Southern ranks. He then entered the volunteer service, enlisting in Company K, Forty-seventh Missouri infantry, being at once elected second lieutenant of his company and going to the front with his regiment to take part in the stirring scenes then being enacted at the theater of war. His regiment covered a wide area, serving in Missouri, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, Kentucky and Alabama; it helped to repel the several raids made into Missouri by Price, Marmaduke and Jeff Thompson, and it took part in the hard-fought battles at Franklin and Nashville, Tenn., it being ordered there to re-enforce Thomas. Mr. Short served till the surrender, being mustered out at St. Louis in April, 1865. For the next six years he lived at St. Louis, Mo., Columbus, Ky., and intermediate points, being engaged at the Kingman iron works, Carondelet dry docks, and other places. In the fall of 1871 he came to Nebraska, reaching Gibbon, where he now resides, October 6th. He selected a homestead at once in the northwest part of the township, taking eighty acres in the southeast quarter of section 3, township 9, range 14 west, which, however, he afterwards sold, buying another eighty acres in section 35, township 10, range 14 west, in Valley township. He lived on the farm till October, 1880,

when he moved into Gibbon, where he has since resided and has been variously engaged. He has held a number of local public offices and is at present marshal of the town of Gibbon and overseer of the village highways. Mr. Short is an industrious, useful citizen and an honest, upright, capable public officer. Like most of the old settlers, he has seen many hardships since coming to the county, but he has borne them with the courage and fortitude becoming an old soldier. He has many friends, and with the better class of society—the intelligent, law-abiding, home-loving citizens—he is very popular. He has a family himself—a wife and four children—having married, as before noted, in his native county in Ohio. His nuptials were celebrated August 3, 1856, the lady whom he selected to share his life's fortunes being Miss Maria Gray, daughter of George and Nancy M. Gray. Mrs. Short's parents were natives of New York. They moved to Ohio in 1844 and settled in Sandusky county, where the father died in July, 1871, then in his seventy-first year, the mother surviving him some years, dying at the home of Mrs. Short in Gibbon, February 16, 1888, being near her eighty-first year. Mrs. Short was born in Oswego county, N. Y., and was a child when her parents moved to Ohio, she being reared in Sandusky county. She is one of eight children, all of whom reached maturity and are now living. Mr. and Mrs. Short have had born to them a family of five children, all boys—Clarence (now deceased), Gilbert, Frank, Vernon and Archie.

In politics, Mr. Short was reared a democrat, but, differing widely with that party on the war issues, he cast his lot

with the republicans and affiliated actively with them for some years and still votes their ticket occasionally; but, being a strong temperance man he has in recent times given his support to the prohibition ticket, especially in local and state elections. Mr. Short believes in temperance, sobriety, in preserving the purity of the moral atmosphere where he lives, and in defending the sanctity of home and the innocence of youth and the helplessness of women, and for these reasons he favors strong laws and their strict enforcement against the liquor traffic.

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**J**OHAN W. FORREST, farmer of Gibbon township, Buffalo county, was born in Delaware county, N. Y., and is a son of William and Jennette (Miller) Forrest. His parents were both natives of Scotland and came to America when children, aged three and five respectively. They were reared in Delaware county, N. Y., where their parents settled. There they were married and thence moved to Ashtabula county, Ohio, where the father died in April, 1886, at the age of sixty-nine, and the mother in 1860, at the age of forty-four. They were the parents of eight children, as follows—William, Grace, John W., Robert, Walter, Jane, Andrew and Thomas. The eldest of these died in the Union army from the effects of exposure, being a member of the Seventh Kansas cavalry.

The third, John W., the subject of this notice, was born in January, 1843. He was reared in his native county and in Ashtabula county, Ohio, whither his parents moved when he was young. He

enlisted in the Union army in August, 1862, entering as a member of Company A, Fiftieth Ohio volunteer infantry, and served with the armies of the Ohio and the Cumberland. During the first six months of his service he was on post duty in and around Louisville. His regiment during the summer of 1863 guarded the L. & N. R. R. bridges and built the forts at Big Run trestle. Crossing the Cumberland mountains in the winter of 1863-64, his regiment was sent to Knoxville, Tenn., where it built Fort Strickland, named after the colonel of the regiment. His command then entered the Georgia campaign and was in all the engagements from Resaca down to Atlanta. Returning with Thomas on his campaign into Tennessee, Mr. Forrest was in the battles of Franklin and Nashville, followed Hood to the Tennessee river, where his regiment was put aboard a boat and shipped to Washington, N. C., and thence to Wilmington, N. C., and over land to Goldsboro, where it joined Sherman's army. He was mustered out June 25, 1865, but not paid off and discharged till July 17th, following. He served as a private, but was never captured nor ever wounded. Returning to Ohio, he married, in November, 1868, Sylvia, daughter of Albro Woodruff, of Ashtabula county, settled down to farming and lived there till 1871, when he came to Nebraska as a member of the Old Soldiers' Homestead Colony. He settled in Gibbon township, Buffalo county, in May of that year, and there made a homestead filing on the south half of the northeast quarter and the north half of the southeast quarter of section 4, township 9, range 14 west, where he now lives. One hundred acres of this he has in

cultivation and otherwise well improved. He also owns eighty acres across the township line in Valley township. He raises considerable live stock and is an enterprising, successful farmer. He has voted the straight republican ticket since the formation of the party. He is an intelligent gentleman, a kind, good neighbor and a worthy citizen.

**H** P. ROGERS, farmer of Gibbon township, is one of the oldest settlers of Buffalo county, and is one of that county's most successful and highly esteemed citizens. Mr. Rogers located where he now lives, four miles northwest of the town of Gibbon, on April 7, 1871, and there he has since resided, and during all the years that have elapsed since that date he has been actively identified with the best interests of his community, and has succeeded far beyond the average of old settlers. Mr. Rogers came from Pennsylvania to Nebraska, coming directly from Bradford county, the place of his birth. He was born on the ninth day of April, 1846, and is next to the youngest of a family of five boys, born to Hiram and Mary (Chandler) Rogers, his mother having been previously married, and having had, by her former marriage, three sons. His father has resided all his life in Bradford county, where he has been engaged in the pursuit of agriculture. His mother died there in 1870. The subject of this sketch grew up in a household of eight boys; three half brothers—Daniel, Edwin and Marshall, and four brothers of the full blood—

George, Lorenzo M., Murray and Frank; our subject, Horace P., being next to the youngest of the second set. Of these eight boys, five served in the Union army, namely—Edwin, George, Lorenzo M., Murray and Horace P.

Horace P. Rogers was reared in his native place, growing up on his father's farm. On February 10, 1864, he entered the army, enlisting in Company K, One Hundred and Sixty-first New York infantry. His regiment served in the department of the Gulf, was in the Red River campaign under Banks, and took part in all its engagements in Louisiana and Arkansas. Mr. Rogers served as a private, and was discharged December 12, 1865. He bears to this day, the marks of his service, having contracted a lung trouble in the performance of his duties.

Returning to Pennsylvania, when he was mustered out of the service, he resumed farming. On December 24, 1870, he married a neighbor girl, Miss Cassandra Crum, a daughter of Harrison Crum, of Litchfield, Bradford county, she being a native of New York state. The year following, that is, in the spring of 1871, Mr. Rogers came to Nebraska and settled as above noted in Gibbon township, where he has since resided. His beginning on settling, in accordance with his means, was modest enough, he taking only a homestead. He has added to this, however, by purchase, until he now owns three hundred and sixty acres in one body, one hundred and twenty acres of which he has under plow. It all lies on the banks of Wood river, and is highly productive. With that industry and commendable foresight which characterizes the good husbandman, Mr.



Rogers planted out a large grove around his homestead when he first located on it, consisting of box elder, walnut, cottonwood, maple and ash, and this has become one of the handsomest artificial forests in the county, and is not only pleasant to the eye, but is a source of profit. Mr. Rogers is not only an intelligent, energetic farmer, but he is a progressive, public-spirited citizen. He has served his township in a number of local offices, and he has done it creditably. He is a staunch republican, and takes considerable interest in public matters, never to the extent, however, of seeking public office for himself. He has a pleasant home and a growing family of children, around whom he finds his interests and sympathies drawing closer and closer as the years roll by. These are Virgil, Cora, Nora, Herman, Jennette, Lizzie and Roy and Gertrude. Of one son, Rutherford, he has been bereft.

**M**ARTIN V. ESLER was born in Columbia county, Pa., July 18, 1844. His father, Frederick Esler, was a native of France, born November 11, 1796, and came to this country in 1826, locating in Philadelphia, where he began the manufacture of glass (at which business he lost \$80,000), and afterwards located on the Susquehannah river and engaged in the manufacture of soap and candles. Our subject's mother, Elizabeth (Aull) Esler, was a native of Bavaria, born in 1809. Martin remained at home helping his father until twenty-four years of age, at which age he emigrated West and located at Belleville, St. Clair county,

Ill. He engaged as traveling salesman for Johnson, Huntly & Co., agricultural implement dealers of Broekport, N. Y., and traveled for five years over the state selling their goods. He then bought a farm in St. Clair county and tilled it for one year, but was taken sick and for four years his health was such that he was unable to do any work. He then moved back to Pennsylvania, residing there three years and working on a farm. He again emigrated West in January, 1878, and preempted one hundred and sixty acres in section 8, town 10, range 17, Buffalo county, Nebr., on which he still resides. He had on arriving here but \$7.35 in money, and constructed a cheap dug-out in which he resided for two years, after which he built a more convenient house out of sod. When he first located in that section, deer and antelope were numerous. He has seen as many as nine deer in a bunch around his stable. The country about him was mostly raw and his nearest neighbors lived several miles distant. He borrowed money at 3 per cent. per month with which to buy a team, and on account of the failure of crops was unable to pay it back for three years. He now has one hundred and sixty acres of the best land in the Wood River valley and has it all under cultivation except fifteen acres. Mr. Esler was married December 25, 1869, to Elizabeth Aull, who was born in St. Clair county, Ill., December 29, 1850, and is one of eleven children born to Frederick and Elizabeth (Schragg) Aull, both of whom were natives of Bavaria, the former having been born in 1813 and the latter in 1829, and came to this country in 1833.

To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Esler have been born the following children: Fred-

erick, born October 5, 1870; Dora E., born January 17, 1872; Catherine A. (deceased), born March 6, 1874; Emma G. (deceased), born March 8, 1878; Rosa E. (deceased), born March 8, 1878; Mary F., born February 15, 1879; Henry A., born April 19, 1881; Roy A., born November 26, 1884; Daniel II., born March 20, 1887, and May V., born June 19, 1889.

In the spring of 1879 Mr. Esler secured by petition the establishment of a post-office at Green Dale, in Buffalo county, and was appointed the first postmaster at that place April 26th of the same year, and served until June 30, 1883, when he resigned in favor of Edward Haase. March 3, 1890, Mr. Esler relinquished farming entirely and settled in Kearney City, where he employs his time in removing cancers.

Mrs. M. V. Esler had four brothers in the late war. Of these, Daniel, a member of Company F, One Hundred and Thirtieth Illinois volunteer infantry, was killed at the battle of Vicksburg, Miss., and Jacob, a member of Company C, Twenty-sixth Illinois volunteers, died at Scottsboro, Ala., of congestive chills contracted from exposure a few months before the expiration of his three years' term of enlistment.

In politics Mr. Esler is a prohibitionist and an Alliance man.

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**J**AMES II. DAVIS, president of the First National Bank at Gibbon, Buffalo county, is a native of the town of Whitingham, Windham county, Vt., and was born May 6, 1843. He comes of New England parentage, his father, Amiel

K. Davis, and his mother, whose maiden name was Betsey Saunders, both being natives of Vermont, where they always lived and where they died, the father in 1885 at the age of seventy-one years, and the mother in 1873 at the age of sixty. Mr. Davis is the third of a family of eight children born to his parents, the others being Luey, George, Francis, Amelia, Romanzo, Flora and Reuben. He received the meager rudiments of a common-school education, leaving home at the age of nine and going out into the world to make his way alone. He sought his first employment in the northwestern part of Massachusetts and was there in 1862, when in August of that year he entered the Union army, enlisting in Company B, Fifty-second Massachusetts infantry. He served in this command for nine months, when the term of his enlistment having expired he returned to Massachusetts and remained there till August, 1864. He then entered the service a second time, enlisting in the Second Massachusetts light artillery, but that command being full he was transferred to the Sixth Massachusetts battery. With this he served until the surrender, being mustered out in June, 1865, at New Orleans, La. Returning to Franklin county, Mass., he was for two years engaged as manager of a grist mill at Colerain, that county, and two years in the general mercantile business at the same place. Moving thence to Milford, that state, he entered the employ of Davis & Eastman, manufacturers of boot and shoe boxes, learned the business with them, became their second manager and remained with them between three and four years. Then, in July, 1873, he came to Nebraska and settled at Gibbon, Buf-

falo county, where he immediately began the erection of the Gibbon flouring mills. He operated this mill for a period of twelve years, it being one of the first mills built in central Nebraska and having a reputation all over the central and western part of the state not only as pioneer mill but as turning out the best milling products to be found any where west of the Missouri river. Quitting the mill in 1885 on account of a failure of health, Mr. Davis started a private bank at Gibbon, which he continued up to August, 1888. At that date he organized the First National Bank, of which he became president and to which he has given his attention chiefly since. The First National Bank has a capital of \$50,000. It has done a steadily increasing volume of business since it was organized, and its affairs are in a prosperous condition, which fact is due in no small measure to the influence and judicious management of its chief executive. Mr. Davis has considerable real estate and stock interests in Buffalo county and is thoroughly identified with the farmers and stock-growers of his community. He has devoted himself strictly to the prosecution of his own personal affairs and yet it could not happen that a man of his interests and business qualifications should escape being called upon to fill public office. In the fall of 1879 he was elected to the legislature from Buffalo county and served one term, taking an active part in the general course of legislation before the lower house and doing a large amount of efficient work as a member of the several committees on which he served. One measure of significance for which the people of Buffalo county have special cause to remember

him was the bill which he secured having enacted into a law, locating the State Industrial school at Kearney. For the passage of this bill he was a tireless worker and it was due mainly to his efforts that Kearney and Buffalo county secured the much coveted prize. To the discharge of his general duties as a legislator he brought the same zeal, energy and sound and discriminating judgment which had characterized him and yet continues to characterize him in his conduct of his own personal affairs. In the growth and development of his own locality he has exhibited equal zeal and fidelity. He has been a member of the village school board of Gibbon for more than fifteen years, he has served as a member of the village council when called on for that purpose and he has been among the first, both with money and with personal influence and effort, in securing and promoting industries, enterprises and interests of a local nature for his town and community. He is a man of progressive ideas, broad and liberal in his views and practical in his methods. Honest and frank by nature, generous in disposition, he is not without friends and admirers and his influence is sought by those who know his ability and who prize his judgment.

Mr. Davis married in August, 1864, taking for a companion Miss Emily M. Avery of Franklin county Massachusetts, who like himself is a descendant of old New England stock, being a daughter of James Avery, a native of the "Bay State." Two children have been the result of this union—a daughter, Emma L., now wife of Charles Galloway, of Broken Bow, Nebr., and a son, Roy.

In politics Mr. Davis is a republican, a

stanch believer in the teachings and methods of his party. He is a zealous mason, having taken all the degrees up to and including that of Knight Templar, being also a member of the Mystic Shrine.

**T**HOMAS W. ELDRÉD, the subject of this biographical memoir, is one of the most prosperous farmers and perhaps the largest stock raiser in Grant township, Buffalo county, Nebr. He was born at North Kingston, R. I., December 1, 1837, comes from a long line of New England ancestry, and has the pluck and energy which is characteristic of that people.

His father, James Eldred, a contractor and mason by trade, was a native of Rhode Island, born June 29, 1809. There were ten children in the family—seven boys and three girls—of whom Thomas is the third. Having first obtained a somewhat liberal education in the common schools, Thomas W. Eldred for two years attended a seminary at East Greenwich, R. I., and later graduated from Eastman's Commercial College at Poughkeepsie, N. Y. He then engaged in the grocery business at Providence, R. I., for two years. Disposing of his business, he began the manufacture of spinning rings for cotton-mills, which he continued with considerable success for two years, when he sold his establishment and engaged in buying, sorting and selling cotton waste. At this business he continued for a period of eight years, accumulating, in the meantime, quite a fortune. During a big real estate boom in Providence, R. I., and while he was yet engaged in buying, sort-

ing and selling cotton waste, he made heavy investments in realty. Contrary to his expectations, the boom collapsed, and realty depreciated to such an extent that he lost every dollar he possessed. This circumstance, instead of robbing him of his ambition, only served to nerve him for the conflict of life; and instead of sinking into a state of lethargy, as many an individual under similar circumstances would have done, he set to work once more with an invincible determination to retrieve his lost fortune.

To Mr. Eldred's reverse in fortune is due the fact of his location in the West. After earning a considerable sum of money, he made a trip to the Red River country, Dakota, with a view of locating there; but, not liking its general appearance, he came south into Nebraska and decided to locate in Buffalo county. He came to this country July 9, 1879, and pre-empted the northeast quarter of section 24, Grant township; moved his family here February 14, 1880, and here he still resides. He first built himself a sod house, which he occupied for four years. The country was new at the time of his coming and very sparsely settled, there being but one frame house for seven miles in the direction of Kearney; the balance were sods and dugouts. In 1880 he broke and put out thirty-five acres of wheat, from which he harvested and thrashed only seventy-three bushels. Corn, oats and potatoes were also a failure, there having been no rain to speak of from September 1, 1879, to June 8, 1880. From that time to the present he has had abundant crops and has been prosperous. The old sod house has been replaced by a large and commodious frame, and a me-

dium-sized barn, together with other out-buildings, attest the fact of his prosperity. Of late years he has engaged on a large scale in the raising of fine Poland-China stock hogs, which he sells and ships by express to all parts of Nebraska. He now has some two hundred head of these stock hogs on his farm.

Mr. Eldred was married January 20, 1864, to Carrie Pitcher, daughter of John and Isabella (Greene) Pitcher, both natives of the state of Rhode Island; the former was born September 14, 1819, and the latter May 11, 1820. To them were born five children, Carrie being the oldest.

The union of Mr. and Mrs. Eldred has been blessed with six children—Mamie, John, Lillie Estelle, Willie and Carrie Belle, and one that died in infancy, not named.

Politically, Mr. Eldred is a republican and a firm believer in the party's principles.

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**G**EORGE FORRESTER was born in Lee county, Iowa, May 22, 1843, and is the son of Oliver C. and Elizabeth (Loughhead) Forrester. His father was a Canadian by birth and a farmer by occupation. His mother was a native of northern Ireland and died in 1845. George had not yet reached his majority when he concluded to accept the advice of Horace Greeley and "go West and grow up with the country," and started out, with Central City, Colo., as his objective point. There he met the frontiersman in all his glory, but he was not delighted with the picture of western

life, and, after working for a freighting company some little time, he returned to Iowa. He taught school until the spring of 1864, and then entered the Union army, enlisting in the Forty-sixth Iowa infantry. His regiment was assigned to the duty of guarding railroad property, principally in the South, and he was mustered out in the fall of 1864, after serving the time for which he had enlisted. Returning to Iowa, conscious of having discharged his duty to his country, he attended a school at Tabor for a time, and then followed teaching for several years. In the meantime, however, he had completed a course in a commercial college in Chicago. He had thus thoroughly fitted himself for the transaction of business in the commercial world, and he soon found a position as clerk and manager of the warehouses of the firm of Henry Lee & Co., of Red Oak, Iowa. In the fall of 1879 he met with a most peculiar accident by being struck by lightning, while he was in a granary moving some grain. The lightning melted a hole through his watch case and burned his clothing badly; portions of his body were paralyzed and he was rendered perfectly helpless for some time. Shortly after his recovery a horse fell on him, breaking his leg and crippling him for life.

In the spring of 1883 he came to Nebraska and took a soldier's claim in Harrison township, Buffalo county. He also took a tree claim, and now has three hundred and twenty acres of good land under a fair state of cultivation, on which he has planted fifteen thousand trees, and erected a commodious frame dwelling, which attests his present prosperity. He was married, September 29, 1875, to Miss Harriet C.

Jenkins, a daughter of Thomas and Martha Jenkins, both natives of Kentucky, and they have had six children—Fannie F., Eldafonso B., Raymond R., Marmaduke M., Hazel G. (deceased), and Earl. Mr. Forrester and his estimable wife are active members of the Methodist church. He belongs to the G. A. R., and affiliates with the republican party, although he is no politician.

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**S** S. ST. JOHN. In these “flush times” of material growth and development, and especially in this progressive western country, but few men have the time or inclination to look after as antiquated a matter as ancestral history. “It don’t pay—nothing in it,” is the reflection of the average mind, and, failing on the crucial test, the subject drops from consideration. Still, we must all have been born—must have come from some sort of stock, and have had our origin in some locality. It is pleasant, therefore, when the fact exists, to know that we come of fairly representative people, and that we started the race of life in at least respectable quarters. The subject of this sketch is a New Englander by birth, and may therefore refer to the land of his nativity with some pride and satisfaction. He is a descendant of New England stock as far back as memory or tradition goes—his ancestors being people of respectability, honest, industrious, frugal, rising into the higher virtues and graces of life with increasing advantages. His father, Albert St. John, was a native of Fairfield county, Conn.,

and a son of a Revolutionary soldier, Jesse St. John, who, family traditions say, served as escort to General Washington, enlisting in the colonial cause when a lad seventeen years of age. No other fact in the elder St. John’s history is preserved. Albert St. John grew up in his native place, married Clarissa S. Hoyt, a native also of Fairfield county, and when his family came on to be provided for, moved them to the inviting fields of industry in the new Northwest, settling in Janesville, Wis., where he subsequently lived, and where he died in 1873 at a somewhat advanced age. There his wife also died some ten years later.

Sylvester S. St. John, their son, and the subject hereof, was born in Fairfield county, Conn., October 8, 1840, and was reared mainly in Janesville, Wis. He was early apprenticed to the printer’s trade in accordance with the New England idea of bringing up the young to some calling of usefulness. The first event of importance in his life, as it was in the lives of many of his age, was his enlistment in the army at the opening of the Civil war. He entered the Union army, August 20, 1862, as a member of the Twelfth Wisconsin light artillery, the organization of the command having begun the April previous, and finished about the date of his enlistment.

This is the reminiscential period in the history of the country. It is pre-eminently the war history era in American literature. While the generals and special correspondents are giving to the public the biographies of the noted leaders and the history of the several campaigns, corps and division movements, the record of the private soldier may be mentioned in its



SYLVESTER S. ST. JOHN.





appropriate place in the life of the private without exciting any undue suspicion of ulterior designs on the "sovereign voter" or the unsuspecting public. Especially may the record be referred to, if it be an honorable one, and the owner has not heretofore attempted to ride into fat office nor sought exemptions from duty as a citizen on the strength thereof.

Mr. St. John has a commendable record as a soldier; it is only that of a private, but it is a record of duty well done in times and places that tried men's souls, when the "summer soldier and the sunshine patriot" shrank from the service of their country.

The Twelfth Wisconsin battery, in which he enlisted, soon after its organization, was attached to Grant's army and saw its first service at Iuka, September 19, 1862. Following that it participated in the second battle of Corinth, October 3d and 4th; was then in Grant's raid on Holly Springs and the Yazoo Pass expedition, the Vicksburg campaign, comprising the engagements at Raymond, May 12, 1863, Champion's Hill, May 16th, the assaults on Vicksburg, May 19th and 22d, Missionary Ridge, November 25, and the Atlanta campaign, embracing all the bloody battles down to and including Alatoona Pass, October 5th, 1864, where the Twelfth made a heroic defense. It was the only battery present at that memorable engagement, and there occurred its greatest loss—six killed and fifteen wounded, including Lieutenant Amsden, who commanded the battery in that fight. Here also Mr. St. John received a wound, but continued in the service and was with Sherman on his famous march to the sea, and the campaigns

through the Carolinas, being mustered out at New Berne, N. C., May 1st, 1865.

Returning to Wisconsin at the close of the war, he went again to his trade, establishing a job office at Janesville, in connection with G. Veeder, under the firm name of Veeder & St. John. With the revival of business on the cessation of hostilities, and with the amount of energy they were enabled to throw into their undertaking, they made a success from the start. But prosperous as affairs might go with a job printing office in a small country town, there was neither great wealth nor great fame in the business, and Messrs. Veeder & St. John, if not with a view of attaining great fame, certainly with a strong desire to make more money, and to supply what they were assured was a pressing need, started, in connection with their job printing plant, a weekly newspaper, called the *Rock County Recorder*. Their experience with the *Recorder* was the same as that of most men who have founded rural papers to meet a "long felt want." They toiled incessantly, did cords of gratuitous work, heralded abroad the immense advantages, material, political, social, moral and otherwise of their town and county, chronicled the daily and weekly doings, local, state and national, pelted iniquity in high places and scourged littleness and low dealing wherever found, taught their patrons how to be happy and contented and, in short, made money for everybody but themselves. They ran the *Recorder* and the job printing business until 1872, when Mr. St. John, desirous of engaging in a more remunerative calling, and with a view also of changing his locality, sold out his interest at Janesville and started for

the great West. He had heard much of the Platt river country of Nebraska, and particularly of Buffalo county. The town to be built at the junction of the B. & M. R. R. with the Union Pacific and then known as Kearney, but not then in existence, caught his attention, and hither he came. He struck the present town site of Kearney September 19th, 1872, the same month it was surveyed and laid out. He engaged at first in the agricultural implement business, but followed this only a short time. In January, 1873, he started an insurance and real estate agency, being the first established in the town. In fact, its establishment was simultaneous with the founding of the town, which was organized in January, 1873. Mr. St. John was present at the time, was elected town clerk, and recorded the first act of the town of Kearney as a corporate body. His official duties were not very onerous or remunerative. The fact that he was the first town clerk is mentioned here as an item of some interest in the light of the subsequent growth and development of the place. He held the office one term. That which engrossed most of his time and attention was his newly established business. The town and surrounding country grew rapidly—houses went up on every hand and the field for insurance was wide and constantly increasing. Mr. St. John's agency kept pace with the progress of events and became a source of good revenue. From his earnings he picked up property—in town and country—from time to time, and having confidence in the ultimate outcome of the city of Kearney and Buffalo county, he held on to what he got. His investments, judiciously managed, have made for him the

bulk of what he has. He is now one of the financially solid men of Kearney. He still owns a large amount of realty which is gradually increasing in value. In the meantime his insurance agency continues to do a thriving business, growing in strength and metropolitan proportions, as the growing importance of the city of Kearney demands. The agency now runs in the name of St. John & Baldwin, Mr. St. John having sold out a one-half interest to Mr. B. L. Baldwin not long since. On April 1st, 1888, Mr. St. John, in connection with Judge John Barnd and eastern parties, organized the Mutual Loan and Investment Company, of Kearney, with a capital of \$250,000, \$125,000 of which is paid up. Mr. St. John became secretary and manager of the company and now holds that position. August 1st, 1889, he and Judge Barnd bought the private bank of L. R. Robertson, known as the Commercial and Savings Bank of Kearney, which they re-organized under the state banking law. The bank has a capital of \$100,000, 40 per cent. of which is paid up. Mr. St. John became president of the institution at the date of its purchase and re-organization, and now holds that position. It is established on a sound basis, and has a board of directors composed of some of the best representative business men of Kearney. Its affairs are judiciously managed and it is doing its share of the legitimate banking business of Kearney and Buffalo county. Mr. St. John now gives his entire attention to his duties in the bank, the loan and trust company, of which he is secretary and manager, his insurance agency and his private investments. He has never been a public man in the generally understood

meaning of the word, although he has filled some minor local offices, such as every good citizen is expected to accept when duty demands. In addition to having served as the first clerk of the board of councilmen of Kearney, he has served as city clerk, treasurer, and city councilman, but has never been afflicted with the itch for office. The abundant opportunities offered for exercising all his talents has been improved in attending to his own personal affairs. He does not believe that he is the apostle of any great thought nor an agent especially commissioned to reform any great abuse. He has no desire to pose as an example of any great truth or exalted virtue. He is content to be a plain untitled citizen—simply a man of affairs—a business man in the strictest and best sense of the word. Yet it must not be supposed that his life has been, nor is it now, devoted exclusively to the selfish purpose of accumulating money. He has borne his full share of the burden of helping along all public enterprises; has contributed liberally from his pocket and has helped with his own hands when his help was needed, or he deemed that it would be of any avail. He is somewhat conservative and is not, therefore, an easy man to catch with visionary schemes, but whatever measure by the wisdom of its purpose or its fitness in time and place commends itself to his judgment receives his assistance. He believes in growth and development. He is a constructor and builder. He has added to the solid wealth of his town by putting his money in bricks and stone. He is one of the very few of the first settlers of Kearney who has grown with the growth of the town and county,—who has risen to a

keen appreciation of the advantages of his surroundings—who has shown himself equal to the emergencies as they arise. Mr. St. John married, July 15, 1868, Miss Hattie E. Carter, of Rock county, Wis. He has a family of interesting children growing up around him, to whom he is much devoted, and in the training of whom he finds most congenial labor. He should be happy. He resides on the corner of Twenty-ninth street and Central avenue.

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**E**DWARD W. THOMAS is one of the oldest pioneers of Buffalo county. He was born at Brownsville, Maine, April 24, 1828, and is the third of seven children born to Jonah and Sarah (Wilkins) Thomas, as follows—Charlotte C., Artemus C., Edward W., Moses S., Bray W., Susan S. and Louisa. His father was a native of Maine, born at Sidney, March 26, 1796, and was by occupation a farmer; his mother was born in Billerica, Mass., December 25, 1794; his paternal grandfather, Schabed Thomas, a farmer by occupation, was born in 1756, and was a soldier and pensioner of the Revolutionary war. Of his paternal grandmother, Mehitable (Crosby) Thomas, little or nothing is known.

Edward W., the subject proper of this memoir, resided at home, in Maine, until twenty-one years of age, attending school, helping on the farm and working in the pineries. Arriving at his majority, and being the possessor of quite a little sum of money, he set out for himself, finally locating in Cabell county, Va., where he engaged in the timber business. He continued in this business for some three

years, and lost \$2,200, all the money he had. He moved his family to Greenup, Ky., and he secured employment on a flat-boat, on the Ohio river, which he followed for twenty-five years, moving his family, in the meantime, to Ironton, Ohio, and thence to Portsmouth, Scioto county, Ohio, where he enlisted in the three months' call, April 21, 1861.

Mr. Thomas was one of the first to respond to his country's call when the rebellion broke out, enlisting in Company D, Twenty-second regiment Ohio volunteer infantry, and was made second lieutenant, April 18, 1862. He was transferred to the Thirteenth Missouri regiment, in September, 1861, and sent to protect St. Louis. He continued with this regiment one year, participating in battles at Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, siege of Corinth and Iuka. He was then transferred to his former regiment, with which he participated in the battle of Corinth, siege of Vicksburg and the engagement at Little Rock, Ark. He was in command of his company at Iuka, and at both the siege and battle of Corinth. At the battle of Shiloh, a shot in the right leg inflicted a severe flesh wound; he also had five bullet-holes put through his blouse, and his gun-stock shot off in the same battle. While on picket duty at Trenton, Tenn., in the fall of 1862, he had two bullet-holes put through his overcoat. He veteranized in the Fifth United States volunteers, First army corp, and was mustered out of service March 25, 1866, having served his country faithfully for five years, lacking but a few days.

He emigrated West, and landed in Buffalo county, Nebr., October 18, 1873, and filed claim on a quarter-section in Divide

township, on which he erected a frame shanty, twelve by twenty feet. In those days, that portion of the country was very sparsely settled, and wild game (deer, elk, antelope and some buffalo) was quite plentiful. There were a few Pawnee Indians along the Platte and Wood rivers. For the first three years, crops, on account of droughts and grasshoppers, were almost a total failure; but since 1877, with the exception of 1880, Mr. Thomas has had fine crops.

He was married in Cabell county, Va., February 2, 1851, to Eliza Smith, who was born at Newport, Ky., March 15, 1838, and is the fourth of seven children born to Andrew and Mary Smith. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas has resulted in the birth of seven children, as follows—Charles T., born November 9, 1851; Mary S., born September 2, 1854; George E., born September 2, 1857; Ida L., born February 9, 1860; Emma, born June 3, 1867; R. Esworth, born November 2, 1869, and John W., born July 22, 1872. In political matters, Mr. Thomas is a republican.

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**J**OHAN HARSE is the oldest pioneer settler in Harrison township, Buffalo county, Nebr. He is a native of England and the date of his birth is October 17, 1852. His father lived and died in England and was a stock-raiser of considerable note. John Harse frequently had pictured to his youthful fancy glowing accounts of the new world, and he longed to visit the land of freedom and promise. Accordingly, at the age of

twenty, he bade old England farewell and set sail for America, and early in the year of 1871 he landed on the shores of the Western continent. He was convinced on the start that the West was the place for him, and with this settled conviction in mind he made his way westward as far as Iowa, where he stopped for a short time, but in the spring of 1872 he turned up in Polk county, Nebr., where he followed farming and stock-raising for six years. In the fall of 1879 he came still farther west and took a homestead on the Loup river near the northwest corner of Buffalo county. There was no settlement in this section at that time, and vast herds of cattle roamed at will over the country for miles around. Wild game was plenty and Pawnee Indians frequently tramped up and down the Loup river on their hunting expeditions. He built a small sod house, which afforded him protection for two years, when he replaced it with a substantial hewed-log house, there being excellent timber then along the sandy banks of the Loup. The country along the Loup river afforded excellent grazing, and cattle ranches were numerous. The surrounding territory was literally covered with cattle and the semi-annual "round-ups" were events of considerable interest.

He was married May 1, 1881, to Miss Abbie J. Cassel, daughter of Joseph W. and Mary (White) Cassel. She was born in Clayton county, Iowa, and came with her parents to Buffalo county, Nebr., in an early day. They have three children—James W., Ethel E., and Howard. Mr. Harse has a splendid farm containing four hundred and eighty acres, two hundred of which are under cultivation. He is now serving his second term as super-

visor of Harrison township, is a staunch republican and one of the prominent and substantial men of Buffalo county.

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**M**ORRISON A. BENTLEY, one of the highly respected citizens of Buffalo county, was born in Brown county, Ohio, October 6, 1831. His parents were natives of Ohio, and were married November 16, 1830. They had two children, Morrison A. and Martin C. The senior Bentley was a merchant at Georgetown, Ohio, in an early day, and went to Philadelphia and New York city by stage, once a year, to purchase goods, there being no railroads in those days. These long journeys by stage were made at a great risk of life and property. The route was through the Alleghany mountains, and passengers were often held up by robbers. Mr. Bentley sometimes returned from these long, perilous trips with his clothes perforated with bullet holes, and it was his custom always to arrange his business affairs before starting, just as though he never expected to return home alive. In 1846, he engaged in the manufacture of iron (pig metal) in Gallia and Madison counties, Ohio. In a short time he gained, by honesty, perseverance and energy, a competency sufficient to enable him to retire from active business. For nearly forty years he has resided in Portsmouth, Ohio, enjoying the reward of his youthful labors, living in comfort and affluence, esteemed by all who know him.

Morrison A. Bentley, in the fall of 1849, entered Alleghany college, at Meadville,

Pa., and was an industrious and deserving student, until failing health compelled him to relinquish the thought of graduating. He left college to accept the position of book-keeper for the firm of Bentley, Campbell & Co. Finding office work detrimental to his health, he was given the position of general manager, which business required him much of his time to be in the open air. About this time, Mr. Bentley bought an interest in the iron works in which he was employed (his father retiring from active business) and the name of the firm (Bentley, Campbell & Co.) remained unchanged.

In 1862, he, with two other gentlemen, bought another iron furnace in Hoeking county, Ohio, under the name of M. A. Bentley & Co., which he financed successfully until after the close of the war, when again failing health and the protracted and almost fatal illness of his wife caused him to sell out his interests in Ohio and engage in agricultural pursuits in Iowa.

Morrison A. Bentley was married February 14, 1856, to Elizabeth H. Davis, of Portsmouth, Ohio. She was born February 14, 1837, and educated at the seminary in Steubenville, Ohio. She graduated from that school in 1854, when she was seventeen. The parents, James W. and Amanda Baldwin Davis, were born in Pittsburgh, Pa. Her father was for many years largely interested in the steamboat and iron business, and was one of the pioneers of Portsmouth, Ohio, where he lived many years, but subsequently became a resident of Des Moines, Iowa, where he died December 12, 1869. He was a man who commanded the respect of all who knew him.

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Bentley, all of whom are now living. Mr. Bentley has given his children every opportunity within his power to obtain a good education. His two eldest daughters are graduates from the high school and Callanan college, of Des Moines, Iowa. These young ladies came to Nebraska soon after graduating, and took advantage of Uncle Sam's offer to pre-empt homestead and timber claim land, teaching *country schools* "while holding down their claims." They have been successful both as teachers and land claimers, having grit enough to prove up both on pre-emption and homestead. Their brother, too, took claims and is now a prosperous farmer. It required a great deal of "grit, grace and gumption" for these three young people to hold on to their claims, as there were many hardships and discouragements in the way; but they held on and came off victors in the strife, and are *peaceable, honest* possessors of the land.

In the beginning of the late war, Mr. Bentley, then in his young manhood, offered his services to his country, but was rejected on account of physical disability. He, however, showed his great interest in the cause by hiring a man to go in his stead. Both he and his wife took an active part in promoting the welfare of "the soldier boys." He assisted the government in organizing troops in southern Ohio, and one company went out from his own works, commanded by his foreman. Regardless of his own interests, he did all in his power to encourage volunteers. He was one of many who suffered loss by Morgan's raid in that state. Mr. Bentley is a quiet, unassuming man, and during his residence in this county has won the

respect of all who know him. Although no politician, he is a firm believer in the principles of the republican party. In 1881 Mr. Bentley moved to Beaver city, Nebr., but in a few months located on the banks of the Loup river, where the family possess about seventeen hundred acres of land. He was instrumental in organizing the first school district in the township, and aided in building the first school-house. The country was then very sparsely settled, and the family realize very many changes since their settlement on the Loup.

**ABRAM STEDWELL.** This gentleman is an earlier settler of Buffalo county. He was born in Cuyahoga county, N. Y., September 25, 1826. His father, Abraham Stedwell, a wheelwright by occupation, was a native of Connecticut, born about 1781. His mother, Rebecca (Sheffield) Stedwell, was a native of New York state and was born about 1771. Abram, the subject of this biography, moved with his father's family, at the age of three years, to Huron county, Ohio, where he attended school until twelve years of age, when his father moved to Hancock county, Ill. Here he lived about ten years and then moved to Lee county, Iowa, where for two years he engaged in farming, after which he moved to Peoria, Ill., and worked at the carpenter trade. He resided in Peoria and Peoria county about six years, and then moved to Knox county, Ill., and a little later to Mason county, where he resided six years, and in 1860 moved to Henry county, Iowa, where for fifteen years he engaged in

farming. He enlisted February 28, 1862, in Company C, Fourth Iowa cavalry, but, before active service was reached, contracted lung fever and was left March 10, 1862, in the hospital at Rolla, Mo., where he was confined until January 1, 1863, when he reported to his regiment, but, being still unable for duty, was sent to the hospital at Helena, Ark., where he remained until July, 1863, when he was transferred to the Marine hospital at St. Louis, Mo. He reported to his regiment in the rear of Vicksburg, in November, 1863, at which place he re-enlisted. He was in active service from that time till the close of the war, with General Sherman in what is known as his Meridian Raid. With Grierson, from Memphis to Vicksburg, and with Wilson in his last raid through Alabama and Georgia. He was discharged August 25, 1865, at Davenport, Iowa. He emigrated west in the spring of 1875 and stopped in Gage county, Nebr., where he put out crops which were nearly all destroyed by the grasshoppers. In November of the same year he came to Buffalo county and the next spring pre-empted the northwest quarter of section 12, township 10, range 16, which he afterwards entered as a homestead and still owns. When he landed here his entire worldly possessions consisted of \$20 in money, one span of small mules, a wagon, one cow, and a dwarf mule. He spent \$15 of his money in fixing up a house in which to spend the winter, and the following spring borrowed seven bushels of wheat, which he sowed. The drought and grasshoppers proved so ruinous that year that he harvested only three bushels of wheat from the seven which he had sown in the spring. His family was reduced to such straightened

circumstances that his wife took in washing, and with the money thus earned purchased potatoes at five cents per bushel, while he hauled wood from government lands on the Loup river to Kearney, which required two days' time for each load, and received from \$2 to \$5 per load for his wood. In this manner they managed to live. He rented a set of blacksmith's tools from a neighbor, giving him one-half of the earnings, and at odd intervals managed to make something at this employment, and finally, when the neighbor, scared out by the grasshoppers, traded his wagon for the tools, and ran the shop for twelve years in connection with the farm. After that year he raised good crops, and in February, 1889, moved into Kearney, where he built three houses and has considerable property. He was married March 8, 1853, to Sarah M. Holmes, daughter of Henry G. and Keturah (Yaw) Holmes, both natives of New York state; the former, a farmer by occupation, was born July 16, 1806; the latter was born November 2, 1804. Her father, Henry G. Holmes, went to California in 1849 and on his return trip was registered for passage on a steamboat, but was never heard from afterwards. It is supposed that the steamer was wrecked and he perished. Mr. and Mrs. Stedwell have had no children, but have raised several. They are both active members of the Christian church, and politically Mr. Stedwell is Independent. He was elected, in the fall of 1882, by the Farmer's alliance of the county, as representative in the state legislature, and served one term of two years in that capacity. He has held various other minor offices, such as justice of the peace which office he held eight years), town clerk and assessor.

**D**AVID B. CLARK, a son of Thomas L. and Mary (Blakely) Clark, is a native of Kortright, Delaware county, N. Y., and a descendant of old York State ancestors. His father was a plain, industrious, useful citizen, a man of quiet habits and domestic tastes, a lifelong member of the United Presbyterian church, and not only a staunch defender of the faith but a great worker in the cause of christianity, possessing the the most benevolent impulses and kindly feeling towards all his race. Mr. Clark's mother was also a devoted christian and led an active and laborious life, devoting all the energies of her noble christian character to the good of her kind. Both of these are now dead and have gone to receive their reward. They were the parents of seven children, viz.—David B., Margery, Mary E., Thomas H., John N., and Margaret J.

The eldest, the subject of this notice, was reared in his native place in New York, received a good common and high-school training, finishing with a commercial course in the Eastman business college at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., after which he engaged in the earnest duties of a teacher. He entered the Union army in 1864 while yet young, enlisting in Company I, One Hundred and Forty-fourth New York infantry, and served along the South Carolina coast, taking part in the battle at St. John's Island, James Island, siege of Wagner, Deveaux Neck, and Honey hill. He left the service before the expiration of his term of enlistment on account of disease contracted and returned home, and after recovering his health came West in 1867 and located at Omaha, this state. He





D. B. CLARK.



taught penmanship there for some time, coming in 1872 to Kearney. Here he took a position as bookkeeper in Dake's bank at that date, which he held for some time. He was also elected police judge of the town of Kearney and justice of the peace for Kearney precinct, which offices he held during the famous cow-boy times and dealt out even-handed justice.

Mr. Clark's life during those years was not without its interesting episodes nor was it always free from danger. He discharged his duties, however, without fear or favor and left the positions to which he had been called bearing with him the highest respect as well as the genuine gratitude of his fellow-citizens. Engaging later in sign writing and artistic painting, he did a thriving business for some years, the rapid improvement of the town and the erection of many buildings affording him plenty of work. Like a prudent man he saved his earnings and judiciously invested them in real estate in Kearney. The rise in values made his investments profitable and he has realized handsomely on all of them. He has large real estate interests in Kearney even now, and is constantly buying and selling. Much of his property he has improved, adding to the substantial growth and development of his adopted town and to the comfort and conveniences of home seekers.

In 1874 he married Miss Mary J. Rowland, daughter of James S. and Margaret Rowland of New York. Mrs. Clark is a sister of the Rev. Samuel Rowland, a distinguished Presbyterian divine of Clinton, N. J. Mrs. Clark is herself a lady of culture and refinement and presides with becoming ease, grace and dignity over her elegant home. Mr. and Mrs. Clark

have a large circle of friends who find an ever welcome place at their fireside and in whose society they find much of the pleasure of this life. Their pleasant dwelling, erected recently at a cost of \$6,000, is one of the handsomest in the city of Kearney. It is splendidly furnished, complete in its appointments, and adorned with tastily wrought work of art. It is an asylum of happiness, where the stranger and friend are alike welcome.

**L** B. CUNNINGHAM. The father of the subject of this sketch was Samuel J. Cunningham, born in Virginia December 5, 1792, and his father a native of the same state, his name also being Samuel. Samuel Cunningham, Sr., removed to Georgia in 1795, thence to Maury county, Tenn. (about 1820), where he died some years later. Samuel J. was married to Miss Dovey Stinson, a native of North Carolina, September 20, 1827. Eleven children were the fruits of this union, five daughters and six sons. The mother died December 19, 1849, and with two daughters and one son are buried upon the old farm near Cornersville, Tenn.

The subject of this sketch, whose full name is Lyman Beecher Cunningham, named for Dr. Lyman Beecher, was born in Giles county, Tenn., September 3, 1844. In April, 1853, his father removed to West Grove, Davis county, Iowa, where he died in July, 1879, in his eighty-sixth year. The father was a successful farmer and miller, and also mastered several

trades, among which were those of blacksmithing and cabinet or furniture-making. The family now have articles of furniture made by him sixty years ago. He was a Presbyterian in religion, having been an elder in the church from early manhood till death. In politics he was a whig and republican.

Lyman B. followed the usual duties of a farmer boy in summer and attended school in winter until December 25, 1863, when he enlisted in Company A, Third Iowa cavalry, to serve in defense of the Union and against those of his native South arrayed for its destruction. He was anti-slavery and in favor of his native state remaining in the Union. He participated in the various battles in which his regiment was engaged, a regiment second to none for gallantry, and served with credit to himself and country until mustered out at Atlanta, Ga., August 9, 1865; he was discharged August 19th at Davenport, Iowa, reaching home August 21st. He lost two brothers in defense of the Union, Cyrenius T. and Orosius A., the former a member of Company A, Third Iowa cavalry, who received a wound in the neck at the battle of Pea Ridge, Ark., in March, 1862, which caused his death February 7, 1866, and the latter a member of Company B, Thirtieth Iowa infantry, who died of sickness at Memphis, Tenn., October 22, 1863.

Our subject entered school at the Wesleyan University at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, in the spring of 1866, graduating from that institution in June, 1870. He taught school one year at West Grove, Iowa, and one year at Unionville, Iowa, and in August, 1872, removed to the new village of Kearney Junction—now Kearney, Nebr.

—where he, in connection with Mandel & Clapp, began the publication of the *Kearney Junction Times*. This paper is now developed into the *Buffalo county Journal* and the *Kearney Daily Journal*, of which Mr. Cunningham was sole proprietor until a stock company was organized June 15, 1890. He also took a soldier's homestead and has improved this and also another farm in the vicinity of Kearney. He took an active part in the upbuilding of Kearney, being ever alive to its interests and ever working for its advancement. He was a charter member of the Presbyterian church, in which he is still active. His paper is known as a staunch advocate of republican principles, temperance and sobriety, good morals, decency and justice, and is ever known as a clean sheet to enter the family circle. It is independent and fearless and a bitter opposer of anything akin to deception, fraud, folly and pretension. Wherever read it is known as a reliable newspaper, the farmers having long since learned to obtain the facts, as well as could be ascertained, from that journal. Although it is uphill business conducting a newspaper in a new country, yet by economy and frugality, and by the aid of his excellent wife, he has been enabled to accumulate property to the amount of several thousand dollars. September 3, 1874, he was married to Miss Mary E. Clapp, a lady of excellent qualities of mind and heart, a graduate of the Ladies' Seminary of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, and a daughter of William D. and Elizabeth Clapp, natives of North Carolina and Indiana, the daughter having been born to them November 1, 1851. Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham have been blessed with but three children—Carl Shannon, born in

1875, became a bright, loving dutiful boy, who died April 7, 1884, bitterly mourned by broken-hearted parents and a large circle of friends; Ralph Elmo was born July 1, 1887, is still living, and is a bright, promising child, full of life and energy; and third, a daughter, born July 29, 1890, who is named Lois Be, a healthy and apparently promising child. Mr. Cunningham has truly had a helpmeet in his estimable wife, who is noted for her energy, economy, tact, skill and christian integrity. The couple are highly esteemed and respected in their community.

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**H**IRAM HULL. The subject of this sketch is one of the oldest and most highly esteemed citizens of Kearney, Buffalo county, and a man who has a history, ancestral and personal, well worthy of preservation in a memorial record like this.

Mr. Hull's stock is of English origin, his ancestors having removed from England to New England some time in the Seventeenth Century, and among the early colonial settlers, were people of honorable distinction in church, state and military matters, as well as in framing the great fundamental laws for the republic when it was in its infancy.

His father, Joel Hull, was born near Boston, Mass., and near the birth-place of our American independence, in 1776. He grew up in his native place, and, after receiving a collegiate education, began life as a merchant and afterwards moved

into New York State, where he spent several years, and in the year 1816 moved into the State of Ohio, settling in Meigs county, where he entered upon the peaceful pursuit of agriculture and died in 1827. His wife was Mary Wallace, a native of the town of Bennington, Vt., was born in 1779, and died in Adams county, Ill., in 1859. She was a devoted member of the Free Will Baptist church, a strong believer in saving faith, and led a life consistent with her belief.

The subject of this sketch is the youngest of a family of ten children born to Joel and Mary (Wallace) Hull. He was born in Utica, N. Y., September 30, 1812. He was reared in Meigs county, Ohio, whither his parents had moved when he was young, and there spent his life until the year 1852. He began the active pursuits of life as a farmer, but in the year 1831 moved from his farm to the town of Chester, Ohio, and there engaged in the several occupations of merchandising, tanning and building boats—active, enterprising and successful in everything he undertook.

In 1852, for the better advantages of educating his children, he moved to Delaware, Ohio, where he was enabled to graduate his two sons and three daughters in the Ohio Wesleyan University and the Female College there located; and there resided until the year 1872, when he removed to the State of Nebraska.

He stopped at Lincoln a few months, then settled at Lowell, in Kearney county, on the thirtieth of June, 1872, where he resided for two years and then moved to the city of Kearney, where he has continuously resided since September, 1874. He entered into the mercantile business exten-

sively at Lowell, and continued in that pursuit the first two years after arriving at Kearney, when he closed the business and soon after commenced the real estate and brokerage business, at which he has been more or less actively engaged since.

Mr. Hull has made a wise use of his opportunities, investing considerably in real estate at an early day in Kearney, on which he has realized handsomely. He has never been a speculator, being content with the returns brought him by the gradual rise in values incident to the settling up and improvement of the town and surrounding country, and he has been willing to help, and has helped, in bringing about this state of improvement, lending his aid and influence towards inducing immigration, and giving cheerfully of his means to those enterprises of a public nature which have sought favor in his community. Mr. Hull married November 10, 1830; the lady whom he chose to share his life's fortunes being Miss Luna Bosworth of Meigs county, Ohio. Mrs. Hull was born May 30, 1812, at Whitehall, N. Y., and is a daughter of Hezekiah and Huldah (Pearee) Bosworth.

Her father was a native of England and her mother of New York State. Her father died in Meigs county, Ohio, February 23, 1859, aged eighty-nine years. His occupations of life were teaching school and farming, and throughout was a man of quiet tastes, studious habits, and exceptionally temperate and systematic in all things.

Her mother died in the same county February 23, 1863, aged eighty-eight years, a pious, good woman, she and her husband having been almost life-long members of the church, having services of the

pioneer Methodist preachers in their own house many years after they settled in Ohio.

Mrs. Hull's ancestors all lived to remarkable ages: her grandfather Pearee dying in his seventy-ninth year, her grandmother at one hundred and four, and her maternal great-grandfather in his one hundred and sixteenth year.

Mr. and Mrs. Hull have had born to them a family of ten children, of whom there are now living five—Joel, the eldest, born November 23, 1831, a sketch of whom appears in this volume as one of the representative men of Minden, Kearney county; Wyman, born March 27, 1835; Catharine (now wife of Wm. K. Goddard, residing in Dane county, Wis.), born January 3, 1837; Helen, born May 27, 1840, now wife of Wm. L. Kidd, of Oakland, California; and Marinda, born March 2, 1842, now wife of S. W. Switzer, of San Diego, California.

Mr. and Mrs. Hull have been zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal church for many years, having united in 1831, and ever since have been active and efficient workers in that church and all its benevolent associations.

Mr. Hull never aspired to political honors, but has taken a keen interest in general politics and is a man of wide range of information on political and historical topics. In early life he was an old line whig and a staunch supporter of the doctrines of that party. Upon the formation of the republican party he became one of its organizers and has steadfastly adhered to the platform adopted by its founders—Protection—Loyalty—and Liberty. He voted for the elder General Harrison—the hero of Tippecanoe—and also

for the younger Harrison, the present chief executive. Mr. and Mrs. Hull have ever been strict temperance people and have always been active workers in the cause of temperance. Mrs. Hull joined the Good Templars nearly forty years ago and has constantly been found in the front in all the efforts made for the deliverance of her community in which she resided from the curse of rum; associating herself for that purpose with several orders and societies. She is, and has been since its formation, a hearty worker in the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

Though, for several years in feeble health and almost an invalid, she has never failed when called upon to aid any and all endeavors for the salvation of souls from sin and from intemperance to the utmost of her ability, and many there are to rise up and call her blessed.

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**LYMAN M. BRIGHAM.** Among those who came to Buffalo county in the early "seventies" and passed through the historic hard times, and who has since accumulated, slowly and honorably, an ample fortune, thus crowning a youth of labor with an age of ease, may be mentioned Lyman M. Brigham, the subject of this biographical memoir. He is a native of New York, having been born in Wyoming county, that state, December 27, 1832. His father, Jabez Brigham, a farmer by occupation, was a native of Massachusetts. His mother, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Hart, was also a native of Massachusetts.

These were the parents of nine children, of whom the subject of this notice is the youngest. Lyman M. Brigham, in his earlier days, attended the district schools, helped his mother on the farm and entered upon an apprenticeship at the blacksmith trade at the age of seventeen years. He adopted blacksmithing as a pursuit and followed it for twenty years. He started West in the summer of 1874 and got as far as Omaha, when he ran out of money. Being a man of indomitable will, his plans were not to be frustrated by this, and he and his son walked the remainder of the way to Kearney, for which place he had started, a distance of two hundred miles. He took a homestead on the old Fort Kearney military reservation, there located and began farming with a yoke of four-year-old oxen, at the same time opening a blacksmith shop in Kearney, riding back and forth daily from his claim to town. The first year he broke out thirty acres of sod and put it in corn, and also rented sixty acres of old ground, which he planted to corn, wheat and oats. That year the drouth and grasshoppers destroyed his entire crop except twenty-seven bushels of potatoes, which he raised on two town lots. He was forced to boil grass for his two remaining pigs, while he "hustled up" something to keep soul and body together for himself as best he could. This year's experience served to nerve him for the contest the following year. He had a brother living in Polk county, this state, from whom he had arranged to borrow his next year's seed wheat and corn. His stock in store at this time consisted of his yoke of oxen, a lumber wagon and twenty-five cents in money. Giving his wife ten cents of the money with which

to supply the family's wants, and taking the other fifteen cents, he started with his team for Polk county, a distance of one hundred miles. When below Grand Island, and about half way on his journey, he ran out of hay, but secured some from a farmer who, on learning that he had only fifteen cents, refused to accept pay. He completed his journey in five days, sleeping in hay-stacks over nights. But worse trials awaited him. On his way back his wagon broke down. There were no shops at hand, and he had nothing to pay for the mending of it if there had been. Still, he was equal to the occasion. He was near the Union Pacific railroad, and as soon as night came on he "borrowed" a tie from the road, and with the aid of a farmer's ax he hewed out an axle, fixed up the wreck, and started once more on his homeward journey. He got back after an absence of nearly two weeks, and with renewed energy and determination began again to settle the bread and butter problem in the uncertain state of agriculture at that date in Nebraska. Many were the hardships and privations which he underwent; but, like most of the old settlers who stood steadfastly by their choice, he at last succeeded, and to-day he is one of the well-fixed farmers in Buffalo county. He owns eight hundred acres of valuable land in the county, and a large amount of property in the city of Kearney. It all represents his own toil, pluck and endurance. In 1877, Mr. Brigham raised and marketed seventeen thousand bushels of grain. This will give an idea of the rapidity of his growth as a farmer. In March, 1888, he left his farm and moved into Kearney, where he now resides.

It must not be supposed that Mr. Brig-

ham has made his way to the position of comfort and ease that he now occupies unaided and alone. He has been materially assisted in his labors by a most excellent wife. He married, January 13, 1853, the lady whom he selected for a life companion being Miss Catherine Brigham, a daughter of Harry and Sarah (Eggleston) Brigham, both natives of Massachusetts, the father having been born in the year 1800 and the mother in 1804. Mrs. Brigham is the third of a family of six children born to her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Brigham have had born to them a family of four children, three girls and one boy, as follows—Emory (now deceased), born October 11, 1854; Luella (now also deceased), born March 7, 1858; Ferado, born April 7, 1860, and Pearl, born August 13, 1870.

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**A**MOS H. EDWARDS was born in Mt. Holly, Rutland county, Vt., January 29, 1817, and is a son of Frederick Augustus and Polly (Barker) Edwards.

Frederick Augustus Edwards was born in Temple, N. H., July 27, 1791, married in 1814 and emigrated to Mt. Holly, Vt., where he engaged first in teaching, afterwards in farming, and then in cabinet making—following these several pursuits through life. He died in Chester, Vt., in 1842. He was a zealous member of, and deacon in, the Baptist church till his death. He took a decided interest in his church, was prominent in religious affairs throughout his state, and was a



man of the most benevolent impulses and spent most of his time administering to the wants of the sick and afflicted. Mr. Edwards' paternal grandfather was Ebenezer Edwards, a native of England, who immigrated to America in early life. He engaged in the mercantile business at Temple, N. H., and amassed considerable wealth, which, however, he lost through the mismanagement of others, principally by the failure of the Amherst bank, in which he had deposited \$50,000. He died about the year 1825. Mr. Edwards' mother, Polly Barker, born January 4, 1793, was also a native of Temple, N. H., and was a daughter of Theodore Barker.

Amos H. Edwards began life for himself about the age of eighteen, his father giving him his time at that date. He attended the common schools in his youth, but in the fall of 1835, he attended Black River academy at Ludlow, Vt. He began teaching in the fall of 1835, teaching his first school at Mt. Holly, Vt., in the very building where his father had taught his first school many years before. In the spring of 1836 he attended an academy at Chester, Vt., where he received the principal part of his education. He has taught school every year since, except one, till 1890, having taught in all one hundred and thirty-five terms. He emigrated from Vermont in the spring of 1838 to Pennsylvania and taught school there one year. He then went to Ohio, where he taught several years, in the meantime teaching several terms in Kentucky, and moving later to Wisconsin, in 1850, where he taught for twenty-five years. He came to Buffalo county, this state, in the spring of 1876, and located on a farm

six and a-half miles northeast of Kearney, where he lived until January, 1888, moving into the city of Kearney at that time. He has been steadily engaged in teaching since coming to Buffalo county and he is well and favorably known in many localities throughout the county as an able instructor. He has belonged to several secret societies in his life, among them a number of temperance organizations. He is a man of warm nature and the most generous impulses, and he has devoted the greater part of a long life to the good of his fellow-man. He is always punctual to the minute and desires strict punctuality in others. His organ of philoprogenitiveness is very fully developed.

Mr. Edwards married, August 1, 1843, Miss Eliza C. Grant, of Greenfield, N. H. She is a daughter of John and Sallie (Taylor) Grant. Her father, John Grant, was born in Greenfield, N. H., and was a farmer by occupation, an upright, industrious and useful citizen. He was a life-long member of the Presbyterian church, and died in the faith by which he had lived, passing away in 1852. His wife was a native of the same state, a member of the same church, and died in 1882.

To Mr. and Mrs. Edwards have been born a family of eight children, as follows — Altaire H., born August 7, 1844 (died in the Union army during the late war); Charles P., born January 23, 1847; Alphonso C., born June 10, 1851; Ella C., born March 25, 1853; Eo R., born July 23, 1855; Eddie S., born October 29, 1856; Bert E., born February 18, 1860, and Ivers C., born April 25, 1863.

Mr. Edwards, in addition to the positions he has held in connection with his school work, has also held a number of

local offices, such as any good citizen might be expected to fill when called on for that purpose. In politics he is a prohibitionist, and an able exponent of the principles of his party. He has been a contributor to a number of journals on the subject of prohibition, and his writings under the *nom de plume* of Charles Chester, are widely read and highly appreciated, and unquestionably have done much good for the cause of temperance. He has also written a great deal of poetry, and some of his contributions to the press have become very popular. He is the author of the longest poem ever written by an American, which is entitled "The Great Rebellion."

Mr. Edwards is a pleasant, genial gentleman, a finished scholar and a man of sound heart. He makes a lasting impression even on casual acquaintances, and those who meet him wish that there were more men in the world like him.

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**C** G. OSTERHEIL (deceased) was born February 28, 1814, and reared in the town of Zittau, Saxony, and is a descendant of German parentage. He was educated in the best schools of his native country, and began life as a teacher, becoming a director of learning in the Royal school at Crimea, Russia. In 1862 he emigrated to the United States, and settled in Lafayette county, Mo. Having previously prepared

himself for the ministry, and having done considerable church work, he went actively to preaching on locating in Missouri, and continued at it there for a period of five years, moving, in 1867, to Des Moines, Iowa. There he engaged in the drug business. Three years later he lost all he had by fire, and, moving to Omaha, he became a teacher of languages, giving instructions especially in his native tongue. He also practiced medicine among his countrymen. He moved to Buffalo county, this state, in 1871, and took a homestead, locating on it and retiring at that date from all active pursuits. May 20, 1888, he died, well advanced in years, after an active, industrious and useful life. He was a lifelong member of the Lutheran church, and a man of very charitable impulses. His wife, E. L. Osterheil, who survived him, is a native of Switzerland, and was born June 11, 1837. She received a thorough collegiate training when young, finishing with a special course in French, the teaching of which she adopted as a profession. She began teaching in her native country, but a few years later, 1865, came to America, accepting a position as private teacher in her brother's family in Chicago. She filled this position till 1867, marrying April 2, that year. Joining her life's fortunes with Carl Gotthelf Osterheil, she bore him the cherished companionship which he sought with her hand, accompanying him to the place of his last residence in Buffalo county, this state, she being now a resident of the city of Kearney. She is a lady of many excellent qualities of head and heart. She has only one child, a daughter, Olga Alexandria, now grown and married.





R. H. EATON.

RICE H. EATON. The personal history of most men partakes of a sameness, but the biographer finds an inspiration in the story, simple and true, of some lives, and the narrative charms the reader. Such a career is the embodiment of higher and nobler principles of human nature, a life ideal because unique, an existence whose individuality is blended and lost in a natural effort to live and die without hope of reward or fear of punishment—a life of supreme unselfishness.

Mr. Eaton was born in Rochester, N. Y., December 8, 1838, and received a common and high-school education. His parents were Joel and Sarah (Sibley) Eaton, the former a native of Vermont, and the latter of Massachusetts. By profession and training he is a printer and journalist, having begun at the "case" and working himself up. While yet very young he served an apprenticeship in the book and job office of William Hughes, of Rochester, and having learned all the arts of his trade, "stick" in hand, he began that nomadic life for which devotees of the "black art" are famous. But travel to his keen, observant mind was more than mere pastime. An experience and knowledge thus acquired have served him to a good purpose in a profession upon which his labors have reflected honor and credit. The greater part of his early professional life was spent in the South, where his opportunities of studying the slave question were the best and most satisfactory, but his observation was terminated by the firing upon Ft. Sumter. Finding himself in a country the inhabitants of which held opinions on the momentous issue of the hour diametrically and uncomfortably op-

posed to his own, he quietly returned to his native state to take up arms in defense of his flag. He enlisted in June, 1862, in the Sixth company of the First New York sharp shooters, and served in the army of the Potomac. He saw considerable service, participating in the battles of Gettysburg, Mine Run, Wilderness, Spottsylvania and the assault on Petersburg, where he was wounded in the left leg, necessitating his discharge from the service in 1864, when he returned to Rochester. He resumed his trade, working on the daily papers of his native city a short time, when he emigrated to Iowa, where he and his brother, Webster Eaton, started the *Fremont Tribune*, a weekly paper. They sold the paper, however, and removed to Shelby county, Iowa, where he founded the *Shelby County Record*, which he published about one year, when his wife died. Soon after this sad event he returned to Rochester, N. Y., working on the *Democrat* and *Chronical* till May, 1873, when again he set his face westward, locating at Kearney, Nebr., where his brother, Webster Eaton, had established the *Central Nebraska Press*, the first paper printed and published in Kearney. He had editorial charge and the general management of the *Press* till he sold it to W. G. Holden in 1879 to accept a position in the United States railway mail service, which he held till 1883, when he retired. Moving to his farm four miles east of Kearney he spent five years of a hitherto active life in the peaceful quiet of a granger. His previous experience had not to a remarkable degree fitted him for the vocation of a farmer and his career as such was accordingly not a successful one. He afterwards declared that if the

cost of production is the standard of value of an article, he produced a very high grade of farm products. Nature and education had done nothing in fitting him for farm life, so in the fall of 1888 he resumed his profession. With Mr. M. A. Brown and others he organized the Hub Printing Company, of which he is the president, and in 1889 was appointed postmaster at Kearney.

The marriage of Mr. Eaton took place in September, 1864, to Miss Matilda Aiten, who was also a native of Rochester, N. Y. She died in Harlan, Iowa, in February, 1871, leaving a son, Joel, the fruit of this short but happy union. Mr. Eaton was next married, in the fall of 1872, to Miss Jane McMillen, a native of Canada.

Mr. Eaton is a hard student, and the well-used volumes of his library are the companions of his leisure moments. He is possessed of a very fine memory, and a cursory glance at the page is all that is necessary to reveal to him its contents. He is a student of "index learning," but the grasp of a fine mind furnishes the details. Fond of the writings of the best English novelists of the early days he keeps posted not only in them, but also on current literature. His literary tastes, personal experiences and the originality of a mature intellect, have made him a ready, versatile, apt writer. As a journalist he occupies a front rank. A clear, logical reasoner, concise writer and satirist, his retirement from the field of journalism is to be regretted. He looks upon the bright side of life and was the pioneer journalist of the mid-West to give this spirit a living expression. The graver matter of life he tempered with the sunshine of the tender, but humorous disposition, and the same

spirit that has made his writings so popular he displays in his private life.

Loyal to his friends, uncompromising toward his foes, he is a man at once beloved and disliked. But his sword is sheathed in the presence of a fallen enemy. The poor and oppressed are his friends because he is theirs. The earnings of a long and busy life have gone to alleviate the sufferings and wants of his less fortunate fellow-men. His big-hearted generosity is not confined to the extent of his purse, for he practices a broader charity than mere giving. Sympathy and liberality of thought, charity for the opinion of others, are admirable characteristics of the man. In religion no dogmas or creeds confine or obscure his unselfish acts. He devotes his means and opportunities toward making the world better for living in it. In public life he is liberal and enterprising; in private he is devoted to his family, loyal to his friends, doing all the good he can.

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**W**ILLIAM ELLSWORTH SMYTHE was born in Worcester, Mass., December 24, 1861. His family, on both sides, had resided in New England from the time of its earliest settlement, his first American ancestor being Edward Winslow, one of the "Mayflower's" passengers and an early governor of Plymouth Colony. Another ancestor, Thomas Starr, was a leader of the famous "Boston Tea Party," who first resented the tyranny of Great Britain. His paternal grandfather rendered notable service in the navy during the war of 1812.

The father of William E. Smythe, a man widely known throughout New England as a successful manufacturer and a prominent figure in the religious and political movements of his time, selected journalism as the profession for his son before he had finished his course in the grammar school of Worcester. Consulting his friend, the late Delano A. Goddard—the memorable editor of the Boston *Daily Advertiser*—he was advised not to send the boy to college, but to “put his nose to the grindstone; get him a place as ‘devil’ in a country printing office; hand him a copy of James Parton’s ‘Life of Horace Greeley’; tell him to study politics and American history, and if he has the making of an editor that course will develop it.” The father’s plan had been a course at Harvard, but he followed the advice of the great Boston journalist. The boy became “devil” in the office of the Southbridge, Mass., *Journal*, worked at all sorts of hard labor from daylight to dark, read history and biography half the night, wrote Southbridge letters for the Worcester *Gazette*, Worcester letters for the Southbridge *Journal*, and filled in spare moments by reporting sermons and dog fights, weddings and funerals, for the county weekly on which he was employed, all for the munificent stipend of \$2.50 per week. At the end of his first year’s apprenticeship he was the proud wearer of the title, “assistant editor of the Southbridge *Journal*.” At the suggestion of Mr. Goddard he was appointed local reporter for the *Morning Gazette* of Haverhill, Mass. At the age of seventeen he was made its night editor. After two years’ of night work his health gave way, and he became editor of the Medford,

Mass., *Mercury*. At that time he enjoyed the distinction of being the youngest professional editor in Massachusetts. He was then nineteen. At twenty-one he was the editor of the Lynn *Saturday Union*. In the same year he delivered the Memorial day oration at Swampscott, Mass., and appeared as a republican stump speaker in the Butler-Robinson campaign. In the same year also he became editor of the Brockton *Daily Gazette* and staff correspondent of the Boston *Herald*. Later he gave his whole time to the *Herald*, handling its Old Colony district and its political news columns.

It was at this time that Mr. Smythe made the mistake of abandoning what he could do well to attempt what other men could do better. Without capital or financial backing, he entered upon the business of book-publishing. His first venture was an elaborate subscription book, “A History of the Labor Movement,” edited by Geo. E. McNeill, and containing contributions by many eminent economists and labor leaders. It received wide attention, and had a sale of over ten thousand copies, but the profits did not equal the large cost of its publication and sale. Still persistent, the young publisher engaged Senator Henry W. Blair, of New Hampshire, to write “A History of the Temperance Movement.” About the same time he also brought out a novel, “Uncle Tom’s Tenement,” by Alice Wellington Rollins; also, “The Statician at Work,” by Chas. F. Pidgin, and had several other works in hand. From first to last the business was an unequal struggle, in which ambitious energy ran a race against financial obligation. The end was failure, and on a day in October, 1888, William E. Smythe

faced his creditors and told them he could maintain the struggle no longer. He went through insolvency, received his discharge and came West to begin again.

The people of Kearney had raised a subsidy, in cash and lots, for a daily newspaper which should contain the Associated Press dispatches and be a paper of some metropolitan pretension. H. D. Watson accepted the subsidy and appointed William E. Smythe to edit the paper. With him were associated Will Hall Poore and Charles S. Brainard, who had served with him on the staff of the *Boston Globe* and *Herald*. The *Kearney Enterprise* was from its very first issue a notable newspaper. It soon took rank among the leading newspapers of the West, and has always been widely quoted throughout the country as an exponent of Western opinion. The humor of "G. O. West" (Mr. Poore) ran through the press of this and foreign countries side by side with that of the *Detroit Free Press*, *Terre Haute Express* and other newspapers with well-known funny columns. The *Enterprise* has also become a factor in politics, and ranks in that respect next to the Omaha and Lincoln dailies. Mr. Smythe became owner of the *Enterprise* June 24, 1889, having L. R. Britton and W. H. Poore associated with him as partners. They sold the plant and property to the Kearney Enterprise Company in July, 1890.

Mr. Smythe has recently accepted the position of chief editor, under M. Rosewater, of the *Omaha Bee*, and assumes the duties of the new position on October 1, 1890. This is, perhaps, the most influential position that Western journalism has to offer, and his friends predict for him a career of usefulness and distinction.

**P**ATRICK WALSH. It is impossible to write of the early settlement of Buffalo county without making frequent and prominent mention of the name of Patrick Walsh. The name is thoroughly familiar to all of the older settlers of the county and the public records of an earlier date display it upon almost every page. Broadly speaking, Mr. Walsh's public record constitutes the first chapters of the county's history, since the county had but little history during the first years of its existence as a county organization outside of what he made for it or was largely instrumental in making. Mr. Walsh is an ex-soldier of the United States army, and to his connection with the army is probably due the fact that he became a citizen of Nebraska and a pioneer settler of Buffalo county. This article may begin, therefore, with the statement that Patrick Walsh, father of the town of Shelton and the man who bore the chief part in organizing Buffalo county, first set foot on Nebraska soil in the spring of 1864, coming hither as a member of Company D, Fifth United States volunteer infantry. He enlisted in the service in March, 1864, near Alton, Ill., and after a short stay at Fort Leavenworth, Kans., was ordered with his company as part of a military escort to guard an overland train from Niobrara, Nebr., to Virginia City, Mont., the purpose of which expedition was to establish a feasible route between these two points to accommodate the large immigration then making towards the great Northwest. The prospect being abandoned on account of its impracticability, the expedition broke up on the Powder river in southeast Montana, and Mr. Walsh's company



was ordered to Fort Reno, where it was placed on garrison duty, and he remained there till the summer of 1866, when he was transferred to Fort Kearney, Nebr. The term of his enlistment expiring that year he decided to settle in the West, and in September, 1866, he located on what is the present site of the town of Shelton, Buffalo county. The Union Pacific railroad had just been completed and trains were running through the county, but there were as yet no permanent settlements in the county beyond a few ranches scattered along Wood river, and possibly one or two in the vicinity of Elm creek. Prior to that, however, there had been a stage stand where Shelton now is and a sort of supply point to accommodate the overland travel to Utah and the Pacific coast. This was started in 1858 under the direction of Brigham Young, and it was designed especially to facilitate the travel of the Mormons in their journeyings to the country they were then fast peopling beyond the Rocky mountains. Joseph E. Johnston was the chief spirit in establishing this "ranch," as it was called. The place was known as Wood River Center, but with the exception of the little store in which were kept the general stock of supplies the place never amounted to anything more than a camping ground. Johnston published a paper there, which he called the *Huntsman's Echo*, and which it is said was instrumental in attracting the attention of travelers to that locality. But very few, however, who came remained. Like him they moved on with the great stream of restless fortune-seekers towards the setting sun—so that at the date Mr. Walsh settled there, the country was practically uninhabited.

Good homesteads could be had anywhere. Mr. Walsh bought out the right of a man named Thomas Tague, who had squatted on the northwest quarter of section 1, township 9, range 13 west, and on this he filed a soldier's homestead claim. He located and began his improvements, moving onto his homestead his family, which then consisted of a wife and five children. Others located about the same time, and the country gradually began to settle up. The county was then known as Buffalo county, but was unorganized, being attached to Hall county for judicial and revenue purposes. Matters moved on smoothly under this arrangement till 1870, when, being desirous of securing school facilities for his and his neighbors' children, Mr. Walsh set about to see what could be done in the way of organizing a school district. He found, on investigation, that it would be about as easy to organize a county as a school district, and knowing that this would soon follow, on account of the rapid increase in population, he decided to effect a county organization. Accordingly, in January, 1870, he, in connection with Sergeant Michael Coady, then of Fort Kearney, and Martin Slattery, sent a petition to Governor David Butler, asking for an organization of Buffalo county. The petition was granted, and in February following Governor Butler issued a proclamation, declaring the county organized, and fixing the temporary county seat at Wood River Center. He appointed Patrick Walsh probate judge, Henry Dugdale treasurer, Martin Slattery clerk, and John Oliver sheriff. The probate judge was vested by law with authority to appoint county commissioners, and he appointed Ed Oliver, of

Shelton; Thomas K. Wood, of Gibbon, and Charles Davis, of Elm Creek.

Mr. Slattery not being able to act as clerk, appointed Mr. Walsh as his deputy, and turned over the affairs of his office to him. These officers served till the first regular election in October, 1870, when Patrick Walsh was elected probate judge, Henry Dugdale treasurer, M. McNamara clerk, John Oliver sheriff, and Thomas K. Wood, William Booth and Charles Davis commissioners.

McNamara, who was elected clerk, failed to qualify, and Sergeant Michael Coady, of Fort Kearney, although a non-resident, was appointed in his place, and he appointed Mr. Walsh as his deputy.

The treasurer-elect failed to qualify and the commissioners appointed Mr. Walsh to collect the taxes and perform the other duties of the treasurer's office. Mr. Walsh resigned his position as deputy clerk, inasmuch as he could not well hold this office in connection with the treasurer's office, and gave his time and attention to the office of probate judge and treasurer. During the time that he acted as deputy clerk, for Slattery and Coady, he was by virtue of his office as clerk superintendent of public instruction, and discharged the duties of this office in connection with his other duties. The business of the county was done successively at Wood River Center, Kearney Station (now Buda), and Gibbon before the permanent county seat was located at Kearney. Mr. Walsh served out his term of office in the positions above mentioned, faithfully accounted for every dollar of public money that came into his hands, and turned over the several records, bonds, etc., of which he was custodian, to his successors, going out with

clean hands and carrying with him the good will of all of his fellow-citizens for whom he had held trust. The next position which he held was that of county commissioner. He was elected to this position by the popular vote of the county in the fall of 1874. Politics had then begun to play some part in the elections, and he was chosen on the democratic ticket. The chief measure of local interest on which the election turned was the removal of the county seat, which for two years prior to that time had been at Gibbon. In order to hold it there permanently and provide for what seemed to be the coming importance of Kearney, a movement was set on foot to divide the county, running the west line near the present western limits of the city of Kearney, so as to throw Gibbon as near the geographical center as possible. Mr. Walsh went on record against this movement, although the removal of the county seat from Gibbon to Kearney meant an inconvenience to him and his people, and a prospective depreciation of real estate values, in which they were naturally much interested. But he was willing to forego all the advantages that the proximity of the county seat might bring rather than suffer a division of the county and the added cost of two county organizations.

In this he was actuated by the same motives that characterized his entire public life. He labored always in the interest of economy, discouraging the people in putting inflated values on their property, and advising them to keep out of debt. His vote among the records will be found in keeping with his advice in this respect.

But while Mr. Walsh labored faithfully in behalf of the county at large, he was none the less active in the interest of his own locality. In 1874, when the population became large enough, and the public convenience demanded it, he secured a postoffice with all necessary mail facilities for Wood River Center, he himself being the first postmaster, holding the office till 1879. He now relates the fact with characteristic humor that he served the government faithfully the first year for \$12 50, with a gradual rise each succeeding year, but that when the office got to be worth a little something, he was conveniently set aside for another whose political views better suited the administration than did his. But this was no embarrassment to him. He served the government as a matter of convenience to his people, and not for the money there was in the office. And here it may be as well to correct a mistake which has gone into print respecting the way the name of Wood River Center came to be changed to that of Shelton. The statement has been made that Mr. Walsh took it into his head to change the name of the post-office, did so, and then wrote the postmaster general to take notice and govern himself accordingly. Mr. Walsh has all the Irish wit that it would take to prompt such an action, but at the same time he has the good sense to see the impropriety of it, and, as a matter of fact, he never did it. He was greatly annoyed in handling the mails, as was also the traveling and shipping public, on account of the frequent confusion of the names of Wood River Center, Buffalo county, with Wood River, Hall county, and in conversation one day with S. H. H. Clark,

superintendent of the Union Pacific railroad, he mentioned this trouble, and suggested the advisability of a change of name. Mr. Clark agreed with him, and, subsequently, had the name of the railway station changed to that of Shelton in honor of the cashier of the road, Nathan Shelton. When this was done, Mr. Walsh wrote to the postoffice department at Washington, advising them of this change and suggesting that the name of the post-office be changed also, which was done, and the place has since borne the name of Shelton.

In 1876 the town of Shelton first properly came into existence. It was laid off by Mr. Walsh, he surveying and platting for that purpose forty acres of his original homestead. The lots were sold off as rapidly as demanded for building purposes, and the town started on its career of prosperity. It has never had a boom, but has always enjoyed a good steady growth, and is now in point of size and commercial importance the second town in the county, having a population of about a thousand. The first building of any consequence put up in the town was the "Cottage House," erected by Delbert Livingston, and is still standing and is occupied as a hotel. The town now boasts a number of handsome brick business blocks, and some as neat and tasty residences as can be found in towns having twice the population that Shelton has. In the welfare of the town, in its government, enterprises and interests Mr. Walsh has always taken an active part, doing more than his share of the work, and bearing more than his part of the expense of every undertaking set on foot for the benefit of his town and vicinity. He assisted

in the organization of the first town government, and he has served two terms in the town council, and later he served two terms as clerk of the town board. To his town Mr. Walsh has given the same advice he gave in earlier years to the county—that is, to avoid booms and keep out of debt—to grow and develop, get rich, if possible, in actual wealth, but to keep down valuations. Mr. Walsh owns considerable real estate in the vicinity of Shelton, retaining all of his original homestead except about twenty-five acres covered by the town site. He has, therefore, been particularly interested in public enterprises of a general nature and has been foremost in encouraging anything of this nature. Before the town was laid out, he advertised that he would grant the right of flowage on certain conditions as to toll and damage done by back water to any responsible parties who would erect a mill on Wood river on his place, and this offer was accepted by Jason R. and Ira P. George, with the result of a good mill, which has been worth thousands of dollars to the people of that community.

In short, as stated at the outset of this article, on every page of the early records of Buffalo county, and at every stage, especially in the development of his own locality, the searcher after historical information finds the name and evidences of the wisdom, activity and liberality of Patrick Walsh, and it is but simple justice to him to say that his long labors have met with the success deserved, and have elicited from his fellow-citizens the gratitude which is his due. He reckons his friends by the hundreds in and out of the county, and many of them are men of the highest official and social positions.

Mr. Walsh has been as happy in his domestic relations as he has been fortunate in business and successful in his public career. He was married while a resident of Illinois, prior to his enlisting in the army—the lady whom he selected to share his life's fortunes being Miss Attie Welch, a native of Ireland. This union has been blessed with a family of nine children, as follows—James P., Mary, John T., Maggie, Patrick J., Anna A., Ella E., William E. and Rose. Most of them are now grown, some of them are married, settled off in life, and are now doing for themselves. The limits set to this sketch will not permit us making further mention of them. One, however, by reason of the fact that he bears his father's name and will thus perpetuate in his name the memory of Buffalo county's oldest and most honored citizen, and by reason of the further fact that he is the first child born in the town of Shelton, and has thereby become a subject of historic importance in the territory covered by this volume, may be appropriately referred to at a little length to round out this article. That one is Patrick J., now the efficient telegraph operator at the Union Pacific depot at Kearney. He was born at the old homestead on the banks of Wood river, in what is now the corporate limits of Shelton, on August 8, 1867. He was reared in his native place and received a good common and high-school education in the Shelton schools. Learning telegraphy while still in school, studying at night, on Saturdays, and at odd times, he began work for the Union Pacific as assistant agent and operator at Shelton in 1886, and has been in their employ since, serving them as bill clerk, night and day operator,





W. W. PATTERSON.

on relief and regular service and in several localities. January, 1889, he was given the position of day operator at Kearney, which he has since occupied, and the duties of which he discharges with credit to himself and satisfaction to the company. "Pat," as he is best known and familiarly called, is a worthy son of a worthy sire, and his career, so far as he has gone, has been distinguished by the same good sense, patient industry and sterling integrity, tempered with the same good will, genial disposition and self-sacrificing nature that has characterized his father in all his relations—political, business and social.

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**W**ILLIAM WALLACE PATTERSON was born at Warsaw, Wyoming county, N. Y., on the eleventh day of February, 1831. He is the son of the late William Patterson of Warsaw (who died in 1838 while member of congress from the old Genesee district) and Lucinda Greeg, both natives of New Hampshire. Mr. Patterson was seven years old when his father died—Mrs. Patterson surviving her husband but two week—thus leaving him an orphan in early life. He went to reside with his uncle, Judge Peter Patterson, in Perry, Wyoming county, where he remained for five years attending the common school. He then entered the Genesee Wesleyan seminary, at Lima, N. Y. Continuing there about two years, he was invited to become a member of the family of his guardian and uncle, ex-Gov. Geo. W. Patterson, of Westfield, N. Y. He there attended the academy until he was fifteen

years old, when he entered the academy at Wyoming, N. Y., where he remained until prepared to enter college. Concluding not to enter college, he was employed by his cousin, Hon. Augustus Frank, of Warsaw, N. Y., in his dry goods store, where he remained for several years. While in the employ of Mr. Frank, the Sixty-first regiment, New York State troops, was organized. Mr. Patterson received the appointment of quarter-master, was afterward promoted to major, and by the resignation of the colonel and lieutenant-colonel became commander in 1855. Having a natural taste for military affairs, he made himself proficient in the different arms of the service, being for nearly five years under the instruction of Major Wright, afterward General Wright, who commanded the 6th corps during the war. He was thus prepared when the war of the rebellion commenced for effective service in the army.

Mr. Patterson moved to Minnesota in the spring of 1856, locating at Minneapolis, then a small village. Having been instructed in practical engineering by Major Wright, he at once saw the grand possibilities of the water-power at that point for manufacturing purposes. He so expressed himself to the people of that city, a large proportion of whom considered him wild and visionary. He engaged in the real estate business, but the financial crisis of 1857 so oppressed all manner of business that very little could be done in that line until after the war. When the war of the rebellion commenced Mr. Patterson assisted in raising the Second Minnesota regiment, but promises made to him not being fulfilled, he enlisted in the Twelfth U. S. infantry, under Capt. H. R.

Putnam, although being offered a captaincy in the regular army by Hon. Wm. H. Seward, the old friend of his boyhood. He joined his regiment at Ft. Hamilton, New York harbor, when it was being organized. His knowledge of military matters was soon ascertained, when he was appointed the first and ranking sergeant of the regiment, and was soon promoted to second-lieutenant of Captain Putnam's company.

The battle of Gettysburg, where he was wounded by a piece of shell in the knee and by a saber through the arm, made him a first lieutenant. General R. B. Ayres who commanded the division placed him upon his staff with the rank of captain. Gen. Sykes soon after appointed him commander of all the pioneers of the Fifth corps, with brevet rank of lieutenant-colonel. He held this command until Grant's campaign in the Wilderness commenced, when on the first day's fight he was so severely injured in the ankle, that he was incapacitated for further military service. He was sent in an ambulance to Brandy station and from there by rail to Washington, when, after a confinement for six weeks, he resigned his command in the regular army and returned to his home in Minneapolis, Minn. For nearly a year he was too unwell for active business, but the next spring he entered the real estate firm of McFarlam, Burd & Co., as a junior partner. He remained there two years, when, his health failing, he withdrew from the firm and retired to his farm in Wright county. The next fall he was nominated for member of the legislature by the republicans of the Fifth district, and the democratic candidate withdrawing from the canvass, and advising the

democrats to vote for Mr. Patterson, he was elected. He attended the legislative session of 1868 and 1869, when he returned to Minneapolis and commenced the sale of real estate once more. He compiled and issued thirty-thousand circulars, which were sent all over the Union, advertising the great advantages of Minneapolis as a manufacturing city. These circulars made Minneapolis known. People began coming from the East, and in two years' time Minneapolis began crowding St. Paul for supremacy. Then the rivalry between these two young giants commenced and the future of both was secured. The ensuing fall, Mr. Patterson's health became so impaired by overwork, and the result of injuries received in the army, that his physician advised him to seek a milder climate. He moved to Corning, Iowa, and that winter, in the interest of the C. B. & Q. railway, he started the city of Creston, a division station upon that road, selling the lots, not only in Creston but in several other towns. The next year he came to Nebraska in the interest of the same company, laid out Lowell a few miles east of Fort Kearney, and also selecting the site for the present city of Kearney. Observing the vast amount of water running in the Platte river, he ran the levels up the river and determined the fact that here could be built up another Minneapolis. This was the beginning of the great canal and water-power that has since made Kearney so famous as a manufacturing point.

Mr. Patterson married, August 29, 1872, Miss Pattie M. Giddings, of Lincoln, Nebr. They have seven children, four girls and three sons. The girls are Wenona, Lois L., Henri and Mary A. The sons are Wm. A. and Alfred W. twins, and



McClellan Custer, the last being named for the Colonel's two favorite generals. One son, Burd, died in infancy. Mr. Patterson has recently purchased, in connection with Mr. Britton of the Kearney *Enterprise*, six thousand acres of land in the famous Vermaho Park, in the Maxwell land grant in northern New Mexico, where he proposes to lay out and build up another city, provided his life and health are spared for a few years. He expects to make the city of Vermaho the future home of himself and family.

eldest brother, James, is a journeyman printer, and, like the majority of his craft, a citizen of the world; George H. is a jeweler, of Creston, Iowa; Lucy, the only daughter, remains with her mother at Creston, Iowa; Emanuel is a clerk at Creston, Iowa, and Randolph is a stenographer in the employ of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad Company, at Sedalia, Missouri.

The subject of this brief notice resided in his native place till after he had mastered his trade, and then, in 1878, went to Creston, Iowa, where he was employed by his brother George H. in the jewelry business, and remained there for two years. In 1880 he struck for the further West, coming to Kearney. He was then single and working as a journeyman. He sought employment with J. D. Hawthorne and remained with him about a year and a half. Returning to Iowa, he settled at Council Bluffs and formed a partnership with M. J. Michaels and engaged in business in that place for another year and a half as Michaels & Daniels. Going again to Creston, he remained there two years, marrying in the meantime, and finally in 1886 came back to Kearney, engaged in business and has since remained here. The exact date of Mr. Daniel's marriage was October 16, 1884, and the lady whom he selected as a companion was Miss Jessie F. Battey, a daughter of S. W. Battey, then of Creston, Iowa, now of Hoxie, Kans.

**J** F. DANIELS, known to the citizens of Kearney, where he resides and does business, as "Daniels, the Jeweler," is an Iowan by birth, a native of Muscatine, where he was not only born but reared and where he also learned the business, the name of which has almost become part of his own. His parents were for many years residents of Iowa, moving to Muscatine from St. Louis, Mo., some time early in the "fifties." The father, Julius Daniels, was a native of London, England, came to America about 1835 when a young man, and after drifting about through a number of the eastern states settled in St. Louis, where he met and married Laura J. Mahan, a native of that place and who afterwards bore him a wifely companionship till his death, which occurred in 1884 while in the sixty-seventh year of his age. The mother is still living. Of the children of this union the subject of this notice is the fourth in point of age, and the only representative of the family in this state. The

Kearney is a distinctively young man's town. The pluck, energy and superb business ability which have rendered it famous throughout the country as the great Midway City have been furnished mainly by the young men who have

sought homes and fortune within its limits. Of these no one is more worthy of mention than J. F. Daniels. A thoroughly competent workman, a man of untiring industry, with an abundance of practical business sagacity, liberal in spirit and possessing that absolute confidence in the destiny of "the future Great" which all citizens of the Midway City hold in common, he has labored long and earnestly, late and early, freely and effectually in behalf of the home of his adoption, seeking its best interest by rationally attending to his own.

**T**ONY CORNELIUS. The subject of this sketch is known everywhere as "Tony" Cornelius, the champion hose-coupler of the world." He is a son of Casper Cornelius, who was born in Westphalia, Prussia, November 2, 1822, immigrating to America in 1847, and settling in Platteville, Grant county, Wis. He then came to Kearney, this state, in 1878, and died here August 26, 1884. He was a miner in Germany and for many years a prominent and successful business man of Kearney—an industrious, useful citizen, a zealous member of the Catholic church, and a liberal contributor to charity. In politics he was a democrat and took an active part in the workings of his party.

The subject of this biographical notice was born in Platteville, Grant county, Wis., January 2, 1866. He received a good common-school education and began life for himself at the age of fifteen. He has followed various callings. At present

he is engaged in the liquor business in Kearney, Nebr.

October 26, 1884, he married Miss Ida Reynolds. One child has been born to this union, a daughter, Gladys.

Mr. Cornelius is known everywhere throughout the country as the champion hose-coupler of the world. He has taken several prizes, never having been beaten at a tournament. He is a public-spirited citizen, and gives the city of his adoption not only the benefit of his best efforts as a fireman, but yields to it a fair share of the many honors he wins abroad in his contests.

**J**ACOB MILLER is a representative farmer of Platte township, Buffalo county. He settled on his present homestead in March, 1878, his claim being part of the Fort Kearney military reservation, which was thrown open to settlement about that date. Mr. Miller came to Nebraska from Preston county, W. Va., but is a native of New York City. He is of French extraction, his parents both being natives of the town of Strausburg. His father, George Miller, came to America after his marriage and settled first in New York City and afterwards in Preston county, W. Va. He died in the latter place in 1852 in his fortieth year. He was an engineer, an industrious, hard working man, of studious habits and very strong domestic tastes. Mr. Miller's mother, whose maiden name was Margaret Long, survived her husband many years, dying also in Preston county, W. Va., in August, 1872, aged seventy-two. These

were the parents of three children, all of whom reached maturity and are now living. The eldest of these, Margaret, now wife of John Nine, and the youngest, George, both live in Preston county, W. Va. The second is the subject of this sketch, who was born in New York, March 9, 1839, and was quite a lad when his parents moved to West Virginia. He was apprenticed to the shoemaker's trade, learned it, and followed it till the war came on. He enlisted in the Union army in May, 1861, entering Company D, Sixth West Virginia cavalry, which regiment first formed the Third West Virginia infantry and was afterwards mounted. His company was commanded by Capt. A. J. Squires and was mustered into service at Newburg, Va., June 28, 1861. His regiment served with the Army of the Potomac and took part in the following engagements: Shaw's ridge, battle of McDowell, Franklin, Cross Keys, Cedar mountain, Rappahannock station, Waterloo Bridge, Sulphur Springs, second Bull Run, Warm Springs, Rocky gap, Mill Point, Droop mountains and other smaller ones. He was captured near New Creek, W. Va., in September, 1863, and was released on parole in February, 1864. During part of this time he was held at "Libby." When the war was over he continued in the regular service for more than a year, being on the frontier in the Indian service, ranging the plains and Rocky mountains, mostly along the stage lines. He was mustered out May 22, 1866, at Ft. Leavenworth, and returned to his old home in West Virginia, where he lived till coming to Nebraska in 1878.

Mr. Miller has been twice married. He married first in December, 1868, his wife

being Miss Mary Shaw, a daughter of Thomas A. Shaw, of Preston county, W. Va. To this union were born three children — William W., Marshall McCurdy and Thomas Clark, the last now deceased. Mr. Miller married the second time December 24, 1876—the lady on whom his choice fell being Miss Helen Louisa Parsons, a daughter of James William and Catherine Parsons, of Tucker county, W. Va. Mrs. Miller is a native of Tucker county, as were also her parents. Her father is still living there; her mother died in 1856, aged forty-eight. Mrs. Miller is one of a family of eight children who reached maturity, namely—Jane Rebecca, Samson Ellion, Hannah, Agnes, Ann Melissa, Helen Louisa (Mrs. Miller), Diana Elizabeth and Solomon John.

Being a public spirited citizen as well as a man of good business qualifications, Mr. Miller has naturally been called upon to fill some offices in connection with the administration of the public affairs of his township. He has been moderator of his school district, road supervisor, and is now serving as township supervisor. In politics he is a republican. He cast his first presidential vote for the Bell-Everett ticket, but soon afterwards, affiliating with the republican party, he has voted that ticket since. Mr. Miller is an intelligent, liberal-minded, progressive citizen, and well esteemed by his neighbors.

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**M**AURICE O. KESLER (deceased). One of the first men to take a homestead on the Fort Kearney reservation after it was thrown open to settlement was Maurice

O. Kesler, who settled in 1879 on Elm Island, in what is now Platte township, Buffalo county. Buying a relinquishment at that date on the northeast quarter of section 3, township 8, range 13 west, on which he filed a soldier's homestead claim, made his improvement, and there lived till his death. Mr. Kesler was a Pennsylvanian by birth, and came direct from his native state to Nebraska. He was born in Union county, and came of old Pennsylvania stock, originally of German extraction. His father, William Kesler, who was a tanner, and his mother, Mary Swartz, lived and died in their native state, and were plain, industrious, useful citizens.

Maurice O. Kesler was the youngest of a family of five children, all of whom reached maturity and all of whom except himself, are living. These are — Ellen J., now widow of Hugh McCullough, of Wilkesbarre; Lewis, of Warren, Jo Daviess county, Ill.; Joseph, of New Berlin, Union county, Pa.; Agnes M., wife of William Loughridge, of Cass county, Nebr., and Maurice O., the subject of this notice.

Maurice O. Kesler was born in New Berlin, Union county, Pa., December 18, 1840, was reared in his native place and began the active duties of life as a boatman on the Pennsylvania canal. He was so engaged in 1862, when he entered the Union army, enlisting on July 31 of that year in Company F, One Hundred and Fourteenth Pennsylvania infantry, being a member of the "Collis Zouaves." He served with the Army of the Potomac and was in all the principal engagements in Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland, in which that army participated. Most

of the time he was under "fighting Joe Hooker," and his regiment bore its full share in winning for its general that honorable soubriquet. At Chancellorsville, Mr. Kesler was wounded by a shot in the heel, from which he was disabled from service for some time. He was discharged May 29, 1865, at Arlington, Va.

Returning to his native place he resumed his position as a boatman on the canal and continued at this till 1878, when he moved West and settled first in Hall county, and afterwards in Buffalo county, this state. He was engaged in the active pursuit of agriculture from that time on till his death, being also prominently identified with the best interests of his township and vicinity. He was assessor of Platte township for five years, treasurer three years, and on the school board of his district for several years, and was a public-spirited, progressive citizen and discharged his duties as an official, citizen and neighbor with zeal and fidelity. He died March 27, 1889, surrounded by his family and friends—a genuine loss to his community and a sad bereavement to his family. In personal appearance Mr. Kesler was prepossessing, being nearly five feet and a half in height, of dark complexion, having keen black eyes and a large, well developed head, which was covered with a profusion of jet black hair, inclined to curl, and an open, frank face, square jaw and thin lips, indicative of energy, firmness and strong individuality of character. He was a man of great kindness of heart and warmly attached to his family, lived chiefly for them, and at his death left them well provided for. The surviving members of this family are a widow and six children, of whom some

of the latter are verging on to manhood and womanhood.

Mrs. Kesler, who bore the maiden name of Mary J. Weaver, daughter of Henry and Catherine Weaver, is a native of Lycoming county, Pa., and comes, like her husband, of old Pennsylvania stock. Her parents lived always in Lycoming county, being plain, substantial, well-to-do people of that county. Her father died there October 28, 1876, in his fifty-seventh year, having been born February 19, 1819; her mother died February 9, 1889, in her sixty-ninth year, having been born May 17, 1820. Besides herself there were six other children in the family to which Mrs. Kesler belonged, the full list being—Charles B., Mary J. (Mrs. Kesler), Jacob W., Sarah E., John B., Maggie A. and Harry L. Most of these reside in their native county of Lycoming, in Pa. Mrs. Kesler and her brother, Jacob W. (who is a resident of Shelton, Buffalo county), being the only representatives of the family in this state. With her six children—Harry W., Annie H., Kate W., Sadie S., Rodney J. and Maggie A., Mrs. Kesler continues to reside on the old home-place, which she manages and which gives every evidence of the industry, order and thrift that prevail there. She has one of the handsomest residences in the township and within its walls friends and strangers are alike welcome.

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**B**ENJAMIN ASHTON, of Platte township, Buffalo county, is a comparatively old settler of his locality, a successful farmer and an old soldier of honorable distinction. He is a

native of Bucks county, Pa., born in 1843, and comes of old Pennsylvania stock. His father, Samuel Ashton, lived most of his life in the Keystone State, being a farmer and leading the active, industrious and useful life common to his calling up to his death, which occurred in the fall of 1862, when he had attained the sixty-sixth year of his age. Mr. Ashton's mother bore the maiden name of Matilda Bryan. Ten children were born to these, only three of whom are now living—John, residing in St. Louis; Benjamin, our subject, and William H., in Lycoming county, Pa. Benjamin Ashton grew up on his father's farm and received the training common to his years and calling. He entered the Union army in May, 1862, enlisting in Company E, Fourteenth United States infantry, his regiment being assigned to the Fifth corps, Army of the Potomac. He was in the campaigns and engagements participated in by that army from the second Bull Run to Gettysburg, at which latter place he was disabled by a gun-shot wound in the left shoulder and compelled to retire from active field service. He continued on duty, however, being placed in the recruiting service and serving out his term of enlistment, being mustered out May 8, 1865. Settling down in Lycoming county after the close of the war he married and devoted himself to agricultural pursuits till 1878, when, seeing a family growing up around him and being desirous of getting into a new country where the opportunities were better for giving them a start in the world, he decided to move West, and accordingly, in October of that year, he came to Nebraska and settled on Elm Island in Platte township, Buffalo county, where he now

lives, taking a soldier's homestead of one hundred and fifty-four acres. He has been steadily engaged in farming and stock-raising since that time, and, having added other land by purchase, he now owns two hundred and thirty-four acres well stocked and well improved.

Mr. Ashton married, May 13, 1867, Miss Susan Siglin, a daughter of Frederick and Susan Siglin, natives of Monroe county, Pa., where also Mr. Ashton was born and reared. Her father died there, but her mother continues to reside there. Mr. and Mrs. Ashton have had born to them a family of eleven children, only four of whom, however, are now living, the full list being—Walter, Matilda (deceased), Mabel (deceased), William (deceased), twins who died young, Samuel, Edgar P. and Flossie.

Mr. Ashton has filled the usual number of local offices, having been treasurer of his school district, justice of the peace of his township, township clerk, and moderator of his school board. Mr. Ashton is a pleasant gentleman, kind and accommodating, and to his home and family devotedly attached.

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**J**L. PARROTTE. There are many men in Kearney who have lived here longer than the subject of this sketch; there are many who have figured more conspicuously in public life; many who have made more money; but there are not many who have attained better success—who have achieved more solid results, in accordance with their means and opportunities, than he has, and who in so doing have better illustrated

those sterling qualities of the successful business man: intelligence, industry, perseverance and upright, honorable dealing, on which all true and lasting success must be based. This sketch is not written to commemorate any special personal achievements of the subject; it is not written to flatter any supposed vanity he may have touching his record; it is simply written to place him in the category of Kearney's representative business men where he properly belongs, and to teach incidentally, as all such biographies must, the great value of self-help and the indispensable necessity of personal character in business as in all other things. Whatever of character Mr. Parrotte has established, like that of all others, has been the result of growth and development, he being indebted for the germs of it to heredity. "The child is father to the man." Fortunately he comes of stock noted for their strong qualities, fixed habits and settled convictions. He is of Welch, French and English extraction, French and Welch on his father's side, and English on his mother's. To his father's line he is indebted for his chief characteristics. On that side he is of Huguenot stock. The name indicates the nationality, family tradition, and the history of the church settled the question of faith. There is a marked similarity between the name Parrotte and those of Garrotte and Tourette, names of honorable distinction among many of greater luster in French Protestantism, such as LeFever, DuBois, LaFontaine and others. It is not known when his first ancestors immigrated to this country or exactly where they settled. But inasmuch as the family has been traced back to Maryland, it is believed that



J. L. PARROTTE.





his first ancestors on American soil came with the large tide of Huguenot immigration which poured into this country by way of Holland after the revocation of the edict of Nantes and settled in Maryland, Virginia and the Carolinas. His father, Josiah Parrotte, was a native of Maryland, born in the year 1800. He emigrated when a young man to Tennessee and Kentucky, and thence to Illinois, and settled in 1825 at Rushville, then the third town in size and commercial importance in the state. He was an honored citizen of that place for more than a half-century. He was a merchant of large means and extensive interests, owning at one time as many as six stores in Tennessee and Kentucky. He also had considerable farming interests, and altogether led an active, energetic and unusually successful life. He died in 1882. He was a type of his race, modified by local surroundings. The persevering industry and careful husbanding of resources that made the wild lands and waste places where the French Huguenots settled in this country "blossom as the rose," characterized, though in a different direction, all his life, and made a success of all his undertakings. He had the same love of home, the same conception of men's duties to one another, the same attachment to country and the same devout recognition of his Creator. He believed in the freest liberty of conscience, the largest independence of thought and action consistent with public good. He bore arms in the public defense during the early Indian and Mormon troubles in Illinois. But he never aspired to office. He had a proper appreciation for the lighter pleasures of life, and it is an admirable tribute to the qualities of

his head and heart that his declining years were solaced with those genuine friendships and garnished with those ardent home-loves which should and do come to all who live uprightly, who maintain an abiding faith in their kind and who preserve the evenness of their temper to a serene old age.

J. L. Parrotte's mother bore the maiden name of Katherine A. Scripps. She was a daughter of George Scripps, and was born in Cape Girardeau, Mo. Her father was a pioneer of Missouri from England, moving to Cape Girardeau in the early Indian days. He afterward moved to and settled at Rushville, Ill., where his daughter met and was married to Josiah Parrotte. She bore him twelve children, the subject of this sketch being next to the oldest son. She is still living and enjoys all her mental faculties. She is a devoted mother, and noted and beloved for her charity to the poor and afflicted.

One fact further in Mr. Parrotte's ancestral history is noteworthy: Both branches of his family had their origin in this country in the South, and left that section on account of slavery. His father and maternal grandfather were both slave-owners, actual and prospective. Yet such were their instinctive feelings of justice and their strong sense of personal liberty that they gave up all benefits they were entitled to under the institution, and rather than stay where they would be annoyed by its iniquities sought the far West.

J. L. Parrotte was born in Rushville, Ill., in November, 1844, and was reared and educated there. He was brought up to mercantile pursuits mainly. He enlisted in the Union army in May, 1864, as a member of Company K, One Hundred and

Thirty-seventh Illinois volunteer infantry, and served in the Army of the Tennessee under Gen. A. J. Smith. He was commissary sergeant and was in the service till the general surrender. He married, December 12, 1866, Mary L., daughter of Dr. R. M. Worthington, a native of Kentucky who left that state on account of slavery and moved into the Illinois territory at an early date. Mrs. Parrotte was born and reared in Rushville, and is a descendant of President James Madison on the paternal side. Mr. Parrotte was engaged in business in Rushville from the close of the war till 1882, when, on account of a failure of health, he moved to New Mexico, near Las Vegas, residing there some time, coming thence in 1883 to Nebraska and locating in Kearney on the 31st day of July, that year. He was engaged for two years with Andrews & Grable in the law and collecting business. A stock company was then formed, of which he became a member, and he went into the hardware business, following this two years. Kearney having started on its career of prosperity in the meantime and the rise in real estate values having made the handling of real estate profitable, he embarked in that business. From his own investments and sales and exchanges made for others, he made considerable money. He is still interested in this line, but does not handle the volume of business he formerly did, owing to the increase of his other business. In April, 1889, he, with others, organized the Midway Loan and Trust Company of Kearney, with a capital stock of \$100,000. He assisted also in the organizing of the Kearney Savings Bank, which was started in April, 1889, with a capital of \$100,000, being organized under the state

banking laws. He is assistant cashier and director of the savings bank, a member of the exchange committee of the Midway Loan and Trust Company, and also a director and a stock-holder in the Buffalo County National Bank, member of the board of directors and secretary of the board. He is also secretary and treasurer of the National Building and Loan Association, which has its home office at Minneapolis, Minn., and a branch office at Kearney. These institutions are among the heaviest of the kind in Kearney and are doing a large part of the legitimate banking and loan business of the city, of Buffalo county and of central Nebraska. They have good financial backing and are in the hands of men who are distinguished for their discriminating judgment, conservative business methods and unyielding integrity.

Mr. Parrotte's rise to the position he occupies with reference to the business interests of Kearney has been rapid and deserved. It has not come by accident nor by the aid of others. It is due to his own personal efforts. Fortunate by circumstances, he has been blessed with the insight to see and the energy to act. His success has not been phenomenal, but it has been exceptional. It is deserving of this special recognition by reason of the fact that it has been reached by patience, by perseverance, by industry and by the exercise of good judgment. It shows what men can do by using their hands and brains. To the man of average attainments and limited means it will give encouragement, it will be eminently helpful.

Mr. Parrotte is a zealous Mason, and he has been for some years. He is an active and consistent member of the Methodist

church, and has been on the official board of this church twenty-seven years; was a delegate to the general conference in New York City, May, 1888. He is a liberal contributor to all charitable purposes. He and his family are leaders in the best society of Kearney. In all these respects he has developed to their full measure the inherited tendencies of his people. The fact of his Huguenot origin has almost passed out of the traditions of the family, yet he has preserved in his mental and moral make-up much of the distinguishing traits of his ancestors — their persevering industry, their tastes for the quiet pursuits of life, their attachment to home, their love of liberty, their broad humanity, their deep sense of religion; and these several traits, with their imperceptible shadings into one and another, have entered into his daily life, have shaped his career, and have made him what he is. Mr. and Mrs. Parotte have one daughter—Miss Anna Katherine P. She is a most estimable young lady and a great worker in the Sunday-school, and a general favorite with old and young in society.

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**K NAPP FAMILY.** The Knapp family were originally from Saxony, a province of Germany. By some they are regarded as Germans, by others as of Saxon origin; but their early history in England leads most of the descendants to fix their nationality as Anglo-Saxon or English.

In the fifteenth century they were people of wealth and position in Sussex county, England. The name Knapp is

derived from the Saxon word, the root of which is spelled Cnoep, signifying a summit or hill-top. John being the given name, and living on a hill, he was called John of the hill; and there being others of the same name on the hill, and said John living on the summit or knob, he was called John of the Cnoep or Knob.

Subsequently the proposition was omitted, for convenience sake, and he was called John Cnoep, the German formation John Knopp, and in English John Knapp. The family arms, together with a full description, may be found in the Herald's college, London. These arms were granted to Roger de Knapp by Henry VIII., to commemorate his skill and success at a tournament held in Norfolk, England, 1540, in which he is said to have unseated three knights of great skill and bravery. By the descendants of his son John, these arms are still preserved as a precious memento of worthy ancestry.

The arms of a family are what a trade mark is to a merchant. It is his own private property. It is generally expressive of some important principle. The origin of the arms of the Knapp family is given in English heraldry. It describes the arms of the Knapp family as used by John Knapp and by his son John, in 1600.

It will be seen that this coat of arms is very expressive and full of meaning. The shield and the helmets, clad in mail, denote a preparation for war. The shield on which the arms are displayed is gold, expressive of worth and dignity; the arms in sable or black, denote antiquity; the three helmets on the shield are acknowledgments from high authorities of victories gained.

The helmet, which is placed between

the shield and crest, and rests upon the former, is an esquire in profile of steel, with visor closed and turned to the right side of the shield.

The wreath borne away by the victor, as represented on the sword, is positive proof of laurels won and honors bestowed. The lion passant on the shield denotes courage and consciousness of strength, and yet walking quietly when not provoked or forced to defense. The arm that bears the broken sword indicates the character of the family. Though, having fought in defense until the sword is broken, his courage does not fail him; his arm is still uplifted, grasping the broken sword, and in the heat of battle he exclaims: "In God we trust."

Tradition says, three brothers emigrated to this country from England in early days; if this be true, William, Nicholas and Roger Knapp of these records were brothers.

The earliest records we have in this country are in Bond's genealogies of the families and descendants of the early settlers of Watertown, Mass., including Waltham and Weston, in which it mentions William and Nicholas Knapp—Vol. II, page 815. It there appears that Nicholas Knapp had some connection with a case in court.

Later it states that Nicholas Knapp came with Winthrop and Salstanstall's fleet in 1630.

Then is given the name of his wife, Eleanor, and their children, as found in the Stamford (Conn.) town history. Savage, in his Genealogical Dictionary, agrees with Bond as to Nicholas' immigration in the above-named fleet. A former printed history of the Knapp family mentions

William Knapp, of Rye, N. Y., who immigrated from England with a family of children, though his wife never came. This is probably the same William Knapp, of Watertown, Mass., 1636 and 1658, who moved back to Watertown after living in Rye. In this century a single "p" was used in spelling the name Knapp.

Nicholas Knapp, of Watertown, moved to Stamford, Conn., in 1648. His children by his first wife, Eleanor (who died August 16, 1658), were—Jonathan, born December 27, 1631; Timothy, born December 24, 1632; Joshua, born June 5, 1635; Caleb, born January 20, 1637; Sarah, born January 5, 1639; Ruth, born January 5, 1641; Hannah, born March 5, 1642. For his second wife, he married Unity, widow of Peter Brown, and by her his children were—Moses and Lydia, the dates of whose births are not recorded. He (Nicholas) died April 16, 1670.

Joshua, third son of Nicholas, was born in Watertown, Mass., January 5, 1635; moved to Stamford in 1648, and married Hannah Close, January 9, 1657. Their children were—Hannah, born in Stamford, March 26, 1660; in 1663, he moved to Greenwich, which was then called Horse Neck, in which town Joseph was born in 1664; Ruth in 1666; Timothy in 1668; Benjamin in 1673; Caleb in 1677, and John in 1679.

Joshua, Jr., was born in Greenwich in 1662, and married Miss Close about 1682. They had one son—John, born March 1, 1708; and he had two sons—John, Jr., born in 1731, and Justus, born January 19, 1735.

Joshua Knapp, of Greenwich, 1670, son of Nicholas, married Hannah Close at Stamford, 1657; had a good estate inven-

tory of 1685, though he died October 27, 1684, leaving eight children—Hannah, aged twenty-five; Joshua, twenty-two; Joseph, twenty; Ruth, eighteen; Timothy, sixteen; Benjamin, ten; Caleb, seven; Jonathan, five. His widow married John Powers.

Moses Knapp, of Greenwich, 1670, brother of the preceding, probably youngest, but was probably only a land holder and never lived at Greenwich, but at Stamford as early as 1667, and there his father gave him land by his will; he married, about 1669, Abigail, daughter of Richard Westcott. Whether he had children, I am not advised, but he was living certainly, at Stamford, up to 1701, perhaps later.

The following is from Savage's Genealogical Dictionary of the first settlers of New England, etc., Vol. III, pp. 33 and 34:

Caleb Knapp, of Stamford, son of Nicholas, freeman, 1670, made his will December 11, 1674, and died soon afterwards. He names his wife Hannah, and children Caleb, who was born 1661; John, 1664, Moses, Samuel, Sarah and Hannah.

Timothy Knapp, deputy of Rye, N. Y., October, 1670; Joshua Knapp, of Greenwich, Conn., admitted freeman 1669; Caleb Knapp, of Stamford, Conn., admitted freeman May, 1669; Moses Knapp, of Greenwich, Conn., admitted freeman May, 1670; Timothy Knapp, of Stamford, son, perhaps oldest, of Nicholas, representative for Rye, 1670, was of Greenwich, and was living in 1697. Roger Knapp, who was probably a hunter among Indians in 1639, relinquished all his right and claim on land in Branford to the New Haven Colony.

Roger Knapp, of New Haven, 1643-7; Fairfield, 1656-70 and probably later, had made his will March 21, 1673, naming his wife Elizabeth and children—Jonathan, Josiah, Lydia, Roger, John, Nathaniel, Eliza and Mary; some of whom were minors; his inventory is of September 20, 1675.

Roger Knapp, of Fairfield, son of the preceding, died 1691, but no account is found of the family. Jonathan Knapp, of Fairfield, son of the first Roger, died young, for his inventory is of February 1, 1676.

William Knapp, of Watertown, 1636, died August, 1658, aged about eighty years. He came with Nicholas and had in his will of 1655 not named any wife; referred to children, of whom several were brought by him from England—and grandchildren. His children were William, Mary, Elizabeth, John (born 1624), James, 1627; Ann and Judith.

Mary married Thomas Smith; Elizabeth married in England, a Butlery.

The will of Thomas Knapp, of Watertown, mentions William, John and James, and daughters Elizabeth, Mary, Ann and Judith. Witnesses, Richard Beers and Nathaniel Salisbury.

Mid. Deeds, Vol. 2, page 201-2, says he died intestate and his estate was divided by order of the court.

Perhaps his will was set aside; because October 15, 1658, administration was granted to Ephraim Child, Richard Beers and Priscilla Knapp.

The next April she was released from the administration. December, 1658, the constable of Watertown was ordered by the court to deliver widow Knapp her chest and other things which John Knapp

had detained from her by attachment. December 16, 1662, Ephraim Child and Sergeant Beers were discharged from administration of William Knapp, and John Coolidge and Henry Bright appointed in their place.

William Knapp, of Watertown, son of the preceding by his wife Mary, had probably Joseph, besides Priscilla, born November 10, 1642; and by wife Margaret had Judith, born March 2, 1653; Elizabeth, born July 23, 1657, and perhaps others. He left widow Priscilla, who had been widow of Thomas Akers, and son John. Widow Margaret Knapp died previous to January, 1703.

James Knapp, of Watertown, in 1652, son of William the first of Watertown, Mass., born in England, married Elizabeth, daughter of John Warren; had Elizabeth, born April 21, 1655; and James, born May 26, 1657, who died September 26, following. In autumn of 1671 he lived in Groton. He was one of the original proprietors of Groton; a sergeant, and was one of the four men to whom a grant was made to encourage the building of a mill at Groton.

Elizabeth Knapp, of Groton, wife of James, was one of the bewitched persons mentioned by Cotton Mather. This was probably the Elizabeth Knapp who lived in the family of Samuel Coles of Boston, in November, 1657. Thomas Knapp, of Sudbury, married at Watertown, September 19, 1688, Mary, daughter of John Grout, and died beyond sea, leaving widow and children—Sarah, aged nine years, and Mary, aged six years—when administration was issued May 28, 1697.

David Knapp settled in Spencer, Mass., in 1747.—Drapier History.

John Knapp, of Watertown, son of William the first, married Sarah Young May 5, 1660. They had John, born May 4, 1661; and Sarah, born September 5, 1662; and several others, for his will of January 22, 1696, proved the 27th of April following, though it names not either of these, who were perhaps dead, mentions Sarah and children—Henry, Isaac, John, Daniel and Abigail.

John Knapp, of Taunton, married Sarah Austin, October 7, 1685. He was probably a son of John Knapp, of Watertown.

Joshua Knapp, son of John, of Taunton, married and had one son, Samuel, born in Roxbury, June 12, 1716. Joshua Knapp and family of Roxbury, cautioned against settlement in Cambridge. Joshua Knapp married in Newton, 1727, Elizabeth, daughter of John and Bertha Prentiss.

Tradition says, Daniel Knapp was commissioned by the colonial government to survey and locate Danbury town, and was promised if he located a certain number of families there, in a given time, he would receive a tract of land for his services. He located them, and the land he received was located at the foot of Main street, Danbury, and that was the same piece of land on which Joshua Knapp, Sr., built a house, and his sons, Daniel and Frances, kept a hotel during the Revolutionary war. It was located directly opposite the Danbury meeting house, where were stored the American supplies, and which was burned with the town; and Knapp's tavern, as it was called, was the only house in the town saved, and is still standing, 1887. It is a two and a half-story frame building, with old-fashioned small windows and shingled sides. It is still one of the landmarks of Danbury.

After a careful research I am satisfied this is true, and that he (Daniel) was the father of Joshua Knapp, Sr., and the son of John, and grandson of William, of Watertown, Mass.

Joshua Knapp, Jr., of Danbury Conn., 1762, after moving to Butternuts, moved back to Sherburn, N. Y., where he died July, 1829. Lodema, his wife, died at Cherokee, Logan county, Ohio, May 28, 1845, aged eighty years. Daniel, his brother, and son of Joshua, Sr., of Danbury, Conn., 1716, married Lucy Gray. They had children—Daniel Bostwick, Ezra G., Amie, Palmer, William, Harmon, Levi E. and Horace B. and six daughters besides. Part of his children were born in Danbury and part in Great Barrington, Mass. He died at Sherburn, N. Y., June 25, 1842. Lucy Gray, his wife, died at Sherburn, N. Y., March 8, 1834.

Francis Knapp, brother of Joshua J., and Daniel, of Danbury, Conn., 1765, married Abigail ———, for his first wife, who died January 22, 1810, aged forty-five years. Their only daughter Lucy, and wife of Comfort S. Mygatt, died March 8, 1804, aged thirty-seven years, six months. His second wife was Betsey. Their children were—Comfort, George, William, and seven daughters; they lived at Danbury, Conn.; Great Barrington, Mass.; and Sherburn, N. Y. He, Francis, died at ———, January 11, 1834, aged sixty-eight years.

Levi Knapp, brother of the preceding, and son of Joshua, Sr., had three sons—Joshua G., who died at Danbury, Conn., 1883, aged about ninety; William A., and Levi S., of New Milford, Conn.

Archie W. Knapp, first son of Joshua, Jr., married Betsey Roberts, January 26,

1806—his sons were Alonzo and Joshua. Joshua died quite young, and Archie moved on the Western Reserve, and died at Ottokee, Fulton county, Ohio, January 22, 1852, aged sixty-six years; and his wife died in Dover, Lucas county, Ohio, June 26, 1846, aged sixty-three years. His son Alonzo, who was born in New Milford, Conn., November 7, 1806, died in Ottokee, Fulton county, Ohio, June 30, 1852, aged forty-six years. Levi P., second son of Joshua, of New Milford, Conn., 1789, married Ellis Brooks, August 25, 1808. They had two sons—Royal Carlos, and Samuel B. Levi P. died in Canastota, N. Y., August 11, 1824. Royal Carlos, son of Levi P., married in California, a Miss De-Coe. They lived in Rochester, N. Y., and had one son, John D. C., and a number of daughters. He (Royal Carlos) died in Rochester, N. Y., 1883, aged about seventy years.

Edwin Joshua, first son of Edwin G., married Emily Cargill, May 6, 1840; had one child, who died quite young; and he, Edwin J., died in Catskill, April 16, 1853, aged fifty-eight years.

Urania Cornelia, his sister, married John R. Sylvester, of Catskill, N. Y., December 10, 1837, and died April 21, 1882, aged sixty-two years.

Revilo Wells, his brother, of Canastota, N. Y., 1826, married Elizabeth Millett, December 31, 1850. They had sons born at Catskill, N. Y.—Charles F., George E. and Frank R.

Joshua Knapp, Sr., was born in Danbury, Conn., February 5, 1716, O. S., and married Abigail Bostwick, a widow Dibble, who was born in Brookfield, Conn., September 28, 1725, and was the first white child born there.

He (Joshua) died at Danbury, Conn., August 8, 1798, leaving children—Lucy Gray, born August 22, 1760; Joshua Jr., born May 6, 1762; Daniel, born July 2, 1763; Francis, born June 16, 1765; Levi, born June 4, 1768.

Abigail Bostwick Knapp died at Danbury, Conn., October 7, 1812, aged eighty-seven years. Joshua Knapp, Jr., of Danbury, married Lodema Warner, October 26, 1785; had Archie Warner Knapp, born September 10, 1786. They then moved to New Milford, Conn., and there were born—Levi P., March 4, 1789; Edwin Gavin, August 25, 1795; Sally Julia, December 31, 1800.

Edwin G. Knapp, of New Milford, Conn., married Marietta Ferris, November 29, 1815, who was granddaughter of Sarah Ferris, the first white child born in New Milford. Their children, Urania Cornelia, born in New Milford, Conn., April 18, 1820, and Edwin Joshua, born in Greene county, N. Y., December 22, 1817. They, with Joshua Knapp, Jr., removed to the Butternuts, N. Y. Not liking it, they moved east to Canastota, N. Y., where was born Revilo Wells, May 2, 1826.

From Canastota, they moved to Louisville, Otsego county, N. Y., where was born Charles Ruggles, August 11, 1832.

The family then moved to Catskill, Greene county, N. Y., where Edwin Gavin died, November 1, 1853, aged fifty-eight years, and his wife, Marietta Ferris, died December 3, 1881, aged eighty-one years and ten months.

Charles Ruggles Knapp, third son of Edwin Gavin Knapp, married Mary Elizabeth Shepard, of Cairo, Greene county, N. Y., February 8, 1860, and had two

children, born at Catskill, N. Y.—Ella Augusta, November 21, 1860, and Charles R., Jr., February 10, 1863.

Charles R. Knapp, Sr., died at New Milford, Conn., June 1, 1862, aged twenty-nine years. He was buried at Catskill, N. Y.

Charles F. Knapp, first son of Revilo Wells Knapp, married Alice Perry, of Catskill, N. Y., March 27, 1876. They had six children—three boys and three girls.

Frank R., third son of Revilo Wells Knapp, married Kate Broadwick in September, 1878, and had four children—three girls and one boy.—[By Chas. R. Knapp, Interlachen, Fla.

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LEONARD P. WOODWORTH, M. D., was born in Compton Center, Canada East, July 12, 1839, and is a son of Commodore Perry (who was a cousin of the great Commodore Perry) Woodworth. The father was born also in Canada; moved in 1847 to Indiana, and settled in LaGrange county, where he lived till 1859, when he moved to Columbia county, Wis., residing there until 1883, and thence moved to Iroquois county, Ill., where he died in 1887, aged seventy-five years. By trade he was a cabinet-maker, for many years was engaged in the furniture business, and towards the latter part of his life also in farming. Subject's mother was Drusilla Stearns, who was a native of Massachusetts, died in the fall of 1889, in Iroquois county, Ill., aged seventy-six.





L. P. WOODWORTH.



Leonard P. Woodworth is the fourth of eleven children—Julia, Mary, Sarah, L. P., Rosanna, Levi, William, Cornelia, Susan, an infant that died unnamed, and Carrie.

The Doctor educated himself, and has done for himself since he was twelve years old. He attended Delton academy at Delton, Wis., and began reading medicine, in 1860, with Dr. G. W. Jenkins, but at the first call to arms entered the Union army in 1861, entering Company E, Twelfth Wisconsin infantry, as a private. He was immediately detailed as a hospital steward, and served as such for three years. He first went to Weston, Mo., and then to Kansas City, Mo., having been ordered to New Mexico, but got only as far as Fort Riley, Kas., when he was ordered back to Columbus, Ky. He was in the Kentucky and Tennessee campaigns of that date, then the Vicksburg campaign, then the Meridian campaign, and afterwards on the "March to the Sea." Later he was commissioned second lieutenant of the regular army, on duty with the Sixty-fourth colored infantry, and was president of the commission appointed to investigate the claim of Joe Davis for damages for property destroyed; and still later was provost marshal of the district of Yazoo, and located at Yazoo, Miss. He remained at Yazoo till March 13, 1866, and was then mustered out. Returned to Wisconsin, he opened a drug store at Necedah, Juneau county, where he also practiced medicine for two years. He then attended lectures at the Rush Medical college at Chicago, from which he graduated in 1870, taking a special course on diseases of the eye and ear. Returning to Necedah he resumed practice and the drug business, and continued at these till 1880, when he went to

Milford, Ill., and engaged in the practice of medicine, in that place, in connection with Dr. J. C. Rickey, remaining there till 1883, when he came to Kearney, where he has since resided. He practiced alone after locating in Kearney, till 1887, when he admitted Dr. B. F. Jones to a partnership, the firm becoming Woodworth & Jones, and so continuing.

Dr. Woodworth owns about sixteen hundred acres of land in Buffalo county, has farming carried on extensively, and owns a number of fine horses and fine cattle—some thoroughbreds.

Dr. Woodworth, while still in the army and while at home on a brief furlough, was married January 5, 1865, to Miss Maggie A. Darling, but the honey-moon lasted only two short weeks when the groom, in obedience to the stern demands of military discipline, returned to the front to resume his duties in behalf of this struggling country, while the bride betook herself again to the class-room to prosecute with undiminished faithfulness and vigor her daily labor of love and kindness. They were re-united after four months, and since have borne each other the cherished companionship which they sought with each other's hand, and have realized in a large measure the fervent hopes and happy expectations promised them as the full fruition of their wedded life. Mrs. Woodworth is a lady of culture and refinement, being a graduate of Bunson Institute of Point Bluff, Wis., and keeping up even in her maturer years an interest in the studies of youth. At the time of her marriage she and her sister had charge of the Delton academy, at Delton, Wis., which school reached a high rank, under her able management, among

the educational institutions of the state. Two children born to Dr. and Mrs. Woodworth are now living, a son and daughter—Herbert L. and Emma L..

Dr. Woodworth has always exhibited great zeal and interest in matters pertaining to his profession and he has, whenever opportunity offered, allied himself with all associations seeking the promotion of the good of the profession, and to help to the extent of his means and ability all purposes of that nature.

While a resident of Wisconsin and Illinois he was an active member of the county and state medical societies where he resided, and took an active part in the workings of these societies. He is and has been for years a member of the Masonic order, having taken all the degrees up to and including that of Knight Templar, being a member also of the Mystic Shrine. He, his wife and children are members of the Methodist church and give liberally to charity. In personal appearance Dr. Woodworth, while small of stature, is large of head and pleasing in address, being generous of heart, with a kindly face, and a voice which has been attuned in tenderness to the many varying forms of sorrow which he has witnessed in his ministrations among the afflicted. Unlike many of his professional brethren he does not believe in the all-curing power of drugs, but believes in carrying common sense into the sick room and making use of many of the so-called simple remedies. Ever bearing with him an air of cheerfulness he inspires hope and confidence in his patients, and to the weak and despondent he prescribes liberally of the "medicine of mirth." Yet withal is he positive, requiring the strictest compliance with his orders and instruc-

tions, and that done he holds himself responsible for the rest, so far at least as an honest conscientious physician who knows the limits of his profession and the bounds of his own knowledge and skill—can hold himself responsible for final results.

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**T**HOMAS J. PECK. One of the oldest settlers of Platte township, Buffalo county, as well as one of the most prosperous citizens of the community where he lives, is Thomas J. Peck, the subject of this biographical notice. Mr. Peck has been a resident of the locality where he now resides for about seventeen years, coming to Nebraska in December, 1873, and settling first in Hall county, where he remained three years, moving thence across the line into Buffalo county, living there since. He came from Iowa to Nebraska, but is a native of Pennsylvania. He was born in Chester county, near the city of Philadelphia, and comes of old Pennsylvania ancestry, his parents and his grandparents being residents from time immemorial of the "Key-stone State." His father, John Peck, was born, reared and passed his entire life in Chester county, being a farmer and following the peaceful pursuits of agriculture up to the close of an industrious, well-spent life, dying in 1864 at the age of forty-five. His mother, Margaret Taylor, who was a native also of Chester county, passed all her years near the place of her nativity, dying in July, 1886, well advanced in years. Only two children were born to John and Margaret (Taylor) Peck, both boys, they being now residents of Platte

township, Buffalo county, this state, the elder, Thomas J., the subject of this sketch, and the younger Samuel E. T.

Thomas J. was born in July, 1843, and reared near his birth-place, not far from Philadelphia. He grew up as most farm boys do, receiving a fair common-school education and being trained to the habits of industry and usefulness common to farm life. In June, 1861, not yet having attained his eighteenth year, he entered the Union army, enlisting in Company K, fourth Pennsylvania reserves, and, his regiment being assigned to the Army of the Potomac, he served in that command for twenty-two months. Enlisting under age, his mother had him taken out of the service at the end of that time under habeas corpus proceedings, and he was kept at home until 1864, when, in February of that year, he again entered the army, enlisting in Company K, Eighth Pennsylvania cavalry, and served till after the surrender, being mustered out and discharged at Richmond, Va., August 11, 1865. During his term of service the last time, he was under Gen. P. H. Sheridan and was in the saddle continuously from the time he entered the service till the close of the war.

Returning to Pennsylvania he remained there a short time and then, filled with a growing desire to see the great West and find some suitable location, where he could settle down and grow up with his surroundings, he emigrated to Iowa in 1866, where he settled, married and resided till 1873, coming thence in December of that year, as above noted, to Hall county, this state. He settled in Hall county, near the corners of the four counties of Hall, Adams, Kearney and Buffalo, taking a

soldier's homestead. Three years later he bought a relinquishment on the southeast quarter of section 36, just across the line in Buffalo county, on which he filed a pre-emption claim, settled, and has since resided there. Taking this claim when it was almost all raw land, he has, by great industry and unremitting attention to all the details of the farm, made of it one of the best improved and most pleasant places in his township, having one hundred acres of it under plow, handsome groves and large and comfortable buildings, residence and barn. The secret of his success has been in his hard, persistent labor, his strict economy and his judicious management. He is regarded as one of the best farmers of his locality and as a business man of sound sense and discriminating judgment.

Mr. Peek married June 10, 1867—the lady whom he selected to share his life's fortunes being Miss Mary E. Elter, then of Iowa, but a native of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Peek's father, Nicholas Elter, was a native of France and was reared in his native country to the age of eighteen, coming thence to America and settling in Pennsylvania, where he married, and after a residence there of some years moved to Iowa, and there died in August, 1887, at the age of sixty-five. Mrs. Peek's mother, Julia Elter, was born in Tioga county, Penn., and is still living, being a resident of Iowa. Of the eleven children in the family to which Mrs. Peek belonged, six are now living, being married and settled off in life. The eldest, John B., was killed in the late war at the battle of Peach Orchard, Va., he being a member of the Eighth Pennsylvania cavalry; Charles died young, and the others are—Sarah,

William, Charlotte (deceased), Emma, Minerva, Hattie, George and Susan. Mrs. Peck is the third of the family and the eldest girl.

In politics Mr. Peck is a democrat and comes of a line of ancestors who drew their political faith from the teachings of Jefferson and Jackson, and is a staunch supporter of the doctrines and methods of his party. And he is withal an intelligent, hospitable, pleasant gentleman.

**J**AMES F. LIPPINCOTT is a Pennsylvanian by birth and a descendant of old Pennsylvania stock. His father, John Lippincott, and his mother, Mary Dillon, were both born and reared in the "Keystone State," the father in Delaware county and the mother in Adams county. The father was a shoemaker by trade and followed that nearly all his life, passing most of his years in his native state, dying, however, in Ohio in 1876, after having attained his fifty-second year. He was a quiet, industrious, useful citizen, a man of plain tastes, systematic habits and pleasant, genial disposition. Mr. Lippincott's mother, Mary Dillon, was a daughter of Andrew Dillon, and an industrious, frugal housewife, and a dutiful and affectionate mother, who bore her husband the cherished companionship which he sought with her hand through the many years of their wedded life. She died in 1862 at the age of thir-

ty-eight. Thirteen children were born to these, only five of whom, however, reached maturity; these being—James F., John F., Jeremiah F., William B. and Mary. These are still living. The first is the subject of this sketch. John F. is a resident of Fillmore county, this state, Jeremiah F. and William B. are residents of Hall county, this state, while the sister, now wife of Samuel Robaugh, lives in Altoona, Pa.

Our subject, James F., was born in Adams county, Pa., 1846. The first event of importance in his life, as it was the first of any moment in the lives of hundreds of others of his age, was his enlistment in the Union army. He entered the service September 7, 1861, enlisting in Company F, Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania volunteer infantry. The organization of his regiment having been completed the following October, it moved at once to Louisville, Ky., joined Buell's army and saw its first active service at Pittsburg Landing, helping to save the day to the Union cause at that place. His regiment served afterwards in the campaign into Kentucky and in the Atlanta campaign and was with Thomas on his return into Tennessee in pursuit of Hood, as far as Nashville. At this point Mr. Lippincott was taken sick with the small-pox and disabled from service till April, 1865. He then joined his command, which was at that time at Nashville, and went with it to Texas, where it was stationed as an army of occupation till December, 1865. Returning thence to Pennsylvania it was mustered out at Philadelphia January 19, 1866. He served as a private from the date of his enlistment till mustered out, was never wounded, but was once cap-

tured and got some taste of prison life, having been taken prisoner at the battle of Stone river and confined for ninety days in "Libby." At the close of the war, Mr. Lippincott returned home and settled down to the peaceful pursuits of life, marrying in March, 1867, and engaging in farming. He came to Nebraska in the spring of 1878 and settled in Fillmore county, in June that year. He lived there till October, 1883, and moved then to Buffalo county, locating on Elm Island, in Platte township, where he has since resided. He has been steadily engaged in farming and has succeeded far beyond the average. He owns land in Adams, Hall, Buffalo and Gosper counties, a large part of which he has under cultivation and most of which is yielding him a revenue in some shape. His home-place in Buffalo county is one of the best farms on Elm Island, well improved and well supplied with comfortable buildings, ornamented with groves and stocked up to its capacity with good graded stock.

Mr. Lippincott has quite a family growing up around him, for whom he is providing with that care and thoughtful solicitude characteristic of him. He married, as noted above, in 1867, the lady whom he selected for a life companion being Miss Jane S. Vance, a daughter of Captain David Vance, of Loudon, Franklin county, Pa., Mrs. Lippincott and her parents both being natives of that place. She is one of a family of ten children, as follows—Winfield S. and John W., both of Loudon, Franklin county; George E., a conductor on the Pennsylvania Central railroad, he being the one who ran the express train out of Johnstown during the late flood; Jane, Mrs. Lippincott; James

W., of Winfield, Kans.; Ann Rebecca, wife of George Mullom, of Chambersburg, Pa., and Catherine Abigail, still with her father at Loudon, Franklin county. Margaret and David are deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Lippincott are the parents of seven children—John David, Mary Catherine, now wife of George W. Walverton; James William, Charles R., Abbie Jane, Ethel Alma and Kimber Augustus.

In politics Mr. Lippincott is a republican and is a staunch supporter of the principles and methods of his party. His first vote was cast for Grant in 1868, and he has supported his party's ticket in each presidential election since, as well as in state and local elections. He has never aspired to public office himself, finding much more pleasant and remunerative employment in the pursuit of his own affairs. He is a man who is well informed on matters of general concern and takes much interest in them. He has pronounced views, and when occasion demands does not hesitate to speak them, and he is one of as kind, accommodating and hospitable gentlemen as can be found in Buffalo county.

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**C**HARLES EDWARD GRESHAM was born in Woodford county, Ill., February 11, 1856. He is the son of Archibald Gresham, a native of Virginia and a very prosperous farmer, his prosperity being traceable to

hard work and good management. Archibald was an active member of the Baptist church, but later identified himself with the Christian church, of which he was a ruling elder at the time of his death. He was much esteemed for his excellent christian character and the poor and needy always found in Mr. Gresham, a good friend. Mr. Gresham was born in 1808, and from Virginia moved to Christian county, Ky., and thence to Woodford county, Ill., where he remained until death. At the time of his death he left a farm of two hundred acres, well improved and stocked. In 1833 he was married to Miss Susan Boyd, a native of Kentucky. Like her husband she was an active member of the Baptist church, but later joined the Christian church. She was considered a very exemplary and consistent christian woman, and died in 1880 at the advanced age of sixty-eight. By this marriage twelve children were born, viz.—George, farming in Missouri; Mary, (Mrs. Bays-ton) in Illinois; Susan, in Missouri with George; John W., who served three years in the war, but now is in Kentucky; Olive, in Illinois with James; Robert, in Illinois; Louise (Mrs. Ayers), deceased, in Illinois; Richard C., in Illinois on the old homestead; Jennie V. (deceased); C. E.; Luey A. (Mrs. Irvin), in Bloomington, Ill.

C. E. Gresham came to Nebraska in 1884 with about \$1,100, and now owns a well improved farm of two hundred and forty acres and well stocked. He makes a speciality of fine horses and hogs. He is a member of the Christian church. He was married, in 1879, to Miss Alice E. Spencer, a native, of Illinois, and born March 30, 1858. For years she was an active and faithful worker of the Chris-

tian church. She was married at the home of her father, Rev. Harney officiating. She is the mother of three children, viz.—Etta, born November 28, 1879; Minnie, born July 7, 1884, and Ollie, born March 15, 1888.

**E**MORY PECK, a gentleman of literary and social culture, is of Puritan ancestry, his progenitors having come over in the "Mayflower." Luther Peck, the paternal grandparent, was a native of Connecticut, and died in 1846, at a good old age. He was the parent of five sons, all of whom entered the Methodist ministry, and Jesse T. rose to the distinction of bishop, and was one of the founders of Syracuse University, donating to the institution at one time \$50,000. A biographical sketch of Jesse T. and George Peck is given in the People's Encyclopedia. Andrew Peck, the subject's father, was born in New York in 1800. He was, in the most literal sense, a self-made man, acquiring sufficient preparation, by the utmost diligence and economy of time, to enter the ministry at the age of twenty. For thirty years he continued in the active ministry, and was for years presiding elder in the Oneida, now the Central New York, conference. He was superannuated in 1850, but continued a member of the conference till death, which occurred in 1887. Politically, Mr. Peck was a republican, until a few years before his death, when he gave his support to the prohibition cause. In 1830, he married Miss Electa Gun, a native of New York, who was the mother of the subject



of this sketch. She was a zealous co-laborer with her husband in christian work, being, with him, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. To Mr. and Mrs. Peck were born four children—Mary S. (deceased), Emory, William G. (who enlisted in the war under Sheridan, in 1864 and was killed in the Valley of Virginia), and Elbert A., who is now, and has been for nineteen years, a member of the Central New York conference.

Emory, the subject of this biography, was born in Hamilton, Madison county, N. Y., in 1836. Having taken a course in Oneida seminary he, at the age of eighteen, migrated to Portage, Wis., and there engaged in teaching. From there he removed to Winnebago county, same state, and there taught and farmed alternately for five years. He next moved to Livingston county, Mo., and there taught for one year. He then took the principalship of the public schools of Clarinda, Iowa, and remained there until 1861, when he enlisted in the Union army, First regiment Nebraska volunteer infantry. He was soon after commissioned first lieutenant of his company, and was in the engagements of Fort Donelson, Shiloh and others. He re-enlisted in the same regiment as veteran and was placed in the recruiting service, with headquarters at Brownville, Nebr. There he resigned and engaged in farming. In 1868, he moved to Bates county, Mo., and followed farming for eight years, and from there came to Nebraska, settling in Buffalo county, on a homestead and engaged in farming. Mr. Peck was elected two successive terms to the office of county clerk and has also served as county supervisor. He is now residing on his ranch, of about six

hundred acres, in Odessa township. Whatever success he has gained is due to attention to business and correct habits. Socially, Mr. Peck gives evidence of that magnanimity of soul which is characteristic of his lineage. He is a supporter of the republican ticket and an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church. In 1859 he was married to Miss Mary F. Burin, who was born in New York city, in 1842. To them eight children have been born, and five are now living.

**L**R. MORE, a native of Delaware county, N. Y., was born in 1839, and is the son of Edward H. and Polly Ann (Moffatt) More, prominent and thrifty people of their locality and both active and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics, Edward H. More was an enthusiastic supporter of the republican platform. He was nominated, in 1867, for representative of Delaware county, but died the day following the convention. Mr. and Mrs. More were parents of six children, viz.—Francis, who died when two years old; Albert, who was born in 1837, in Delaware county, N. Y., and served seven months in the war of the Rebellion, but was discharged for rheumatism contracted before service. He, after several years' residence in New York, Virginia and New Jersey, moved to Nebraska, settling in Odessa township, Buffalo county. In 1866, he was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Brewster, a native of New York, who died in 1870. Mr. More next married Miss Martha Reed, a native of Illinois in,

1886. L. R. More, our subject, was the third in order of birth, and of the remaining three children, Mary is deceased; Samuel I., who served in the war, first as private in the Fourth New York heavy artillery, and afterwards as lieutenant and acting captain of a mortar battery before Petersburg, is now residing near Moresville, N. Y., and George, the youngest, is still living on the old homestead.

The subject's paternal grandfather, Alexander More, came from the highlands of Scotland and settled in Hobart, Delaware county, N. Y., just before the Cherry Valley massacre, instigated by Brandt. Being warned by friendly Indians, he took what household effects he could on one horse, his wife taking her two children in baskets, one on each side, on another horse. Thus they journeyed to Catskill, on the Hudson river. On the journey, one of the children, Alexander More, our subject's grandfather, fell out of the basket into a miry place and nearly drowned. He afterwards settled near where Moresville now stands. The paternal great-grandfather's family consisted of five boys—Alexander, James, John T., David and Edward. The subject's grandfather, Alexander More, married Nancy Harlow, of Roxbury, Delaware county, N. Y., by whom he had twelve children, viz.—John H., Thomas, Daniel, Joseph H., Edward H. (the subject's father), Robert H., James, William W., Betsey, Abbie, Gitty and Mary (the mother of Jay Gould, the railroad king). W. W. is the youngest and only survivor of the family.

L. R. More, the subject of this sketch, was born September 22, 1839, in Roxbury, Delaware county, N. Y. He moved

to Chicago in the fall of 1855, thence to Newaygo, Mich., where he was employed in a saw-mill. He there contracted fever and ague, which caused him to return to the old homestead. He later returned to Chicago, where for a time he acted as salesman for a business firm, after which he entered into partnership with Duncan Sinclair, in the lumber and planing-mill business, Mr. More acting as traveling salesman, and Sinclair conducting the business at home. By fair dealing and close attention to business, in about three years he accumulated the sum of \$25,000. His health failing, he sold out to Sinclair and came West to Kearney Junction, Nebr., in 1871. He established the first lumber yard and built the first brick store, the upper story being the only opera house in town. He also established the first bank, in 1872, known as More's bank. He owned the first hotel, known as the Grand Central, also was partner of John Seaman, one of the first wheat buyers in Kearney. He also speculated in broom corn. He bought and enlarged the first grist-mill on the present site of the Kearney Mill and Elevator Co.'s mill, and was the sole agent of the celebrated Rock Spring coal from 1876 to 1885. Mr. More also owned a considerable amount of real estate, and was always one of the first to assist in any enterprise that pertained to the welfare of Kearney. In 1873, Mr. More was appointed Captain of the "Kearney Guards" by Governor Furnas. Under his leadership the cow-boys' "reign of terror" came to an end, they losing two of their number in a running battle. In the year 1884, he sold out what was known as More's bank, now the Kearney National, and the brick store





HENRY FIELDGROVE.

adjacent for \$22,000, he taking \$13,000 stock in the bank, and also becoming its first president. In 1885, on account of failing health, Mr. More started for Florida, stopping at Hot Springs, Ark., where, against the advice of his physicians, he took a sulphur bath, from which he contracted a severe cold that settled on his lungs and soon resulted in his death. He was buried beside his father, in Moresville, Delaware county, N. Y.

L. R. More came to Kearney when it contained but three buildings, and by aiding the then infant town and the homesteaders in securing the passage of the herd law, in more senses than one may he be called the patriarch of Kearney.

Mr. More was a very popular man and had endeared himself to many by his kindness and generosity. In politics he was a republican, and at one time received the nomination for state senator, but was defeated by A. H. Connor, nominee of a coalition of women's rights, anti-monopolists, democrats and others.

**H**ON. HENRY FIELDGROVE, a prominent citizen and old settler of Buffalo county, is a native of Hanover, Germany, and was born December 17, 1831. He comes of German ancestry from time immemorial, his parents, Julius and Wilhemina (Sherman) Fieldgrove, being natives also of Hanover, where they always lived, and where they died, both dying in 1886—the father at the age of eighty-five and the mother at the age of seventy. These were

the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest, the others being Gottlieb, Charles, Louis, Frederick and Dora. The only one of these who ever became a resident of the United States is Henry, our subject. He came to America in 1854, stopping in Clarion county, Penn. Remaining there only about a year, he went to Lawrence county, the same state, where, in 1857, he married a Lawrence county lady, Miss Maggie A. Myers, a native of Pennsylvania, of German extraction. Mr. Fieldgrove then began the real duties of life. He set about to solve the bread and butter problem in earnest. "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might," became a living principle with him, and he carried it out to the letter, possibly more in things material than spiritual. He worked at farming, mining, saw-milling, engineering, and, in fact, anything else that came to him in which there was an honest dollar. He saved some means from his earnings, and being desirous of securing for himself a home, and settling his growing family down in life, where he could do more for them than he could hope to do in the more thickly settled communities of the East, he came West in 1871, and settled in Buffalo county, this state, where he now lives. He took a homestead at that date, filing on a claim of one hundred and sixty acres, lying on Wood river, about a mile north of the town of Shelton. There he located, and has since lived. He has been steadily engaged in farming and stock-raising, and it is doing no violence to truth nor speaking flatterly of him to say that he has succeeded far beyond the average of Buffalo county farmers. He has added to

his original homestead by purchase until he now owns a tract of four hundred acres in one body, lying in the famous Wood River valley, near the corporate limits of the town of Shelton, all of which he has in a splendid state of cultivation, and which, under his judicious management, yield him a handsome revenue in some shape. Besides this he also owns two hundred and forty acres in Snider township, nine miles north of his home-place. He has extensive stock interests and is a good all-round farmer. His chief pursuits have been agricultural, he never having allowed anything of a conflicting nature to interfere with these. He has, however, been called on to fill a number of local offices, and has probably done more gratuitous work of an official and a semi-official nature than any other man in the eastern part of Buffalo county. In 1871, shortly after locating in the county, he was elected road supervisor of his district, and discharged the onerous and unremunerative duties of that position for nine years. Following that and during part of that time, he was deputy sheriff for the eastern part of the county. He has been a member of the school board of his district for several years. He was chairman of the county board of supervisors for two years, and is now serving his precinct as justice of the peace and his county as representative, having been elected to the latter position in November, 1888, and to the former in November, 1889. During the last term of the legislature, in addition to the part he took in the general legislation before the house, he was a member of the following committees, and did special duty in connection therewith: Public lands and buildings, county boundaries, county-seats and town-

ship organization, privileges and elections and fees and salaries. While not conspicuous he was nevertheless active and useful, discharging his duties with zeal and fidelity, winning the favor of his co-workers and approval of his constituents. Mr. Fieldgrove is a public-spirited man, progressive in his views, a man of sound intelligence and discriminating judgment. He is more than a good farmer; he is a clear, level-headed business man. His opinion is sought by his friends and neighbors on many matters outside of those with which he is daily engrossed, and his influence and favor are courted by many who prize his good will. In politics he is a republican and votes the straight republican ticket. He is a zealous member of the Masonic fraternity, and his feelings of fellowship towards his race and his good will towards his kind take largely the practical turn inculcated by this oldest and most benevolent of all the beneficial orders. He and his excellent wife, who has borne him for more than a third of a century the cherished companionship which he sought with her hand, are both active and efficient members of the Presbyterian church. They have reared to maturity a family of eight children, some of whom are now married, and are themselves heads of families. Their children's names in the order of their ages are as follows—Dora, Rachel, Mary, William H., Charles, Maggie, John, and Jennie.

In personal appearance Mr. Fieldgrove is large of frame and hearty in manner. He has a kindly face and a warm, generous nature. He is genial and companionable, a steadfast friend, a pleasant acquaintance and an affable gentleman.

A. K. HAYDEN is the fifth son of Elijah and Hulda (Scott) Hayden; the former a native of Allegheny county, Pa., who, when eighteen years of age, left the paternal roof to seek his fortune in distant lands. He traveled through most of the states north of the Mason and Dixon line, and for some time, also, was engaged in the lead mines of Illinois, and the gold mines of California, and was at different times engaged in farming, owning at one time two thousand acres of land in Cass and Adams counties, Iowa. Mr. Hayden was a great reader, and upon all the current topics of the times was a very well informed man. In politics he was at first a republican, but became a democrat before the war. He believed the war to be unnecessary and strongly advocated peace. He joined the Mormon church before his marriage.

A murder was committed in Lee county, Iowa, and suspicion rested upon the Hodge brothers, who were members of the Mormon church. Mr. Hayden was earnestly besought to swear that they did not enter the city that night, but, although that was the link of evidence which would release them he would not perjure himself in defense of the criminals or the church. Being convinced of the corruption which prevailed the Mormon church, of which he was a member, he separated himself from it. While in Nauvoo, he married Miss Hulda A. Scott, also a member of the Mormon church, but she left the church with her husband, and has since united with the Christian church. She was born in 1818 in Genesee county, N. Y. When at the age of fourteen she moved to Ohio, thence to Eel River Bottoms, Ind., and from there to Nauvoo, Ill.

Mr. and Mrs. Hayden's marriage was blessed by seven children, viz.—Elijah, Byron, Leonard, Gila (deceased), Adrian K., Japhan and Huldah. Mr. Hayden, after an absence of fifty years from Allegheny county, Pa., returned to visit his old home in 1883 and there died.

A. K. Hayden, the subject of this memoir, is a native of Adams county, Iowa, and was born in 1855. In 1858 he moved to Cass county, and there engaged in farming and teaching. He came to Nebraska in 1883, continuing to teach and farm. Mr. Hayden inherited the inclination to read and inform himself on the topics of the day, and as a result is quite conversant on all subjects of public interest. He was a greenbacker until the dissolution of that party and has since been independent in politics. He was married in 1886, to Miss Mary Broat, a native of New York, who, in 1879, came with her parents to Buffalo county, Nebraska. To them one child has been born—Amelia Mabel. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hayden have been identified with the Christian church for several years.

WILLIAM E. KNOX. If Mr. Knox were stripped of all other virtues, his geniality alone is sufficient to cause him to be esteemed, but with it he can truly be said to be honest, frugal and industrious. He is a son of Ambrose and Mary (Reed) Knox, natives of Kentucky. The former was a generous-hearted man, much esteemed by those who knew him. In politics he was a republican, and for two years he served as assessor. He was married to a Miss Reed, who was a strict

member of the Christian church and she exemplified her profession by a christian life. Their family consisted of six girls and three boys, viz.—Amilda (deceased); Caroline (deceased); John, William E., Elizabeth, Taylor, Mary, Sarah, Georgean (deceased). The father and mother both departed this life in the same year, 1866.

William E. Knox, the subject of this sketch, was born in Bath county, Ky., in 1834. In 1868, he moved to Montgomery county, Ind., there engaging in farming till 1879, when he came to Nebraska and settled on a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in section 12, township 9, range 17. In 1862, Mr. Knox enlisted in the Fourteenth Kentucky cavalry at Mount Sterling. He was twice taken prisoner by Morgan, and once, when attempting to escape, on his road home he passed a church when the congregation was dispersing; two of them were his neighbor's boys, who were in the Confederate service; they at once captured him and he was marched all day in the rain, and was taken with the measles; as a result his eyesight is very much impaired, which fact entitles him to a pension. Mr. Knox married, in 1867, Miss Emily Trimble, a native of Montgomery county, Ky. She is the daughter of D. F. and Narcissus (Fox) Trimble, both natives of Kentucky, and zealous members of the Christian church. Mr. Trimble was one of the home guards and in 1866 was killed by bushwhackers. To Mr. and Mrs. Knox have been born five children, viz.—Frank, Oscar, Homer, May and Georgie. Mr. Knox is a republican, but favors a reduction of the tariff. Mr. and Mrs. Knox are quiet but faithful members of the Christian church.

JOHN B. NEAL, an enterprising farmer of Odessa township, Buffalo county, is the son of Henry and Elizabeth (Jerome) Neal, natives of Ohio, who were married in Richland county, Ohio, in 1830 and remained there till 1843, then moved to Waukegan, Lake county, Ill., and there remained till Mr. Neal's death. Politically, Mr. Neal was a republican. Their union was blessed with twelve children, viz.—Caroline (deceased), Sarah Jane (deceased), Martin, Henry, Sylvester, John B., Charles J., Mary Elizabeth; Susan E., David Leroy, Theodore and Augustus.

John B. Neal, the subject of this notice was born in Richland county, Ohio, in 1841. With his parents he went to Waukegan, Ill., and in 1863 enlisted in Company C, light artillery, Second Illinois regiment, and was in two engagements: Fort Donelson and what was called the Pine Bluff engagement. Mr. Neal, in company with an Irishman, Mr. Bartlet, was once surrounded by a band of sixty guerrillas, and they succeeded in killing eighteen of the latter and making their escape without receiving a wound. He was mustered out of service on the 5th of August, 1865 at Springfield, Ill. He then returned to his home in Waukegan, Ill., and there remained till he came to Nebraska in 1875, settling on section 32, township 9, range 17, Odessa township, Buffalo county. Mr. Neal has been a supporter of the republican platform but is now a strong alliance man. He has been justice of the peace of Odessa. He was married in 1862 to Miss Louise Cloes, a native of Lake Bluff, Ill., Rev. Little, of Waukegan, officiating. To Mr. and Mrs. Neal have been born nine children, viz.—Laura (deceased), Mintie,



Augusta, Benjamin Martin, Clifton Parkes, Henry Wilson, Kittie Elizabeth (deceased), Sadie Lulu, Evan John and Royal Elmer. If Mr. and Mrs. Neal possess one virtue in excess of others, it is hospitality; all, without distinction of persons, receive a cordial welcome. They were connected for some time with the Presbyterian church of Kearney, but for a number of years have been identified with the Seventh Day Adventists and are consistent adherents to that faith.

**JEROME HATTEN.** Men who begin life with no capital but hands and brains, and myriads to compete with in the struggle for a competency, and come out victorious, winning by honesty, frugality and industry, truly deserve to have perpetuated their life's record. Such a man is the subject of this biographical notice, who is the son of Robert and Rachel (Brown) Hatten. The former was a native of Pennsylvania, born in Easton in 1806, and was reared to farming. Politically, he was a democrat. He was an earnest and faithful worker in the Methodist Episcopal church for years, but his influence and work were by no means confined to the church; he was always ready to help the poor or do good in any way when opportunities presented themselves. He was married Miss Rachel Brown, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1808. She, like her husband, was a zealous worker in the Methodist Episcopal church, proving the sincerity of her profession in her daily walk and conversation. Mr. Hatten departed this life in 1873, followed by his wife in 1886. To them were born

seven children, viz.—Theodore, John (deceased), Sarah Jane (deceased), Alfred, Morris, Mary and Jerome.

Jerome, the subject of this sketch, was born in Wilkesbarre, Pa., in 1847. He remained at home till going to the war, enlisting in Company A, Eighty-eighth Pennsylvania volunteers, in 1864. He was in several skirmishes; was in the battle of Five Forks, and followed Lee till the time of his surrender; he then marched to Washington and was in the grand review. He was mustered out the tenth of June, 1865. He then located in Pennsylvania, and there remained till 1878, when he came to Nebraska, settling on section 2, township 9, range 17 west, in Odessa township, Buffalo county. Mr. Hatten first found employment, after coming to the state, with Mr. B. L. Cunningham, for whom he worked by the month for one year; he then took the homestead and timber claim which he now owns, the most of which is under cultivation and well improved. Mr. Hatten is not a man whose energies are slackened by unfavorable conditions of times, but, believing that honest labor judiciously directed will be rewarded, has practiced economy and given close attention to the details of his business, so that each year finds a balance in his favor. He is a republican in politics. Mr. Hatten has been an unpretentious but consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church for years. In 1871, he was married to Miss Mary Ellen Harvey, born in Fairmount township, Luzerne county, Pa. She is the daughter of Lewis and Diana (Boston) Harvey, both natives of Pennsylvania, and the former a supporter of the republican ticket. Lewis Harvey was born July 12, 1816, and

Diana (Boston) Harvey July 8, 1821. They were married August 1, 1840, and had born to them the following children—Almira P., January 28, 1842; Mary E., January 9, 1843; Harriet A., December 18, 1850. Lewis Harvey died September 14, 1881, but Diana Harvey still survives.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey were co-workers in the Methodist Episcopal church, with which church they were identified for years. Mrs. Hatten is also a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. To Mr. and Mrs. Hatten have been born seven children, viz.—Nellie, Maud, Eckford, Ralph, Boyd, Ida and Ora.

**C**ONARD B. BROWN, a highly respected farmer of Odessa township, Buffalo county, Nebr., is a native of Morgan county, Ind., born in 1857. He is the son of Jefferson Ezekiah and Lucy (Wellman) Brown, natives of Kentucky. The former, in early life, settled in Morgan county, Ind., and there followed farming. In 1862 he enlisted in the One Hundred Fifty-first Indiana volunteers, was taken to the hospital at Nashville, Tenn., and there died. Mr. Brown was connected with the Christian church for years and although quiet, he was an earnest christian man. He was married to Miss Lucy Wellman in 1850. She also was a member of the Christian church. To them were born two children, viz.—Conard B., and Ella (Mrs. Greeson) now living in Morgan county, Ind. Conard B. Brown, the subject of this biographical notice, migrated from Indiana in 1883, settling on section 4, township 8, range 17, in

Odessa township, Buffalo county, Nebr., upon which he now resides. Mr. Brown was married to Miss Lurena Bourn, a native of Morgan county, Ind., in 1881, and to this union have been born three children, viz.—Daisy, born August 30, 1883, and died September 10, 1884; Clara May, born July 17, 1885, and Carl E., born May 18, 1887. In politics, Mr. Brown is a republican, and for three successive terms has served as township clerk. Mr. Brown well deserves the reputation which he bears for uprightness and geniality.

**H** I. WINCHESTER. An old and honored citizen of Buffalo county and one of the first settlers of the locality where he lives is H. I. Winchester, of Platte township. Mr. Winchester moved into the county in May, 1879. He took a homestead shortly afterwards on the old Fort Kearney military reservation, which had been thrown open to settlement a short time previously, filing on lots in sections 5 and 32, his claim lying on Clark's island, in the Platte river. There he located and has since resided. He has a small, well-improved farm, desirably located and one that yields well. He has been actively and exclusively engaged in farming since settling in the county. Mr. Winchester had his first experience, however, at farming on his present place. Before moving West, he was for many years a manufacturer of carriages in Coleraine, Mass. Misfortune overtook him, as it has done thousands of others, and he came West to regain what

he could. Measured by his means and opportunities, he has succeeded reasonably well. It is no mean tribute to his pluck and energy that he has done as well as he has. He was considerably past middle life when the business which he had been engaged in for twenty-one years went to pieces. It would unquestionably, under the circumstances, take a strong resolution to make a man pull up, go to a new country and set out afresh in a business concerning which he knew nothing practically. The natural impulse of most men would be to remain among the friends and associates of their earlier years. But Mr. Winchester's pride and sense of duty to those dependent on him forbade him doing this. He came West, where, if he could not materially repair his own fortunes, he might at least put his children in a better way to make theirs than they could hope to do in the East.

Mr. Winchester is a native of Marlboro, Vt., and was born in 1824. He was reared there till he reached maturity and went thence to Massachusetts, where he resided, mainly at Coleraine, till coming to Nebraska. He comes of old New England stock, his father, Martin Winchester, being a native of Marlboro, Vt., and his mother, who bore the maiden name of Clarissa Hillyard, a native of Stonington, Conn. These were reared in their native places, married in the latter state, and settled in Marlboro, where they subsequently lived and died. The father died in 1844, at the age of sixty-one; the mother in 1862, in her sixtieth year. They were plain, well-to-do people, spent their lives on the farm and were characterized for their industry and the economical management of their domestic affairs. They left a family of six

children, only three of whom are now living. The full list is as follows—Betsie, Cyrus, Horace H., Eliza, George and Hiram. The last three sons are the ones now living.

Horace H., the subject of this sketch, and Mary Ann Felker were married in June, 1849, Mrs. Winchester being a native of New Durham, N. H. She is the eldest child of William and Susan (Holmes) Felker, her parents both being natives also of New Hampshire. Her father was born March 18, 1799, and died December 2, 1832. Her mother was born January 19, 1799, and died at the age of forty-two years. Their children were Mary Ann (Mrs. Winchester), who was born October 9, 1827; Hannah Abigail, who was born October 19, 1829; William, who was born January 19, 1832, and who died one day after; Deborah J., who was born December 23, 1832, and died May 17, 1839, making Mrs. Winchester and her sister, Hannah Abigail, the only survivors.

Mr. and Mrs. Winchester are the parents of five children, all of whom are now living. These are—William, John, Clara, Ella and Charles. To these Mr. Winchester has given good educational training and they are all making their own way in the world in a creditable manner. Only two of them now remain at home, these being the two younger.

Coming of New England stock Mr. Winchester retains many of the qualities of his people. His persevering industry, strong self-reliance, as well as his thrifty, economical habits, he owes to this source. Mellowed by age and softened by his experience with the world, his character has lost that metallic nature (if indeed he ever had it), which the New England

character is popularly supposed to have, and he presents the appearance of a man who has lived to a reasonably good age, soothed and sustained by a consciousness of having discharged his whole duty to those dependent on him and to his fellow-men. He has never aspired to any public life, being content to follow the even tenor of his way as an humble citizen. He has not failed, however, to bear his full share of the burden of public and neighborhood duties of that unremunerative kind which fall to the lot of all.

JUDGE JOHN BARND is a native of the town of Finley, Hancock county, Ohio, and is the fifth of a family of eight children born to Adna F. and Delemma (Whitelock) Barnd. On his paternal side, he is of German extraction; on his maternal, English. On both sides he is a descendant of two of the first settled families of Ohio. His father, Dr. Adna F. Barnd, was born in Pennsylvania, reared in Ohio, moved after his marriage to Illinois, and is now a resident of Pike county, that state. He was educated for the medical profession and has long followed the practice of physic, being now well advanced in years. A great lover of books, a close observer of men, and an interested spectator in all public matters, his speculations have taken a wider range and his sphere of activity extended beyond the limits usually allotted to a common medical practitioner. Judge Barnd's mother died when he was young.

The subject of this sketch was born February, 2, 1844, and was reared in McLean county, Ill. April 22, 1861, when he had just turned his seventeenth year, he enlisted in the Union army as a member of Company C, Twentieth Illinois infantry. This regiment enjoys the distinction of having been one of the three hundred fighting regiments of the Union army. It was organized in Lovejoy's old district, and composed of ten companies, one from each county, except Will, which furnished two. It was organized May 14, 1861, at Joliet, and mustered into service June 15. It left camp the following week for Alton, and July 6 it moved to Cape Girardeau, Mo., remaining there seven months, during which time it engaged in minor expeditions, including the battle at Frederickstown, Mo., against Jeff Thompson February 2, 1862; then, in W. H. L. Wallace's brigade, McClermand's division, the regiment started for Fort Donelson. It participated in the battle there, and lost eighteen men killed, one hundred and eight wounded, and six missing. Lieutenant-colonel William Ervin was killed there by a shot in the breast. Every man of the color guard was either killed or wounded. At Shiloh, the regiment's loss was twenty-two killed, one hundred and seven wounded and seven missing. In the Vicksburg campaign the Twentieth served in General Logan's division. At Raymond, it went into battle with two hundred and forty guns. It lost seventeen killed, sixty-eight wounded and one missing. It also engaged in Champion hills, Black river and siege of Vicksburg. It was stationed in the vicinity of Vicksburg from July, 1863, to February, 1864, and during the



JOHN BARND.



month of February, went with General Sherman on the Meridian expedition. After the Meridian expedition they left Sherman and returned to Big Black river, whence, after a furlough, they marched to Huntsville, Ala., and then to the front of Kenesaw mountain, where they again joined Sherman's army. June 8, 1864, it was assigned to duty in Force's brigade, Leggett's division, and took part in the Atlanta campaign; was in the famous March to the Sea, the campaign through the Carolinas and also took part in the grand review at Washington. The history of this regiment, so far as it can be applied to an individual soldier, constitutes the military record of the subject of this sketch. It is certainly an honorable one. A regiment that entered the service with a total enrollment of one thousand and ninety-two men, as did the Twentieth Illinois, and lost in killed and wounded five hundred and three, or nearly half, has given ample proof of the service it saw, and no words of praise could confer on it greater distinction than these cold figures. Judge Barnd bears the marks of his service, having received a wound in the hip at Fort Donelson, and one in the head at Raymond, Miss., where he had four bullet holes through his hat, and the top of his coat sleeve cut off. In the latter of these engagements, his regiment sustained the heaviest loss of the day. In July, 1865, after the close of the war, he returned to Illinois.

Mr. Barnd married, May 5, 1865, Mary C., daughter of William and Susan Stevenson, of Lexington, McLean county, Ill. They have two children living, viz.—Ruth A. and Lizzie. Settling down to the less martial but no less exacting duties which

the return of peace brought, he began to cast about for some calling, which, if it did not bring great honor, would, at least, bring that which was then of much more practical use, bread and butter. He began teaching, and in the meantime took up the study of law. He continued in the school-room and pursued his law studies several years; in fact, until his health became seriously impaired and he decided that a change of occupation and locality was necessary. He was examined before the supreme court at Springfield, and admitted to the bar January 9, 1874. Coming West in the following spring, he located in Kearney and immediately opened a law office, and in connection therewith a collecting and land agency. He followed this business continuously and successfully for fifteen years, relinquishing it only recently. In the meantime, he served his county two terms as county judge, having been elected first in November, 1879, and re-elected in November, 1881. He was nominated for attorney-general of the state by the anti-monopoly party at the convention held at Hastings, and was an opposition candidate to Judge F. G. Hamer, but was defeated by a little over one hundred votes in Buffalo county. Subsequently he was nominated for the same office by the temperance party at Omaha.

April 1, 1888, Judge Barnd, in connection with S. S. St. John and eastern parties, organized the Mutual Loan and Investment Company of Kearney, with an authorized capital of \$250,000, he becoming vice-president and treasurer. August, 1889, he, in connection with Mr. St. John, bought of L. R. Robertson, the Commercial and Savings Bank of Kearney,

a private bank, which they re-organized under the state laws, with an authorized capital of \$100,000, forty per cent. of which is paid up. Judge Barnd became cashier and has since had the general management of the bank's affairs. It is one of the solid institutions of the city of Kearney and of Buffalo county, and is recognized as doing a safe, conservative business. It has interested in it some of the best business men in Kearney; men known for their honesty and discriminating judgment in financial matters. It has good backing, the stockholders owning large amounts of real estate and other securities.

Judge Barnd has had absolute faith in the future of Kearney and Buffalo county from the beginning, and he is one of the few "old timers" who availed themselves of early opportunities. He came to Kearney poor. As he gradually accumulated he invested in acre and city property, and these investments have brought him handsome returns. He has large landed interests, not only in Buffalo county, but in other localities of the state. He is no longer known in the law, his banking and other interests now engrossing all his time and attention. He has been somewhat active in politics and is occasionally heard from in local matters. Formerly he voted and worked with the democrats, but more recently he has affiliated with the prohibitionists. He is, as he says, sometimes known as a "kicker." He does not court popularity and cares but little for majorities. He fights for principles, and when once committed to a measure, believes in fighting it out without compromise, fear or favor. He is clear in judgment, prompt in action and steadfast

in the faith by which he acts. Personally, he is popular and socially stands high. His feelings for the old soldiers are naturally warm and his relations with them intimate. He can not but help feel that every old soldier is, in some sense, his brother, and as such entitled to a consideration at his hands that but few are, outside of the now fast-vanishing brotherhood. It is natural for him to feel so, for with them are associated memories of the most eventful years of his life. None but those who were actors in the scenes of 1861-5 know what these memories are.

**J** W. BLAIR, a prosperous farmer of Platte township, Buffalo county, is a native of New York and a descendant of York State parentage of Irish and English origin. His father, Charles Blair, and his mother, Delilah White, were both born, reared, always lived and died in York State. His mother having died when he was young, but little of her personal and family history has been preserved in his recollection and none in manuscript or other more enduring form. His father lived to a great age, dying January 2, 1870, having passed his ninety-ninth year. He was a man of remarkable vitality and great physical vigor. He led a very orderly, temperate life, and thus in a great measure husbanded his strength. He served in the war of 1812, but never occupied any civil positions of distinction, being a plain, industrious, useful farmer. He was three times married and was the father of twelve children, three by his second marriage and nine by the last. These were (by the second marriage)—Charles,



Mary and Katie; by the last—Julia A., Ann, Mary, Maggie, John Wallace (our subject), Eliza, Elizabeth, William and Melissa. He was of Irish ancestry, his father, whose christian name was also Charles, being a native of Ireland who came to this country when a lad sixteen years of age, as family tradition relates.

John Wallace Blair, the subject of this notice, was born and reared in St. Lawrence county, N. Y., growing up on his father's farm, where he received the rudiments of an elementary education and was trained to the habits of industry and usefulness common to farm life. The first event of importance in his life was his enlistment in the service of his country at the opening of the Civil war. He entered the Union army in December, 1862, going into Company K, Sixtieth New York infantry. His regiment started from Ogdensburg, N. Y., but he joined it at Washington, D. C., where it rendezvoused. It saw its first service at the second Bull Run, and was soon afterwards transferred to the Western department, being part of the detachment that was sent to the relief of Burnside, at Knoxville, Tenn. It then entered the Atlanta campaign, and, beginning with the engagement at Lookout mountain, he was in all the fights down to Atlanta, chief among them being Resaca, Ringgold, Marietta, New Hope church, Peach Tree creek, Kenesaw mountain and the two days' fight at Atlanta. He was then with Sherman in his famous march to the sea, winding up with the campaigns through the Carolinas and surrender of Johnston's army at Goldsboro, N. C., participating in the grand review at Washington and being discharged at Ogdensburg, N. Y., July 31,

1865. He served as a private and had the good fortune never to be captured or wounded. Returning to his native place at the close of the war he settled down to the peaceful pursuits of agriculture, which he followed as assiduously as he had fought to suppress the rebellion, and, measured by his means and strength, with as much success.

He married in 1869, and sometime afterwards moved West and settled in Muscatine county, Iowa, where he resided till coming to Nebraska in July, 1884. On coming to this state he bought a relinquishment on a tract of land in Platte township, Buffalo county, being part of the old Fort Kearney military reservation. On this he filed a soldier's homestead claim, settled, and has since resided there. This tract comprises one hundred and fifty-two acres and a fraction, and lying between the channels of the Platte river, is mostly hay-land. Mr. Blair has added to it by purchase a quarter section adjoining it, making a large tract, which he has well stocked and some of which is well improved. He is a farmer in the strictest sense of the word, and is a successful one. He believes in the diversification of farm interest and carries out in practice what so many teach only in theory. He has a good home and good improvements; every thing on his place gives evidence of the thrift, order and good management that prevail there.

Losing his first wife after moving to Iowa, Mr. Blair married again in August, 1876, the lady whom he married being Miss Nancy E. Hallenbeck, then of Iowa City, Iowa, but a native of Pennsylvania. Seven children have been born to this union—Gertrude A., Isaac Herbern, May

Ursula, William Wallace, George Robert, Maud Delilah and Schuyler Morton. For these, and because he is a public-spirited citizen, Mr. Blair has taken great interest in the educational interests of his township, having been a member of the school board ever since he has resided in it. He has never aspired to public life and has never filled any public position. He votes the straight republican ticket and is a staunch supporter of the principles and practices of his party.

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**H** S. TOWERS is one of the oldest settlers, and one of the best farmers and most intelligent and upright citizens of Platte township, Buffalo county. Mr. Towers is a New Englander by birth and comes of New England ancestry, of Scotch and English origin. His first ancestor in this country on his father's side was Robert Towers, his grandfather, who was born in Scotland, and emigrated to America when a lad, settling in one of the New England states, probably Vermont. The name of his first ancestor on his mother's side, who came to this country, is lost in the mists of the past. His father, Safford Towers, was born and reared in the town of Richmond, Vt., and there met and married Eunice Manwell, daughter of Stephen and Dulcina Manwell, of that place, where she also was born. From that point he set out in 1854 with his little family for the Pacific coast, with the intention of making his future home in California. This was a hope, however, never to be realized, for he died on the passage and his family remained on the coast only six

months, returning thence to Vermont, where the two children—Henry Safford, the subject of this notice, and Frances, now wife of A. W. Edwards—grew up, and where the latter, with her mother, continues to reside.

Henry Safford Towers was born in the town of Milburn, Mass., in 1847, but was reared mainly in Richmond, Chittenden county, Vt. He grew up mostly on the farm and received a good common-school education. The first event of importance in his life, as it was the supreme event in the lives of hundreds of young men who came on the stage of action about the time he did, was his enlistment in the army. He entered the service in December, 1864, enlisting in Company M, First Frontier cavalry, being part of the arm of the Union service that was organized by the States of New York and Vermont to guard the St. Lawrence river. He served till after the surrender, being discharged June 29, 1865, at Burlington, Vt.

On December 2, 1867, Mr. Towers married Miss Marion Rogene Jewell, a daughter of Sawyer and Maria Jewell, she then being a resident of Richmond, Vt., where she was reared, but a native of Schuyler Falls, N. Y., her parents being natives of Vermont, her father still being a resident of the Green Mountain State, her mother dying in 1857. Settling down to the pursuit of agriculture, Mr. and Mrs. Towers resided in Vermont and Massachusetts, mostly in the latter state, till 1878, when they came to Nebraska and settled in January of that year on a claim on the old Fort Kearney military reservation in Buffalo county, which had been thrown open to settlement just previous to that time. There they have since resided.

Mr. Towers has been steadily engaged in farming since settling in the county, his place being one of the oldest, as it is one of the best improved, places in his township. He moved on to it when it was a raw prairie, and what it is he has made it by his own patient industry and thoughtful attention. He assisted in the organization of his township and school district and has held a number of local offices, having been school director, road supervisor and justice of the peace.

Mr. and Mrs. Towers are the parents of five children—Wilbur Henry, Ethel E., Lena M., Albert S. and Anna A. He and his excellent wife are devout adherents of the faith of the Seventh Day Adventists. Their home life is distinguished for its earnest devotion to religious duty, for its simplicity and many acts of christian charity. Mr. and Mrs. Towers are both people of a vast deal more than ordinary intelligence and refinement, and possess a marked appreciation of the social amenities of life. The neatness, quiet and order of their home, their kindness, generosity and hospitality, as well as the purity and uprightness of their lives, are the best commentary that could be made on their religious faith. "By their fruits ye shall know them."

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**A**NDREW J. HERRICK, farmer of Platte township, Buffalo county, is a native of New York, having been born on Grand island in Niagara river in June, 1833. He comes of York State parentage, originally from New England. His father, Joshua Herrick, was born and reared in New York, served in the war of

1812, and died in the town of Alabama in Genesee county, his native state, in 1837. Mr. Herrick's grandfather Herrick was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, being colonel of a Vermont regiment and an associate of Ethan Allen, Seth Warner, and John Stark, of Revolutionary fame. Mr. Herrick's mother bore the maiden name of Margaret Shutter and lived and died in her native state, New York. There were four children born to Joshua and Margaret Herrick—Nathan, who died in the Union army during the late war; Rufus, Abigail, and Andrew J., the subject of this sketch.

Andrew J. Herrick grew up in his native place, and starting west in pursuit of his fortunes, made his first stop in Lawrence county, Illinois. In 1852 he entered the United States army, enlisting in Company G, Fourth regulars, and serving on the frontier. He crossed the plains many times during the term of his service and rendezvoused about old Fort Kearney and Fort Laramie when all the country west of the Missouri was an endless stretch of prairie, covered with Buffalo and infested with Indians. He served till September, 1858, when he was mustered out at Jefferson barracks, St. Louis, Mo. Returning to Illinois he stopped at Springfield, but remained there only a short time, going thence to Michigan, where, in 1861, on the opening of the Civil war he again enlisted in the service of his country, entering as a volunteer in Company G, "Piper's Western sharpshooters." After several months' service in this command he was discharged on account of his defective hearing, but entered the service again in September, 1863, enlisting in Company G, Eleventh Michigan cavalry. He served through

Kentucky, being in the engagements about Lexington, Paris, Mt. Sterling, Cynthiana, and intervening points. He was wounded in the fight at Saltville, October 2, 1864, and taken prisoner, being subsequently exchanged at Richmond, Va. He served till July, 1865, returning then to Calhoun county, Mich., where he settled down. August 7, 1865, he married Miss Caroline E. Bemis of that county, who was born in New York State, moving to Michigan when sixteen years of age with her parents. He resided in Michigan till August, 1881, when he moved to Nebraska, settling on Elm Island in Platte township, Buffalo county, where he took a soldier's homestead and where he has since continued to live. Mr. Herrick is getting well along in years now and has seen a vast amount of hardship, most of it while serving in his country's cause. He comes of the patriotic stock of which the best American soldiers are made, his family having furnished a volunteer soldier to the three great wars through which this country has passed—the Revolutionary war, the war of 1812 and the late Civil war. Mr. Herrick talks interestingly of his war days, and he has many thrilling episodes and experiences, which, if faithfully taken down and properly embellished, would make an interesting and valuable record. He still stands like the rugged oak which has withstood the winds and rains and lightning blasts of many storms, yielding only to the crumbling touch of time, its scarred and weather-beaten form contrasting strangely with the peaceful quiet of its surroundings. Mr. Herrick has but one child, a son now grown, William, around whom cluster the interest, care and solicitude of an affectionate father.

J. K. DAVIDSON is the son of Beverly and Sarah S. Davidson. The former, a native of McLean county, Ill., was born in 1832, and from there he moved to Missouri, thence to Iowa, and then returned to Illinois, where he remained till death, which occurred in 1872. He was a democrat in politics. Mr. Davidson was, for years, a member of the Christian church, and married Miss Sarah Hood, in 1852. She was a native of Illinois, born in 1837, and also was a member of the Christian church, and, although quiet and unassuming, was zealous in advancing the interests of the church. Their family consisted of five boys and two girls, viz.—J. K., our subject; Alvin Wilson, (died 1881); Ida Theodosia (Mrs. McBride, lives in Illinois); Chas. Newton, Cora Francis, Beverly Earl. The father of Mrs. Sarah S. Davidson was W. T. Hood, a native of Virginia. Her mother, Theodosia Hood, was also a native of Virginia. J. K. Davidson, the subject of this memoir, is a native of Iowa, born in 1854. He, with his parents, moved to Woodford county, Ill., thence to Missouri, and there remained about five years and then returned to Illinois. Thence Mr. Davidson came to Nebraska, in 1884, settling in Logan township, Buffalo county, on section 32, township 9, range 19; then on section 20, township 10, range 18 west. Mr. Davidson had launched his bark and began to paddle for himself in 1877. He began with nothing; and now has a quarter section of land, horses, hogs and all necessary farming implements. Politically he is a democrat. In 1877 he was married to Miss M. C. Roby, a native of Columbus, Ohio, born in 1860. She is the daughter of P. and Mary Roby, natives of Ohio;

the former born in 1810 and the latter in 1820, and both members in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal church. To Mr. and Mrs. Davidson have been born four children, viz.—Bessie L., born July 5, 1880, died February 22, 1881; Leslie Honor, born 1882; Cash C., born 1884, and Beverly C., born 1887.

**M**ILTON J. SPRY. This gentleman is one of the earliest settlers of Buffalo county, and although he has not accumulated as much of this world's goods as many others in this vicinity, he has, by his honest, upright christian life, established a reputation among his neighbors and acquaintances which is worth far more as a heritage to his posterity than the riches of this world. He was born July 27, 1841, in Muskingum county, Ohio, and is the son of William M. and Mary (Vernon) Spry, both of whom are natives of Ohio, the former having been born in 1810; the latter in 1812. There were twelve children in the father's family, as follows—Elizabeth J., Lucinda, Emily, Martha A., Milton J., Joseph W., Samuel U., William E., John E., Mary, Chas. W., and Christina. Mr. Spry lived at home in Muskingum county, Ohio, until eleven years of age, when he emigrated with his father to Henry county, Iowa, where he followed farming until the spring of 1873 when, in March, he came to Buffalo county, Nebr., and took up as a homestead one hundred and sixty acres in section 24, township 10, range 16, on which he lived for eleven years. The first four years, up

to 1877, the crops, on account of drought and grasshoppers, were almost a total failure, and Mr. Spry and family had to endure much suffering and privation. In the spring of 1873, there were few settlers in the vicinity of Mr. Spry's claim, and deer and antelope roamed at will. Elk, while not plentiful, were yet to be found, and an occasional buffalo was killed. The Pawnee Indians trapped along the Wood and Loup rivers, and frequently called upon Mr. Spry for something to eat. In 1877, a new era of prosperity dawned upon this section of country, and the drought and grasshoppers, which proved so ruinous to the crops for the three preceding years, were no longer to be contended with. He has had good average crops ever since.

Mr. Spry was a soldier in the war of the Rebellion, and participated in some of the hardest battles that were fought. He enlisted August 22, 1862, in Company B, Twenty-fifth Iowa infantry, and was in what was known as the Western department of the army, under General Grant. He took an active part in the battles of Mission ridge, Lookout mountain, Arkansas Post and Vicksburg. During the charge at Vicksburg, he was wounded in the hand, and lost two fingers in the battle of Mission ridge, for which he receives a pension of eight dollars per month. He was discharged July 17, 1865.

Mr. Spry was married, November 5, 1868, to Charlotte L. Morrison, who was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, December 12, 1849, and is a daughter of John S. and Susana (Steenrod) Morrison, both natives of Ohio; the former was born in 1823; the latter in 1820.

The union of Mr. and Mrs. Spry has been blessed with nine children, as follows—Minna A., born August 5, 1869; Frank N., born June 7, 1872; Louis J., born June 14, 1874; Emma F., born November 14, 1876; William H., born February 20, 1878; Dora M., born December 24, 1879; Leroy E., born August 3, 1883; John E., born October 31, 1885, and Horton H., born September 22, 1887. Mr. and Mrs. Spry are both active members of the Methodist church, and take a great interest in church work. Politically, Mr. Spry is a republican.

**G**EORGE MEISNER. If in this volume of recorded personal achievements space should be apportioned among its several subjects according to the degree of their success, George Meisner, of the town of Shelton, whose part in the settlement and development of his adopted county this article commemorates, would demand an amount of attention at our hands which we fear his usually modest nature would hardly approve of. As Mr. Meisner has reached the position he now occupies by starting, in all his undertakings, at the very beginning of them, and proceeding, step by step, in an even, steady and orderly way, we shall imitate his example, at least to some extent, in the unfolding of his record by beginning with some facts which will be worth the recording concerning his earlier years and come down with the record to the present time.

He was born in the province of Bavaria, Germany, March 19, 1845. When three

years of age, he came with his parents to this country, locating in Troy, N. Y. Here his father went into business and lived till 1853, when, on account of a disastrous fire, he lost all he had. Deciding, then, to come West, he moved to Iowa and settled in Tama county, going onto a farm and beginning life anew. There the earlier years of the subject of this sketch were spent, and it is no disparagement to the management of his father nor any discredit to Mr. Meisner himself to say that those years witnessed a series of long, hard struggles in the Meisner household. Those struggles did not consist alone in the difficult undertaking of making a start in a comparatively new country unsurrounded by the helps and conveniences found in the East; they were struggles, oftentimes, for bread and butter, with nothing with which to keep "the wolf from the door" save the willing hands and stout hearts of father, mother and children. Mr. Meisner told, in an amusing way, to the writer of this sketch, of the time when, as a lad, he was sent on the prairie with the only yoke of cattle to graze, and how, a storm coming up, they got away from him, drifted off and were lost, thus losing to the family the last hoof they had. A dozen yoke might be cut out of the fourteen or fifteen hundred head which he now owns and he would never miss them. Not so then, however. Those cattle were a sore loss. It was during those years that Mr. Meisner learned something of the value of money, and something also of the way to make it. It was then that he formed the habits of industry and economy which have been the chief sources of his success since. There was no idling around the



GEORGE MEISNER.





Meisner homestead. There was no wasting either of energy or material. Everything was turned to account. Everything was made to pay. Such industry and management must of necessity win. The Meisners could not always remain in straightened circumstances. Each year brought an improvement in their worldly affairs, and as the children grew up and added their aid to that of their parents the progress became more rapid. Old neighbors of Mr. Meisner, who lived by him in Tama county, state that the sons were regarded as good farmers when they were boys. Mr. Meisner himself was one of the largest farmers in his county before he was twenty-one years old. An instance showing this is told by the old soldiers who went from Tama county and who are now residents of this, Buffalo county. When the call was made for volunteers Mr. Meisner's father, elder brother and brother-in-law volunteered and were accepted. Mr. Meisner, then just turned into his sixteenth year, offered himself at the first call and at each succeeding call, making five efforts to get into the service; but the committee of ladies to whom was delegated the authority to select those who should go, struck Mr. Meisner's name from the list each time, and gave their reason that he was the best farmer in the county and he could be better spared from the army than he could from home—which opinion was concurred in by all who knew the facts.

Mr. Meisner has made money from the beginning of his career and he was in good circumstances when he came to Nebraska. In fact he owned over four hundred acres of good land in Tama county, Iowa, which he had well im-

proved and well stocked and which was yielding a handsome revenue. But he wished to do better and he believed Nebraska was the place to do it. He decided to try it at any rate. He came to the state first in the fall of 1870 and bought a section of land in Buffalo county about two miles north of the present town of Shelton. He returned to Iowa, sold out, and in company with his father (Casper Meisner), T. J. Taylor, William Wallace and Thomas Carson, moved out in the spring of 1871 and settled. The tract of land which he bought was section 25, township 10, range 13 west. He was entitled to a homestead of 80 acres and he filed on that amount in section 24, where he located and began his career as a Nebraska farmer. His first years here were much like those of the average settler, except that they were marked by greater activity and closer management. He made no very lasting improvements on his homestead. He had no urgent need for any at that time. He was still a single man and he could afford to live in the primitive dug-out. After about six years spent in this way he built a combination barn and granary on a place which he had bought in the meantime, being the one where he now lives, got married and moved in, occupying his granary until he could erect a dwelling. He began his present residence in May, 1878, and soon after moved into it, and here he has continued to live since, excepting about three years of residence in the town of Shelton. Mr. Meisner has been farming and stock-raising since the day he came into the county, and no man has ever been in Buffalo county and discussed the conditions of agriculture there and the chances of success at farm-

ing, who has not heard of George Meisner. He has been a signal success and is universally pointed to as such. The most of his accumulations have been made since settling in this county, although, as already stated, he had a reasonably good start. He now owns between twenty-six and twenty-seven hundred acres of land lying in the famous Wood River valley at its junction with the Platte valley, nearly every foot of which is bringing in a revenue in some shape. This land lies in Buffalo and Hall counties and most of it in the immediate vicinity of the town of Shelton. Mr. Meisner is a large stock dealer, handling from fourteen to fifteen hundred head of cattle all the time. He is constantly buying, feeding and shipping. In the town of Shelton, he owns eight business buildings, these comprising some of the handsomest brick blocks in the place. He built the Opera House and the First National Bank block, both of which are a credit to the town and a monument to his liberality and public spirit. Besides these he owns something like a dozen residences, large and small, in the town. Mr. Meisner began to handle bank stock some years ago, before Shelton was large enough to support a banking institution. He then did his banking at Kearney. Later, however, he decided to establish a bank for himself, and in 1884 he started a private bank at Shelton with a capital of \$35,000. This answered the purpose for which it was organized and ran successfully until June, 1889, when it was re-organized as a national bank, with a paid-up capital of \$50,000, the charter members being George Meisner, J. H. Robbins, II. J. Robbins, M. G. Lee, Henry Fieldgrove

and George Smith. Mr. Meisner was elected president, H. J. Robbins vice-president, and A. H. Sterrett cashier. These constitute the present working force of the bank, with the addition of F. H. More, assistant cashier. The First is the only national bank in Shelton. Although not the largest, it is, nevertheless, one of the most prosperous banks in the county. It owes much of its success to the wise counsel and judicious management of its efficient chief executive, and not a little also to the solidity of his reputation as a financier.

Let us turn again for a moment before closing this sketch to Mr. Meisner's domestic life and record some facts which, if they may not seem of the utmost importance to the general reader, will, nevertheless, be of absorbing interest to the little ones now around him who will in after years read this record.

When Mr. Meisner's father, Casper Meisner, enlisted in the army in the late war, he entered as a member of company C, Tenth Iowa infantry. He was with his regiment through its entire service and took his part in every battle it fought and did a soldier's duty faithfully. When the war was over he returned to his home in Tama county, Iowa, and lived there till he came to Nebraska. He farmed for some years in Buffalo county, and then went into the mercantile business in Shelton, at which he continued successfully till his death, in March, 1879, in the sixty-seventh year of his age. He was a man of indomitable energy, and a hard worker all his life. Having met with some financial reverses he knew the value of a dollar, and thus learned to manage his affairs with care and discre-

tion. He was devotedly attached to his family, and it may be said that the latter part of his life he lived chiefly for them. He gave his children the best of counsel, and he enforced all his teachings with a good personal example in himself.

George Meisner's mother died in 1864, while the family was yet all together in Iowa. She was a good type of her race and sex, being an industrious, frugal housewife, and passionately fond of her children. Mr. Meisner is the youngest of three children, the eldest being a sister, Mary, now wife of Frederick Shaffer, living near Alburn, Iowa, and John, of Toledo, Tama county, Iowa. Both of these are in prosperous circumstances, having splendid homes and plenty around them, and themselves the heads of families.

In his own married life Mr. Meisner has passed through the sunshine and the shadows. He married October 3, 1877, his choice falling on a neighbor girl whom he had known for several years, Miss Rachel Fieldgrove, daughter of Hon. Henry Fieldgrove, an eminent and respectable citizen of Buffalo county. For more than twelve years Mr. Meisner's wife bore him the cherished companionship which every true man seeks in marriage, sharing with him his joys and lightening for him his burdens, not only by the kind and generous offices which every true wife is supposed to perform, but by extending her help and sympathies beyond a wife's usual sphere, entering actively into all his business matters and rendering him most practical and efficient aid. After a lingering illness of some weeks, during which her condition brought alternate hopes and fears, the shadow of the grim spectre finally crossed the threshold

and her spirit passed away, her eyes closing for the last time upon the light of this world November 9, 1889. Besides her husband, four little girls survive her—Dora, Nora, Cora and Lulie. Around these now cluster the chief interest of Mr. Meisner's life. For these only does he live.

**J**ASPER FISH. This much honored and esteemed gentleman is one of the early settlers of Buffalo county, having settled in the Wood River valley in the spring of 1872. He was born at Woodstock, Vt., March 23, 1826, and is the son of Nathan and Betsey (Hale) Fish. The former, a farmer by occupation, was a native of Vermont, born February 28, 1786; the latter, a native of New Hampshire, was born March 30, 1786. There were seven children in Nathan's family, two boys and five girls, as follows—Marcia, Lucia, Harriet, Linus (died 1877), Laura, Jasper and Isabel. The father died in 1843, aged fifty-seven years; the mother in 1868, aged eighty-two years.

The paternal grandparent, Nathan Fish, was a native of Massachusetts, born in the year 1758, and was a farmer by occupation, and a soldier in the Revolutionary war. The paternal grandmother, Abigail (Pierce) Fish, also a native of Massachusetts, was born in 1757. The maternal grandparents were John and Mary (Whitcomb) Hale, both natives of Massachusetts, and born respectively in 1754 and 1753.

Jasper Fish, the subject of this biographical memoir, resided at home on his

father's farm in Vermont, until nineteen years of age, during which time he attended school in the winter and helped his father on the farm in summer. In the spring of 1845 he went to Lowell, Mass., and after working there one year, entered Newburg seminary, Vt. He continued his studies there, and at Springfield, in his native state, working and teaching to pay his expenses, until the spring of 1851, when he entered the sophomore class in Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn. He graduated with honors in the classical course, in 1853, receiving the degree of A. B. After leaving the university he taught in Virginia and in Massachusetts, and in 1856 came West and taught in Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin.

May 16, 1864, he responded to his country's call for more troops and enlisted in Company C, Forty-fourth Iowa volunteer infantry. He served on picket and guard duty in Tennessee under General C. C. Washburn and was mustered out September 15, 1864. He went East in 1865 and continued teaching until the spring of 1868, when he located at Syracuse, N. Y., residing there until 1872, during which time he worked on directories and gazetteers.

He came to Buffalo county, March 21, 1872, and entered a homestead, a quarter-section in the Wood River valley, four miles north of Kearney, and built an eight by twelve board shanty on his claim, in which he kept bachelor's hall. This was the third house built in the township, and the first one north of the Wood river. The Pawnee Indians were quite numerous in those days, and were engaged in trapping and hunting on the Wood river. They paid his cabin an occasional visit, for

the purpose of begging flour and meal, but other than this they never molested him. Deer and antelope were plentiful, and elk were to be seen occasionally.

Mr. Fish boarded with a family, for a time, on the opposite bank of the river, and relates a rather humorous experience which occurred during a spring freshet. He arose one morning, and, proceeding in the direction of his boarding house, found the river had risen during the night beyond the capacity of its banks, and the bridge gone. He was in a sad plight, as there was no bridge for miles on which he could cross. His landlord contrived a plan for relief by tying a cord to each handle of a dish-pan and throwing one end across the stream. In this manner he received his breakfast; milked the cow, which was on his side of the river, retained enough for his dinner, then started the remainder on the return voyage, in the dish-pan. But, alas! in midstream the vessel swamped, and the milk mingled with the turbid waters. After this, the liquid refreshments were transported in a jug, tightly corked, while chunks of bread and meat were thrown to him by his landlord, with all the accuracy of a professional base-ball player. In this manner Mr. Fish received his meals for three days.

During the winter of 1873, Mr. Fish built himself a sixteen by twenty story-and-a-half frame house. He raised fair crops for the first two years, but in 1874 the grasshoppers destroyed everything, with the exception of a few bushels of wheat. The crops of 1875 were fair, and 1876 were a repetition of 1874, and Mr. Fish states that if he had sold his seed and turned his team to pasture, he would have had more money in the fall. By

selling butter and eggs, eating wild game and practicing the most rigid economy, he was able to keep soul and body together.

In 1882 he sold his quarter-section for \$2,500, and bought for \$1,000 the quarter just east of it, where he now resides. One thing can be said of Mr. Fish which can be said of few Western farmers, that he has never mortgaged a single dollar's worth of real or personal property, and has never paid a dollar of interest on money at a higher rate than ten per cent.

He is a member of the Methodist church; was one of the first trustees of the church in Kearney, and in the early days he was prominent in the organization of a Sunday-school in his district school house. Mr. Fish has never been married. His sister, Lucia Fish, has been his house-keeper since 1873. She is a native of Vermont, born at Woodstock, May 12, 1817. A consistent member of the Methodist church, with her brother she helped to organize and conduct the first Sunday-school in their vicinity.

Mr. Fish is a firm believer in the principles of the republicans, having voted that ticket ever since the organization of the party.

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**R**OBERT G. PARKER, a frugal, industrious farmer of Riverdale township, Buffalo county, is the son of Henry and Henrietta (Gayetty) Parker, the former of whom was a native of London, England, and came to America in 1844, locating in Pittsburg, Pa., thence moving to Illinois. He was a cabinet-maker by trade and was considered a very skilled workman. Turning to farming he

purchased his brother's farm in Carroll county, Ill., and resided there till death, which occurred in 1871, at the age of seventy-seven. He was united in marriage with Henrietta Gayetty, a native of Pennsylvania, in 1853, at Galena, Ill., by the mayor of that city. To Mr. and Mrs. Parker were born three children—Robert G., George (now living in Dakota and by occupation a farmer), and Elizabeth (Mrs. Reed), who lives in Brown county, Nebr.

Robert G., the subject of this biography, was born in Carroll county, Ills., in 1856. Being of an adventurous and independent turn of mind, he determined to seek a home for himself in the then "wild West," and first settled in Riverdale township, Nebr., in the spring of 1873. The first year his entire crops were destroyed by the grasshoppers and he was obliged to go to Adams county for necessary provisions. His perseverance and courage not being daunted by these calamities, he still evinced that characteristic peculiar to him, pertinacity of purpose. Being without money, his only resource was an enviable reputation for honorableness, and Mr. Green, knowing this, supplied him with the necessary seed grain, to be paid for after harvest. From this seed, when sown, eleven hundred bushels were harvested, which sold at 90 cents per bushel.

In 1881 he went to Colorado and there prospected for silver for some time, and from there went to New Mexico, and put in one year on a sheep ranch. He then returned to Riverdale township, Nebr., in 1885, and engaged in farming, giving especial attention to raising recorded Chester white hogs. Mr. Parker, at present owns two hundred and forty acres of land

beautifully located and well improved. His success is largely due to economy and hard work.

Politically, Mr. Parker is independent, but is friendly to tariff reform.

Mr. Parker was married June, 1886, to Miss Angeline Grammer, daughter of Charles M. and Martha Grammer, of Adams county Ill.

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**W**ILLIAM C. HUGGINS is a frugal, thrifty and enterprising farmer of Riverdale township, Buffalo county, and is the son of Edward and Elizabeth Wright Huggins. The former was a native of Kentucky, and from there moved to Indianapolis, Indiana, and thence to Iowa, and there died in 1871. Mr. Huggins was a quiet prosperous farmer and politically was a democrat, and was noted for kindheartedness and generosity to persons in need. Mrs. Huggins, the subject's mother, was a native of Indiana. She was identified for years with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and distinguished herself as a kind, devoted christian woman. Mr. and Mrs. Huggins were blessed with nine children, viz.—Martha Ann (deceased), Ellen Ora (deceased), Nancy (Mrs. Wynn), Maria (deceased), William C., Kate (Mrs. Sawyers), Susan (Mrs. Blankenship), Thomas and John.

William C. Huggins, the subject of this memoir, was born in Davis county, Iowa, in 1854, and there remained till 1875; he then came to Nebraska and bought one quarter of section 8, township 9, range 16

west. He returned the following year to Iowa and remained there till 1884, then came to Nebraska, settling on the farm which he had bought and which is now well improved and beautifully located. Mr. Huggins is in good financial condition, and possesses that which is more to be desired than wealth—a good name. Mr. Huggins was united in marriage to Miss L. Q. Ewing in 1876. She was born in Davis county, Iowa, in 1860, and has for some time been identified with the Presbyterian church. Their home has been blessed with three children, the eldest of which died in infancy; the living two are—Zana Beryl, born October 3, 1880, and Edna Pearl, born May 13, 1886. Mr. Huggins is a supporter of the democratic platform.

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**I**SAAC K. WRIGHT is one of the first settlers in the South Loup valley. He was born in Bourbon county, Ky., July 4, 1821, and remained at home, working on the farm, until about twenty-two years old, and then went to Shelby county, Ky., where he remained one year. He then came West and traveled over a portion of Missouri in search of a suitable tract of land, and finally purchased six hundred and forty acres in Andrews county, near St. Joe. He remained there three years, and in 1846 went to the Mexican war; in 1848 he started across the plains for California, as assistant wagon-master in a train of provisions, and remained in California twenty years. He began mining for gold, but, having no

success, soon gave it up. He then opened a hay market in Sacramento, which he continued for one year, with considerable success. He next engaged in faro and monte, and made \$150,000, after which he engaged in buying and selling cattle, which business he continued until 1868, when he returned to Kentucky, having made in all since he left, \$100,000. He remained in Kentucky but a short time, and then went to Missouri and engaged in the cattle business. In 1873 he sold out his cattle interests in Missouri and came to Buffalo county, Nebr., purchasing 320 acres on the South Loup river, and went into the ranch business. In those days, deer, elk, antelope, beaver and otter were plentiful; also a great many Indians. Mr. Wright was very friendly with the Indians and could speak their language perfectly. The Indians made his place a kind of rendezvous and he used to frequently kill a heifer and treat them to a feast. In this manner he made them his friends, and while others in that region were continually having cattle stolen, he was never molested in any way. He trapped along the Loup river with the Indians and never even had a trap stolen by them.

In the early days Mr. Wright was well acquainted with Kit Carson, Pegleg Smith and Stephen Greenwood, old mountaineers.

Mr. Wright was never married and has kept bachelor's hall the greater part of his time. Politically he is a democrat and is now serving in the capacity of constable, being one of only three democrats who have ever been elected in his township, and having received sixty votes out of a total of seventy-nine.

**J**AMES H. MILLS was born in New York State August 13, 1843, and is a son of Nahum and Lucy (Wisewell) Mills, the former a native of Massachusetts and the latter of Vermont. The senior Mills was reared to manhood in the Green Mountain State, and the couple were married there. Subsequently they located in York State, but Mrs. Mills died in 1872, in Nebraska. Mr. Mills was a blacksmith in the early part of his life, but followed farming in the latter part. He died in 1890. Both were devoted Baptists and honored and respected by everyone.

James H. Mills, the subject of this biographical notice, is the youngest of a family of seven children, only two of whom are now living. He had no special school advantages in his early days, but notwithstanding this fact he has been a close observer and has kept himself posted on almost all the leading questions of the day. Mr. Mills was an active participant in the late war and his record is one that no man need be ashamed of. He enlisted August 11, 1862, in the One Hundred and Twenty-second New York regiment, and participated in the battles of Antietam, South Mountain, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. He was wounded on the third day of July on the famous field of Gettysburg, from the effects of which he suffers to this day. He was struck by a bullet in the right shoulder, shattering it all to pieces. He was in the act of aiming his gun and getting ready to pull the trigger when he was shot. The ball entered his shoulder from the top, and the physicians who dressed the wound, were considerably puzzled to know how he could have been wounded in such a

manner unless he was lying down, but he insists that he was on his feet and in the act of shooting. It was afterwards learned that the lieutenant of his company accidentally discovered a "Johnny" cleverly seated in the bow of a tree shooting Union men as fast as he could load his gun. He had already shot six of Mr. Mills' comrades in the head, and it was then that the mystery was explained as to how he came to be shot in the top of the shoulder. The lieutenant who discovered the ingenious rebel in the tree pointed him out to the boys in blue and a volley from a score of muskets brought him to terra firma. Mr. Mills was confined to a hospital for two years, and to-day has but partial use of his right arm. He was mustered out of the service in May, 1865.

Mr. Mills came to Buffalo county, Nebr., in the fall of 1871 and took a homestead in Sharon township, taking the southwest quarter of section 30. He built a sod house and prepared to receive his family, who came out the following spring. The country was wild and presented a barren and forlorn appearance, but he had faith in its ultimate development and believed it was only a question of time when it would become a great country. He stood by and looked on three years in succession while the grasshoppers harvested his corn crop. The grasshoppers in those days were almost as thick as snow flakes in a blizzard, and were without doubt the most destructive army that ever invaded any country.

On April 24, 1866, Mr. Mills was married to Miss Susan Baker, a native of Vermont. This union has resulted in the birth of nine children, namely—Clayton, born March 17, 1867; Frank, born Sep-

tember 15, 1869; Lucy, born July 13, 1873; Lua T., born April 18, 1876 (deceased); Effie, born August 27, 1878; Ivie, born October 27, 1880 (deceased); Elvie and Elsie (twins), born October 29, 1884, and Susie, born February 3, 1888.

Mr. Mills is an honored member of the G. A. R., A. O. U. W. and Alliance organizations, and his political views have always been in accord with the principles of the republican party. He and his estimable wife are zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal church and both enjoy the confidence and esteem of the community in which they live.

**G**EORGE E. NORRIS, one of the most prosperous and highly respected farmers of Buffalo county, traces his ancestry to Thomas and Jane (Bowers) Norris, early settlers of middle Tennessee and prominent slaveholders when slavery was the great institution of the South. Being people, however, of a strong sense of personal liberty, and possessing an inherent dislike for slavery, they gave up all rights they were entitled to under the institution, selling and freeing their slaves. They were the parents of several children, one of whom was John, the subject's father, who was born in North Carolina in 1774, and when three years of age was taken to Tennessee by his parents, who settled in Davidson county, near Nashville. He was dependent upon himself from the age of sixteen, at that age learning the blacksmith's trade and continuing at the same till he reached his thirty-second year. He then enlisted





GEORGE E. NORRIS.



in the war of 1812, entering as a private and being promoted for his distinguished services in the field to the position of captain. He was in the battle of Tippecanoe and several smaller engagements. In September, 1812, a frontier post known as Pigeon Roost, Ind., was attacked by a band of hostile Indians, the only occupants of the post being William Collins and family and Captain Norris. These successfully defended the post until the flints in their guns gave out. They then stole away, bearing the small children in their arms, and made their way to the house of Zebulon Collins, a kinsman of William Collins, ten miles distant from the post. Captain Norris died in 1855. He was a devoted member of the Christian church, always zealous in advancing its interests, and was largely instrumental in establishing Bethany church in Clark county, Ind. In politics he was an uncompromising democrat. He was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Epler in 1819, his wife being a native of Lancaster county, Pa., and born in 1777. She was an active member of the Christian church, and lived a life consistent with her profession, dying in 1881. Their union was blessed with ten children—Nancy and Thomas (twins), Eliza Jane, Delilah, Catherine, Zerelda (who was killed by accident at the age of sixteen), Sarah Maria, John M. (deceased), Isaac E. and George E.

George E., the subject of this sketch, was born in Clark county, Ind., in 1831. Being thrown upon his own resources he migrated to Illinois in 1857, and was there employed on a farm at \$13 per month, attending school apart of the winter of that and the succeeding year. In 1852 he moved to Indiana, and after a residence

there of only one year he returned to Morgan county, Ill., and there remained till 1854. That same year he took the steamer, "George Law," for California, by way of the Isthmus of Panama, and after a voyage of thirty-five days passed through the "Golden Gates," landing on the western shores of this continent, where he remained six years. The first two years he was engaged in mining, and the remaining four years in stock-raising. He then went to Chariton, Iowa, and engaged in farming and stock-raising. While there he was married, in 1866, to Anna L. Jay, a native of Trenton, Iowa. After a residence at Chariton, Iowa, of three years, they moved to Red Oak, Iowa, and from there came to their present home in Kearney, Nebr., in 1871, settling on section 4, township 8, and range 16 west. At that time there was no town on the present site of Kearney, and Mr. Norris was obliged to haul lumber from Gibbon, fifteen miles distant, with which to build his house. He engaged in the dairy business in Kearney in 1872, and continued at this twelve years. Mr. Norris came here under the burden of debt, was legally released from payment, but being true to the principles that are characteristic of him, by hard work and economy he liquidated his indebtedness, and in addition has amassed a good-sized fortune, which was partly due to his locating so near Kearney, that prodigy in enterprise, thrift and growth, but more especially due to his foresight and superior judgment in business transactions. This he exemplified by selling a part of his homestead at \$500 per acre, and the balance, excepting four and a half acres, at \$100 per acre, to the West Kearney Im-

provement Company. He owns, within a few miles of Kearney, nine hundred and forty-five acres of land, five hundred and forty of which are under cultivation. This, however, is but a part of his possessions. Mr. Norris is well and favorably known throughout the county. He has taken two degrees in the Masonic order in Iowa. Politically, he is a republican, and is now serving his second year as supervisor of his township.

Mrs. Norris is a kind and gracious woman, admired most by those who know her best. She has taught school for several years and was for some time teacher in the Chariton schools, of Chariton, Lucas county, Iowa.

To Mr. and Mrs. Norris five children have been born—George Milton and Anna L. (twins), born 1868 (the latter dying at her birth, the former two years later); Maggie Blanche, born 1873; Charles Edward, born 1874; Minnie Kate, born in 1876.

Evan Jay, the father of Mrs. George E. Norris, was a native of Indiana. He was a man not to be thwarted in his purposes by unfavorable circumstances, possessed an indomitable will, and was able to bend circumstances to it. He was looked upon as a leader in matters of public interest wherever he lived. He always endorsed anything tending to educational advancement, being himself denied the privilege of school training. He was at different times engaged in farming and mercantile business, and between the years 1840-50 he was three times representative and once senator in the Iowa legislature. In politics he was a whig, and his last vote was cast for Abraham Lincoln.

In 1827 he was married to Miss Hannah

Way, a native of North Carolina, who is still living, and is eighty-two years old. She adheres strictly to the Quaker faith. Mr. Jay died in 1861.

To Mr. and Mrs. Jay were born nine children—Lydia, died at the age of two years, in 1830; Nathan (at the age of fifteen), died in 1845; Rebecca (twenty-one), died in 1853; Henry W. (thirty-four), died in 1868; Joseph R. (twenty-nine), died in 1866 (Henry and Joseph were both surgeons in the army); Mary Jane (three years), died in 1842. Anna L. and Evan T., a lawyer and extensive stock-raiser in Frontier county, Nebr., are the only surviving children of the family.

**K**ARL B. SCHIECK was born at Werbustedt, Germany, November 20, 1851. His father, John G. Schieck, was born near Berlin, June 19, 1815, and was a clockmaker by trade. He served in the Revolutionary war of 1848, afterwards followed farming and for one year was postmaster of the burg in which he lived. He came to America in the fall of 1860 and made his home in Canada, where he was engaged as a lumberman and farmer until 1874. He then moved to Hall county, Nebr., but he disliked the location and started with a colony of Germans for Schneider township, Buffalo county, and there took up a land claim, which he still holds. He married Martha Fisher while still a resident of Germany. Karl B. Schieck received four years of schooling in the old country and came to America with his parents, settling with them in Canada, where he was

reared a farmer, and then coming to Nebraska with his father. At the age of twenty-two he married Carolina Straw, and to this union have been born four children, viz.—William, Emma, Henry and Royal. Mr. Schieck is Lutheran in religion, and in politics is a republican.

**I**SAAC WILLARD, one of the representative farmers of Buffalo county, is a native of Indiana, and was born in Johnson county, that state, March 8, 1829. He is the youngest son of John Willard, a Tennessean by birth, who was one of the first settlers in Johnson county and cleared his way through the forests of that state in 1829. He died in 1836. He was by occupation a farmer, and was also a zealous member of the Baptist church. The mother of Isaac Willard bore the maiden name of Elsie Wright. She was a native of Tennessee and died in 1833. The Willard family are of English with slight mixture of German extraction and are noted for their longevity. John Willard was the only son of a large family to die under the age of eighty years. The forefathers were soldiers in the Revolutionary war, and all lived to a good, round old age. Isaac Willard, our subject, went to live with an uncle in 1836, in Pratt county, Illinois, when he was seven years old. The territory now composing that prosperous county was then a vast wilderness, inhabited by only five families. Mr. Willard well remembers when the county seat was laid out on the Fourth of July, a few years after he went to reside with his uncle. The first appro-

priation made by the county board amounted to exactly thirty-seven cents. Young Willard grew to manhood in Pratt county and resided there for twenty-seven years. When he was twenty-five he began learning the carpenter trade, which he has followed more or less of the time since.

When the war broke out, Isaac Willard was among the first to respond to the call for volunteers, enlisting on the first of December, 1861, in the Sixty-third Illinois regiment. He participated in the terrible siege of Vicksburg, but only happened to be in two severe engagements after that, during his two years' service. He was discharged on December 11, 1863, on account of physical disability.

He located in Macon City, Mo., in 1864, where he did an extensive business as a contractor and builder for about nine years. In 1873, Mr. Willard came to Kearney, Nebr., where he landed on Christmas eve. He immediately investigated the new country and at once saw its great future possibilities. He worked at his trade in Kearney for the first two years and in the meantime located a homestead in Sharon township. He located his family on this homestead, December 3, 1875, where he has since resided. He was grass-hoppered two years in succession, but he never became discouraged or lost faith in the future of the country.

Mr. Willard was married March 4, 1864, to Virginia C., daughter of William Newler. The Newlers belonged to the F. F. V.'s, and, like the Willard family, are noted for their longevity. Mr. and Mrs. Willard have had three children, namely—Louie M., born in Missouri, November 25, 1872, now the wife of D. W. Scott, of

Haxtun, Colo.; Charlie F., born August 9, 1874, and H. J. Ray, born October 27, 1878.

Mr. Willard was originally a member of the whig party, but has always been a republican since the organization of that party. While he has never been an aspirant for political honors, he has filled very acceptably some important positions of public trust. He has always, however, taken a prominent part in the management of the political affairs in his county and state, and is recognized as one of the leaders of his party in the county. He has also been identified, for several years, with the agricultural society of Buffalo county, and is at this time a member of the board of management of that organization. He takes considerable pride in raising fine horses and cattle, and is considered one of the most successful fruit growers in Buffalo county. He has one hundred and twenty acres of splendid land, equipped with nearly all the modern conveniences.

**H**K. SMITH. Of the many young men who came to Buffalo county, Nebr., early in the seventies, few, if any, have been more successful than the subject of this brief biographical notice. Every dollar Mr. Smith possesses has been earned by hard work. Whatever he undertakes to do he does, and does it right, too. He is intelligent as well as energetic and is noted for his ability as an excellent manager. He was born in Lawrence, county, Pa., October, 11, 1856, and is a son of J. P. and Sarah (Fox) Smith, both of

whom are natives of the Keystone State and of German descent. His father is one of the honored pioneers of Buffalo county, having immigrated from Pennsylvania in the spring of 1871, and was the first actual settler to build a frame house north of the Wood river in Sharon township. Wild game and Indians, too, were plenty. The settler had to watch the game to kill it, and had to watch the Indian to keep from getting killed. The senior Smith came near being a victim of the terrible blizzard in April in 1873. He was some distance from home when the great storm began, and it was with much difficulty that he succeeded in reaching it safely, so blinding was the storm. It was only by the most heroic exertions that the cattle belonging to Mr. Smith were prevented from perishing during that awful storm, which lasted three days and nights. Mr. Smith shared the usual fate during the grasshopper raid, but soon recovered from its effects, and since that famous raid he has not suffered from an entire failure of crop.

When Mr. H. K. Smith was twenty-five years of age he purchased a quarter section of the best land in Sharon township. Since that he has purchased more, until he has now three hundred and sixty acres of fine land. In 1886 he began contracting with the great seed house of D. M. Ferry, of Detroit, to furnish vegetable seeds. He has been engaged in this enterprise since and is making a complete success of it. In 1890 he raised twenty-five acres of cucumbers, seven acres of tomatoes, fifteen acres of squashes, and thirty acres of sweet corn.

Mr. Smith was married August, 1884, the lady of his choice being Miss Fannie

M., daughter of Jacob and Eliza (Trip) Herr. She was born in Illinois, August 14, 1868. This union has been blessed by the birth of three bright children, namely—Earl, born July 4, 1886; Lavena May, born January 12, 1888, and Elsie Grace, born September, 1889. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and enjoy the confidence and esteem of all who know them.

**L**ORENZO PLUMB. Among the young men who accepted the advice of the former journalist and came West to grow up with the country, none have shown more pluck and energy than Lorenzo Plumb. He had faith in the marvelous development of the West, and early in life determined to come hither and seek a fortune. In the fall of 1871, the subject of this sketch, then about twenty-four years of age, might have been seen wandering about the boundless prairie in the eastern portion of Buffalo county in search of a suitable quarter section of land to take as a homestead. He finally made a selection of the twentieth section of what is now Sharon township, on which he immediately proceeded to erect a small frame house. No one had yet dared to settle in that immediate locality, and one could look a long way without seeing a house or even a sign of one. He was accompanied by two companions, and the trio kept "bachelors' hall," and no doubt spent the long winter evenings of 1871-2 in discussing the future possibilities of the new country. Early in the spring of

1872, Mr. Plumb purchased a span of horses and began "breaking" preparatory to planting a crop. His idea was to break and plant all he could tend with one team, and he never stopped until he had turned eighty acres of sod upside down. In 1873, the crop was rather light, but he obtained seventy-five cents a bushel for his corn, and realized handsomely, after all. His first wheat crop yielded five hundred and fifty bushels, for which he obtained a dollar per bushel. In 1874, the grasshoppers harvested his crop on shares, but the portion left him afforded a small remuneration for the trouble and expense in planting it. The festive hoppers visited the Plumb ranch three years in succession, and seemed to grow more numerous each year. This was enough to discourage even a young bachelor, and made him even wonder what the world was coming to anyhow. But the grasshopper ceased to make his annual tour, and a succession of good crops followed, and Mr. Plumb took courage and prospered.

Our subject was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, June 26, 1847, and is the son of Gerard and Emeline (Hawkins) Plumb, both of whom were natives of New York State. They immigrated to Ohio in 1835, and were among the early settlers in that region known as the Western Reserve. The senior Plumb died in 1863. He followed the quiet and peaceful vocation of a farmer, and held the office of justice of the peace for many years. The mother now resides in Ohio at the advanced age of eighty-two. They were parents of eight children—four boys and four girls, four of whom are now living. Mr. Plumb was married

April 30, 1890, the lady whom he chose as a companion to share his fortunes being Miss Mary E. Golf, a native of Ohio, and born in 1859. He has represented Sharon township on the county board of supervisors, but has never aspired to public offices of a political nature. He now owns three hundred and twenty acres of choice land, which is already in an advanced state of cultivation. Mr. Plumb purchased most of this land from the U. P. R. R. Company for \$3.00 per acre.

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**W**ALTER J. STEVEN. The subject of this sketch bears the distinction of being not only one of the first settlers of the locality where he lives, but also one of the most successful and influential citizens of his community. He has been a resident of Buffalo county since 1871, coming to the county when a comparatively young man and casting his fortunes with those of his adopted county at that date and remaining steadfastly by his choice since, passing through the grasshopper scourges, the dry years and all the hard times incident thereto. He has seen the country at its best and its worst, and probably knows as much about the ways and means of getting on amid the privations and hardships of frontier life as any man of his years and opportunities for observation and experience. Mr. Steven comes of the stock of which pioneers are made, being a Canadian by birth and of Scotch ancestry. He retains in his general make-up many of the most signal qualities of his people. That

thrift, industry, strong personal energy, tenacity of purpose and marked endurance, all of which have been compressed into the phrase, "as sturdy as a Scot," he possesses, and to these he is indebted for the success he has attained. Mr. Steven is a brother of James Steven, of Shelton, a sketch of whom appears in this work, and in which will be found the facts concerning their ancestral history. He is the third of a family of eight children, was born near Ottawa, Canada, April 1, 1848, and reared in his native place, receiving a good common-school education and being trained to the habits of industry and usefulness common to farm life. He resided at his birthplace near Ottawa till 1869, when, filled with a desire to see the world and to select a place where he might locate and grow up with his surroundings, he came to the United States, and, traveling for some months in the west and northwest, finally settled on Nebraska as his permanent home and located, in 1871, in Buffalo county, buying one hundred and sixty acres of land in Sharon township, four and a half miles northwest of the town of Shelton, where he settled, and, being then unmarried, began the bachelor life of the West. His experience during the first few years of his residence was such as fell to the lot of all the old settlers. Hard work, great privations and many discouraging adversities made up the daily, monthly and yearly course of life. He pulled patiently and courageously through all those trying times, improving his place and adding by purchase from time to time to his original holdings, until he now owns eight hundred and eighty acres of good land, a large part of which he has in cultivation. He continues to reside on his old



homestead where he first settled, having transformed it from a claim on the open prairie into a pleasant, prosperous home. To the casual observer, this transformation seems simple and natural enough, but it represents a world of experience which the casual observer knows not of. Such a place serves as a milestone on the highway to mark the progress of the country in its advance from savagery to civilization; it serves to show the capabilities of the race; it serves as an everlasting memorial of the achievements of the sturdy pioneers who opened this country to settlement; and more than all does it show the pluck, energy and endurance of the man who, moving onto it while its virgin soil was yet marked only by the track of the buffalo, reclaimed it from nature, and after numerous disastrous experiments and unrecorded failures, has finally made of it a peaceful, happy home.

In addition to being identified with the best interests of his locality as a farmer, Mr. Steven has filled the usual number of local offices, having been active in promoting the school interests of his district and serving his township as supervisor. In 1874 he married, selecting as a life companion Miss Annie M. Henninger, a daughter of one of Buffalo county's best and most popular citizens, Solomon F. Henninger, a sketch of whom appears in this work. Mrs. Steven was born in Warren county, Ohio, and was mainly reared there, coming to Nebraska with her parents in 1872. She is a lady eminently qualified to bear her husband the companionship which he sought with her hand, possessing the strong sense and many domestic virtues for which her race and sex are distinguished. Mr. and Mrs. Steven are the

parents of two children—LeAnna and Edna. They have a pleasant home, and within its walls friend and stranger alike are welcome, for they both possess, in addition to their many other good qualities of head and heart, that greatest of all domestic virtues—genuine, unstinted hospitality.

**A**UGUSTUS HAAG, a prominent and successful farmer of Sharon township, Buffalo county, is a native of Germany, having been born in the kingdom of Wurtemberg, August 15, 1837. His father, Frederick Haag, and his mother, Eva B. Hagelstein, were both natives also of Wurtemberg, the father having been born in 1800 and dying there in 1850; the mother was born in 1801, and died in 1857. They were plain, substantial people, the father following the trade of a tanner and vine grower, at which he was fairly successful. These were the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this notice is next to the youngest, the others being George (now deceased), Christian H., John G. and Earnest.

Our subject grew up in his native place to the age of fifteen, and then, with an ambition and an amount of self-reliance not often met with in one of his years, he decided to come to America to try his fortunes. He made his first permanent stop in Indiana, and was variously engaged there till the opening of the Civil war. When the call was made for volunteers, he entered the Union army, enlisting in the fall of 1861, in Company

E, Fifty-first Indiana infantry, and served one year, when he was discharged on account of physical disabilities contracted in the service. Returning to Indiana, he remained there only a short time and then went to New York City, but leaving there shortly afterwards he went to Newark, N. J. At that place he entered the grocery business, and was the proprietor of a grocery store for three years, and subsequently entered business as an insurance broker, which he followed up to 1877. Having married in the meantime and knowing the limited opportunities for getting on in the world, for one with a growing family, Mr. Haag made up his mind to come West in 1877, and that year he moved to Nebraska and settled in Buffalo county, taking a claim in Sharon township, where he located and has since lived, having a most pleasant home. He has become one of the most enterprising and successful farmers of his community, having thoroughly identified himself with the farming interests of his locality. He has filled the usual number of local offices, having been a member of the school board of his district and justice of the peace, and holds the position of director in the Farmer's Union Insurance Company, of the State of Nebraska. He married in June, 1873—the lady whom he selected for a companion being Miss Elizabeth K. Storr, daughter of Rev. Isaac and Mary S. (Ancelien) Storr, then of Newark, N. J., being natives of that state, but having moved to Pennsylvania, Mrs. Haag having been born in Strausburgh, Sullivan county, that state. Her father being transferred back into New Jersey by the conference, he removed again to that

state, where he died in 1866. The mother moved to Kossuth, Iowa, 1876, where she lived with the rest of her family and where she married Mr. J. L. Yost; they finally moved to Hastings, Nebr., from which place Mrs. Yost went to visit her daughter, Mrs. Haag, at Shelton, Buffalo county, where she was suddenly taken sick of pneumonia, and died in January, 1889. Three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Haag yet abide with them—Mary E., Grace C. and Homer A.

In politics, Mr. Haag is a republican. He is a zealous member of the Farmers' Alliance, and has been of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

**C** S. BAILEY. Considering the great number of settlers who cast their lots in Buffalo county seventeen and eighteen years ago, the date of the greatest influx of immigration, it is a matter of frequent remark that but comparatively few now remain. The colony that located Gibbon comprised eighty-five qualified homesteaders, only about thirty of whom are now citizens of the county. Near the same date, but scattered over two or three years, about an equal number of settlers took homesteads in Shelton and Sharon townships, of whom hardly as great a proportion as the Gibbon colony now remain. One of the latter number, however, who has stood steadfastly by his first choice is C. S. Bailey, now of the town of Shelton. Mr. Bailey came to Buffalo county in the fall of 1873 and settled four miles north of the present town of Shelton, in what is now



C. S. BAILEY.



Sharon township. He took a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, filing on the southwest quarter of section 12, township 10, range 13 west. After a residence there of two or three years he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land in section 11; lying opposite his homestead, and went somewhat actively into farming. He lived on the farm for ten years engaged in agriculture and stock-raising, at which he was reasonably successful. In the spring of 1884 he moved into the town of Shelton and began at that date to handle agricultural implements, pumps and wind-mills. Two years later he added harness, since which time he has been doing a fairly prosperous business in these lines. Mr. Bailey retains most of his farming interests, being a considerable land-holder as well as one of the representative business men of Shelton. While he has never sought office, he has nevertheless been called upon to fill some places of trust in connection with the administration of the public affairs of his town and township. He has served on the county board as township supervisor two years and he is now justice of the peace for Shelton township. He is, however, a business man strictly, and his career has been that of the man of private affairs. The small offices he has filled he has been called to because of his recognized ability to handle the business part of them, and not to gratify any supposed personal pride he may have touching that ignis fatuus, public office.

As this volume is designed to preserve something of the earlier history, ancestral and personal, of the old settlers of the county as well as an outline of their careers since locating here, some pertinent

facts touching Mr. Bailey's origin and personal record, particularly his military life, may here be inserted.

Charles S. Bailey was born in St. Lawrence county, N. Y., July 19, 1843. He came West in 1855 with his father, who settled in Tama county, Iowa, at that date. There Charles S. grew up. He enlisted in the army July 31, 1861, having just turned into his eighteenth year, entering Company C, Tenth Iowa volunteer infantry. His military record of course is merged in that of his regiment, as he served as a private. Let us therefore briefly review the history of the Iowa Tenth. The regiment was formed in September, 1861. It moved to Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Mo., was ordered thence to Cape Girardeau, that state, and went into winter quarters at Bird's Point, opposite Cairo. In the spring of 1862 it was placed under General Pope, was present in the movement against Island No. 10, and after the evacuation of that place was ordered to Osceola, Ark. Active movements having begun in the meantime in western Kentucky, Tennessee and northern Mississippi, it was ordered to join Grant's army, then preparing for the battle of Pittsburg Landing. It reached the latter place too late for the engagement there, but was placed in the army of the Tennessee, and after a few weeks' skirmishing around Memphis entered on the Vicksburg campaign. It served through all that campaign and sustained some heavy losses—notably at Champion's Hill. In the engagement at that place its casualties were thirty-six killed, and one hundred and sixty-six wounded and eight missing, being the largest list of casualties sustained by any regiment in that engagement. After

the evacuation of Vicksburg the Tenth was placed in Sherman's army and started towards what was afterwards the famous battlefield of Chickamauga, Lookout mountain and Missionary Ridge. Mr. Bailey's term of enlistment having expired about this time he re-enlisted along with most of his regiment, got his veteran furlough and went home, missing a few of the intermediate engagements. He rejoined his regiment at Kingston, Ga., soon after it had started on the Atlanta campaign, and was in the series of battles from there down to Atlanta. On the division of the Union forces at Atlanta the Tenth continued with Sherman to the sea and took part in the Carolina campaigns, being present at the surrender of Johnston's army April 26, 1865. It was at the grand review at Washington, ordered on special duty thence to Louisville, Ky., and afterwards to Little Rock, Ark., where it was mustered out, Mr. Bailey receiving his discharge at Davenport, Iowa, September 27, 1865. He returned to Toledo and was six years deputy sheriff of Tama county, or until the fall of 1873, then came to Nebraska as before stated.

Mr. Bailey married at Toledo, Tama county, Iowa, in March, 1866, his wife bearing the maiden name of Margaret E. Fisher and being a native of Indiana. He has a family of children, some of whom are now grown, his oldest son, Fred A., being associated with him in business.

Being an old soldier, Mr. Bailey naturally takes much interest in matters relating to the welfare of his comrades. He joined the G. A. R. association in Iowa before coming to this state. He helped organize Joe Hooker Post, G. A. R., the pioneer veteran association of Shelton, and has

taken an active part in the affairs of the post. He is also a zealous member of the Masonic fraternity.

In matters of general interest he takes the part which every good citizen is expected to take, and extends to all deserving enterprises a helping hand, aiding when necessary with his efforts and giving liberally in proportion to his means.

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**S** H. GRAVES. Connected with the banking interests of Buffalo county are a number of men who deserve more mention in this volume than the mere statement of their official positions. This is so because of the fact that the banks owe their origin and success in a great measure to these men, their history being in truth only a cross-section of the personal history of their founders and managers.

A man falling within the scope of this statement is S. H. Graves, cashier of the Shelton Bank. The bank with which he is connected is the oldest one in the town of Shelton. Mr. Graves is not the founder of it, but he has been the principal stockholder in it for a term of years and has practically made it what it is. The bank was started as a private affair in June, 1882, by Coleman & Leachey. They were succeeded in about a year by Huggins & Leachey, and these in turn were succeeded in June, 1883, by H. J. Robbins and S. H. Graves, under the firm name of Robbins & Graves. For the first year Mr. Robbins carried on the business alone, Mr. Graves not taking up his residence in Shelton till

1884. For a year following the bank was under the joint management of Messrs. Robbins & Graves till June, 1885, when Mr. Graves purchased Mr. Robbins' interest and assumed exclusive control, conducting the bank still as a private affair till July, 1889. At this date it was organized under the state banking laws, retaining the name of the Shelton Bank and having an authorized capital of \$50,000.00, half of which was paid in. The charter members were J. S. Hedges, D. P. Junk, George Mortimer, S. H. Graves and L. F. Stockwell. Mr. Mortimer was elected president, Mr. Junk vice-president and Mr. Graves cashier. By reason of his greater term of service and his official position, Mr. Graves was given, and continues to exercise, chief control over the bank's affairs. These, it is fair to say, are in a prosperous condition and have been at all times. It is also fair to say that the fact that they are so is due in no small measure to the judicious management of the cashier. Mr. Graves is not a born and bred banker, having had his first experience at banking in the present institution; but he is a thoroughly competent business man and has had a training as such that would enable him to take hold of any general enterprise with a reasonable hope of conducting it successfully. He is a hard worker, clear headed, systematic, painstaking and attentive. He knows the value of a dollar, as he has made what he has himself, and this knowledge of the labor value of money all the better qualifies him to jealously guard the earnings of wage-workers intrusted to his custody and management.

Prior to coming to Nebraska, Mr. Graves was a commercial traveler for ten years,

and he has, therefore, seen a great deal of the world and knows much of the ways of men. He started on the road at nineteen years of age for a New York drug house, Curtis & Brown, and during the term of his service with them he "made," in the parlance of the craft, all the towns in the province of Ontario, Canada, and those in six of the chief states and territories of the west in this country. He traveled three years in Canada, and for seven years he traveled in Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico. Mr. Graves has swung a sample case and "bached" in a grip over thousands of miles of territory; he has taken thousands of tradesmen by the hand and felt their pulse as to their commercial wants, and he has supplied those wants in instances without number and in a way which only the accomplished salesman knows how to do. What his success was, or whether above that of the average commercial man, need not be elaborated on here. But this much can be said: He did what not one traveling man in a hundred ever does—he quit the road with a good share of his earnings and settled down to a pleasant and remunerative business. The ordinary man of fixed habits and circumscribed views of living will hardly appreciate the amount of self-denial and rigid husbanding of resources that it takes to do this. Only the man who has once been "in the swim," as it were, and knows what life on the road is in all its phases, will be able to understand the self-imposed discipline under which Mr. Graves constantly kept himself.

"Ah, well for him whose will is strong;  
He suffers, but will not suffer long;  
He suffers, but can not suffer wrong"—

An excellent thought to which Mr. Graves has given point and practical force worthy of note.

But this sketch must, in pursuance of the plan of the work, embody some other facts to which we now turn. These are a few facts in reference to the subject's birthplace, earlier years and ancestral history in which those of his name who come on in after years will feel most deeply interested.

S. H. Graves was born in Chazy, Clinton county, N. Y., March 19, 1855. He is descended from two old New York families, tracing his ancestry back by family tradition for at least four generations, beginning with himself. His paternal great-grandfather, Seth Graves, was a pioneer settler in northeastern New York, going into Clinton county when that and all the surrounding country was a wilderness. He was in his life, habits and exploits a "path-finder," not strictly of the novelist's kind, but one of the practical sort. After locating in Clinton county he spent the remainder of his days there. He was succeeded among others by a son named Channey, who was the grandfather of the subject of this sketch. The latter was a miller by trade—a quiet, sober, earnest man, who devoted all his years to the industrious pursuit of his calling, and died, leaving a family, one of whom, Joel W., was the father of our subject. Mr. Graves' father is still living in Clinton county, where he was born and reared. He is a farmer, a man also of modest pretensions, a respectable and fairly well-to-do citizen.

Mr. Graves' mother, who is yet also living, bore the maiden name of Louisa J. McCulloch. She is a native of Clinton

county, N. Y., and a descendant of an ancient family of respectability in that state.

Mr. Graves is the only representative of his father's family who has ever come West to live. The advantages of the West, and particularly of Nebraska, were brought to his attention during his travels over the state, and in fact, as already noted, he bought the interests which finally brought him as a resident to the state, while he was yet on the road. He still has interests, however, in his native county and his people living there; he has for years paid occasional visits to his old home and has kept up an acquaintance with the scenes of his childhood and the friends of his youth. These visits led to an attachment some years ago, which resulted, later, in his marrying a neighbor girl of Chazy, who, though not a native of that place, was mainly reared there, and, like Mr. Graves, is a descendant of an old Clinton county family. This lady was Miss Myra W. Fisk, daughter of Hiram C. Fisk. The marriage here referred to took place September 22, 1884. Mrs. Graves was born in Vermont, in which state her father lived for some years, although he was a native of Clinton county, N. Y., being reared there and dying there on the old Fisk homestead in the town of Chazy. Mrs. Graves' father was a man of note and above the ordinary run of men. He was distinguished for his persevering industry, his great energy and determination. He was a shrewd man of business, and in the course of his lifetime accumulated a considerable fortune. The one wish of his life was to become able to re-purchase the old family homestead



which, through misfortune, had passed into strangers' hands—a wish which he fully realized, buying this place as he did and spending his declining years there.

It will hardly be necessary to add that the subject of this sketch has no political triumphs or defeats to record in this connection. Having set out with the fixed purpose of making of himself a man of business, he has had no time for politics. Even had he had the time and taste, his mode of life has precluded the possibility of gratifying any ambition in that direction. The extent of his public service has been his five years' term as treasurer of the Shelton public school fund, an office he has filled acceptably, handling the funds thereof with care and discretion; also as member of the board of trustees of Shelton. As a citizen, Mr. Graves naturally takes considerable interest in public questions and public enterprises, and he can usually be relied upon to perform his duty and bear his share of the expense in securing for his town and community any enterprise, institution or interest of a public nature. In ordinary social and business intercourse he is exceedingly approachable, and has for friend and stranger alike a cheerful word and a hearty grasp of the hand. Having spent a large part of his life among strangers and in a situation where the friction of business competition brings out all the unpleasantness of men's natures, along with some of the noblest qualities as well, he has learned to place a proper estimate on the value of those little social amenities which go far towards sweetening human intercourse and lessening the cynic's charge of "man's inhumanity to man." We use no honeyed

words of doubtful import or propriety when we characterize him as a worthy citizen and a pleasant, affable gentleman.

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**J**OHNS HEDGES. This gentleman is a well known business man of the town of Shelton, Buffalo county. He came to Nebraska in July, 1883, and settled at that date in Shelton. He came from Iowa to Nebraska, but Iowa not being his native state, nor yet his native state the one where he was reared, it will be best for the purposes of this sketch to go back at once to the place and time of his birth and bring the record down in chronological order.

John S. Hedges was born in Chemung county, N. Y., April 2, 1839. He comes of New York parentage, his father, Jeremiah Hedges, having been born and reared on Long Island, and his mother, whose maiden name was Martha R. Saunders, having been a native of Steuben county. His father went into western New York when a young man, settled at Elmira, married, and there lived for some years. As soon, however, as his family began to grow up he decided to move West, and in 1847 emigrated to Illinois and settled in Kane county. There he lived till 1864, when he moved to Fairfax, Linn county, Iowa, where he died the following year in the sixty-third year of his age. He was a farmer and led the plain, uneventful life common to his calling. Mr. Hedges' mother survived her husband

some years, dying at her son's home in Nebraska, December 1, 1888, having attained her seventy-sixth year.

The family to which the subject of this sketch belonged embraced eight children, who reached maturity. These were Laura B., Emma C., John S., Isaac S., Edmund Julius, Charles H., Mary K., and William G. These are all living but Isaac S., who died towards the close of the war from disease contracted in the army, and Edmund Julius, who died March 6, 1866, at the age of twenty-two. The eldest daughter is now Mrs. Laura B. Gibson, of Aurora, Ill.; the next is Mrs. Emma C. Goodell, of Ellsworth, Kans.; Charles H. is a resident of Los Angeles, Cal.; the youngest girl is Mrs. Mary K. Sargent, of Roscoe, Ill., and the last, William G., is a resident of Ainsworth, Nebr.

John S., with whom this article is more immediately concerned, was, as the dates already given will show, only about eight years old when his parents immigrated to Illinois and settled in Kane county. He was reared mainly in the towns of Aurora and Batavia, in that county. The first event of importance in his life, as it was an event of much moment in the lives of thousands of other young men of his age, was his enlistment in the army. He offered himself as a volunteer to the Union army when the first call was made in April, 1861, but was not mustered into service till the August following. He entered Company I, which was made up mainly of volunteers from Kane county. His company reported at once to Chicago for duty, and was placed in the Forty-second regiment of Illinois infantry, then forming to go to the front. From that date his company's history of course be-

came merged in the history of his regiment, a brief outline of which we will here give to preserve in its appropriate place the facts of Mr. Hedges' military career. On September 21, 1861, the Forty-second moved to St. Louis, Mo. It took part in various movements in Missouri till February, 1862, when it was ordered to Fort Holt, Ky.; was subsequently engaged in the operations at Island No. 10; joined Pope's army April 11; moved to Hamburg, Tenn., April 22; was engaged in the siege of Corinth, also the battle of Farmington, Miss., May 9, losing in the latter engagement two killed, twelve wounded and three missing; was ordered thence by forced marches into Tennessee; was present at the siege of Nashville, and was held in that vicinity for two months during the see-saw campaigns conducted by Buell and Bragg in Kentucky; was then attached to Sheridan's division; took part in the battle of Stone river, where it lost twenty-two men killed, one hundred and sixteen wounded and eighty-five prisoners; moving thence south it was in the engagement at Chickamauga, where its losses were twenty-eight killed, one hundred and twenty-eight wounded and twenty-eight prisoners. At Missionary Ridge it lost five killed and forty wounded, being on the skirmish line during the entire engagement. After pursuing the enemy to Chickamauga creek it returned and entered the east Tennessee campaign. January 1, 1864, it veteranized and was granted a thirty-day furlough. Returning it entered the Atlanta campaign and was engaged at Rocky Face creek, Resaca, Adairsville, New Hope church, Pine mountain, Kenesaw mountain, Peach Tree

creek, Atlanta, Jonesboro and Lovejoy station, losing in the campaign twenty killed, eighty-nine wounded and seven prisoners. Being then in the fourth corps it formed part of Thomas' army and was on the return campaign into Tennessee; took part in the battles at Spring Hill, Franklin and Nashville, losing in these engagements twenty-six killed, one hundred and six wounded and thirty prisoners. It followed Hood to Decatur, Ala., and was there till April, 1865, when it was ordered into east Tennessee to cut off an anticipated retreat of Lee into that locality, and it was there engaged in that mission when the surrender took place. Returning to Nashville, it was ordered by way of New Orleans to Texas, being stationed at Port Lavaca as an army of occupation until December, 1865, when it was mustered out, left Indianola, arrived at Camp Butler, Springfield, Ill., January 3, 1866, and on the twelfth received final payment and discharge.

This record speaks for itself. Comment is not called for in this place. Mr. Hedges was with his regiment from the beginning to the end of its service, except the thirty days he was home on his veteran furlough, and twenty days when wounded. He participated in all the battles it fought, and helped to win for it the honorable position which it occupies in the annals of the war. He entered the service as a private, was promoted at once to corporal; in May, 1862, to sergeant; in October 1864, to orderly sergeant; in November 1864, to first lieutenant, and in September 1865, to captain. At the battle of Chick amanga he was wounded by a gun-shot in the left leg below the knee, but was off duty only thirty days in consequence

This wound gave him trouble during all the following winter, not entirely healing till the next spring.

A man with such a record would naturally continue to feel much interest in military matters, and so Mr. Hedges does. He joined the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1883 and has been an active member since. Besides this he organized a Zouave company at Shelton in 1886, which was re-organized in June, 1887, and made Company A, Second regiment of the Nebraska national guards, of which he was elected captain. August 25, 1887, he was made brigades commissary of the first brigade on General L. W. Colby's staff, which position he now holds.

Adverting to Mr. Hedges' business career it may be recorded that when the war was over he went to Fairfax, Linn county, Iowa, whither his people had moved during the war, and there settled, and in October, 1866, engaged in grain, lumber and coal business, which he followed successfully till coming to Nebraska. On locating in Shelton, this state, he embarked in the same line of business, forming a partnership with D. P. Junk, who came with him from Fairfax, Iowa. As this volume is not an advertising medium it will be sufficient to say that the firm of Hedges & Junk is one of the representative business firms of the town of Shelton and that they handle their share of the trade in their line. Mr. Hedges is also a stockholder in and a member of the board of directors of the First National Bank of Shelton, having helped to organize that bank about a year ago. He has never been an aspirant for public office of any kind and we there-

fore have no political successes or defeats to record of him. His career has been that of a business man strictly. He takes such interest in public enterprises and matters of general concern as any good citizen might be expected to, working with his own hands when his efforts are needed and giving of his means in proportion to his ability. As evidence of the interest he takes in the welfare of his fellow-men and the practical and commendable turn his charitable impulses take, it may be mentioned that he is a member in good standing in the following fraternities—The Knights of Pythias, Ancient Order of United Workmen, Modern Woodmen of America and Iowa Legion of Honor.

Mr. Hedges was married in March, 1864, the lady of his choice being a girl with whom he had been almost reared, Miss Lettie M. Hanvey, of Batavia, Ill. Mrs. Hedges was born in Wyoming county, N. Y., and moved to Kane county, Ill., with her uncle, N. Wolcott, when small.

This volume is not a work of romance and we can not therefore give way to flights of fancy or indulge the tender feelings, yet the reader who peruses this sketch carefully and notes the fact from the dates above given that the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Hedges took place while he was home on his veteran furlough, carrying an ugly wound, will form for himself a mental picture, a wartime etching, which can not but be pleasing to the fancy, albeit the picture may take on something of a sober coloring when he remembers how cruelly short the honeymoon was and the long and weary months that passed before the mated ones were re-united again.

**D**P. JUNK. Measured by the length of residence of the oldest settlers, the subject of this sketch may be considered a comparatively recent accession to the population of the town of Shelton, Buffalo county, where he settled in May, 1883. Mr. Junk came from Fairfax, Linn county, Iowa, to Nebraska; his native place, however, being Fayette county, Ohio. He is descended from pioneer ancestors, people of strong limbs and stout hearts. He is of Welsh and Scotch extraction, his paternal grandfather, Thomas Junk, being a native of Wales, who came to America when a lad and settled when a young man in Fayette county, Ohio, and his mother's people coming from Scotland to the Western states by way of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Junk's father, whose christian name was Thomas, was born in Fayette county, Ohio, was reared and married there, and in after years moved to Bloomington, Ill., and then to Linn county, Iowa, where he subsequently lived and died. He lived till 1876, having reached his seventy-second year.

Mr. Junk's mother, who bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Pinkerton, being a daughter of William Pinkerton, was born in Pennsylvania and came West at an early date with her parents, who settled in Fayette county, Ohio. There she was reared and married. She is still living.

Thomas and Elizabeth Junk were the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this biographical notice is the third. The others are—Amelia, now wife of Thomas Springer, of Fairfax, Iowa; Emily, wife of Andrew D. Karr, of Dakota; Ada, wife of Calvin Harrow, of Des Moines,

Iowa, and James C., of Fairfax, Iowa. These are all living.

The third, David P., an outline of whose life is here proposed, was born in Fayette county, Ohio, April 4, 1844. He was reared mainly in Bloomington, Ill., whither his father moved when he was small, and was a young man when his father moved to Iowa. Entering the army early in the spring of 1862, when he had just turned into his eighteenth year, the next three years of his life were spent "where the roar of cannon and the rattle of musketry made the only music that greeted his ears," while the long, fatiguing marches and the privations and hardships of camp life contrasted forcibly with the peace and comforts of the home in which he had been reared. Mr. Junk enlisted in Company A, Fifteenth Iowa volunteer infantry, his regiment forming a part of the famous Iowa brigade, which, under the command of Colonel Crocker, did such noble execution, and an outline of its history is here worth mentioning, as showing in some measure the part Mr. Junk took as one of the countless thousands of brave men, now "to fortune and to fame unknown."

The Fifteenth Iowa was organized at Keokuk, February 22, 1862, and mustered in on March 14th. It left the state, one thousand and thirty-eight strong, on March 19th, stopping at St. Louis, where it was armed and equipped, and on the morning of April 6th arrived at Pittsburg Landing, just as the battle of Shiloh was beginning. It had been previously assigned to Prentiss' division, but, unable to find that command, Colonel Reid ordered the regiment into line and it fought in McClelland's division; though entering

the battle with so little preparation, it rendered efficient service and acquitted itself creditably. Its loss at Shiloh was twenty-one killed, one hundred and fifty-six wounded, and eight missing—a total of one hundred and eighty-five out of seven hundred and sixty engaged. Soon after this battle the famous Iowa brigade, composed of the Eleventh, Thirteenth, Fifteenth and Sixteenth, was formed and placed under command of Colonel Crocker, and in the battle of Corinth fought in McKean's division. The Fifteenth, Col. Wm. W. Belknap commanding, sustained the principal loss in the brigade, its casualties amounting to eleven killed, sixty-seven wounded and eight missing, out of about three hundred and fifty engaged. In the early spring of 1863, the regiment encamped near Lake Providence, La., and assisted in digging the military canal, connecting the lake with the Mississippi river. It was then placed in McArthur's division, seventeenth corps, and served through the Vicksburg campaign of that summer. The regiment re-enlisted, and, returning from its veteran furlough, joined Sherman's army, June 10, 1864, at Kenesaw, Ga., and served in the remainder of the Atlanta campaign. In the battle of Atlanta, July 21 and 22, the regiment lost one hundred and seventy-eight men, killed, wounded and missing, and captured the flags of two Confederate regiments. It was on the march to the sea and in the campaigns through the Carolinas. Mr. Junk's term of enlistment expired while the army was around Atlanta and he did not re-enlist. He was in all the engagements, however, up to that date. He served as private and later as sergeant. He returned home in the

summer of 1864 and went to farming. A few years afterwards he embarked in the mercantile business in Fairfax, Iowa, and remained there in that business till coming to Nebraska, in May, 1883.

On locating in Shelton, his present place of residence, he entered into partnership with John S. Hedges, who came from Fairfax, Iowa, with him, forming the firm of Hedges & Junk, and began handling grain, lumber and coal. He has been so engaged since.

In addition to this, Mr. Junk has an interest in the Shelton State Bank, having helped to organize that institution, and is now vice-president of it. He is chairman of the board of the town council of Shelton, and chairman also of the board of trustees of the Shelton high school. He belongs to Joe Hooker Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Shelton, and is a zealous member of the Knights of Pythias.

Mr. Junk is a man of family, having married in Fairfax, Iowa, in October, 1867. His wife before marriage was Miss Anna McLaughlin, a daughter of Ira McLaughlin, a citizen then of Fairfax. Mrs. Junk was born and reared in Claremont, N. H., and comes of old New England stock. To this union have been born four children, three girls and one boy, the eldest two of whom are now dead, the others being—Bertha and Herbert L.

Mr. Junk has been an almost life-long member of the Presbyterian church, inheriting his belief from an ancestry distinguished for their attachment to that faith.

The Junk family are socially of very high standing in the community in which they live.

**E** L. SMITH, M. D. The town of Shelton, Buffalo county, has a population of nearly a thousand souls. It has a scope of country tributary to it which, in density of population, is hardly exceeded in central Nebraska, yet in all that community there are but two physicians. The citizens give two explanations for this. The first is the remarkable healthfulness of the locality, and the second is that, as experiment has demonstrated, none but first-class physicians are needed or can prosper there. Each of these reasons seems reasonably satisfactory, and we dismiss the inquiry with them.

One of the physicians of Shelton, a man of strictly first-class medical acquirements, is Dr. E. L. Smith, who located in Shelton, in May, 1884. He came direct from Chicago, where he obtained his medical education and where he was partly reared. He is a native of Cook county, Ill., having been born there November 24, 1847. He was reared at Palatine, that county, and in Chicago; selected medicine as a profession when a young man, and secured his training under Dr. S. P. Brown, of Elgin, Ill., and Dr. A. N. Shefner, of Palatine, reading with these gentlemen in all three years, and finishing at the Rush Medical College, of Chicago, taking in that institution, besides the regular curriculum, sixteen special courses. As these things constitute part of a physician's public record, and especially as they show his qualifications for his profession, they are things that the public are entitled to know, and it can therefore be deemed no bad taste on the part of the writer to state them explicitly in this article. Dr. Smith first attended the free

dispensary of Chicago for two summers. He then took a special course in otology and ophthalmology (eye and ear), and afterwards these: Dental pathology, laryngology, dermatology, two courses in anatomy, one in gynecology, two in physical diagnoses and diseases of the chest, one under Prof. J. H. Etheridge in opy-naiology; attended the clinical institute in the hospital, and subsequently also took a course in taxidermy. This training extended over a period of more than five years, and was abundantly interspersed with the usual hospital practice and actual bedside experience. Such a course of training not only represents valuable time and much money, but also a vast amount of hard study, patient effort and painstaking observation and experiment. But long, arduous and costly as it is, it is nevertheless necessary to the successful pursuit of the profession, and the one who has gone through with it goes to the discharge of his duties with a degree of preparation that is the surest guaranty of success. Dr. Smith is an enthusiast in his profession. He inherits the taste that brought him to it. He comes of a family where some branches of *materia medica* afforded a topic for daily discussion. His parents, grandparents and all his uncles and aunts read medicine as an accomplishment, but few of them, however, practicing it as a calling. He therefore received, with the hereditary bent for the profession, exceptionally good advantages in his earlier years, and these, supplemented by the training he has had, admirably fit him for all the varied and responsible duties of his calling. Dr. Smith has confined himself and his life entirely to the preparation for and the practice of his

profession. His business has been such as falls to the lot of the general practitioner, and it could hardly be otherwise in a country practice. He attends to all calls promptly, responding with as much alacrity to the wants of the poor as of the rich. His services are at the command of the suffering. His first thought is to give help. For the benevolent impulse that prompts such conduct he is as largely indebted to heredity as for the taste and knowledge which suggest the means of relief. To do good, to alleviate the sufferings of humanity and prolong and sweeten the life with which it is blest, were the chief incentives that actuated his people in their zealous pursuit of medical knowledge. And it will be appropriate in this connection to make some more minute references to Dr. Smith's ancestral history than we have done.

The doctor is a cross between New England and Pennsylvania stock. He combines in some degree the qualities of both—the religiously zealous, liberty-loving, knowledge-seeking Puritan and the sturdy, plodding, frugal, home-loving and peace-making people of Quaker training. His father, Israel Smith, was born and reared in Maine, and took up the line of travel to the West when a young man, settling in Cook county, Ill., 1827, being one of the pioneers of that locality. He passed his young manhood and maturer years there helping subdue the wildness of nature and opening the country to settlement, and there also spent his declining age, dying in the home of his adoption in 1878, well advanced in life. He was a farmer, devotedly attached to his calling and measurably successful at it. Dr Smith's mother bore the maiden name of

Caroline Baker and she was born and reared to young womanhood in her native state, moving thence West with her parents and settling also in Cook county, Ill., in the vicinity of Chicago, but long before that place had attained anything like its present population or commercial importance. She is still living, having through her systematic habits and quiet peaceful life reached a good old age.

Dr. Smith is the third of a family of three children and is the only professional one of the family and the only one who has taken up his permanent residence in the West.

He married June 16, 1869, in his native place, Palatine, Cook county, Ill., his choice falling on a girl whom he had known from childhood, Miss Carrie Kitson, a lady eminently fitted to bear him the companionship he sought in this alliance.

As a citizen Dr. Smith is progressive, enterprising, and public spirited. He seeks no prominence, political or otherwise, but for all that goes to build up his town and community he can be counted on to lend a helping hand. He has a host of friends who on occasion give heed to his counsel and advice. Personally he is pleasant and agreeable, being large of mould and generous of heart, warm of his sympathies and hearty in manner. He would attract attention by his personal presence in an assembly of a hundred men, and could hold their attention by his conversation if he chose to do so, and his friends say that this attention, so attracted and so held, will change to admiration, and that to friendship, which will remain steadfastly to the end.

**G**EORGE W. CARLETON, the efficient Union Pacific railway agent at Shelton, Nebr., is eminently a self-made man. Losing his father at an early age, the entire support of a large family devolved upon him, and to the fact that he bravely met and shouldered the responsibility may be largely attributed those habits of business push and industry which have since made him a most successful business man. Born on March 28, 1861, at Milford, Mass., he is still on the hither side of thirty. His father was a native of Derby Center, Vt., but while our subject was still a child, removed to Green Top, Mo. where, in 1877, at the age of forty-six years, he succumbed to the dread destroyer, his death being, perhaps, directly attributable to disease, the foundation of which was laid during his service to his country in the war of the Rebellion. Mr. Carleton, senior, was a member of Company F, Thirty-sixth Massachusetts infantry, entering the army at the age of twenty-five years. Up to that time he had followed the pursuit of farming, but subsequent to that time he engaged in the boot and shoe trade. The mother of our present subject bore the maiden name of Narcissa N. Doggett, was a native of South Carolina and was born in the year 1840, March 28. She is the daughter of Samuel and Harriet (Watton) Doggett, and is still living at Shelton.

Mr. Carleton is the third eldest of eight children, of whom Mrs. Eva Wells resides at Green Top, Mo.; Ella, now Mrs. Allister, and Anna, live in Chicago; Frank, at Shelton, Nebr.; Ida, in San Francisco, Cal., and Alfred, in Paxton, Nebr. The youngest of the family died



in infancy. Our subject received his early education in the county schools at Mendon, in Worcester county, Mass., attending school during the winter season only, his summers being spent in working at the shoemaker's bench. At the age of fifteen, he removed, as before stated, with his parents to Green Top, Mo., where his father died shortly afterwards. Determining to find some more lucrative as well as less laborious occupation than that which he had heretofore followed, he turned his attention to the subject of telegraphy, which he studied for a short time at Green Top, finally completing his knowledge at Batavia, Ill., on the Chicago & North-Western line. Thence he went to Rochester, Minn., where he took charge of an office, working for the railway company there for six years, at the end of which time he resigned, returning for a short time to Batavia, and then in July, 1880, coming to Shelton, Nebr., where he began as night operator, subsequently being promoted to the position of station agent, which he has since held. By industry and careful habits, he acquired a little competency which, in 1889, he invested in a livery stable, which he still owns and which is superintended by his brother, F. A. Carleton. In addition to this property, he owns the residence which he occupies and some forty-eight lots of city property.

In 1885, he entered into life partnership with Miss Laura M. Hull, daughter of John M. Hull, of Iowa, and to whom have been born two children—Ida S. and Allister G.

In politics, Mr. Carleton is a republican. He is a member of the Ancient Order of

United Workmen, and is also a master mason. In church matters he has allied himself with the Methodist Episcopal denomination. Mr. Carleton is highly respected by his fellow-citizens, and is counted as one of the leading men of the city with whose interests he is identified.

**JAMES STEVEN.** In making up a list of the representative business men of Shelton mention must of necessity be made of James Steven, the harness and agricultural implement dealer. Mr. Steven is not a pioneer settler nor is he, strictly speaking, a newcomer. He located in the town in 1880, but had previously visited the county and made some investments, coming West first in 1873. He came from Ontario, Canada, his native place, being then young and unmarried. He believed that this country had a good future before it, but he thought that he could afford to wait about taking up his residence here, and in the meantime could spend a few years to good advantage further east. He returned home to Ontario, afterward crossed again into the States, and went to Monmouth, Ill., where he took a position with the Weir plow company of that place and was in their employ for a period of five years. His business was mainly gathering material for the factory and he spent most of his time in the timbers. He quit this position in 1880 and came West, locating as stated in the town of Shelton. His first and only business enterprise was his present one, namely—harness and agricultural implements. In this line he was a pioneer.

opening the first establishment of any consequence in the town. His business has grown steadily from the beginning, and he now owns and runs a house which is a credit to his town and to himself. What he has, he has made by his own exertions, and it is the result of patient industry, economy and strict attention to business. He not only carries a full stock in his line, such as implements, carriages, harness, organs and sewing machines, but he owns the large two-story brick building where he does business—a building he erected in 1885, and which also represents part of his earnings since embarking in trade ten years ago. It is not the purpose of this article to elaborate on Mr. Steven's success as having been anything phenomenal, for it has not; but it has been exceptional and it is doing violence neither to truth nor good taste to say so. Success is what every one desires, and every rightly constituted man is glad to hear of others succeeding, even though he fail himself. Mr. Steven succeeds simply because he sticks to his business and manages his affairs in accordance with business principles.

"Stick to thy business, young man, and thy business will stick to thee," was the honest old Quaker's advice, and there are hundreds of men all over this country, besides the subject of this sketch, who are demonstrating the correctness of this maxim. Yet it is no more than right that he should be allotted credit for the point and practical force he has given it. As stated above, Mr. Steven is a native of Ontario, Canada, and was born January 17, 1851. He was reared in his native place and brought up to the plain life of a farmer. He is of Scotch extraction, his parents both being natives of Lanarkshire,

Scotland. His father, James Steven, emigrated to Canada when a lad sixteen years of age and settled in the Province of Ontario, where he now resides, having led the quiet, uneventful life of a farmer all his years. He is a fair type of his race and his calling, being honest, frugal and industrious, and a man of serious views of life.

Mr. Steven's mother bore the maiden name of Jean McGibbon, carrying in her name satisfactory evidence of her nationality. She was brought by her parents when an infant to the Province of Ontario, Canada, where she was reared, married and yet lives. Like her husband she is now well advanced in years, having led a life of activity and usefulness, the chief incentives to which have been her family and her church. She and her husband are of the religious faith of their native country—Scotch Presbyterians.

James Steven, the subject hereof, is one of a family of eight children, six of whom reached maturity and are now living. These, in the order of their ages, are as follows—Jennette and Walter, in Shelton; James, Jean, Allen and Robert. Mr. Steven married, Oct. 1, 1879, Miss Jessie J. Nichols of Monmouth, Ill. To this union have been born four children—J. Ralph, Glenn A., Laureen A. and Effie L. While personally pleasant, Mr. Steven shows by his conduct and conversation that he is strictly a man of business, and his methods are the short, direct methods of the business man. He is plain and pointed in his address, sees quickly, acts promptly, and is matter of fact in all things. He is progressive and public spirited, entering with zeal and energy into all public enterprises which his judg-

ment approves of. He is member of a number of benevolent associations and his charitable impulses take the practical turn inculcated by these.

**O**LIVER PERRY GUFFEY was born in Cladwell county, Mo., October 29, 1842. His father, William Guffey, was a native of Tennessee and died in Cladwell county, Mo., whither he had moved in 1836, his death taking place twenty years later. All his life he spent in farming. The mother of Mr. Guffey bore the maiden name of Margaret Pile. She, also, was a native of Tennessee—dying in Cladwell county, Mo., in 1886, at an advanced age.

The subject of this sketch is one of a family of fourteen children (seven sons and seven daughters), seven only of whom are living. Of this number William F. resides in Cladwell county, Mo., as also does Stokely S.; Ashley R. is in Indian Territory; Andrew J. resides in Stone county, Ark.; the subject of this sketch in Shelton; and Abner J. on the old homestead in Cladwell county, Mo.; Delilah, now Mrs. Pemberton, lives in Caldwell county, Mo. Mr. Guffey has seen in his time a good deal of Western life and has also experienced many of its common and some of its uncommon phases. Reared on a farm, at an early age he engaged in freighting goods overland from Atchison, Kans., to Denver, Colo. This was before the day of railroads. He drove across the plains with an ox team, making the trip in forty-five days. Spend-

ing a few months in the vicinity of Denver he then went to New Mexico, hauling supplies with mule teams to the military post at Ft. Union. Subsequent to this he engaged, with indifferent success, in mining, but abandoned it for the saw-mill business, and finally returned to Caldwell county, Mo., making the return trip this time with mules. For a time he settled down to farming, operating the old homestead; then, buying forty acres and renting some adjoining land, he continued to farm till 1882, when he removed to Hamilton, Mo., and engaged in live stock speculation. This business he followed for four years, buying, feeding and shipping, at the end of which time he removed to Shelton and engaged in the same business. This was in 1886. In the following year he bought out the general store of F. H. Moore, which he has since operated in connection with his stock interests. The style of the firm is Guffey, Fine & Co.

Mr. Guffey was married in 1871 to Miss Mahala Hale, daughter of Richard Hale of Missouri. From this marriage came two children—Richard A. and Lulu M. Mrs. Guffey died in the spring of 1880, being at the time at her father's home in Daviess county, Mo. In 1883 Mr. Guffey contracted a marriage with Miss Ella Brooks, born in Ohio, daughter of James Brooks of Missouri. One child has come to bless this union—James P. by name.

Mr. Guffey is a democrat in politics and is a member of the order of A. O. U. W. In all his wanderings Mr. Guffey has found no section of the great West which pleases him more than central Nebraska, and he has wisely concluded that this is a good enough country in which to spend his remaining days.

**N**ELSON A. BAKER, mayor of the city of Kearney, Nebr., has been a resident since 1879. He is a native of Clinton county, N. Y., and was born December 2, 1851. His father, Zebulon Baker, was also a native of Clinton county and died there, at the old home where his life had been passed, in 1855. Mr. Baker's mother, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Albee, was a native of Vermont. She died in 1890 at Grand Island, Nebr.

The subject of this sketch is the youngest of a family of eight children. His education was obtained in common schools and at an early age he began to assume the trusts and responsibilities of mature life. His first business venture was the building and operating of a grist-mill at Oak Creek, Lancaster county, Nebr., to which place he had emigrated the year before. This business he continued for two years, relinquishing it then for a more lucrative situation as traveling salesman for an Iowa nursery concern. While working for this concern he was married, in the year 1875, to Miss Ximena M. Brooks, a native of northern Pennsylvania. In 1879, having previously become convinced that Kearney, with which he had become acquainted in his travels, was to be a city of future great importance, he decided to locate there, and severing his connection with the firm for which he had previously operated, he moved to Kearney and started in the nursery business for himself. This he successfully conducted till the year 1888, at which time he embarked in the real estate business, which he has since followed. He is one of the leading promoters of East Lawn, the beautiful suburb of Kearney, and is

also largely interested in real estate in all parts of the city.

Mr. Baker has ever been active in all enterprises looking to the advancement of the public interest of the city with which he is identified. He was a prime mover in the organization of the Kearney Street Car Company, of which he was also secretary till the time of its sale to the G. W. Frank Improvement Company. He also organized the Midway Land Company, becoming its first vice-president and one of its business managers, which position he has continuously held since. In the spring of 1889 he was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of one of the members of the city board, and at once took an active part in the affairs of the city, displaying always sound business judgment and broad public spirit. His favorable record as a public citizen led to his nomination and subsequent election to the office of mayor of the city at the ensuing municipal election in the spring of 1890. Among other enterprises in whose organization Mr. Baker has been active, may be mentioned the Canning Company, one of the leading industries of Kearney, and the inception and organization of the Chamber of Commerce, which has been a very potent factor in the development of the Midway City.

Three children grace the home of Mr. and Mrs. Baker—Earle R., M. Claire, and Nell Marie. Mr. Baker is a Knight Templar Mason, also a member of the Mystic Shrine. In politics he is a republican. He is counted one of the substantial, public-spirited citizens of Kearney and has before him, undoubtedly, being yet in the prime of life, a successful career of still wider usefulness.



N. A BAKER.



WILLIAM NUTTER, one of a family of nineteen children born to John and Elizabeth (Knowles) Nutter, is a native of England and was born January 3, 1829. He comes of English ancestry and is the only representative of his family in this state. He was reared in his native country and in his earlier years was apprenticed to the trade of cotton carder and spinner, which trade he mastered and followed for some time in some of the chief cotton factories in England. He married in April, 1853, taking for his wife a neighbor girl of his native place, Miss Dinah Hingam, a daughter of William and Olive (Hayworth) Hingam. In the latter part of March, 1855, with his wife and two children, Mr. Nutter set sail for the *New World*, on the ship *Juventa*. After a voyage of six weeks, he landed in Philadelphia, May 5, 1855, looked around the factories for work, but could not get the kind of work that he had been raised to and so went to Gloucester, N. J., and engaged in the print works, in the meantime keeping his eyes open for a chance in the cotton factories. He was there two years, and in the spring of 1857 engaged with Guy Taylor & Co., in Philadelphia, to superintend their carding and spinning departments. He held that position for a period of three years and then, in the spring of 1860, with his family, he started west to seek a home in the trackless prairies beyond the Mississippi. Making his way by rail and boat he reached the Missouri river about the middle of that year and joined the great caravan of overland immigrants then making their way to Utah. Locating in Session settlement, Utah Territory, he remained there for twenty months engaged in farming and

laying the foundation for what he hoped would be a peaceful and happy home. But with the rapidly passing events of those times he soon found that he had mistaken his company, and breaking friendship with his former associates, he turned his back upon the treacherous Mormons and retraced his steps towards the East. He settled in Hall county, Nebr., in the spring of 1862, taking a homestead on the banks of Wood river near the western line of the county. That was an early date for central Nebraska—some years before the advent of the railroad with its civilizing influences. "Life on the plains!" What memories are awakened in the breast of many a resident of Nebraska at the sight and sound of these words: When the golden spike was driven which bound together the iron links in the great national highway, the knell in that wild period in the history of the West was struck. The whistle of the first locomotive in its fierce rush across the hitherto trackless expanse ended forever that scene in the drama of progress, which was alike comedy and tragedy. "I crossed the plains," are words which, spoken by the bronzed and hardy pioneer, signify more than the men of a later generation can conceive of. The toiling caravan of immigrants to the El Dorado of the Pacific slope; the venturesome cavalcade of daring huntsmen; the solitary group of mountaineers have passed beyond the view, and all that now remains of them are scattered traces of forgotten graves, a few survivors of those scenes, busied with other tasks, and vague traditions of the times, which horrify or charm, as deeds of murder, robbery or love perchance give coloring to the tale. Among the very

early trials were the dangers incident to crossing a country inhabited by fierce Indians. If the truth could be known, probably every mile from the Missouri to the Pacific would demand at least one headstone to mark a victim's grave. The stages of life, from birth to the closing of the drama, were here exemplified. Many a poor mother hushed her new-born babe amid the rough scenes of a camp while she herself was suffering from lack of those comforts so essential to maternity. Along the trackless plains many a maiden awoke to the revelation of love and many a troth was plighted. Even the marriage rite was sometimes celebrated; and death, in every form, paid frequent court to the lone wanderer and the straggling settler. Through these scenes and the many changes since, the subject of this sketch has passed and from them he has gained a world of observation and experience not met with in the lives of many men. When he settled on his present homestead there were but few settlers along the Platte river in central Nebraska; all the central and western part of the state was one unbroken prairie, threaded by a few streams and dominated by the aboriginal red man and roaming herds of buffalo; the county of Buffalo had not then been marked on the map. When Mr. Nutter settled on Wood river there was a stage station where the village of Shelton now stands, and a family or two settled along the river in that vicinity. To the west, north, south, and one might almost say to the east, the country was simply part of the unknown world so far as the abodes of white men were concerned. The Union Pacific railroad had not then been projected, this part of the great

public domain had not then been surveyed, and the country at large was considered worthless, except as a hunting-ground for the Indians. These were present in great numbers, and included some of the most powerful and warlike tribes on the continent. The Cheyennes, Sioux and Pawnees roamed over this part of the country then, and they not unfrequently left the evidences of their savagery in murdered men and women and in desolated homes. To people of a later generation, not one in ten of whom ever saw a "painted red devil," it is hard to convey an adequate idea of the terror which these prowling bands of savages spread through the country, and the constant strain which the settlers labored under. The air was often full of rumors, and occasional outrages were committed in the settlement, but no organized forays were made against the whites as far east as Buffalo county, after Mr. Nutter settled there. Indian scares occurred frequently, and even if they were not prompted by any real danger, the danger, nevertheless, seemed imminent to the settlers, and they were for the time being exceedingly serious affairs. The greatest of these scares, which occurred after Mr. Nutter settled, was in August, 1864, during the Indian outbreak, which culminated in the Plum Creek massacre. That scare depopulated the country, and Mr. Nutter, abandoning for the time all hope of making for himself and family his long-wished-for home in the West, returned to his native country, England, leaving behind him to the ravages of the Indian and the freebooters of the plains his several years' earnings. Remaining in England only a short time, however,



he came again to the United States in April, 1865, and was again, for a period of three years, engaged with the firm of Guy, Taylor & Co., of Philadelphia. Returning then to Nebraska in 1868, he settled again on Wood River, Buffalo county, buying a place where he has since resided.

Mr. Nutter has raised up around him a large and interesting family of children, some of whom are married, settled off in life, and are themselves heads of families. The christian names of his children in the order of their ages are as follows—Olive (deceased), Maroni (deceased), John, William, Hingam (deceased), Ellen, Iona, Liona, Elizabeth, Jennie, Frank, Mirabeau, Louise, Alice and Thomas (deceased).

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**R**EED BROTHERS. One of the oldest newspapers in Buffalo county, as it is one of the best, is the *Clipper*, published at Shelton, by Frank D. and William M. Reed, under the firm name of Reed Brothers. The *Clipper* office was opened and the first paper published December 1, 1879, by A. C. Edwards, under the name of the *Shelton Clarion*. It so continued to be published until October 10, 1880, when, having passed into the hands of H. C. McNew in the meantime, he changed the name at that date to the *Shelton Clipper*. He ran the paper till 1884, selling out then to the present proprietors. The *Clipper* was started as a seven-column folio, but was afterwards changed to a six-column quarto. It is published weekly, is republican in politics, and has a good local circulation.

It has a splendid job department and turns out job work of a superior quality. Messrs. Reed Brothers are both practical workmen, and Frank D., junior member of the firm, is an old newspaper man. They are both natives of Ohio, having been born and reared in Middleport. William M. came to Shelton in 1883, where he has since been located. Frank D. served an apprenticeship in his native place in Ohio, and worked as a journeyman for several years before coming to Nebraska. He has traveled extensively over the West and has worked in a number of offices in this state. He at one time owned an interest with his uncle, Dr. F. B. Reed, in the *Herald*, published at Peru, this state, being associate editor, and bought his present interest in the *Clipper* in 1884. He is a good hustler for news, a strong and forcible writer, a man of intelligence, sound taste and discriminating judgment; wielding his pen with force, he yet uses it with discretion.

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**J**ACOB W. CLANCY was born in Canada July 9, 1854, and is the son of William and Hannah (Powley) Clancy. The senior Clancy was born in England, and came to America with his parents when quite small. He owns a large dairy farm near Nappenee, Canada, and is also largely interested in the raising of sheep.

Jacob W. Clancy left the paternal homestead when he was eighteen, and worked for a time in an oil refinery. He also became an expert engineer, and was stationed at Petrolia, Canada, for nine years. He came to St. Clair, Mich., in September,

1877, and followed farming for a short time, and in the fall of 1877 came to Buffalo county, Nebr., and purchased a quarter section of good land in Thornton township. He built a sod house and prepared to receive his family, which followed the next year. But little of the surrounding country was settled then, and neighbors were few and far between. It was not an uncommon thing, even in those days, to see deer and antelope on a distant bluff or bounding down through a draw to escape possible danger. The winter of 1880-1 was an exceptionally severe one, and great suffering was experienced, generally among the new arrivals. Many were not prepared for the severe storms and deep snow, which began that season about the fifteenth of October, and continued until the next April. The scarcity of fuel was cause for a great deal of inconvenience and suffering, and some were even without the actual necessities to sustain life during so long and disagreeable a winter, and were in a measure dependent upon their more fortunate neighbors.

Mr. Clancy was married, September 27, 1875, to Miss Elva A. Ward. She was a Canadian by birth, but her parents were born in the United States. Six children have been born to this union, namely—Elmer A., born September 6, 1877; Pearl E., born April 30, 1879; Della A., born November 28, 1880; Vernia A., born March 27, 1882; Ethel M., born December 30, 1883; and Victor R., born March 25, 1886.

Mr. Clancy has held various local offices, but is independent in politics. He and his wife are both members of the United Brethren church.

**F**RANK W. MAGEE, one of the young and enterprising farmers of Thornton township, Buffalo county, was born at West Camden, N. Y., June 22, 1855, and is a son of Abram S. Magee and Mary (Dible) Magee. His father was a native of New York, in which state he continued to reside until his death in 1878. He was a sawyer by occupation and a man of considerable influence in the community where he lived, was always quiet and peaceable and never was known to have any trouble with his fellow-men. He was a model man in every respect and his example is well worthy of imitation. He was the father of three children, of whom Frank W. was the second. James Magee, the paternal grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was a Pennsylvanian German, and his wife, Mary (Dible) Magee, was a native of New England. Her father, John Dible, was quite a prominent man during his time, being deacon in the Methodist church for many years. He also held various official positions of honor in his country. Frank W. Magee was reared under the parental roof until eighteen years of age, when he began working out by the month on a farm. He did not, however, confine himself strictly to farm labor, but varied his occupation by working at whatever he thought he could do the best and earn the most. He emigrated to Buffalo county, Nebr., June 13, 1879, and spent his first summer working on a farm. The following spring he took up a homestead in Thornton township, where he has since resided. The country in that part of the county was sparsely settled at that time and neighbors were few and far between. Young Magee came West with limited means; in fact, it might almost

be said that he had no means whatever. But he came with the determination to succeed, and notwithstanding his great suffering on account of his poverty he is now on the road to success and is numbered among the substantial farmers of his section. It is indeed difficult for one to fully appreciate the condition of a person coming to a country like this at that time with no money or friends, and being compelled to work his way through under such embarrassing circumstances. None but the brave and courageous succeed.

Frank W. Magee was united in marriage December 10, 1878, to Miss Mary Fester, of Clinton, N. Y., and from this union four children were born—Arthur, born April 6, 1881 (deceased); Maud, born March 17, 1884; a third child born July 6, 1885 (deceased), and Sarah E., born November 4, 1887. Mrs. Magee was born in Lewis county, N. Y., February 22, 1857, and is the daughter of John and Sarah Fester, both of whom came from Germany. Mrs. Magee is a member of the United Brethren church. Mr. Magee has been chosen to fill various local offices and has always performed his official duties in a highly creditable manner. He is a man who strives at all times and under all circumstances to merit the respect and approbation of those around him.

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**H**OLLOWAY W. KINNEY was born in Hunterdon county, N. J., February 21, 1832, and is the son of Adrian and Catherine (Van Syckle) Kinney. His father was a native of New Jersey and was born in 1803, was a farmer by occupation and died in

1863. His mother, who was also a native of New Jersey, is still living. There were nine children in the family—three boys and six girls. Both parents were identified with the Presbyterian church. His paternal grandfather, Daniel Kinney, came from Germany in early manhood and settled in New Jersey, where he died in 1858. His maternal grandfather, Aaron Van Syckle, was a native of England, who, when he came to this country, selected New Jersey as his place of residence. H. W. Kinney was married October 6, 1855, to Miss Sarah Welter. She is a daughter of Jacob and Eliza (Henderson) Welter, and was born in Warren county, N. J., May 5, 1835. Their union was blest with two children—Cordelia, born August 15, 1856, and Carrie I. born July 26, 1873. Mrs. Kinney's parents were natives of New Jersey. Her father died in 1862, and her mother in 1885. There were four children in the family, of which she was the only girl. H. W. Kinney possesses a most honorable military record. Enlisting August 20, 1862, in the Fifteenth New Jersey regiment, he served for three years, during which time he participated in many of the most notable engagements of the war. He was at Fredericksburg, Va., May 3, 1863; Salem Heights, May 3 and 4, 1863; Franklin's Crossing, Va., 6 to 14, 1863; Gettysburg, Pa., July 2 and 3, 1863; Fairfield, Pa., July 5, 1863; Fairfield P. O., Funkstown, Md.; Rappahannock station, Va., October 12; Rappahannock station, Va., November 7; Mine Run, Spottsylvania, Va., May 8 to 11, 1864; Spottsylvania C. H., Va., May 12 to 16, 1864; North and South Anna river, Hanover C. H., Talapotomy creek, Weldon railroad, Snicker's gap,

Strasburg, Winchester, Charlestown, Opequan, Fisher hill, Newmarket, Mount Jackson, Cedar creek and Middletown, Hatcher's run, Fort Stedman, capture of Petersburg, Va., April 2, 1865, Sailor's creek, April 6, 1865; Farmville, April 7, 1865; and at Lee's surrender, Appomattox, April 9, 1865. He came out of the battle at Cedar creek with nineteen bullet holes in his clothes. His regiment was composed of the best men, physically, in Hunterdon county, N. J., and was made up exclusively of farmers, but his health was ruined in the hospitals. He was mustered out June 22, 1865. He came to Nebraska in March, 1878, and settled in Thornton township, Buffalo county. At that time there were only four families located within a radius of four or five miles of him. His farm, which is a splendid one, is located on the highest point in the township and commands an excellent view of the surrounding country. Perhaps no man in Buffalo county has taken more interest in fruit raising than has he, and certainly none has succeeded better, as he has a large number of thrifty fruit trees of excellent varieties. He also has succeeded remarkably well in raising small fruits, and he has demonstrated, beyond doubt, that with proper care fruit can be grown in this country.

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**H**ON. SAMUEL W. THORNTON, one of the oldest settlers of Thornton township, was born in Madison county, Ohio, October 23, 1832. His father, Abner Thornton, was born in North Carolina in the year 1800 and was of Scotch-Irish extraction. He emi-

grated with his parents in early childhood to Highland county, Ohio, where the family resided for several years, when they removed to Madison county. The senior Mr. Thornton was a school-teacher for a quarter of a century and was a man noted for his intelligence and good judgment. He was a man of exemplary habits and was strictly honest in all his dealings with his fellow-men. He joined the Presbyterian church in his early boyhood days and served as deacon during the major portion of his life. He died in September, 1864, respected and loved by all who knew him. Samuel Strain, the maternal grandfather of the subject of our sketch, was a native of Highland county, Ohio, was a most zealous Presbyterian and a man of extraordinary influence in the community where he lived. He was married four times and was the father of twenty-two children. His first wife was Nancy Watts, by whom he had four children; his second wife was Elizabeth Miller, who bore him seven children; his third was Martha Wilson, who also bore him seven children; the fourth and last was Nancy Johnston, by whom he had four children. A hewed log house erected by Mr. Strain, in Highland county, Ohio, in 1808, is still standing in a good state of preservation. The subject of our sketch was married September 14, 1854, to Miss Sarah A., daughter of Thomas and Mary (Bryson) Larimer. Both parents were natives of Pennsylvania, the father having been born in Fayette county, September 7, 1802, and the mother in Fayette county, September 23, 1805. Thomas Larimer was a farmer by occupation and a prominent and influential man in the community in which he lived. He held various

local offices, but never aspired to political honors. He was a devoted member of the Presbyterian church for fifty years and never knew that he had an enemy in his life. The maternal grandparents of Mrs. S. W. Thornton, were Andrew and Elizabeth (Porter) Bryson, both natives of Ireland. They were driven from their native land, however, during the religious revolution in the time of Charles I. Immediately after marriage, Mr. Thornton engaged in farming in Fayette county, Ohio, until 1859, when he emigrated to Washington, Washington county, Iowa, where he resumed his chosen occupation, about three miles from the county seat. In August, 1861, he responded to the bugle call of his country by enlisting in Company C, Eighth regiment, Iowa infantry. He participated in various skirmishes in Missouri in 1861-2. In the spring of 1862 his regiment was ordered up the Tennessee river as far as Pittsburg Landing, where it arrived in time to take part in the terrible battle of Shiloh. It was here on the eve of April 6, 1862, that Mr. Thornton was taken prisoner. He was first taken to Memphis, Tenn., later to Mobile, Ala., and finally to Macon, Ga., where he was paroled and sent home to await exchange. He soon re-entered the service and participated in the siege of Vicksburg, and in Forrest's raid on the city of Memphis. Here, on the twenty-first of August, he was shot in the thigh and wounded so badly that he was confined to the hospital until February 6, 1865, when he was discharged. He returned home on crutches, which he was obliged to use for sometime afterwards. After his return from the service, he filled acceptably several public positions of honor and trust.

He served as city collector, assessor and marshal of Washington, and one term as deputy sheriff. He also took the census of Washington county, Iowa, in 1870, receiving the appointment without previous knowledge. He immigrated to Buffalo county, Nebr., in June, 1874, and took a homestead and timber claim in what has since been called Thornton township. The country was wild and exceedingly barren, there being no settlement in the immediate vicinity at that time. Wild game was quite plenty, deer and antelope being frequently seen on the surrounding bluffs. No grass of any consequence grew, except in the "draws." Mr. Thornton was obliged to cut all the grass, for two years, that grew in the "draws" within a radius of two miles, in order to procure enough hay to feed his stock during the winter. In July, 1874, the grasshoppers made their first appearance and destroyed everything that was green. The next year the few discouraged settlers succeeded in raising a fine crop, considering the extreme newness of the country. In the summer of 1876, however, when the growing crop gave every promise of an abundant yield, and when the few scattering settlers had renewed their courage in the hope of gathering a rich harvest in the autumn, behold, the festive grasshoppers rose in black clouds in the distant horizon and descended wherever a green blade of anything was visible, and before night of the same day not a vestige of anything green could be seen. Fortunately this was the last year of the grasshoppers. Since then there has been unexcelled prosperity. Mr. Thornton now has four hundred and eighty acres of splendid land adapted to producing anything

usually grown in this section of the country. He has been experimenting for twelve years in raising tame grasses and has a reputation for raising more tame grass than any other farmer in the country.

Mr. and Mrs. Thornton have reared a family of eight children, namely—Eva J., born June 5, 1855, wife of John Swenson; William D., born February 24, 1858, married to Fanny Borders; Charles A., born November 28, 1860, drowned at the age of sixteen in Loup river; Mary E., born September 6, 1865, wife of T. R. Lionberger; Harry L., born October 3, 1867; Mabel C., born February 9, 1870, wife of Albert S. Lionberger of Hancock county, Ill.; Kate D., born October 28, 1872; and Lillie B., born November 10, 1877.

Mr. Thornton was elected in the fall of 1886 to represent Buffalo county in the State legislature and took an active part in the discussion of various important measures which passed during the session. Mr. and Mrs. Thornton are both consistent members of the Congregational church and Mr. Thornton is also an honored member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

**B**ARTLETTE TURNER was born in Scotland county, Mo., October 6, 1851. His father, William A. Turner, was born in Virginia in 1827 but emigrated to Illinois when quite young, and in 1845 moved to Missouri, where he engaged in farming. He has always taken great interest in agricultural pursuits and still resides at Granger, Scotland county, Mo. His wife is Eliza Powers, born

in Indiana in 1831. William H. Turner, the paternal grandfather of our subject, emigrated from Virginia to Illinois and later to Missouri, where he died in 1877. The maternal grandfather, Richard Powers, lived in Missouri and died before the war; his wife, Mary Powers, died in Missouri in 1885.

Mr. Turner, the subject of this sketch, began life for himself in 1872 by working a farm by the month. His sole ambition was to get a home of his own, and with this purpose in view he provided himself with a "prairie schooner" and set out for the boundless West. He journeyed as far as Buffalo county, Nebraska, where he arrived on the first of October, 1873. After prospecting about for a while he concluded to take up a homestead in Thornton township. Here he built a sod house and went to work in earnest to secure a home. The country was new, and he had to labor under many disadvantages, but he eventually overcame these obstacles and is to-day one of the prosperous farmers of his locality. His farm contains 240 acres of land, mostly under cultivation and otherwise improved. A substantial farm dwelling has superseded the old sod house and beautiful forest trees break the monotony of the rolling prairie.

Mr. Turner was united in marriage December 26, 1872, to Miss Mary E. Standard. Three children have been born to this union, namely—William L., born January 30, 1874; Fred A., born July 6, 1876, and Frank, born June 25, 1885. The father of Mrs. Turner was Thomas Standard, who was born in Ohio and who emigrated to Missouri when a young man, and engaged in farming. He died in the service of his country at Cincinnati, Ohio,





R. BEECHER.



during the war. He was married to Mary Phelps, a native of Missouri, who is now living at Arbela, Mo. Both were devoted members of the Christian church.

Mr. and Mrs. Bartlette Turner remember seeing herds of antelope passing only a few rods from their present home, and the former has seen buffalo in this country since his residence here. He has hauled fuel, during his early settlement, from fifteen to thirty miles and has paid as high as \$1.20 for a bushel of corn. He erected his first sod house, fourteen by sixteen feet, at an outlay of only \$3.00. Mr. Turner has never aspired to political honors, but has several times served in the capacity of clerk and treasurer of his township. He has always affiliated with the democratic party.

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**R**BEECHER, M. D. Dr. R. Beecher is a homeopathic physician of prominence residing in the town of Shelton, Buffalo county, and is also an old Nebraskan, having come to the state in 1872. His record, therefore, will be doubly interesting to a volume like this.

Dr. Beecher was born in Ashtabula county, Ohio, December 13, 1835, and was reared there to the age of thirteen, moving thence to Winnebago county, Ill., with his parents, who settled in that county in the vicinity of Rockford in 1848. There his youth was spent. He received a good literary education in the schools of Beloit, Wis., and on reaching his majority went to Iowa and started in the world for himself. He selected medicine as his profession and prepared himself for

lectures under the direction of Dr. H. C. Markham, of Independence, Iowa, and Dr. R. B. Caneh, of Winthrop, Iowa. The former of these belonged to the allopathic school of medicine and the latter to the homeopathic school. Having posted himself on the relative merits of the two schools sufficiently to enable him to make a judicious choice, Dr. Beecher decided to give his allegiance to the latter, and set about vigorously to prepare himself for the practice. He graduated from the Medical College of Missouri, at St. Louis, and settled to the practice of his profession in Iowa. He spent some years there successfully engaged at the practice till 1872, when he made up his mind to change locations, and came that year to Nebraska and located at the town of Exeter, Fillmore county. He followed his profession there for a period of nine years, moving in 1881 to Shelton, Buffalo county, where he now lives. Since the date Dr. Beecher embarked in the profession he has given his time wholly to it, and the great success he has met with has been a just reward for his diligent labor and faithful application. He has been in the practice now over a third of a century; he has ridden over thousands of miles of territory and has visited the bedside of hundreds of suffering fellow-mortals. His practice has been that of the general practitioner. Much of it has necessarily been done for those too poor to pay the "accustomed doctors' fee," yet not the less faithfully has it, on that account, been done. He has made it a point always in his practice to respond to the wants of those in distress, and render his best professional services, regardless of the prospects of financial returns. He

looks upon his profession as one of the highest honor, and believes that every member of it should be actuated by the one supreme purpose of doing good.

Of his methods, his conduct towards his patients and his cures it is not necessary to speak with great minuteness in this place. If witnesses on these points were needed, clouds of them could be summoned from many sources. He has, time and again, effected cures of cases pronounced hopeless by other physicians, and his patients restored to health are living all around him. There are numbers of people of the highest official position and social prominence living in his county who will readily testify to the satisfactory cures he has made falling under their observation. Some of these people are themselves the subjects of such cures. With two malignant troubles, particularly, has Dr. Beecher been most successful. These are typhoid fever and rheumatism. With anything like a reasonable start with either of these he never fails of a cure. In his practice Dr. Beecher uses the simple remedies devised and made use of by his school. He is particularly attached to the use of the electric battery, and not the least of his most noted cures have been made through this modern agency.

Dr. Beecher has in a course of a long practice accumulated a vast amount of valuable matter, being a man of close observation and diligent research. This he designs giving to the medical profession in printed form as soon as the work of digesting and re-writing can be performed. His work will cover all the years of his practice and will embody a wide range of study and actual bed-side experience. Dr.

Beecher takes an active interest in the literature of his profession and in the workings of the various medical associations. He takes the journals, of course, and does some contributive work for them. As often as the exacting duties of his practice will allow, he attends the sittings of the various associations and contributes articles for discussion.

As illustrative of the oft-repeated observation originating with the medical fraternity—that men are what they are more by heredity than by education—it may be well to record some facts in this sketch touching Dr. Beecher's ancestral history in order to show how far his case falls within the scope of this observation.

Dr. Beecher is a descendant of New England stock and connected on both sides of his house with two distinguished families. His grandparents were all natives of Connecticut. His father, Augustus B. Beecher, who was a cousin of the eminent divine, Henry Ward Beecher, was a native of Hartford, Connecticut. He was a ship carpenter by trade, but tiring of his location came West when a young man and took up his residence in Ashtabula county, Ohio, where he married, settled down to carpenter work, following that occupation there for years, subsequently moving to Illinois, then to Iowa, and finally to Nebraska, dying in the latter state at his son's home in Shelton in 1884, having attained the eighty-third year of his age. He was a man of quiet life, sober, industrious, of a serious turn of mind and very domestic in his tastes.

Dr. Beecher's mother bore the maiden name of Mary Ann Sweet and was a daughter of Ara Sweet, who emigrated from his native place in Connecticut, came

West and settled in Ashtabula county, Ohio, soon after that part of the state was thrown open to settlement, being the first one to take up a permanent residence in Geneva township, Ashtabula county. Dr. Beecher's mother was born in Ashtabula county, was reared and married there. She lived to the age of sixty-six, dying in 1879 of injuries received from a fall. The Sweets from whom she sprang were a family that furnished many eminent physicians, there running through the family a strong tendency to the medical profession. It is from this source chiefly that Dr. Beecher gets his taste for his calling. His people upon this side, as well as upon his father's, were distinguished for their quiet, even, temperate, systematic habits and their sober, settled views of life. They were noted also for their strong vigorous constitutions and their great longevity.

Dr. Beecher married in 1857 while still living in Illinois, the lady on whom his choice fell being Miss Adella Adams, a native of Rochester, New York. To this union have been born two children, both now grown and both of whom remain with their parents. These are a son and a daughter.

In physical, mental and moral make-up, Dr. Beecher preserves many of the characteristics of the people from whom he is descended. Though not strong and robust in appearance, he has a closely knit, tough, wiry physique, indicative of a strong inherited physical culture and temperate habits. He has the broad humanity and benevolent impulses that one would look for in a man bearing his name, and especially does he exhibit that love of home and attachment to his family which

has run through his people for several generations.

Dr. Beecher is agreeable in personal appearance, being entertaining in conversation and engaging in manners. He is small of stature, but his frame is surmounted by a large head. His square jaw and partially shaven face, revealing his thin lips, indicate the decision of character that has marked his course through life, while the pleasant smile with which his countenance lights up in his softer moods, tells of the warmth of his nature and the genuineness of his feelings.

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PETER F. H. SCHARS is one of the most popular and influential men in Buffalo county. One has but to call at his beautiful home in Thornton township and be greeted with that warm and genial welcome extended alike to everyone, to discover the real secret of Mr. Schars' popularity. The "latch string" of his door hangs out to king and peasant alike, and no one goes from his threshold without having been made to feel that the welcome he received came from the heart of an honest and sincere man. Mr. Schars is a native of Germany, was born December 20, 1844, and came to America in 1852, with his parents, both of whom were natives of the "Fatherland." Young Schars was not old enough yet to appreciate the great possibilities offered in the new world to the honest, industrious sons of toil who flock to its shores from the overcrowded marts of

other lands. A permanent settlement was made at New Baltimore, Mich., where the parents of this worthy son still reside. It was here that young Schars was reared to manhood; where he enjoyed the blessings of free schools; where he received his first lessons in patriotism; and where he had the principles of American manhood instilled in his very being. After Mr. Schars had attained his majority, he engaged in mercantile business at New Baltimore, Mich., and for eight years he continued to do a successful business. During his career as a business man, he was called upon by the people to fill various local positions of trust, and the prompt and efficient manner in which he discharged his public duties have been the chief characteristics of his successful career since. In 1879, he came to Buffalo county, Nebr., and immediately purchased a farm in Thornton township, where he now resides. His home-farm comprises a half-section, and a more beautiful tract of land can not be found in the country. The buildings are neat and substantial, and the sprinkling of numerous shade trees lend an air of cheerfulness that is so essential to a pleasant and beautiful home. Mr. Schars was married, September 13, 1870, to Lydia H. Hatheway, who was born in Marion, Mass., and is the daughter of New England parents. He was elected sheriff of Buffalo county, Nebr., on the republican ticket, in 1883, and re-elected in 1885. His career as sheriff was distinguished chiefly by the fearless, yet courteous, promptness with which he discharged his official duties. He has since served as supervisor of his township two terms, and is now the president of the county board.

**J**AMES JENKINS is one of the oldest settlers, one of the first business men and one of the most reputable citizens of Kearney—a man, who, from his naturally retiring disposition and his settled habit of attending strictly to his own personal affairs, would probably never become known to the casual visitor were he not so well and favorably known to all the old settlers of Kearney and by them pointed out to strangers as one of the first men of the place. Mr. Jenkins settled in Buffalo county March 22, 1872. He located at first in the country, taking as a homestead the southwest quarter of section 24, township 9, range 16 west, his place lying two and a half miles north of Kearney. This was six months before the town-site of Kearney was surveyed. When the town was started in the fall of 1872, he saw an opening for himself in his trade and he came in and started a boot and shoe shop. He continued to reside on his farm, worked at the bench during the day, and returned home at night. His business increasing and the growth of the town demanding it, he subsequently bought a stock of ready made boots and shoes to supply the local trade. He did well from the start, and in October, 1881, he gave up farming and moved his family to town, and has since given his entire time and attention to his store. The Boston Boot & Shoe Store is the result of his long years of patient industry and close attention to business, and it is no more than justice to say that it is one of the largest and best retail boot and shoe houses in central Nebraska. A simple story, shortly told; yet back of it is a useful lesson. This success has not been achieved by happy accident but only by

the exercise of great patience, great industry and an amount of self-sacrifice that but few men are willing to practice. Throughout all discouraging seasons and amidst all distracting considerations Mr. Jenkins has toiled steadily on, working out his own unchanging purpose of building up a house with a trade that will be a credit to his town and an honor to his name. Others of his comrades of former years, after ineffectual efforts to establish themselves in one line and another, have moved on, most of them further west. Some did establish themselves, but, failing for one reason and another, have dropped to the rear. Still others, caught with the frenzy of speculation, have had their earnings swallowed up and are either left penniless or so tied up as to be helpless, and still others have succeeded even at speculation, and some in legitimate lines. But the last mentioned are not numerous, and of their number—that is of the strictly legitimate business men and not money grubbers—none have been more successful or achieved their success by the exercise of better virtues than has the subject of this sketch. Mr. Jenkins served the City of Kearney as mayor in 1882, being elected on the republican ticket. He has been town councilman twice. For the general growth and development of the city he has been active at all times, yet he is no boomer. He believes that solid results are attained only by hard persistent effort—that there is no “talking point” about any man or measure equal to real merit—that lasting success is reached only by it. He has absolute faith in Kearney and Buffalo county. He has shown his faith by his works, for he has spent seventeen years of the best part of

his life building up a business here, which, were he so inclined, he could not abandon without irreparable loss. Of the town and county of his adoption, of the people among whom he lives whose pluck and energy have made the town and county what they are, he is proud, and of him as a sturdy, self-reliant, industrious useful citizen, the City of Kearney and her appreciative people are equally as proud.

So much for Mr. Jenkins' business career since coming to Buffalo county. For the benefit of his posterity who may turn to this volume in years to come to learn something of the early history of their first ancestor who settled on Nebraska soil, the following notes may be added: James Jenkins was born in Wales, March 1, 1845, and is a son of Charles and Mary (Bevan) Jenkins, natives also of Wales. His parents immigrated to America in 1851 and settled in Green Lake county, Wis., where they both now live, the father aged eighty-one, the mother seventy-seven. They are plain, unpretentious people, and have reached their great age by the temperate, orderly, systematic lives they have led. Mr. Jenkins is one of a family of eleven children, the list in the order of their ages being as follows—Mary, Eliza, Charles, Thomas, James (the subject hereof), Maggie, Kate, John, Winnie, William L. and Frank. The three eldest sons, being all that were then of a sufficient age, were in the late war. Charles and Thomas were members of Company B, Fourth Wisconsin infantry, Federal army. The former died at Port Hudson, La., of wounds received in battle at that place, and the latter died at Carrollton, a suburb of New Orleans, of disease contracted in service. The Fourth

Wisconsin has a record as one of the best fighting regiments in the Union army. It was changed to cavalry in September, 1863, and did its best fighting prior to that date. It sustained its greatest loss at Port Hudson, La., where its loss in killed, wounded and missing was two hundred and nineteen, the actual death loss being forty-five or twenty per cent. of the total number of the regiment engaged. The subject of this sketch enlisted in Company K, Forty-third Wisconsin volunteer infantry, September 12, 1864, having just turned his seventeenth year. His regiment was commanded by Col. Amasa Cobb, present associate justice of the state supreme court of Nebraska. Mr. Jenkins served nominally under Gen. George H. Thomas, being stationed at Nashville, Tenn. Going into the army late he saw but little active service. He was mustered out at Milwaukee, Wis., July 8, 1865. Returning to Green Lake county he engaged in work at his trade—boot and shoe making. January 1, 1868, he married Miss Emma L. Morse, of Seneca Falls, N. Y., and came as stated to Buffalo county, this state, in March, 1872. August 12, 1875, his wife died, leaving two children—Frank B. and Florence L. July 15, 1877, he again married, his second wife being Miss Mary E. Morrison, of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. By this marriage he has the following children—Charley A., Paul B. and Noble. Mr. Jenkins is a man of social turn, has a heart full of sympathy for his fellow-men and is willing at all times to help any in need or distress. He has been an active worker in a number of the beneficial orders, using these orders as a means to do what good he is able to for struggling humanity.

**E**LIZA R. MORSE, M. D. Among the women who have had the courage and independence to devote their lives to some special line of endeavor, it is no rash prediction to say that the subject of this sketch is destined to hold a useful and honorable place. Born in the town of Metamora, Woodford county, Ill., the daughter of Levi P. and Mary (Parmiter) Morse, she passed her earlier years in that locality and from the schools of her native place received a thorough common and high school training, acquiring her literary education at Eureka and afterwards at Knox College at Galesburg, Ill., which education was supplemented by a special course in the private Normal at Valparaiso, Ind. With a desire to devote her life to one of the liberal professions and having a special taste and aptitude as she believed for the practice of physic, she began to read medicine in 1884 with Dr. W. Mansfield of Metamora, Ill., pursuing her studies assiduously under this gentleman for many months. As she progressed in her knowledge of the profession, she became more and more enamored of it and the more firmly fixed became her determination to master its mysteries and to thoroughly prepare herself for its practice. Entering the Woman's Medical College at Chicago, Ill., she graduated from that institution in the spring of 1888, and then returned to Metamora, where she began the practice of her chosen profession with her preceptor, and met with the most flattering success from the beginning. Encouraged by this, she determined to enter upon an independent professional career, and with an instinctive confidence in the American sense of

honor and fair play—displayed nowhere on this continent to such good advantage as in the great West, where all are absolutely free and equal according to merit. She came hither and in the spring of 1889 cast her fortune with the promising city of Kearney, where she at once took up the practice and has since continued at it. Her venture has not proved disappointing. She has met with as cordial reception from the fraternity as she could have asked and as liberal patronage from the public as she had any reason to expect. She has met the crucial requirements as to honesty and capability and her subsequent career therefore is only a matter of time and patient labor. She has qualified herself for the general practice and she pursues her profession in in all its branches, giving special attention only as time and opportunity afford to the diseases incident to women and children. She is a thorough student and keeps fully abreast of the best thought of the day in her profession. She realizes that in the science of her profession as in all progressive sciences there are but few axioms, the perfection of the known and the discovery of the unknown being the constant ends in view. In the adaptation of the infinite variety of means to these ends, the realm of *materia medica* unfolds and discovers to the eye of the student, philosopher and humanist an ever widening field of research and labor, so that he or she who has selected this line of endeavor for his life work is not only not privileged to rest his knowledge on the dicta of the curriculum and the teachings of the books, but he commits a grave crime against his race when he does so, and one which soon or late returns in its consequences to plague

him in his professional career. Not only is Dr. Morse fully alive to the responsibilities of her profession, but she is admirably fitted by nature for its successful pursuit. Endowed with that subtle sympathy which makes the whole world akin, her presence in the sick room is felt before she begins to prescribe. Cautious in the steps by which she proceeds, her first efforts are always directed to the task of securing the confidence of her patient, then an understanding of the ailment and then an application of the resources of her art to the trouble in hand. With such methods, re-inforced by a natural and professional acumen rare even in one of her sex and fraternity, distinguished each alike for their signal intuitiveness, she does not often fail of a cure when called in time, and where, from a neglect of proper precautions at the outset or from a dissolution of the forces of nature, restoration to health and vigor are beyond the reach of her skill, with a frank acknowledgment of this to herself and a discreet intimation of the unpleasant fact to the friends and relatives of her patient, she plies her utmost care to lengthening the feeble span of life for her unhappy sufferer and to robbing the dark and shadowy vale and depriving the death bed of at least its physical agonies.

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CHARLES D. AYRES, one of Kearney's successful and enterprising citizens, had his birth in the Buckeye State in Medina county, Ohio, thirty miles from the city of Cleveland, on the twenty-second of October, 1852. His father, Nathan W., a native of New York State, moved to Ohio with his parents at an

early age; subsequently removed to Henry county, Iowa, in the year 1867, and shortly thereafter to Van Buren county, Iowa, where he spent his remaining years till his death in 1878. His father—the grandfather of the subject of our present sketch—was a physician and a native of Connecticut, but spent his last days with his son in Medina county, Ohio, dying there at the age of sixty-nine. The father of Charles D. Ayres followed the business of farming all his life. Mr. Ayres' mother, Mary J. (Quillhot) Ayres, is a native of Johnstown, N. Y., where she was born in 1823, is still alive and resides in Kearney.

The subject of our present sketch moved to Kearney from Iowa in the year 1874, and is consequently one of the pioneers of this section of the country, and could doubtless relate many interesting occurrences to which the present generation of new-comers are utter strangers. Mr. Ayres is the second of four children, of whom three—Edward J., William K. and himself—are still living, all in Kearney. One, Gertrude, is dead.

Mr. Ayres was educated in the common schools, and when he was of sufficient age to begin the active duties of life he engaged in farming. In 1880, however, he embarked in the coal business, to which he has continued since to devote his time, handling also farm machinery. Mr. Ayres is a republican in politics, but has never given it very much attention, being content to discharge the duties of an enterprising and progressive citizen and devoting his energies to business pursuits, which are more to his taste.

Mr. Ayres is a man of quiet and modest demeanor, but of very social disposition. He has passed all the chairs in the I. O. O.

F., and encampment, and last year his brethren recognized his worth and ability by making him grand patriarch of the State of Nebraska. For the past six years he has been a member of the committee on appeals and grievances of the grand lodge of this state. He is also a member of the Rebecca lodge and of Canton Excelsior, No. 3, Patriarchs Militant. Mr. Ayres has also allied himself with the order of Knights of Pythias, both subordinate and uniform rank, and for the past year has been captain of the division. He is one of the substantial citizens of Kearney and is taking an active part in the development of this thriving young city.

**G**EORGE FLEHARTY was born in Grant county, Wis., August 27, 1837, and is a son of William and Martha (Toogood) Fleharty. His father was born in Maryland in 1802, and emigrated to Ohio when a boy, where he remained for a few years, after which he moved to Springfield, Ill., and subsequently located at Galena. He taught his first term of school near Springfield, where he also studied law. He was a man of marked ability. He served through the Black Hawk war, and entered the ministry of the Methodist church in 1835. His efforts in the ministry were attended with marked success, but he was compelled to retire after ten years' service on account of failing health. He was a member of what was then known as the Rock River conference. He died on his farm near Apple River, Ill., in 1873.

Two hundred years ago a person stand-





GEO. FLEHARTY.



ing on the wharf at Baltimore, Md., might have seen two persons swimming towards shore in advance of a ship; one of these was no other than William Fleharty, the founder of the Fleharty family in America. He determined to reach America in advance of his comrades. He was a native of the north of Ireland. He became an extensive slave owner, but freed them all before his death.

George Fleharty's mother was born in Troy, N. Y., in 1796. She resided after her marriage at Wilkesbarre, Pa; removed from there to St. Louis, Mo., where her husband died. She had a flat-boat constructed, and placing her few household utensils thereon, she and three little children, with the aid of a hired man, poled their little boat up the river to Galena, Ill. Here she met William Fleharty, to whom she was married in 1830. Four children were born of this union—Eveline M., William H., Margaret A. and George. Mrs. Fleharty died at the home of her daughter, Eveline, February, 1887. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

George Fleharty was married, December 25, 1860, to Annie Kelly, daughter of Richard and Katie Kelley, and born in Ireland in 1838. She emigrated to this country in 1845. Her father died in Warren, Ill., March 10, 1862; her mother resides in Chicago. Eleven children were born to them, seven of whom are still living, namely—Rosette, born November 11, 1863 (wife of William W. Pierce); George F., born July 27, 1868; Jennie, born August 15, 1870; Joseph H., born December 12, 1873; Nellie, born March 21, 1876; Charles F., born May 1, 1878; and Walter B., born December 28, 1881.

Mr. Fleharty came to Buffalo county, Nebr., November 13, 1871, and took a homestead in Center township, upon which he has resided continuously ever since. He made what improvements he could the first year, but the next winter his only team died, and for several years the grasshoppers swept away his crops, but he never became discouraged, like many others, and return to whence he came. The Indians were quite numerous, and were a source of constant annoyance to the settlers on account of their habit of begging and stealing. He was elected county surveyor in the fall of 1872, and served two years, and was elected county commissioner in the fall of 1873, and served a term of three years. The county jail, Platte river bridge, and other works of internal improvement were completed during his supervision. He was the first postmaster at Buda. He is an old soldier. Enlisting in a Wisconsin regiment, in 1862, he served his country faithfully during the war of the rebellion. He is an influential member of the republican party and a man of considerable learning.

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**J**OHN WILSON, sheriff of Buffalo county, is one of the best known gentlemen as well as most popular and efficient public officials in central Nebraska. He comes of Scotch-Irish parentage, and retains in his make-up many of the most signal qualities of the race from which he springs. His parents, Samuel and Mary (Owens) Wilson, were brought to the United States by their parents when young, the former at the

age of nine and the latter at the age of sixteen. They grew up in the city of Pittsburgh, Pa., where they met and were married, and from which place they emigrated West in 1865, and settled in Henry county, Ill., where they now live, being engaged in the peaceful pursuit of agriculture. They are the parents of nine children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest, the others being Mary A., Jane L., Samuel, William A., James, Archie, Richard B. and Ella—the last named now deceased.

The subject of this notice was born in Allegheny county, Pa., on the twenty-first day of February, 1849. He was reared mainly in his native county, going to Henry county, Ill., with his parents in the spring of 1865. He was brought up on his father's farm, received a good common-school training, and began his career as a farmer in Henry county, Ill., but remained on the farm only a short time, when he was appointed deputy sheriff of Henry county by W. J. Vannice and served as such for three years. Vannice's term of office having expired and B. H. Goodell having been elected as sheriff, Mr. Wilson received the appointment of deputy under that gentleman and held this position for four years. In the fall of 1883 he moved to Nebraska and settled in Kearney, and began to speculate in real estate, following this for about a year. In 1884, in company with his brother Samuel, he engaged in the livery business in Kearney, continuing at it till the fall of 1887, when he was elected sheriff of Buffalo county. He was re-elected to the same position in the fall of 1889, and is now holding under that election. As evidence of the popularity he has achieved,

he was re-elected by a majority of 1,300 votes, the largest majority ever given any public official in Buffalo county. He is a faithful and efficient officer and discharges his duties without fear or favor. He has won the popularity he has attained in the only way such things can be done—that is, by treating his office as a public trust and bringing to the discharge of his official duties the same zeal, energy and discriminating judgment that he exercises in the prosecution of his own affairs. That he should have some enemies is naturally to be expected, yet, as was said of another, his warmest friends "love him most for the enemies he has made." His name is a terror to evil-doers, as his presence is the best guarantee of peace, order and the faithful execution of the laws. Besides being a capable public official, he is a successful man of business and a wide-awake progressive, public-spirited citizen. He has been identified with the best interests of his community since locating in Kearney and has worked with a will for the promotion of all the enterprises which have sought favor there, giving liberally also in proportion to his means. He is now and has been for years chief of the Kearney fire department, is also president of the State Fireman's Association, and at the State convention held January, 1890, at Wahoo, he was elected delegate to represent the state at the National Convention of Engineers to be held at Detroit, Michigan. He is president of the Sheriffs' State Association and is now serving his second term as such.

Mr. Wilson married, May 18, 1880, Miss Rosa M. Beecher, daughter of Benjamin J. Beecher, of Henry county, Ill. To this union have been born four children, two

living—John Howard and Ella Mary. Pearl W. and Archie E. died in infancy. Mr. Wilson is a republican in politics and is a staunch supporter of the principles of his party. He is a member of a number of the beneficial orders, among them the masonic, in which he has taken all the degrees up to and including the Knight Templar; the other societies of which he is a member comprise the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. In private life he is polite, companionable and accommodating. No man would go further to assist a friend or a stranger than he, and this is the secret of much of his popularity. He counts his friends by the hundreds, and no man in Buffalo county has warmer ones than he has. Mrs. Wilson is a member of the First Baptist church.

**C**W. VAN ALSTINE is the leading artist and photographer of Kearney, has his studio at 2111 Main street, and has had an experience of thirty years in photographic work. When a lad of twelve years he lost his father and at that early age started out to make his own way in the world. He first went to work at Watertown, N. Y., where he learned the trade of carriage trimming. Abandoning it on account of his poor health he learned the daguerreotype business, traveled two years, and then located at Potsdam, N. Y., where he remained until 1877. Poor health again caused him to relin-

quish his business, but in 1878, however, he regained his health and removed to Big Rapids, Mich., where he opened a photographic gallery, remaining there six years, when, being attacked once more with poor health he sold out and went south to Kansas; soon afterward he went to Richmond, Va., where he remained a few weeks and recovered sufficiently to remove to and open a gallery at Red Oak, Iowa, where he soon became fully restored to health and where he remained until 1889, when he sold out and opened his present photographic parlors at Kearney.

Mr. Van Alstine has been married twice—first, in 1864, to Miss Theresa A. Clark, by whom he had one son—Charles H. Van Alstine, now a practical photographer. Mrs. Van Alstine died in February, 1878. She was a member of the Episcopal church and for many years was organist of recognized merit. In April, 1884, Mr. Van Alstine was united in marriage to Miss Emma T. Green, then of Big Rapids, Mich., but a native of Belmont, N. Y. Mrs. Van Alstine is an artist and a finished and natural retoucher, and has had, for the past eight years, the reputation of being one of the finest artists in this respect in the country. She makes it very pleasant for the ladies, as she has excellent taste in the arrangement of drapery.

Mr. and Mrs. Van Alstine rank among our best people and enjoy the confidence and respect of all who know them; they are members of the Episcopal church and Mrs. Van Alstine is a member of the K. P. Sisterhood. Mr. Van Alstine is a Royal Arch Mason. The negatives used in making the portraits of Buffalo county citizens that appear in this work were made by Mr. Van Alstine.

**H**OMER J. ALLEN. One of the prominent and influential citizens of Kearney, Nebr., as well as one of the oldest settlers in this section of the state, is Homer J. Allen. Born in Erie county, Pa., in 1848, he came to this state while the major part of our beautiful and now well-settled territory was literally a howling wilderness. His father, Josiah N. Allen, was a Congregational preacher, born in Otsego county, N. Y., but while yet an infant moving with his parents to Erie county, Pa., where the earlier years of our subject were passed. It was in 1872 that Josiah N. Allen emigrated with a colony of neighbors and friends to this county, locating near the present village of Shelton. His entire life has been given to the Master's service, his labors having begun as early as 1858. He is still alive and resides near Shelton, where he first located. He can tell many an interesting and thrilling tale of pioneer experience, but for these there is scarcely room in a brief sketch like this. Suffice it to say that he preached the first sermon in what is now Buffalo county, and also married the first couple. His faithful wife, Polly Miller, a native of Erie county, Pa., was born on the third of August, 1837, and still lives to share the comforts and trials of his declining years. The Allens trace their lineage back to Samuel P., the great-grandfather of Homer J., who was of English descent. His son, Clothier B., was born in New York State, but passed the greater part of his later life in Erie county, Pa., whither his son, as above stated, had emigrated about 1827. He died there at the age of seventy-seven years.

The subject of this sketch is the eldest

of six children, of whom five are still living. Emogene, wife of a Mr. George, is a resident of Custer county, this state; Ernestine, now Mrs. S. J. Hedges, lives near Sidney, Nebr.; Milly, wife of Stephen Stonebarger, lives at Shelton; Mertie B. lives with her parents at Shelton; Hadley Dean is dead.

Our subject was reared up a farm boy in Erie county, Pa., and during his boyhood years attended the common schools of that state; but at the age of twenty-one, desiring to still further increase his fund of knowledge, he entered the excellent normal school located at Edinboro, Pa. It was his intention to take the entire course at this school, but his labors were broken in upon by an accident which he met with at the end of his second term, and which precluded his further attendance until other interests seemed to make it impossible for him to carry out his original intention. The remaining time that he lived in Pennsylvania was devoted to farming, and when, in 1872, having accumulated a little property, he came to Nebraska and bought eighty acres of land located about two miles southwest of Shelton.

He is one of the many men who have demonstrated beyond a doubt that good business habits, coupled with industry, will make a success of farming in Nebraska. Beginning with but eighty acres, he gradually added to his landed possessions till at the present time he owns four hundred and twenty acres. Mr. Allen continued the business of farming up to the year 1883, when his fellow-citizens, deeming his services would be of value to them, elected him to the office of county treasurer, and, for the better discharge of

his duty, he in that year removed to Kearney, the county seat. At the end of his first term he was re-elected, holding the office continuously from his first election in the fall of 1883 until 1888. His services in this capacity were entirely satisfactory to his constituents. He has, since 1888, been engaged in the abstract and real estate business, which he still follows. He is, however, interested in various other commercial enterprises, having been active in organizing the Kearney National Bank, one of the strongest banking concerns in the city of Kearney, of which he has been a stockholder from its incipency, and during a large portion of that time one of the directors. He is also treasurer of the Kearney Land and Investment Company, which company he also assisted in organizing.

Mr. Allen was married in 1875, March 18, to Phœbe S. Hotchkiss, of Erie county, Pa. Three children have come to bless this union — Elmer W., Edna M. and Leon. Mr. Allen and his wife are both members of the Congregational church of this place.

In the midst of his arduous and successful business enterprises, Mr. Allen has found time to develop the social side of his nature as well. He is a Knight Templar, member of Mount Hebron Commandery No. 12, and is also a member of the shrine located at Omaha. He is also connected with the A. O. U. W. of this place. Mr. Allen is a staunch republican in politics, but, as will be seen from the foregoing sketch, has preferred the more congenial walks of a business life to the turmoil and intrigue of a political career. He is a man of fine and commanding presence, and, best of all, has the respect

and confidence of his fellow-citizens. In a city which can, perhaps, boast a larger number of enterprising and able men than the average city of its size, Homer J. Allen occupies an honorable place.

**F**RED URWILLER, one of the first settlers of Gardner township, Buffalo county, Nebr., is a native of Switzerland; was born May 24, 1849, and accompanied his parents to the United States in 1854. His father was a silk weaver by trade, but engaged in mercantile pursuits some, while a resident of his native country. The family lived at Rochester, N. Y., three years after landing in this country, and this consisted of eight children, five of whom died in the old country. In 1857 they moved to Marshall, Calhoun county, Mich. A farm was purchased near that place and successfully cultivated by Mr. Urwiller and his three sons, who proved themselves to be hard-working, industrious young men. The parents were both zealous members of the Lutheran church and were among the most respected citizens of the community. The educational advantages of Fred Urwiller were limited to the common district school, which he was only permitted to attend during the winter months. He assisted his father on the farm until he was twenty, when he began learning the carpenter trade.

In the fall of 1878, Fred Urwiller, accompanied by his two elder brothers, Jacob and Samuel, came to Buffalo county, Nebr., in search of land. They finally filed claims in Gardner township and

began the arduous work of founding a home on the frontier of civilization. They were the first settlers in that immediate locality and the surroundings were indeed anything but encouraging. Fred came with limited means and borrowed money to procure material for a house. He erected a small, comfortable frame house, and when he got it finished he had but \$25.00 left to carry himself and family through the winter. He worked out when he could get work, and earned what he could whenever opportunity afforded. He and his brother Samuel worked at Shelton and would often wade home through the deep snow to see how their families were getting along. Spring opened, crops were planted, and harvest time awaited with great eagerness by Mr. Urwiller and his neighbors. The harvests gathered were not always abundant, but Mr. Urwiller has never sown but what he reaped, though the harvest may have sometimes been small.

On New Year's day, 1873, Mr. Urwiller was united in marriage with Miss Nevada Paul, a native of Michigan and a daughter of Arthur Paul, who was born in New York. This union has been blessed with five children, as follows—Cora M., born January 12, 1874; Cornelia, born September 24, 1877; Frank D., born November 9, 1882; Lillie, born April 9, 1886, and Florence E., born April 13, 1890. While Mr. Urwiller has not been a seeker after public office, he has, nevertheless, been called upon to fill various responsible positions of public trust. He has served as town treasurer, also as justice of the peace, and at this present time is a member of the county board of supervisors. He and his estimable wife are devoted

members of the Presbyterian church, and are liberal contributors to every worthy cause. Mr. Urwiller has one of the best improved farms in the township and under his careful and judicious management it produces equal to any of the same number of acres in the county. As above stated, Mr. Urwiller came here with very limited means; he has tasted some of the bitter and disagreeable things of life, but he has boldly and courageously overcome every obstacle in this way; and by hard work, good management and rigid economy, has succeeded beyond his most sanguine expectations. He has denied himself and family many of the luxuries of life to avoid getting in debt, and to this, perhaps more than any other one thing, is due his success.

**B**YRON N. SPRINGER, an enterprising hardware dealer of Armaña, Nebr., was born near the city of Council Bluffs, Iowa, April 17, 1853, and is the son of George W. and Hannah (Calmere) Springer. His father was born near New York City, March 27, 1809. He was a farmer by occupation and has resided in several states. In 1850 he moved to Iowa and was one of the first settlers in Pottawattamie county, that state. His paternal grandfather was William M. Springer, who was a native of New York, and served with distinction in the Revolutionary war. His mother was born in England, in February, 1813, but came to America in 1835, her parents having preceded her. Byron N. Springer was married March 19, 1874, to Miss Mary H. Tripplett, daughter of Thomas and



Sarah (Pallock) Tripplett; the former was a Virginian by birth and the latter was a native of Pennsylvania. They emigrated West in 1884 and are now living in Dawson county, Nebr. After marriage, Byron N. Springer engaged in farming in Iowa, which occupation he continued for several years, although he had become proficient as a blacksmith and followed that trade for ten years. He immigrated to Buffalo county, Nebr., March 4, 1884, and settled in Armada, where he worked at his trade as a blacksmith until December 1, 1886, when he engaged in the implement business. In October, 1887, he began the hardware business and is now known as the pioneer hardware dealer of the town. In the spring of 1889 his store with its contents was burned, but he soon started up again, and is now doing a lively and prosperous business. He is confident of the future success of Armada (now Miller), being situated as it is in the rich valley of Wood river. He has been a close observer of the progress of events since his residence in the town and he believes it only a question of a short time until the future of Armada will be assured. When he first came to the town there were only three or four sod houses; he built the first frame house, and since then the town has become an important trade center. He has been justice of the peace for Armada township; is a member of the Good Templars and I. O. O. F., and a most ardent temperance man. He and his most estimable wife are members of the Methodist church. They have five children—Eva R., Clara E., Julia E., Gilbert O., and Ellis C. B. N. Springer's business building was the first to be placed in Fox's addition to the village of Miller, to which, and the

original plat of Miller, the whole village of Armada moved during the summer of 1890, making Miller the largest and best town on the Kearney & Black Hills railroad, built up the Wood River valley during the year last named.

JOHN HENDRICKSON, one of the early settlers in Gardner township, Buffalo county, was born in Iowa, November 2, 1846. He is a son of Samuel and Hester (Lewis) Hendrickson, the former a native of Ohio, and the latter of Michigan. The parents were married in the Buckeye State and soon afterwards emigrated to Muscatine county, Iowa. They were among the very first settlers in the western part of that county and two hundred and forty acres of the land owned there now by the senior Hendrickson were pre-empted by him. The mother died in 1855. John Hendrickson, the subject of this sketch, is one of a family of eight children. His educational advantages were limited to the common district schools, which in that new country were not very far advanced.

Mr. Hendrickson enlisted in May, 1864, at the age of eighteen in the Forty-fourth regiment of Iowa volunteers and served three months. His regiment was assigned to patrol duty but was not in any noted battles, and he was mustered out in the fall of 1864. After the war he moved to Cass county, Iowa, where he lived for eight years, engaged in farming. He came to Buffalo county, Nebr., in the fall of 1878 and settled in Gardner township, where he lived in a dugout for three years and at times had a hard struggle to keep

the wolf from the door. Plenty of antelope and deer could be seen grazing on the wild prairie when he came here and the country was very sparsely settled. He brought a small team and a mule with him from Iowa, and traded the team for a good yoke of cattle, but another man had a chattel mortgage on them and of course took the cattle, leaving Mr. Hendrickson without a team at all. This added greatly to his embarrassment and interfered materially with his progress for some time. During the summer of 1880 his team consisted of a young mule and a bull.

He was married November 12, 1866, to Miss Mary A. Dobson, a native of Ireland, who came to this country with her parents, in 1848, when only three years old. They have had seven children, namely—Samuel, David, Katie, Willie, Emma, John (deceased) and Abnor.

Mr. Hendrickson has one hundred and sixty acres of good land, fairly well improved and under a splendid state of cultivation. He is familiar with almost every phase of pioneer life and has undergone about as many hardships as any other man who came here when he did. He has survived them all, however, and is now on the road to success. He is a man who takes pride in keeping good stock and is keeping abreast of the times as nearly as it is possible for any man to do.

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**H**ON. S. C. BASSETT is one of the original members of the Soldiers' Free Homestead Colony, by which the town of Gibbon, Nebr., and its vicinity were settled, and is one who has stood steadfastly by the home of

his adoption amidst all discouragements and disappointments, and who in so doing has been profited far beyond the average old settler.

Mr. Bassett is a native of New York, having been born in Delaware county, that state. He was reared partly in Virginia, whither his parents moved when he was young, and partly in Steuben county, N. Y., whither they returned after a residence of eight years in the South. He entered the Union army in 1863, at the age of nineteen, enlisting in Company E, One Hundred and Forty-second New York infantry, and served till the surrender. His regiment remained on garrison duty about Washington till April, 1863, when it went to the front and participated in the campaign of Gordon's division up to the Peninsula in June, and in the Maryland march, and was then ordered to Morris Island, S. C., where it remained till May, 1864. Joining Butler's Army of the James, at that date it began its real service. It participated in nine hotly contested engagements in Virginia and the Carolinas, winding up with Fort Fisher, and lost, out of a total enlistment of one thousand, three hundred and seventy men, five hundred and two in killed and wounded. The subject of this notice was with it during its entire term of service from the date of his enlistment, and so far as fell to him, as a private soldier, helped to win for it its laurels and the distinctive appellation as one of the "Three Hundred Fighting Regiments" of the Union army.

Returning to New York, he settled down to farming, the pursuit to which he was reared, and followed it till coming to Nebraska in April, 1871. On locating in Buffalo county, he took a homestead in

Shelton township, two and a half miles northeast of the town of Gibbon, where he has since resided, having been actively engaged in agriculture and kindred pursuits. Mr. Bassett is one of the prosperous, well-to-do farmers of his community. He has other interests besides farming, and has held some offices of an official and semi-official nature. He is now, and has been for a number of years, prominently connected with the Nebraska State Dairymen's Association, having been the first president of that association, and is now, and has been for three years past, its secretary. His duties in connection with this association absorb much of his time. He collects a vast amount of material of value to the dairy interests of the state, which he lays before the reading public from time to time, in the shape of printed reports, and also contributes extensively to the journals of the day articles of a practical bearing on the dairy and live stock interests of the state. He is an unfailing attendant at the fairs, conventions and associations of an agricultural nature, and participates in the discussion of topics relating to subjects falling within the line of his endeavor. Mr. Bassett filled acceptably, for one term, the position of representative from Buffalo county to the state legislature, having been elected November, 1884, and served during the session of 1884-5. In the discharge of his public duties he exhibited the same zeal, energy and sound intelligence that characterize him in private life and in the prosecution of his own affairs, and he quit his office at the expiration of his term, bearing with him the gratitude and highest esteem of the people whom he served, as well as the respect and good

will of his associates and co-laborers. For the churches, schools, social and moral interests of his community, he has at all times exerted a favorable influence, and for every interest of this nature, as well as of a material kind, his name stands pledged, and his help is counted on as a foregone conclusion. Mr. Bassett has as much modesty as he has merit, and he shrinks instinctively from public notice. He is a student of books as well as of men, and, while making no pretension as a scholar, he possesses many of the accomplishments of a man of letters, carrying into the practical affairs of life the close, systematic habits of the student, having the student's zeal for research and investigation, and his clear, analytical methods of statement and exposition. He is a pleasant, genial gentleman, whom it is a pleasure to know and whose friendship is of value.

**N**ELSON JACO is a representative farmer of Platte township, Buffalo county. He is not an old settler, speaking of the county in general, but he is, nevertheless, one of the first settlers in the locality where he lives. He came from West Virginia, moved into the county in November, 1878, and settled on the northeast quarter of section 7, township 8, range 13 west, filing a homestead claim thereon. His farm is located on part of the old Fort Kearney military reservation, which, it will be remembered, was opened to settlement about the above date. He has one hundred and forty-five acres in this tract, eighty acres of which are under cultivation. He has improved

his place, having a very good class of farm buildings on it, besides orchard, groves and other conveniences. Lying between the channels of the Platte river, his place is admirably adapted to farming purposes and yields well, producing an abundance of Nebraska's sovereign products—corn and hay. Mr. Jaco is a practical farmer, having followed the business all his life, and having met with reasonably good success. He began on limited means when he opened his present farm, twelve years ago, and the first few years of his residence in the county were not marked for any astounding amount of progress. With him the case was very much like it was with numbers of others, and was mostly a matter of bread and butter. But Mr. Jaco came West to make a home, and he was prepared to endure a reasonable amount of hardships, but a detailed account of his earlier struggles in the county need not be given here. It will be sufficient to say that he met the obstacles as they arose, and successfully dealt with them, and that whatever praise the general public is prepared to award the old settlers for their pluck, energy and endurance, a fair share of it must be given him, for he faithfully performed his duties in the general undertaking of opening the country to settlement. He has resided on his farm continuously since locating there, with the exception of four years he was back East—from 1882 to 1886.

Mr. Jaco was born in Preston county, (now West) Virginia, June, 1848, and was reared there, growing up as a farm boy, to the age of sixteen. Then came an event in his life which has been duly chronicled in the lives of hundreds of others, and yet an event that should

never cease to be told. It occurred in those eventful years when patriotism flashed through the land like an electric thrill; when the canker of gold and the dust of cotton dropped from the manhood of the nation, and men went forth to battle for their country; when men surrendered the search for wealth, dropped the plow in its furrow, the hammer at the forge, the pen at the desk, and marched forth cheerily to wounds and death. Mr. Jaco enlisted in defense of the Union in January, 1864, entering Company K, Fifteenth West Virginia infantry, and serving in Thorburn's division, eighth army corps, but most of the time he was under Sheridan, and served as a private from the date of his enlistment to the surrender—a boy soldier—carrying a musket in defense of his country at sixteen. The facts need no comments. They speak abundantly for themselves. Freedom—prosperity—equal rights—the dignity of labor—the glories of the republic—these were won by the citizen-soldiers of 1861-5—stalwart actors they, though many were young in years.

Mr. Jaco comes of old Virginia parentage, his father and mother both being natives of Preston county. His father, Job Jaco, was a farmer in earlier years, but during the war gave up farming and embarked in merchandising, in which he was moderately successful. He led a quiet, unpretentious life, dying in the fall of 1883, at the age of sixty-five. Mr. Jaco's mother bore the maiden name of Sarah Gandy. She died in the fall of 1884 at the age of sixty-three. These were the parents of eleven children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the ninth. The others are: Allen, Doreas, Mahala, Jesse,

William, Amos, Mary, Jane, Susan and Wesley.

Mr. Jaco married, November 26, 1868, Miss Sarah Jenkins of Evansville, Preston county, West Virginia. Mrs. Jaco was born and reared in Evansville and is a daughter of Joseph and Parmelia Jenkins of that place. She is one of eleven children born to her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Jaco have had born to them a family of six children, four of whom are living and two dead. The full list is as follows—Minnie (deceased), Ollie, Donie, Nettie (deceased), Pearl and Hazel.

While Mr. Jaco has never aspired to any public position, he has nevertheless been called on to fill some offices of responsibility in connection with the administration of local and township affairs. He has served as director of his school district; has been township clerk and is now serving as township assessor. He and all his family are members of the Methodist church and he is a liberal contributor to charitable purposes. He is a republican in politics and a zealous member of the Masonic fraternity and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. As a citizen he is progressive, enterprising and public spirited—liberal in his views and in his means as far as his ability will allow. He is kind and accommodating, a good neighbor, a valuable friend and an intelligent, pleasant gentleman.

**B** FRANK JONES, M.D., is among the leading surgeons of Kearney, Nebr., and none is more successful. He was born in Wadsworth, Medina county, Ohio, November 1, 1857, and is

a son of John B. and Sarah A. (Mabry) Jones, both natives of Pennsylvania—the former being born in Philadelphia and the latter in Berks county. They have a family of nine children, of whom seven are living, viz.—Sarah, the wife of Milton Spangler; Margaret R., wife of C. C. Case; George W.; B. Frank; Lilly, wife of Noble McClelland; Nellie S., wife of Ebenezer Butterfield; Lena B., wife of Norman Hazlett. John B. Jones was a railroad conductor and was killed in an accident, when our subject was but five years of age. After attending the Wadsworth schools until fourteen years of age, B. Frank Jones became a drug clerk in his native town, and in this position he remained for four years, then clerked in Medina, Ohio, and Akron, for five years. He then traveled for Aultman, Miller & Co., manufacturers of the celebrated reapers and mowers, for five years, when he entered the Jefferson Medical College, at Philadelphia, from which he graduated April 4, 1888, having taken a special course in anatomy and surgery. He at once settled in Kearney, and being a natural mechanic as well as a natural anatomist—the two essential things that make a surgeon—his success has been phenomenally great.

Dr. Jones was united in marriage to Miss Dymae Jane Durling, January 8, 1881; she was born at Wadsworth, Ohio, and he and she were schoolmates in youth. She is a daughter of James K. and Lydia (Copley) Durling—the former a banker of Wadsworth. Dr. Jones and wife have had one child—a girl that died at the age of four years. Dr. Jones is a member of the K. of P., R. A., and other societies. He has performed a number of the most

difficult operations known to surgery, and, best of all, every one has been entirely successful. This fact has given the doctor the reputation he so justly deserves. Among other qualifications he has developed a taste as a naturalist, and taxidermist, and his office and residence contain many fine specimens of birds and animals which he has mounted himself at times when not otherwise occupied. His work speaks for itself and can only be produced by one who is a close observer of nature.

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**G**EORGE S. POST is one of the leading and influential men of Gardnertownship, Buffalo county, as well as a progressive and prosperous farmer. He was born in Niagara county, N. Y., January 4, 1837, and is the son of Orange and Lucy (Capron) Post. Orange Post was a native of Vermont, born in 1806. He located in Canada, then in New York, and then came West to Iowa, and afterwards settled in Michigan. He was a carpenter, but made farming his principle occupation. His father, Moses Post, was a New Englander by birth, but chose Michigan to live in. He died in 1856.

George S. Post was the sixth in a family of seven children, and, when fourteen, worked out away from home most of the time. He participated in the late struggle between the North and South, being a member of an Iowa regiment. He saw some rugged service in the Vicksburg campaign, and also was present at the capture of Jackson, Miss.; Champion hills and Cedar run. He was also present

during the heavy charge on the rebel works around Vicksburg on May 22, 1863, and took an active part in the capture of Winchester and Fisher's hill. He was taken prisoner at Cedar creek, was confined four months in a Richmond prison, and was in Libby prison during the administration of "Dick" Turner. The date of his discharge is May 12, 1864. He immigrated to Buffalo county, Nebr., from Iowa in 1878, took a soldier's homestead claim in Gardner township, was one of the first settlers in the township, and saw some pretty tough times. He had limited means when he came here and consequently labored under great difficulty in getting a start. He cites the winter of 1880-1 as being the longest and severest he ever experienced, and a great deal of suffering was experienced, principally among the new arrivals. Many had to grind corn with their coffee-mills for food and burn wet straw and cornstalks for fuel.

George S. Post was married March 5, 1861, to Miss Caroline M. Turck, who was born August 14, 1831, and is the daughter of Abram and Mary (Draper) Turck; the former was a Hollander and the latter was a native of New York. Mr. and Mrs. Post have had seven children—Willie, born March 11, 1862; Annie, born April 10, 1863; Edwin, born December 25, 1865; Fannie, born May 12, 1867; Frank, born March 4, 1870 (deceased); Jeff A., born November 4, 1872, and Herbert, born January 31, 1874. Mr. and Mrs. Post and all their children belong to the Presbyterian church. Mr. Post affiliates with the republican party, has had various local offices, and he is a man who stands high socially and morally in the community.

**G**EORGE N. SMITH, one of the oldest and most highly respected residents of Center township, Buffalo county, was born at Goffstown, N. H., October 30, 1843. His father, William Smith, was born at New Boston, N. H., in 1802. The senior Smith was married, in 1826, to Susan Eastman, by whom he had five children, namely—Richard (deceased), Esther (deceased), Esther Ann, Thomas and William. His second marriage was in 1835, to Betsy Rowell, who bore him eight children—George W. (deceased), David R. (deceased), George N., Esther A., Erastus K. (deceased), Reuben G., Susan A. (deceased), Isaac (deceased). Mrs. Smith died April 6, 1859, a devoted christian woman and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. William Smith's third marriage was in 1861, to Mary Hook. Thomas Smith, the paternal grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was a native of New Hampshire. He was the father of thirteen children and a man of prominence and influence, especially in church affairs, being a Presbyterian deacon for forty years. The maternal grandfather, Rowell, was also a native of New Hampshire.

George N. Smith enlisted August 17, 1864, at the age of twenty, in the First New Hampshire heavy artillery, and served one year. He cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln while in the field. Soon after returning from the war he met and married, August 25, 1866, Elizabeth Dunbar. He then engaged in the hotel business at Woodstock, Vt., but was not pleased with hotel life, and after an experience of two years he returned to the old homestead in New Hampshire, where he remained one year. He emi-

grated to Gibbon, Buffalo county, Nebr., in October, 1871, and on November 3d of the same year he took up a homestead in Center township. There were only three or four families then in that township and the surrounding country looked wild and desolate. In exactly ten days from the time he settled on his claim, there was a terrible blizzard, which lasted three days, during which time there was great suffering and some loss of life, and considerable stock perished for want of food and shelter. The following winter was a noted one for the large snow-fall and intense cold weather. He built a sod house and in the spring of 1872 was joined by his wife and family. When he arrived at Gibbon seventy-three cents was all the money he had, and it was two years before he had any stock of his own. The country was full of Indians, who hunted and trapped along the Platte and Wood rivers. In the summer of 1873 he raised his first crop—seven and a half bushels of wheat. During this year a great many settlers came in, and by fall the population of the county had increased quite materially. The three following years the crops were almost entirely destroyed by the grasshoppers, and it was not until the year 1877 that a fair crop was harvested. During these discouraging times Mr. Smith was in destitute circumstances financially and was compelled to live within his means. He made hominy and ground corn in his coffee mill. He had no flour and no money to get any. The following winter he received two sacks of corn meal from the general supply store at Kearney, and never felt richer in his life. There were scores of families in a destitute condition at that

time and provisions were sent in from the Eastern cities to supply the needy. He has had apparently more than his share of bad luck. In the spring of 1875 he lost seven head of horses and one thousand dollars' worth of hogs at one time. He now owns one of the best farms in the county, on which is some valuable timber set out by his own hands. He has paid particular attention to fruit, and has some fine apple trees ready for bearing. Mrs. Smith's father, William Dunbar, was a native of New Hampshire and a tailor by trade. Her mother was Catherine (Humphry) Dunbar, daughter of Capt. Nathaniel Humphry of New Hampshire. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Smith, namely—Minnie B., born in New Hampshire February 20, 1868 (wife of John Power); William (deceased), born March 18, 1870; George W., born February 24, 1872 (deceased); Grace P., born April 21, 1874; Flora A., born August 17, 1876 (deceased); Bert, born July 26, 1878; Arthur G., born August 10, 1880, and Orren, born July 10, 1882 (deceased). Mr. Smith has filled various local offices, is a member of the G. A. R., I. O. O. F., K. of L., O. U. W., Modern Woodmen of America and Farmers' Alliance. August 30, 1890, Mr. Smith was nominated for senator from the twenty-sixth senatorial district of Nebraska, by the Farmers' Alliance, endorsed by democrats.

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**G**OTTLOB SCKEIHING is one of the earliest settlers of Buffalo county and one of its most substantial farmers. He was born at Wittenburg, Germany, December 13, 1853,

and is one of a family of ten children born to John G. and Christena (Munck) Sekeihing, both of whom are natives of Germany, the former having been born in 1819 and the latter in 1824. Gottlob, the subject of this biography, came to this country in 1869 with his parents, being then sixteen years old, and located near Burlington, Iowa, where he engaged in farming for six years. Arriving at his majority, and being thrown upon his own resources, he decided to seek his fortune in the far West, and, accordingly, came to Buffalo county, Nebr., April 4, 1876, and pre-empted a quarter section in section 6, township 10, range 16; built a small house and "bached it." He broke twenty-five acres that spring and put it into sod corn, which flourished for a time and gave promise of an abundant crop, but was totally destroyed in August by the grasshoppers. For three consecutive years the grasshoppers had destroyed the crops in that section, and the few settlers, being discouraged, left that fall for the East, with the exception of Mr. Sckeihing, who alone remained to spend the winter. He lived on corn bread, a few potatoes, with an occasional jackrabbit sandwiched in; and his nearest neighbor being some three miles distant, there was a time when for two months he never saw the face of a human being. He hauled some wood from government lands upon the Loup river, it requiring three days to prepare and market in Kearney a single load of wood, and he received the small sum of \$2 per load for his trouble. The following spring he entered a homestead of a quarter section in section 6, township 10, range 16, and took a timber claim in section 32, township 11, range 16, and put



out a large amount of crops. That year proved to be a very prosperous one, and from thirty-five acres of wheat he thrashed five hundred and eighty bushels, which he sold at 80 cents per bushel. He has been very prosperous ever since, and now has three hundred and twenty acres of fine land, two hundred and twenty acres of which are under cultivation. He has a spacious frame dwelling and has just completed a new frame barn.

Mr. Sckeilbing was married, April 5, 1880, to Mary Sterley, who was born April 15, 1857, and is the only daughter in a family of eight children born to George and Barbara (Kroft) Sterley, both of whom are natives of Germany, the former having been born in 1825 and the latter in 1822. Her father is a resident of Buffalo county, having located here in 1869. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Sckeilbing has resulted in the birth of six children, as follows—George, born May 1, 1881; Christena (deceased), born October 13, 1882; Barbara, born March 23, 1884; Emma, born July 13, 1885; Samuel (deceased), born January 7, 1885, and Julia, born August 28, 1888.

Mr. and Mrs. Sckeilbing are both active members of the Lutheran church. Politically he is independent.

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**A** F. SILVERTHORN. "Tis not in our stars but in ourselves that we are underlings." Practical illustrations of this poetical expression can be found in the lives of hundreds of men all over this country. One is found in the life of the subject of this notice. A. F. Silverthorn is neither rich nor famous; he may

never be, but he is now on the highway to prosperity, on the road to success, and he owes it solely to himself. Born without the traditional silver spoon in his mouth, but with the greater gift of an affidavit of honesty and good nature in his face, he has made his way from a position of dependence to one of comparative ease; from a position of toil for others to one of well remunerated labor for himself. He is one of Kearney's most enterprising and most popular druggists, a young man with a good business and a host of friends.

Arthur Flavel Silverthorn was born in Muscatine county, Iowa, February, 1857. He is the third of six children, the result of the union of Oliver J. and Harnet H. Silverthorn, the former of whom was a Pennsylvanian by birth, the latter a native of Illinois. His parents came of the staple stock of the localities where they were born and reared, being plain, substantial, frugal folks with sufficient industry to crown their lives with the wholesome fruits of toil, and sufficient integrity and fixity of purpose to enable them to build up characters of stability, rising on occasion into the higher graces of benevolence, kindness and christian charity. The father, after a life extending over fifty-five years of labor in various avenues, pursued in different localities and under varying conditions as to success and failure, died at Kirwin, Kans., in 1888, his loss deeply regretted by those who knew him and sincerely mourned by those whom he loved. The mother is still living, being at present a resident of San Antonio, Texas, where also live two of her sons. The eldest of the children of the family, a daughter, Lucy by name, died young; Oliver resides at San Antonio, Tex.,

engaged in the drug business; Maggie, wife of Dr. A. J. Meyers, lives at Creston, Iowa; Grace, wife of Burton Jones, lives also at Creston; and Wood, the youngest, lives at San Antonio, Tex., engaged with his brother there in the drug business.

The subject of this notice was reared in his native place and in his youth received an ordinary common-school training. On growing up he selected teaching as his first employment and taught for a period of three years, giving his time assiduously to his school-room work, and it is not the least of the achievements of his early career that he, as he now relates with some pride, taught as good a school as any pedagogue in all the country round. Since coming West he has been too much absorbed in other matters to keep up with the whereabouts of his old pupils to see how many of them have reached the higher paths of life as the result of the excellent precepts he instilled into their youthful minds. But he feels morally certain that those who have lived up to his teachings have at least become good citizens, even if they have not reached any great eminence. Quitting the school-room at last, Mr. Silverthorn went to Creston where he learned the drug business under his father, subsequently entering into partnership with him and remaining there so engaged for five years. Marrying in the meantime he took his wife and worldly possessions and in 1881 moved to Kearney, casting his fortunes with the Midway City, where he has allowed them to remain and where they have steadily prospered since. The first year he was in Kearney he clerked for J. M. Hopwood in the drug business. He then formed a partnership with A. J.

Shepard as Silverthorn & Shepard, which lasted for three years. He then sold out to his partner, soon afterwards engaging in business alone and remaining alone since. Mr. Silverthorn runs an exclusive drug house. He has built up a good trade and each year his stock grows in bulk as his trade increases in volume. He is a thoroughgoing business man, wide awake and up with the times. He has also invested some money in Kearney real estate and is earnestly in sympathy with every movement for the success and prosperity of his town. He has an open hand and a generous heart, and to the extent of his means he helps every public enterprise that comes his way.

Mr. Silverthorn was married July 26, 1883. His wife before marriage was Miss Anna E. Battey, daughter of S. W. and Mary C. Battey, then of Creston, Iowa, now of Hoxie, Kans. Mr. and Mrs. Silverthorn have a pleasant home in Kearney and their friends are numbered by their acquaintances.

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ALFRED E. THOMAS first saw the light of day at Hicksville, Ohio, February 28, 1848. He is a son of James and Eunice (Strong) Thomas, both of whom were natives of Ohio. Young Thomas volunteered his services to his country when not seventeen years of age, enlisting October 29, 1864, but the war was drawing to a close and he was not assigned to active duty. Returning to his home he engaged in farming in Defiance county, Ohio, but he was not altogether satisfied with farming among the stumps in Ohio, and deter-

mined to emigrate westward. The year 1866 found him in the State of Missouri, where he remained for about seven years. In 1873, after a wearisome journey of twenty-one days in a "prairie schooner," he located in Buffalo county, Nebr. It was early in the spring, and the first thing he did was to look for a house to shelter his family until he could select a claim and provide a home of his own. He finally succeeded in finding a newly built sod house on the shore of the Wood river, almost directly north of Kearney. About the time he got his family comfortably housed there came up suddenly a terrible blizzard, April 14th and 15th of the same year. The wind blew so fiercely that it removed the roof from the house, leaving the occupants without shelter. It was in the night-time when the storm commenced, and Mr. Thomas and family, including his sister and brother-in-law and three young men stopping at the house at the time, sought shelter in their beds for two days and two nights. The snow was very deep, when Mr. Thomas, with his wife and child, started for a neighbor's through the terrible storm. It was intensely cold, and Mrs. Thomas was almost chilled through before they started, but to remain there was certain death. On the way Mrs. Thomas became exhausted, and had their cries for help not been heard by the neighbors, whose house they were endeavoring to reach, they doubtless would have perished. The storm lasted three days and was the most severe in the history of the country. There was great suffering among the settlers, and hundreds of cattle were frozen to death.

Mr. Thomas has always taken great pleasure in hunting, and during his early

settlement in this country wild game was plenty, and the time was when the rafters of his sod house hung full of smoked venison of the choicest kind. He killed plenty of deer, antelope, and some elk. During the summer of 1874, Mr. Thomas, in company with two companions, set out on a hunting expedition in the Loup river country. On their return, one bright moonlight night, they passed by a herd of Texas cattle, numbering several thousand. Their wagon was filled with venison and antelope, and the cattle smelling the fresh meat started to follow. Mr. Thomas and his companions, knowing as they did the viciousness of Texas cattle, became alarmed at the terrible noise made by them and at once started their horses on the run. For a time it seemed that the cattle would stampede them, but fortunately they succeeded in making their escape, after being chased by the cattle for several miles. Mr. Thomas never experienced any trouble with the cow-boys, always treating them courteously and frequently welcoming them to his home for a meal.

Alfred E. Thomas was married January 3, 1871, to Miss Isabelle Lewis, who was born December 16, 1852, and whose parents were Milton and Sarah (Clark) Lewis. Milton Lewis was a native of Pennsylvania; but was reared in Richmond county, Ohio. In 1866 he emigrated to Missouri and in 1881 to South Dakota, where he now resides. There have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas five children as follows—Lewis J., born in Grundy county, Mo., March 6, 1872; Clarence B., born May 10, 1874; Ella M., born March 4, 1878; Zenoa C., born January 25, 1880, and Oscar V., born January 26, 1886.

**J**AMES McCREARY, a prominent and successful farmer of Buffalo county, and an old settler of Sharon township, where he lives, is a Pennsylvanian by birth. His father, Enoch McCreary, and his mother, Margaret Pearson, were both natives of the "Keystone State," and always resided there, the father dying in 1856, at the age of fifty-nine, and the mother in 1885, at the age of eighty. These were the parents of eight children, of whom the subject of this notice is the sixth, the full list being—Pearson, Belinda, Samuel, Sarah, William, James, John and Enoch.

James, our subject, was born in Lawrence county, Pa., September 26, 1838, and was reared in his native place, growing up on his father's farm, receiving a fair common-school education, and being trained to the habits of industry and usefulness common to his calling. In August, 1861, when it became known that the country must go through a civil war of greater or less length, and preparations began to be made therefor, by calls for volunteers to defend the Union, Mr. McCreary, with the enthusiasm of youth, and a devotion to his country born of the purest patriotism, responded promptly to the call, enlisting in Company F, One Hundredth Pennsylvania infantry. His military history is best told in the recorded triumphs, suffering and losses of his regiment, whose fortunes he followed from the date of his enlistment to the close of the war. The One Hundredth Pennsylvania, which bore the designation of "roundheads," was recruited mainly in the part of the state which was settled by English roundheads and Scotch-Irish covenanters, and it proved itself eminently

worthy of its ancestral origin and namesakes. It was officered by Col. Daniel Leasure and Col. Norman J. Maxwell, both brevet brigadier-generals. It began its service at the opening of the war and continued on the front and in the thickest of the fight till the surrender. Like most of the other Ninth corps regiments, its service was a varied one; it made long journeys by sea and land, and fought its battles in many and widely separated states. It participated in twenty-three of the hardest fought battles of the war, being present at only four engagements in which it did not participate, and it lost, out of a total enrollment of two thousand and fourteen enlisted men, eight hundred and eighty-seven in killed and wounded, only twenty-nine of whom died in Confederate prisons. Its heaviest losses were sustained at James island, South Carolina; Manassas, Virginia; South mountain, Maryland; Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, siege of Petersburg, Petersburg mine and Fort Stedman. Lieut.-Col. Dawson fell, mortally wounded, in the assault on Petersburg; Lieut.-Col. Pentecost was killed at Fort Stedman; Major Hamilton and Adjutant Leasure fell in the fighting at the Petersburg mine, and five line-officers fell at Manassas. Mr. McCreary was temporarily disabled by the explosion of a shell before Petersburg, receiving a severe shock and having his hat cut into holes. He was mustered out at the close as sergeant, having entered as private. He returned to Pennsylvania, and moved afterwards to Ohio, and then to Illinois, and still later, in 1873, to Nebraska, settling at that date in Buffalo county, where he took a homestead in Sharon township, where he has since resided, except a year or so spent in

Shelton, near by. Mr. McCreary has become thoroughly identified with the farming interests of his community, and it is no flattery to him, nor injustice to his neighbors, to say that he has made better success than the average farmer. He owns five hundred and sixty acres of splendid land, agricultural and grazing, all of which he has in a paying condition. He is a large cattle feeder, and is recognized as one of the clear, level-headed business men of his locality—solid and reliable.

Mr. McCreary married, in 1863, a lady of his native county, Miss Catherine Craig, and this union has been blessed with five children—J. Craig, Frank A., Lula, Gertie and Nettie. He and his excellent wife are zealous members of the Methodist church, and he is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Modern Woodmen of America.

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**J**EREMIAH TAWNEY, farmer, was born in Westmoreland county, Pa., June 30, 1836, and there learned the trade of a stone mason. His father, Adam Tawney, was also a native of Pennsylvania and was brought up to blacksmithing, which trade he followed until his death in 1854. Adam married Elizabeth, daughter of John Rudolf, of German descent. John Rudolf was a pioneer of Westmoreland county, was the keeper of the fort in that territory during the Indian troubles, and followed the vocation of a farmer during the intervals of peace. To the marriage of Adam and Elizabeth Tawney were born seven children, Jere-

miah being the sixth; he and his brother, David M., are now the only survivors of the family—the latter residing still on the old homestead in Pennsylvania.

Jeremiah Tawney, responding to the call to arms in defence of the Union, volunteered in Company F, Eleventh Pennsylvania infantry, was mustered in at Harrisburg, October 14, 1861, and assigned to the army of the Potomac. He took part in twenty-six battles in Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, taking an active part in that of Gettysburg and being present also at the surrender of Gen. Lee. At Fredericksburg he was shot through the right ear and also received a gun-shot wound in the top of the head. His gallantry in action and his attention to his military duties in general raised him to the rank of second lieutenant, which position he held until mustered out. At the close of the war his command marched from Richmond to Washington and took part in the grand review, and thence went to Harrisburg, Pa., where he received an honorable discharge. After his return home he pursued his regular trade, and in 1867 married Miss Melissa, daughter of Samuel and Sarah Snow, both natives of Pennsylvania. Samuel Snow is a cooper by trade, is also a farmer, and is still living in his native state. To the union of Jeremiah Tawney and wife have been born six children, named as follows—Harry A., Lettie M., Alice M., Della M., Nannie E. and Sarah Maud.

February 4, 1881, found Mr. Tawney and his family in Nebraska, with his homestead in section 26, township 12, range 14, he having purchased a quarter section, of which twelve acres had been broken. He has now a comfortable frame

dwelling, one hundred and forty acres of land under cultivation and fenced in, and an orchard of one hundred and fifty apple trees, all the result of his own industry and enterprise, as he had but little capital when he settled here. He had become very popular in his neighborhood and has been twice elected justice of the peace, but refused to qualify for the second term; he has also served two terms as road overseer and five years as school director. While in Pennsylvania he was for five years a captain in the National Guards, his company having been named the Colter Guards, in honor of Gen. Colter, who had presented it with a fine stand of colors. In religion, Mr. Tawney is a Presbyterian, to which church he and his family belong and in which he has been a deacon over five years. He is a member of the G. A. R. and of the Farmers' Alliance. Politically he is a republican.

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**J**UDGE WILLIAM R. LEARN, one of the most popular citizens of Kearney, Nebr., was born in New York State, December 19, 1853, and is a son of William R. and Charlotte (Green) Learn, the former a native of Wales, who came to America when young and here met and married Miss Green, but was not spared long to aid and comfort her, nor even to behold the face of her offspring, as he died a few months before the subject of this sketch was born. Subsequently, however, Mrs. Learn found a protector in the person of H. Z. Hayner, who in 1851 was chief justice of the supreme court of Minnesota.

William R. Learn, the subject proper of this sketch, received a preparatory education at Yonkers, N. Y., and at the early age of fourteen entered the law office of E. Delafield Smith, ex-United States district attorney and corporation counsel for New York City, with whom he began the study of law, but afterward read with R. W. Hawkesworth, of 115 and 117 Broadway, in the same city, and later studied further with W. Q. Judge, also of New York City. After being admitted to the bar he began practice on his own account in the New York *World* building, and was so employed when that noble structure succumbed to the ravages of fire. In 1881 the aspiring and now well qualified young attorney came to Kearney, Buffalo county, Nebr., yet did not at once enter on the practice of his profession, but took a more prudent course and engaged as clerk in the store of G. Kramer, preferring an appreciable and certain income for a time, rather than depending on the somewhat precarious fees of a newly-come attorney. He afterwards engaged in the insurance business, but, the office of constable having become vacant, he accepted that position, under appointment, and filled out the unexpired term, his knowledge of the law being of no mean assistance to him in the performance of the duties pertaining to the office. At the expiration of the term he was elected to the office, so great was the satisfaction he had given in carrying out its functions under appointment. Following the expiration of his duties in this position, he was advanced a step in political life by his admiring constituents, and in November, 1887, was elected justice of the peace, the county stepping-stone to higher official

preference. April 1, 1888, he was elected police judge of the city of Kearney, and in the fall of 1889 was re-elected justice of the peace, and in April, 1890, was elected police judge, this fact showing that his executive abilities have been fully recognized. He is, in reality, a conservative executor of the law, and his thorough knowledge of the statutes is his guide in making his almost infallible decisions. His intuitive knowledge of human nature also comes to his aid and enables him to discriminate between the hardened criminal and the novice in transgression of the law. To the former he deals out the full penalty due as an expiation of his offense, while to the latter his leniency is extended, with a hope that a redemption to virtue may be made of the incipient culprit, and that he may in the hereafter become a good and worthy citizen.

The matrimonial union of the judge took place April 18, 1884. Two children have blessed this marriage and are named William R. and Eugene George. The Judge is a member of the A. O. U. W., of the K. of P., and also of the Modern Woodmen's fraternity.

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**A** F. GIBSON is one of the few remaining old settlers left of the original eighty-five composing the Soldiers' Free Homestead Colony, by which the village and township of Gibbon were mainly settled. He came with the colony in April, 1871, and has been a resident of the town and township since. He had just turned into his twenty-first year when he came to Buffalo county, and was one of the unmarried men of the colony.

He came West like all of his associates to better his condition. He came to stay, and, whether by accident or design, he came in a condition to effectually carry out this purpose, being unincumbered by any ties and unconcerned for the future except as to himself. In the general selection of homesteads which took place a few days after the settlement of the colony, Mr. Gibson chose an "eighty" in the southwest quarter of section 22, township 9, range 14, west, lying only a short distance from where the town of Gibbon was located. He settled on this soon after selecting it and immediately began his improvements. His first efforts toward making a farm on the raw prairies, with little or nothing to go on, in a new and untried condition of agriculture, far from market and unsurrounded by any of the helps and conveniences common in the older communities of the East, were such as are well known by experience to hundreds of old settlers all over this state, but which doubtless will not be sufficiently known to or appreciated by those who will come in after years. He began in an humble way, as did all. The first tedious stages of building and breaking being over, the seasons of grasshoppers and dry years followed. He suffered the privations and hardships which all were forced to suffer during those times of trial, but he stuck to his purpose and never allowed his interest to flag or his courage to weaken. He took a cheerful and even hopeful view of the situation and remained, confidently awaiting better times. Better times came, but they came very gradually. Even after the crisis of 1873-4-5 was passed it was a long and arduous struggle and a conflict of appar-

ently unequal strength and often of seemingly doubtful issue. Mr. Gibson remained on his farm making his way as best he could and demonstrating the virtue in the homely old maxim of "keep pegging away" until in time his footing was assured and he reached something of a breathing spell. During this time he had remained single, fighting the battle alone, determined to win it if he could, and if he could not to go down without dragging any one with him. In the fall of 1877, however, when he felt that he had reached a point where he could afford to take the step, he decided to marry, and on October 9th of that year he was united to Miss Louisa A. Brodrick, daughter of James and Maria Brodrick, then of Buffalo county, having moved to this county a few years previous. Mr. Gibson remained on the farm and continued to improve his homestead and gradually accumulated property till 1883. He then moved into Gibbon, where he now resides, but yet retains his farm interests. In 1883 he engaged in the livery business and at the same time began, in 1886, to deal in agricultural implements. He sold his livery business in 1886 and in 1888 bought of T. B. George the Enterprise mill, which had recently passed out of the hands of its builders and was then struggling to maintain its existence as a paying institution. Mr. Gibson divides his time between his farm, his implement business and his mill. The mill is one of the promising enterprises of Gibbon and will doubtless grow into an industry of great profit. It was built in 1886 by F. C. Hitchcock, then cashier of the State bank of Gibbon, with funds which, as it afterwards turned out, belonged to the bank.

It was transferred to the directors of the bank to secure them against loss, and by them sold to T. B. George and thence passed into the hands of the present owner. When built, it was designed to meet what was then believed to be a growing demand for mill products such as were not made in the regular flouring mills. It is a buhr-stone mill, run by steam, and makes everything except wheat flour. Formerly it was not a paying investment, but under its present management it is developing a good local trade and is reaching out considerably towards the northwest, in which direction there is unquestionably a good field for its products. Mr. Gibson's farming and stock interests and agricultural implement business are gradually growing, so that all round his affairs seem to be in a reasonably prosperous condition. Further comment on his ability and standing as a business man or his value to the community as a citizen need hardly be given. The above facts show what he is and what he has done. He has been a quiet but nevertheless a very efficient force in the growth and development of his adopted home. He is a prudent, thoughtful man. He watches the details of his business with care and personally sees that all things are done in a proper manner. He has been schooled mainly in the affairs of the world and is in the strictest and best sense of the word a business man. He is plain and straightforward in his dealings and practical and matter of fact in his methods. Probably his chief characteristics are those which have been developed and brought into prominence by his long residence and hard experience in this community, these characteristics being his



persevering industry, strict attention to his own personal concerns, his liberal manner of dealing with others and his broad and generous sympathy with those struggling under difficulties or misfortunes. As remarked at the beginning of this sketch, Mr. Gibson is one of the few old settlers who still remain in this vicinity. He is one of the fewer still who have never resided elsewhere, even temporarily, since he first settled here, now nearly twenty years ago. How much courage it has taken to pull patiently through twenty years in Buffalo county those who do not know may gain some idea of by reading the history of the county. The first decade were years of toil, of privation and suffering, which none but those possessing the stoutest hearts could endure. They were years of pathetic interest, for they carried with them the issue of life and death to struggling men and women. In the men who passed through the trials of these years are to be found some of the best specimens of manhood, some of the highest-minded, most reputable citizens of the county, not the least of whom is the subject of this memorial article.

Reverting to his earlier years in order that we may preserve something of his ancestral history for those who may grow up to read this work, it may be recorded that A. F. Gibson was born in Mercer county, Pa., July 17, 1850, of parents who were also Pennsylvanians by birth. He is a son of Samuel and Mary E. Gibson and a descendant of two of the first settled families of western Pennsylvania. His father is a native of Lawrence county, and his mother was born in Mercer county. These counties join, and his parents have at times been different resi-

dents of each, and are still living. His mother bore the maiden name of Wilson and was a daughter of John Wilson, a native of Westmoreland county, Pa., who settled many years ago in Mercer county. Mr. Gibson comes of good stock, his people as a rule being substantial well-to-do farmers. They are marked chiefly for the quietness of their lives and, on his mother's side, for their love of home and their attachment for one another. They are not as a rule migratory, though both his grandfathers were pioneers, with, it may be presumed, a taste for the pleasures of pioneer life, and were not unacquainted with its hardships and dangers. These qualities Mr. Gibson in a large measure inherits; and these qualities, modified by the peculiarities of his local surroundings, have made him what he is.

Mr. Gibson has a pleasant home and a family of four children—Claude Wilson, Carl Brodrick, Guy and Glenn.

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**J**ACOB GABRIEL is one of Kearney's oldest, and has been one of her most industrious citizens. He is a native of Prussia and comes of Prussian-born parents. His father, Jacob Gabriel, Sr., was born in the town of Sarlonis, Prussia, in the year 1797. He was reared in his native country, served in the Austro-Prussian war, married a few years after and immigrated to the United States, coming in 1841 and settling in Grant county, Wis., where he shortly afterwards died, and was buried at the town of Plattville, that county. He was an industrious, upright, useful citizen, a devout member of the Catholic church

and a devoted husband and father. Mr. Gabriel's mother came to the United States a year or so after her husband did, bringing with her the subject of this sketch. He was then quite small, having been born in 1841 in Sarlonis. He was reared in Grant county, Wis., and as soon as he was old enough began the battle of life alone and unaided. He followed his first employment as a laborer in the lead mines in Grant county; then, in his twentieth year, he started for the great mining region of the Pacific coast, making his way across the "plain&" in the early days before the time of the railroads. He lived in California for six years, engaged in mining in one locality and another, and making during the time some money and gathering a world of experience. Returning in 1867, he paid a short visit to his old home in Grant county, Wis., and then went to Memphis, Tenn., where he engaged as overseer on a cotton plantation. Two years later he came to Nebraska, and, settling at Nebraska City, in Otoe county, began stock-raising and boring wells. In 1872 he came to Buffalo county, locating at Kearney, which was then just starting. He took a homestead at that date in the county and continued farming, stock-raising and well-boring. In 1878 he opened a saloon in Kearney, which he conducted successfully for some years. He built the third brick house that was erected in Kearney, which was occupied by him as a saloon, he furnishing the capital and his partner, Casper Cornelius, conducting the business till 1886, when they closed out. He has since gone into the stock business, for which he has always had a liking and at which he has been very successful.

Mr. Gabriel married, February 10, 1879—his wife being Miss Jennie Pearson, of Kearney. This union has never been blessed with any issue, but in 1884 Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel adopted a bright little fellow, now thirteen years old, whom they have named Joseph Cower Gabriel and to whom they are greatly attached. Mr. Gabriel is a member of the Catholic church, while Mrs. Gabriel is a member of the Lutheran church, and, being of a kind and generous disposition, give liberally to all benevolent purposes.

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**W**L. COOK. The subject of this sketch is one of Kearney's enterprising young business men. He is a native of Hanover, Prussia, where also his parents and grandparents were born, his people being of German ancestry from time immemorial. Mr. Cook, with that commendable adaptability to local surroundings that characterizes his countrymen as well as in accordance with good taste and sound sense, Americanized his name on coming to this country, it originally being William Ludwig Joachim Koek. Mr. Cook's father, Johan Heinrich Joachim Koek, was born in 1831, grew up in his native country, served his term in the Hanover army, married Louisa Stephens, of his native place, in 1851, and immigrated to America in 1869, settling at Laporte, Ind. There, after several years of successful business pursuits, he was overtaken by financial disaster, and lost the bulk of his life-earnings, spending his later years in an ineffectual effort to

regain his wasted fortunes. He died in 1887 and was buried in Laporte. He was a lifelong member of the Lutheran church and a man of warm heart and generous impulses.

The subject of this notice was born May 15, 1852. He came alone to America in 1869, and was reared mainly at Laporte, Ind., where they settled. His early education was limited. Being of an active and independent disposition, he struck out for himself at the age of fifteen, finding his first employment as a farm hand. Since that date, his career has been a checkered one, he having seen much of the ups and downs—the sunshine and the shadows—of this life. He has visited many places and followed many different vocations for a livelihood. He came to Nebraska in 1878, driving through from Laporte, Ind., with wagon and team. He traveled extensively over this state during the first few years of his residence here, and taking two or three trips back East, and one or two further West. He came to Kearney in 1881, and after following different pursuits secured a position with the Union Pacific Land Company, and went to Europe in their interest. He succeeded, after two years' residence and hard labor in the old country, in inducing many of his countrymen to immigrate to America, and assisted them in securing homes in Nebraska along the line of the Union Pacific railroad. He located permanently in Kearney in 1886, engaging at that date in manufacturing cigars and tobacco, a business he has prosecuted steadily since. He is one of Kearney's live, progressive men, public-spirited and wide-awake, thorough-going in his busi-

ness methods, and attentive to his own personal concerns. He is popular not only in his trade, but as a citizen at large and has a host of friends and well-wishers. He is a zealous member of the Knights of Pythias, having been past chancellor of that fraternity, and is now chairman of the board of trustees of his lodge. He is an efficient member of the Kearney fire department, being foreman of Wide-Awake Hose Company.

He married at Behring, Mich., in 1875, the lady whom he chose for a companion being a native of that place. His wife died May 26, 1876, leaving one child—Birty William Cook. Mr. Cook married again August 2, 1879, his second wife being Miss Hulda Strand. He was elected councilman of the third ward of Kearney, Nebr., the spring of 1890, also received his commission as lieutenant adjutant of the Third regiment, Nebraska brigade, U. R. K. of P., in the year of 1889.

**D**R. J. C. HULL, born June 14, 1827, is a son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Van Winkle) Hull. His father was a native of Pennsylvania, but went with his parents to Knox county, Ohio, when fifteen years of age. After some years there he moved into Iowa, where he resided until he died. His life was devoted to agricultural pursuits and was a quiet, uneventful one, filled with peace and contentment.

Dr. Hull is of old Pennsylvania and Virginia stock. He was born and reared on a farm, and followed the vocation of farming until he reached his majority.

He possessed a boyish ambition to become a physician, and the desire to gratify the ambition of his boyhood increased with his years. At the age of twenty-five he left the old farm home, and all its endearing ties, and entered the office of Dr. Henry Hull, of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, where he began reading medicine. He afterwards attended lectures at the Eclectic College of Medicine at Cincinnati, Ohio, graduating from that institution in 1854. He entered upon the practice of his profession at Trenton, Henry county, Iowa, and remained there till 1874, when he went to Colorado Springs, Colo. After remaining there one year he moved to Kearney, Buffalo county, Nebr., locating there in 1875, and resuming the practice of his profession. Dr. Hull is one of the pioneer physicians of Kearney. His practice has increased with the growth of the city, and no physician ranks higher in Kearney than he.

February 15, 1855, he married Miss Nancy Updegraff. This union has been blessed with four children—Charlie M., Frank W., Howard J., and George M. Mrs. Dr. J. C. Hull's birthday was April 22, 1832. She is a daughter of Abraham Updegraff of Henry county, Iowa. He was a leading and influential citizen in his county, and took an active and conspicuous part in its affairs. He was a popular man, and was elected by his fellow-citizens to represent their county in the legislature. He was born September 30, 1807, and died June 13, 1855, in Henry county, Iowa, after a short but well spent life. Mrs. Hull's mother was Elenor Updegraff, daughter of Robert Currigan. She was a faithful member of the Presbyterian church, and died in the happy consolation

of her religious faith. Mrs. Dr. Hull is an exceptionally intelligent woman, and is a leading spirit and zealous worker in the cause of temperance. She has been for ten years a member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, is known for her zeal and enthusiasm in promoting its cause, and has served as president of the organization in Kearney for several years.

Dr. Hull is a member of the Masonic fraternity. He for many years affiliated with the democratic party, but is now a prohibitionist and is a co-worker with his estimable wife in the cause of temperance. Dr. and Mrs. Hull move in the highest social circles of Kearney, and their friends are numbered by their acquaintances.

**P**ATRICK DOOLEY was born in Ireland, March 18, 1843, and is the son of Michael and Alice (Murray) Dooley. His parents were both devoted members of the Catholic church, and died about 1850. Patrick Dooley came to America in 1860, landing in New York City on the fourth of April, after a tempestuous voyage lasting six weeks and five days. He first located at Marshall, Calhoun county, Mich., but when the tocsin of war was sounded, Pat. Dooley was among the first to volunteer, the date of his enlistment in the Second Michigan cavalry, being September 12, 1861. He faced the enemy first in Missouri and afterwards at the battles of Pittsburg Landing, Corinth, Stone river, Franklin, Spring hill, Perryville, Chickamauga, Nashville and Blue mountain. He was taken prisoner at the last named place and

sent to Coon Bridge, Ala., where he was paroled May 8, 1865. He was also taken prisoner at Brentwood, Tenn., but was released soon afterwards at Columbia, S. C. He was wounded in the left thigh at the battle of Chickamauga, September 20, 1863. He was mustered out at Columbus, Ohio, June 20, 1865, and few men saw more actual service than Pat. Dooley. He came to Buffalo county, Nebr., in the spring of 1879 and took a homestead in Gardner township, where he has since resided. He was married in November, 1865, to Miss Agnes Cassidy, who was born in Lee, Mich., November 25, 1847, and is the daughter of Thomas and Mary (Balf) Cassidy, both of whom were natives of Ireland. Her father came to America in 1832 and was one of the early pioneers of Marshall, Mich. He died in May, 1888.

The union of Mr. and Mrs. Dooley has resulted in the birth of sixteen children—Mary, Jennie, Eugene, Thomas, Christopher, Bernard (deceased), Isabel, Mabel (burned to death at the age of seven), Joseph, Hugh, Bessie, Evilen, Zoe, Adalaide and two died in infancy. Mr. Dooley has a fine farm of 320 acres and has lately erected a handsome frame dwelling. In politics he is an Alliance man.

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**C**HESTER W. PUTNAM was born in Centerville, N. Y., November 18, 1833, and is the son of Ebenezer and Philena (Maxson) Putnam. His father was a native of Vermont and was a carpenter by occupation. He died in 1834, and his widow died

December 12, 1859. The paternal grandfather of Chester W. was a cousin of Israel Putnam of Revolutionary fame. C. W. Putnam began working for the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern R. R. Company in Southern Michigan when twenty years old, and continued in the employment of this corporation for several years. He had in the meantime become quite proficient as a painter and worked at his trade in Racine, Wis., for about twelve years. He enlisted in February, 1865, in the Forty-ninth Wisconsin regiment. At this time, however, the war was drawing to a close and he saw no real service, but was mustered out in the following November. He had offered his services three years previous, but was rejected on account of a disabled arm. After the war he continued his occupation as painter until 1877, when he came to Buffalo county, Nebr., and took a claim in Cedar township, on which he has since resided. When he landed at Kearney he had barely \$200. He purchased a team of mules and necessary farming implements and began work in earnest. The first season he harvested four hundred and four bushels of wheat, which he sold at 70 cents per bushel, and has since been quite successful in raising both wheat and corn. When he first settled in the township there were only three or four families, and wild game was plenty. He has often seen large herds of antelope and deer. Mr. Putnam was married in December, 1856, to Miss Caroline Thompson. They have three children—Charles H., Chester W., and Carrie P. Mrs. Putnam was born in Pennsylvania, February 21, 1834, and is the daughter of Lyman and Annie Thompson, natives of New England. Her father

died in Indiana in 1883 and her mother had preceded him some time. Mr. Putnam has held various offices of trust in the township and is quite well known throughout the county.

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**J**OHAN WOLF was born near Iowa City, Johnson county, Iowa, November 13, 1855. His father, John D. Wolf, was born in Germany in 1815. He came to America at the age of twenty-two, served in the United States army in the war with Mexico, and then made a tour of the Eastern, Western and Southern states before deciding to locate permanently at any place. He finally settled in Johnson county, Iowa, and engaged in agricultural pursuits. During his residence in Iowa, he took considerable interest in local affairs and filled various local offices with credit. He immigrated to Buffalo county, Nebr., in 1880, and settled in Thornton township. He married Catherine Brunner in 1853. She was a native of France, having been born near Strassburg, but came to America when a young woman. Seven children were born to them, of whom John, the subject of this sketch, was the second. John Wolf remained on his father's farm in Iowa until twenty-three years of age, when he emigrated to Buffalo county, Nebr., in company with four other young men, former neighbors. All except one settled in this county. Mr. Wolf purchased railroad land in Thornton township and began life's battle in earnest. At that time the country thereabouts was sparsely settled, there being only two houses in sight. He built a sod house,

which served his purpose until 1886, when it was superseded by a modern frame building. He now has one hundred and twenty acres of well-improved land about eight miles north of Kearney.

Mr. Wolf was married, November 29, 1880, to Miss Maggie Henderson, who was born in Illinois October 2, 1865. Her parents were Abraham and Elenor (Rough) Henderson, natives of Illinois. They emigrated to Missouri, and in 1872 came to Nebraska, settling in Centre township, this county. Mr. Henderson was a farmer by occupation, and both he and his wife were devoted members of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Henderson died December 24, 1878.

Three children now bless the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wolf, namely—Ida M., born May 24, 1882; Lillie K., born November 11, 1885, and Nettie E., born October 22, 1887. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wolf are members of the German Lutheran church. Mr. Wolf has held various important township offices, and always affiliates with the democratic party.

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**N**ATHAN P McDONALD. Although Mr. McDonald has been a resident of Buffalo county only since 1887, he has succeeded in making himself sufficiently prominent to deserve mention in the county's biographical souvenir. He is a son of Donald and Arcelia (Badgley) McDonald. The former, a native of Scotland, was born in 1830, and came to America when he was about twenty-five years of age. In 1860, he was married to Mrs. Badgley, a widow lady, having two sons, viz.—Levant, who is now

clerk of the district court in Pattawatomie county, Kans., and John, now principal of the public schools of Kimball, Nebr. To Mr. and Mrs. McDonald were born two sons, Nathan P. and Lemont. The paternal grandfather was Duncan McDonald, a native of Scotland, and the maternal grandparents were Lyman and Amy (Alby) Calkins.

The subject of this memoir was born near Columbus, Warren county, Pa., in 1862. Living on a farm, he had the early training of industry and economy incident to thrifty farming with moderate means. His education during boyhood was acquired in the district school, where he was always among the best of his class. When sixteen years of age, he accepted a position as clerk in a store, which position he held for two and a half years, always enjoying the confidence and esteem of his employer. Mr. McDonald left the store to extend his education. Two years having been passed in the city school of Corry, Pa., and one year at Sugar Grove Seminary, Pa., he decided to go to college. This was a difficult task, as he was depending entirely upon his own resources to provide means. By dint of economy and strict frugality, he maintained himself two years in a classical course in Otterbein university at Westerville, Ohio. While in college, Mr. McDonald was a close student, and carried a high grade of scholarship. He took special interest in literary work, and was a prominent member of the Philophronean Literary Society of that institution. Circumstances over which he had no control compelled Mr. McDonald to abandon his hope of completing the two remaining years of his college course. He came West in December of 1886, and

engaged in teaching near Louisville, in Kansas. From there he came to Elm Creek, Nebr., where he engaged as principal of the Elm Creek school. He has proven himself a successful teacher, and a popular gentleman, in every way worthy of the confidence of the people. Being a republican, he was the choice of that party for the office of county superintendent of public instruction, of Buffalo county, in the election of 1889. This position he now holds.

In 1888, Mr. McDonald was united in marriage to Miss Ella Upton, of Kearney, Rev. Leslie Stephens officiating. Mrs. McDonald is a native of Illinois, born in Olney, Richland county. In 1875, she, with her parents, moved to Roanoke, Woodford county, and in 1887 she moved to Kearney, Nebr. Mrs. McDonald is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. One child, Archie, born in 1889, makes music in their home.

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**J**AMES M. SMITH, son of Andrew and Selenor (Mackley) Smith, was born in Jackson county, Ohio, October 9, 1839. His father was born in Kentucky in 1811, and emigrated to Jackson county, Ohio, early in life. In 1842 he moved to Indiana, and in 1845 emigrated to Iowa, where he engaged in farming. He came to Buffalo county, Nebr., in 1882, where he has since resided. He has been an active member of the United Brethren church for fifty years. His father was a native of South Carolina and was of Irish descent. He died in 1850. The maternal grandfather, John Mackley, was born in Virginia and was of Dutch descent.

He also died in 1850. His wife was a Pennsylvanian by birth, and died in 1842. James M. Smith was a strong Union man during the dark days of the rebellion, and enlisted November 2, 1864, in the Thirtieth regiment, Iowa infantry, and went immediately to the front. He participated in the battle of Nashville, and also in the terrible struggle at Decatur, Ala. He served under Gen. Thomas during most of his service and was mustered out at Davenport, Iowa, June 20, 1865. After he returned from the service he continued to farm in Iowa for ten years, then emigrated to Buffalo county, Nebr., in 1874, and took a homestead in the southern part of Thornton township, built a sod house and began breaking sod preparatory to planting his first crop. The country was, or seemed like, one vast barren waste, inhabited only by wild beasts; antelope and deer were plenty, and one only had to go a short distance north of where Mr. Smith now resides to see herds of elk. The first year he planted considerable corn and had splendid prospects for a crop, but the grasshoppers came along by and by and soon destroyed every hope of raising any corn that year. Mr. Smith, however, was not discouraged, and the year following planted and succeeded in raising a good crop. His experience the third year, however, was simply a repetition of the first, his entire prospect of a crop being destroyed by the grasshoppers. Even this did not wholly discourage him, for he had great faith in the future of the country and was determined to stay and give it another trial. He did so and has never experienced a failure of crop since. He was formerly the owner of two hundred and forty acres of choice land, but

has just presented each of his sons with a deed for eighty acres. Mr. Smith was elected supervisor of Thornton township in 1888 and filled the office with entire satisfaction to all his constituents. Mr. Smith was united in marriage, September 27, 1862, to Miss Nancy Hendrickson. There were born to this union five children, namely—Minnie May, born July 27, 1863 (deceased); John J., born May 20, 1866; Andrew, born December 16, 1869 (married Hattie Carter); Maud, born March 6, 1872 (wife of Presley Clark), and Bertha Viola, born Sept. 11, 1876. Both Mr. and Mrs. Smith are active and devoted members of the United Brethren church.

**C**HARLES H. DOW, SR., farmer of Schneider township, Buffalo county, Nebr., was born in Clark county, Ind., February 17, 1828. His father, Nathan Dow, was a native of Connecticut, who was born in 1807 and died in 1842, having passed a quiet and industrious life as a weaver and farmer. He married Matilda Robertson, who was born in Virginia in 1812. In politics Nathan Dow was a whig and in religion a Carmelite. The grandfather of Chas. H. Dow, Sr., was named Henry; he was born in 1755, was a manufacturer of woolen goods, and also served as a captain in the war of 1812. His death took place in 1843.

Charles H. Dow, Sr., began attending school at the age of four years and at the age of eight was removed to Morgan county, Ind., where he lived for eighteen years, engaged in blacksmithing and farm-



ing; he then moved to Owen county, Ind., where he continued to follow the vocation of blacksmith. August, 1862, he enlisted in Company D, Fifty-ninth Indiana volunteers, and served at Corinth, Ft. Gibson, Raymond, Jackson, Champlain hills, Edward's station and Vicksburg, and at the last named place was attacked with a protracted sickness. On his recovery he rejoined his command at Huntsville, Ala., thence he went to Atlanta, and at the fall of that city followed Sherman to the sea. His last action was at Bentonville, N. C., March 19 to 21, 1865, and his discharge took place at Washington, D. C., May 31, 1865.

August 14, 1851, Mr. Dow married Lecena Porter, and to this union have been born thirteen children, viz.—Christiana J., Martha E., Thomas F., Charles H., Pressa M., Sarah M. (deceased), William S., Saletha A., Mary E., David B., Lorena A., Lily L., and Annie M. (deceased). Mr. Dow is a consistent member of the Methodist church; he is a member of Owen Lodge, 263, A. F. and A. M., Owen county, Ind., and of the G. A. R.

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**J**AMES THOMAS was born June 18, 1815, and is a son of Michard and Barbara (Shedron) Thomas, the former of whom, a wagon-maker by trade, was born and reared in Adams county, Pa., but emigrated to Stark county, Ohio, when a young man, where he lived until he died. There were nine children in the family, of whom James, the subject of this sketch, was the sixth. He was cast out among strangers, when a small boy, to make his way through the

world. At the age of eighteen he began an apprenticeship as a carpenter, and afterwards followed mill-wrighting. Wages in those days, even for skilled mechanics, were small in comparison with what they are now. After he had learned his trade he worked a long time as a journeyman receiving but \$10.00 per month, and never received to exceed \$1.25 per day.

In 1840 he moved to Williams county, Ohio, where he found employment as a mill-wright. He would work all day, then walk two miles to his home and work until a late hour at night clearing ground to raise his crop. He emigrated to Buffalo county, Nebr., in the spring of 1873 and settled on a homestead in Thornton township, where he built a small sod house and began to break prairie for his crop. He went to Gibbon on an errand one day soon after his arrival in the new country, and on his return home his team drowned while attempting to cross Wood river. The bridge gave way, the water being so high at the time. This was indeed a sad misfortune to him, for the loss of a team at that time meant a good deal. There was no settlement at all in the vicinity where he lived and wild game was plenty all about him. He has seen as many as five hundred elk in a drove along the Loup river and has killed many a one. He has hauled fuel for twenty miles and was a sufferer on account of the grasshopper raids in 1874 and 1876, and thinks the chintz bugs were brought to this country by the grasshoppers. He has always had great faith in the future development of this country and its bright future when he first settled here. His wife was a daughter of Daniel Strong a native of Connecticut. He emigrated to

Ohio and later to De Kalb county, Ind., where he was struck by a falling tree several years afterwards and killed. Mrs. Thomas now resides with her son, Sheldon B., who is an honest hardworking young man.

**J** S. HARRINGTON, 'merchant and real estate dealer of Kearney, Buffalo county, is an old settler and prominent business man of his locality. He settled in Buffalo county in 1872, and has resided in that county and the city of Kearney since, and during all those years has been actively identified with the best interests of his adopted home and community. Mr. Harrington is a native of Vermont, having been born at Hyde Park, in the "Green Mountain" State, March 26, 1842. He comes of New England parentage, his father and mother both being Vermonters also by birth. His father, Elisha Harrington, was born and reared in Middlesex, Vt., and passed all his years in his native place, being an industrious, useful and highly respected farmer. His mother, Hannah Wisnall, also lived and died there.

The subject of this sketch is the second of three children born to his parents. He was reared in his native place, and received a good common-school education in the schools of Hyde Park, finishing with a course of three terms at the Morrisville academy, at Morrisville, Vt. In May, 1861, at the age of nineteen, he entered the Union army, enlisting in Company E, Third Vermont infantry. He belonged to one of the "Three Hundred Fighting Regiments" of the Union army and saw

much service in the field. His regiment left the state in the fall of 1861 and moved at once to the front. On April 16, 1862, occurred the remarkable action at Lee's Mills, on the Warwick river, one of the defenses of Yorktown. Four companies of the Third—D, E, F and K—forded the stream in the face of the enemy, with a view of making a reconnoissance in force. Through mismanagement and lack of support they were driven back, with a loss of eighty-nine killed and wounded out of the one hundred and ninety-two officers and men that crossed. The detachment was ably commanded by Capt. Samuel E. Pingree, who was wounded twice during the fight.

The regiment crossed the Rapidan May 4, 1864, with about six hundred effectives, under command of Colonel Seaver. On the following day, in the battle of the Wilderness, it lost thirty-eight killed, one hundred and sixty-seven wounded, and six missing; total, two hundred and eleven. At Spottsylvania it lost twenty-one killed and fifty-three wounded. At Cold Harbor the gallant Seaver, who commanded the regiment at Marye's Heights, and in most all its battles, again led them in a bloody assault, and, though there were less than three hundred in line there, the casualties were fourteen killed, fifty-three wounded and five missing. On July 16, 1864, the remnant of the regiment was mustered out, the recruits and re-enlisted men having been consolidated into a battalion of six companies, which remained in the field. The regiment participated in eighteen of the leading battles of the war, and was present also at ten other principal engagements. Out of an enlistment of seventeen hundred and forty-eight it lost



J. S. HARRINGTON.



six hundred and seventy-nine in killed and wounded.

At the battle of the Wilderness Mr. Harrington received a severe wound and being disabled from active service in the field was placed on hospital duty at Montpelier, Vt., and continued there until peace was declared. At the close of the war he, purchasing a farm near Montpelier, settled down to the peaceful pursuit of agriculture. In 1869 he decided to immigrate West and at that date moved to Iowa and settled in the town of Red Oak, where he was alternately engaged in farming, butchering and merchandising. In 1872 he moved to Nebraska and settled in Buffalo county, taking a homestead of 160 acres seven miles northeast of Kearney. Remaining there one year he moved into Kearney and began to invest in real estate. Recently, in 1887, he opened a mercantile establishment in Kearney, since which time his interests have been real estate and merchandising combined. He is known to be one of the heaviest investors in real estate in the city of Kearney, and has probably erected more buildings than any other one man in the city. He has been actively identified with many of the leading enterprises that have sought favor in his community, and he has given liberally of his means towards their support and encouragement. He is a man who believes in growth and development, and he has attested his faith by his acts. His career has been that of a business man strictly, and he is an indefatigable worker. He has never aspired to any public position; and with the exception of the position of city councilman, he has never held any public office.

Mr. Harrington married in 1866, the

lady whom he selected to share fortunes being Miss Sarah A. Eastman, a native of New Hampshire, and like himself a descendant of old New England stock; Four children have been born to this union—Francis L., a leading hardware merchant of Kearney; Clarence Eugene, a merchant at Stanley, Buffalo county; Wilbur J., clerk in his father's store, and Elmer E.

In politics Mr. Harrington is independent, reserving the right to vote for men and measures according to their merits.

JAMES GASS first saw the light of day in New Brunswick, Canada, January 25, 1855, and is the son of Joseph and Isabella (Hannah) Gass, both of whom were born in Scotland, were married in Scotland, and came to America in 1850. They came to Nebraska in 1873 and were among the first settlers in Thornton township, Buffalo county. James Gass was twenty-three years old when he took up a claim in Thornton township. The country was very new and wild game was plenty, especially antelope, elk and deer, and he has seen a few wild horses and hundreds of Indians since his residence here. The settlers in those days were few and far between and the prairie was bare, except in the draws. As civilization advanced rain began to fall more evenly and the soil retained moisture better as it began to be cultivated. The climate has changed materially and grass grows much more profusely now than it did several years ago. During the grasshopper raid Mr. Gass did not leave,

as many others did, but concluded to stay as long as he could succeed in getting enough to eat. He made up his mind that he could stay on the money it would require to get away on. The first election young Gass attended in this county was at Buda, in the fall of 1876. There were no township organizations then—only precincts. There were only a few voters, and a few came the day before and camped out over night. They had too far to come to make the trip in one day. He herded cattle a great deal in an early day in the summer, and hunted in the autumn and trapped beaver in the winter. His territory extended along the South Loup and Dismal for over one hundred miles northwest. He has been out all alone from August until November, and would only see two or three men in that time. He is the first son of a family of nine children, the others being Rachel, Jane, Mary, Nicholas, Thomas, Joseph, Hannah and Nettie. He has one hundred and sixty acres of land under a fair state of cultivation and he has always succeeded in raising good crops excepting two seasons.

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**O**SCAR F. HAMILTON was born in Portage county, Ohio, June 8, 1845, and is the son of Andrew and Eliza (Mott) Hamilton, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. His father was an iron worker and worked in the rolling mills at Youngstown, Ohio. When the rebellion threatened the life of the country he immediately enlisted and served through the war. His mother was a daughter of Elijah Mott, who was

the first settler in Deerfield township, Portage county, Ohio. He died about 1842.

Oscar F. Hamilton was but a boy when he enlisted, October 15, 1861, in the Tenth Ohio cavalry. He participated in the battles of Stone river, Chickamauga and Resaca, and followed Sherman to the sea and back through the Carolinas to the surrender at Greensboro, N. C. He was mustered out July 4, 1865, but re-enlisted in the regular army in the spring of 1866 and walked from Leavenworth, Kans., via Ft. Kearney, to Montana. He helped establish Ft. Reno, Ft. Phil Kearney and Ft. C. F. Smith. During his service in the regular army he experienced several thrilling episodes while on the western frontier. He relates one incident especially worthy of note, which happened near Ft. Phil Kearney in Montana. It was on the ninth of September, 1866, when about four hundred regulars were encamped in Ft. Phil Kearney. Young Hamilton, with a party of soldiers, was sent to the timber about nine miles distant to cut logs to be used in completing the fort. The first thing they did was to erect a small log shanty in which they could lodge during the night. They knew, of course, that there were Indians in the country, but they did not suspect that they were in any immediate danger of being molested by them. However, they took the precaution of carefully stopping every hole about the walls of their cabin, in order that no light from the fire within might penetrate the darkness without and disclose their whereabouts to outside intruders. One evening, just after they had retired for the night, they were suddenly startled by a

shot from without. Although one of the boys had been severely wounded in the heel, he did not make the fact known to his comrades, but they at once suspected that their cabin was surrounded by the red skins. A kettle of water was dashed on the fire by one of the boys, while the others grabbed their guns and stationed themselves at the four port holes. Nothing could be seen until the Indians began to shoot lighted arrows of pine-pitch in order to set fire to the shanty. Whenever an Indian would shoot, thereby disclosing his location, the boys inside the shanty would shoot in that direction. The Indians were unsuccessful in their attempts to set fire to the shanty, but the firing was kept up between them for some time.

When morning came Mr. Hamilton and a comrade volunteered to go out for water, which they had been in the habit of getting from a small creek near by. When they emerged from the shanty no Indians were in sight, so they proceeded to procure their kettle of water, while the few soldiers engaged in hauling the logs to the fort arrived, and while the awful experience of the night before was being discussed by the small group standing about the cabin, about sixty Indians emerged from a thicket near by and killed and scalped two soldiers who had just commenced to cut down a tree within a few yards of the shanty. Before the soldiers could recover from their surprise, the wily Indians had disappeared in the woods. It was supposed that they concealed themselves in the bushes the previous night and were awaiting a favorable opportunity to commit their murderous acts.

Oscar F. Hamilton left the regular army, March 3, 1869, and was married

July 17, 1870, at Three Oaks, Mich., to Charlotte Smith. She was born in Portage county, Ohio, June 2, 1841, and the daughter of Noah and Rebecca Smith, both of whom were natives of Ohio. This union was blessed by the birth of three children—Nettie (deceased), Frank (deceased), and Ella.

Mr. Hamilton came to Buffalo county, Nebr., October 3, 1873, and took up a homestead adjoining the present town of Armada. He was one of the first to settle in that locality and has been identified with every step of the wonderful progress made since. He laid out the present town of Armada and is doing as much as any other one man in furthering the growth and development of the town. He has been justice of the peace for several years and served as postmaster of Armada during Cleveland's administration.

**J**AMES K. SMITH was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, August 26, 1842, and is the son of Eli and Catherine (Hastings) Smith, both of whom were Pennsylvanians by birth.

Eli Smith came to Ohio with his parents when a lad, and remained with them until he was married. In 1856 he moved to McDonald county, Ill., where he died in 1878. He was a farmer and a highly respected and influential man in the community where he lived. He was a justice of the peace for several years, and he and his faithful wife were members of the Methodist church.

James K. Smith was only nineteen years of age when he joined a company of Illinois

volunteers in August, 1861. He was a gallant young soldier, and faced the enemy at the battles at Fort Donelson, Fort Henry and Pittsburg Landing. He was wounded five times in the last named battle, and was taken to the hospital at Savannah, and from there to Marietta, Ohio, and thence to St. Louis, where he received his discharge November 1, 1863. After he had sufficiently recovered from the effects of his wounds he spent two years in school at Prairie City, Ill. He then engaged in the marble business for four years, during which he had remarkable success. In 1869 he located at West Liberty, Iowa, and engaged in raising Osage orange for hedges. He planted and cultivated the first nursery in the state. After successfully prosecuting this business for four years he retired, and engaged in farming for several years. He conducted a hotel at Tipton, Iowa, for three years, and in the spring of 1885 he came to Buffalo county, Nebr., and took a soldier's claim in the Wild Horse valley. He moved to Armada, Nebr., in the fall of 1888, and erected a hotel, which he is now conducting with splendid success.

He was married, March 18, 1869, to Sarah Dickerson, of West Liberty, Iowa. They had four children—Linie L., Annie, Willie and Clara. She was born in Ohio and died in 1878.

He was next married, May 7, 1882, to Mary A. Linn. She was born in Iowa May 7, 1853. Her father was born in Tennessee and her mother in South Carolina. Her grandparents on both sides were large slave owners, and had large plantations in the South.

Mr. Smith is a member of the Masons, Odd Fellows and of the G. A. R.

**B**RINTON F. HARBAUGH was born in Hamilton county, Ind., March 28, 1854, and is the son of Samuel and Amelia (Seaman) Harbaugh. His father was born in Kentucky in 1808, but was reared in Ohio. In 1833 he moved to Indiana and in 1875 came to Nebraska. He was a wagon-maker by trade and was a soldier in the Black Hawk war. He has several times been elected justice of the peace and is a respected member of the Christian church.

B. F. Harbaugh learned the wagon-maker's trade with his father, while a resident of Indiana. Being an industrious young man he concluded to accept the advice of that revered journalist, Horace Greeley, and go West. The spring of 1873 found him in Kearney, then a mere hamlet on the frontier. He followed the Wood river as far west as the present village of Armada, where he filed a soldier's declaratory claim to a quarter section for his brother and held it down for six months, when he purchased it for himself. He built a sod house and survived the grasshopper raid, but witnessed great suffering among settlers in those dark days. There were few ways of earning money then and many had to resort to hunting and trapping to gain a livelihood.

In 1885 he moved to Armada and engaged in the implement business, which he continued for about three years. Mr. Harbaugh is now justice of the peace for Armada township, and has held various other local offices. He is a young man of excellent habits and of exceptional ability, and has a bright future before him. He manifests a deep interest in the rapid development of Armada and the surrounding country, and is confident that at no



distant day the success of the town will be assured. He was married November 1, 1882, to Miss Judy Burt. They have two children—Georgie, born August 17, 1883, and Annie, born November 21, 1884. Mrs. Harbaugh was born June 15, 1861, and is the daughter of Arthur F. and Elizabeth (Campbell) Burt.

**J**AMES M. FRANTZ was born at New Lexington, Perry county, Ohio, February 21, 1835, and is the son of William and Nancy (Rush) Frantz. His father was born in Somerset county, Pa., April 8, 1808. At the age of twenty he moved to Perry county, Ohio, where he met and married Miss Nancy Rush three years later. William Frantz was a farmer by occupation and lived in Perry county until 1867, when he removed to Warren county, Ill., where he died in 1867. His wife died in 1875.

The paternal grandfather of the subject of this sketch was John Frantz, who was a Pennsylvanian by birth, and Samuel Rush, the maternal grandparent, was a native of Pennsylvania, and a captain in the war of 1812.

James M. Frantz was the eldest of a family of nine children, and at twenty-one went to Warren county, Ill., where he followed agricultural pursuits for a few years. He also spent several years in various mercantile pursuits. In 1873, he emigrated to Kearney, Nebr., and engaged in the drug business. The present lively young city of Kearney was then a mere frontier hamlet with only two or

three hundred inhabitants. During the terrible blizzard on April 8, 1873, Mr. Frantz was there keeping a drug store and living in the upper story. The storm raged so fiercely that he did not come down stairs to open his store for three days. There were several car loads of cattle and hogs snow bound on the side tracks that actually perished. After the storm had passed over, the cars were emptied, and the dead stock hauled some distance south of town, where a good portion was consumed by a band of Pawnee Indians. During Mr. Frantz's residence in Kearney, he purchased and shipped fifty car loads of buffalo bones. A great many settlers, for want of other employment, would gather buffalo bones from the prairie and market them to get money to supply themselves with the necessaries of life. He witnessed the trouble with the drunken cowboys in Kearney, in 1874, and saw two of them shot on their horses by village officials.

James M. Frantz was married, January 31, 1861, to Miss Mary A. Campbell. The five children born of this union are named Canzada, Mina, Areta, Harry and Charlie.

Mrs. Frantz was born in Fayette county, Pa., June 28, 1842, and is the daughter of James M. and Jane N. (Smiler) Campbell, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. They emigrated to Illinois in 1853, and engaged in agricultural pursuits. Her mother died in 1875 and her father in 1889. Mr. Frantz is now in the drug business in the flourishing little town of Armada, Nebr., and is meeting with splendid success. He is a prominent member of the masonic fraternity, and both he and his estimable wife belong to the Christian church.

**J**OHAN MAHON was born in Delaware county, N. Y., October 5, 1824. His father, Paul Mahon, was born in Ireland and came to America in 1798. He was well educated and taught school in New York State for several years. He married Miss Lyda Moore, daughter of Col. John Moore, who served with distinction in the Revolutionary war. Soon after marriage they emigrated to Pennsylvania, where they resided during the remainder of their lives.

John Mahon was the fourth of a family of nine children. He left home when a lad ten years old, and has never seen his parents since. He went to New York and lived with an aunt until he was old enough to learn a trade, and then served an apprenticeship as a machinist at Troy, N. Y., and soon afterwards accepted a position in the United States arsenal at Springfield, Mass. He was in Washington, D. C., during the Polk administration, where he was connected with the Adams & Shoemaker Express Company. In 1846, he enlisted, at Brooklyn, N. Y., in the navy department and served on board the *Trenton* in the Mexican war. In 1848 he returned to New York, and soon sailed for California on the steamer *Fremont*. While in California he was engaged in mining and various enterprises. During his stay in the West he made several trips to Panama and various other places of note. He also spent several years in the Mare Island navy yard, now one of the largest in the United States. During his several years' residence in California, he became intimately acquainted with many of the most prominent public men in that state. He was a special friend of Senator Broderick, who was

killed by Judge Terry, and knew the latter very well, but disliked him very much. In 1869, he visited Pennsylvania, where he met and married Miss Harriet Kilgore. She was a daughter of W. H. and Lyda Kilgore, the former a native of New Jersey, the latter of Pennsylvania.

Soon after marriage Mr. Mahon went to Idaho, where he worked at his trade for about a year. He came to Buffalo county, Nebr., in October, 1871, and was the first settler on the site where now stands the magnificent city of Kearney. He built the first house and helped to lay out the town site. He had charge of the real estate in the town belonging to the Union Pacific and B. & M. R. R. companies, for about two years.

In the spring of 1875 he assisted in the survey of the Fort Kearney reservation and then took a claim on which he resided for about four years. He then moved to Custer county, where he was engaged in stock-raising for about ten years. He next purchased a farm near Armada in June, 1889, and is now living on it.

Mr. Mahon had a varied and interesting experience during his early settlement in this county. He was one of its earliest settlers and knows something about pioneer life in a new country. He has seen the time when buffalo were plenty in this county and has eaten some of the meat of a buffalo killed on the ground where Kearney now stands. He has watched with a keen eye the wonderful development of this country, and the rapid progress made has far exceeded his most sanguine expectations; but he believed from the start that there was a bright future in store for this rich and undeveloped valley of the Platte.

Mr. and Mrs. Mahon have but one child—Willie, born in Kearney, July 23, 1876. Mr. Mahon is a member of the Masonic and K. of P. fraternities and is also a member of the Pioneer Association of California. He is an ardent believer in temperance, and during his varied experience in life he has never tasted a drop of intoxicating liquor. He is no politician, but has always voted the republican ticket. He stands high socially and morally and enjoys the confidence and respect of all his associates.

**H**ENRY C. GREEN, one of the highly prosperous and influential farmers near Armada, Nebr., was born in the county of Kent, in Delaware, February 22, 1842, and is the son of James P. and Hester (Conley) Green, both of whom are natives of Delaware. His father was a farmer and a member of the Baptist church. He was born in 1804 and died in 1855. Mrs. Hester Green was a member of the Methodist church and died in 1849.

Henry C. Green had only such educational advantages as were afforded by the common schools of the day, and his opportunities even then were not the best. When he was but fourteen years old he lost his father, and after that sad event he went to live with a neighboring gentleman. He enlisted at the age of nineteen in the First regiment of Delaware infantry, and rendered honorable service in the late war. He participated in the engagements at Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville; was severely wounded

in the left leg at the last named battle and was removed to the hospital at Potomac creek, where he remained until June 14, 1863, when he was transferred to Washington, where he remained until the war closed. He was confined to his bed for twenty-seven months and was unable to walk for some time after his discharge—January 1, 1865—and so remained in Washington until he had sufficiently recovered to be able to travel. He was there when President Lincoln was assassinated and witnessed the grand review after the war closed.

He returned home and attended school at Wilmington, Del., for two years, and then entered Crittenden's Commercial College in Philadelphia. In the fall of 1868 he embarked in mercantile business in Wyoming, Del., and in February, 1871, came to Buffalo county, Nebr. He took a soldier's homestead near Gibbon, where he remained a little more than two years, after which he spent about two years on the Fort Kearney reservation. In 1876 he conducted a large cattle ranch near Burr Oak, on the Loup river, and was at this business for about four years, when he purchased land in the Wood River valley and went to farming. He now owns several tracts of valuable land and is one of the most successful farmers in the county.

**D**ARIUS B. JONES, ex-commissioner of Buffalo county, was born in Chautauqua county, N. Y., August 9, 1834.

His father, Miles Jones, was a native of Massachusetts and settled in Illinois, in 1859, where he died in 1881. His

mother, who bore the maiden name of Pamela K. Turner, was born in Canada, and died in 1879.

At the age of eighteen young Jones concluded to learn the blacksmith trade and accordingly went to Canada, when he served an apprenticeship. In 1856 he went to Kansas and joined an emigrant company, under the direction of the Massachusetts Aid Society. It was during the great excitement concerning the extension of slavery into Kansas, and when John Brown and Jim Lane were popular leaders of the anti-slavery movement. He knew both of these men and for a time shared in the kicks and cuffs received by these heroes. He spent several years on this battle-ground, during which he received his share of the hardships inflicted by the Kansas raiders. In 1862 he went to Illinois, where he remained for ten years; during which time he was engaged in the mercantile business at Elmwood. His next move was to Iowa, where he spent five years as a merchant at Emerson, Mills county. In 1879 he moved to Buffalo county, Nebr., and took a homestead in Armada township. He has since purchased considerable additional land and now has four hundred and forty acres. He like many others had to hustle when he first came here, and has hauled cedar posts for one hundred and thirty miles to market and there would receive small pay for his labor; but it was the only way there was of making money in the winter time.

He was married November 29, 1857, to Margaret B. Cowan, who was born in Canada, in 1832, and is the daughter of Hugh and Mary Cowan. This union has been blessed with fourteen children—Mary P., John A., Laurence P., Ella, Hettie, Ar-

thur, Annie, Effie, Willie, Alice, Fred, Addie, Flora and Frank (deceased).

Mr. Jones has served one term as county commissioner, having been elected in the fall of 1882. He is a republican and quite prominent in the councils of the party in the county. He is a Mason and Odd Fellow, and one of the well-known and popular men of Buffalo county.

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**A**L. ARMSTRONG is one of the first settlers of Armada precinct, Buffalo county. He is a native of Genesee county, N. Y., and was born Nov. 5, 1831.

His father, Aden Armstrong, was a Canadian by birth, but emigrated to New York in an early day, where he met and afterwards married Lydia Aldrich. In 1833 the senior Armstrong moved to Michigan, and located in McComb county. He was one of the first settlers in that county and was for many years one of its most prominent citizens. He held various local offices and was active and influential in the political affairs of the county. He died in 1854.

Aden L. Armstrong, the subject of this sketch, was one of twelve children, and, being reared in a new country, did not enjoy the common school privileges accorded the youth of to-day. At the age of eighteen he began serving an apprenticeship at the carpenter trade, and worked about ten years in McComb county, Mich., at his trade after learning it. He then moved to Kalamazoo county, and engaged in farming for a few years. When the war broke out, Mr. Armstrong

threw all his influence on the side of the Union and in April, 1862, was commissioned by the governor of Michigan as a recruiting officer. He traveled over the state and used every means in his power to induce men to enlist and save the Union. August 15, 1864, Mr. Armstrong enlisted in the New Third regiment Michigan infantry, was promoted to duty sergeant before leaving the state and saw considerable active service until the war closed. He participated in the engagements at Decatur, Ala., and Franklin and Nashville, Tenn. He was taken sick at Jonesborough Tenn., and sent to the hospital at Nashville, where he remained two months, and was mustered out July 15, 1865. He had served as orderly from November, 1864, until he was mustered out.

In 1869 he went to Mills county, Iowa, and worked at his trade about four years, and in the spring of 1873 came to Buffalo county, Nebr., locating, as above stated, in Armada precinct. He selected his homestead on the banks of Wood river and was one of the first to settle in that fertile valley. The country was of course new and wild and neighbors were few and far between.

Mr. Armstrong was married Feb. 19, 1853, to Miss Amelia Rice, a native of Connecticut, born Feb. 19, 1833. To this union were born seven children, as follows—Elias (deceased), Elmer (deceased), Rose, Lenettie, Stella T., Comer C. and Earnest. Mrs. Armstrong died Feb. 11, 1883, and Mr. Armstrong married for his second wife, June 6, 1883, Miss Mary E. White, who was born in Illinois in 1861.

Mr. Armstrong caused to be established the Armada postoffice in 1876 and was

appointed postmaster. He was located then about three miles east of the present village of Armada. In order to get the office established, Mr. Armstrong paid for carrying the mails from Kearney once a week for six months out of his own pocket. He has held various local offices and has always affiliated with the republican party. He is a member of the Masonic, G. A. R. and Good Templar fraternities, and is an ardent temperance man, not having tasted a drop of liquor in his life, and has always been actively identified with temperance movements. He has 320 acres of land located in the Wood River valley, 200 of which are under a good state of cultivation.

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ANDREW J. FREEZE, one of the most prosperous farmers and real estate men in Buffalo county, Nebr., was born in Union county, Ohio, July 25, 1839, and when about eleven years of age was taken by his parents to Piatt county, Ill., where he grew to manhood, and where, in 1858, he married Miss Jane, daughter of Jonathan Carne, of Illinois, and of English descent. The father of Andrew J. Freeze was a native of Virginia, and was by profession a lawyer. He married Barbara Cabbage, of the same state, and to their union were born eight children, of whom the subject of these lines is the third. When first married Mr. Freeze and his wife Barbara traveled from Virginia to Ohio on foot, but eventually reached Nebraska, in which state Mr. Freeze died, near Red Cloud, at the age of seventy-four years. Jonathan

Carne, the father of Mrs. Jane Freeze, died in Illinois in 1886. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Freeze have been born seven children, viz.: William H., Mary E., Ollie, Noah, Earl E., Horace and Minnie.

August 12, 1862, Andrew J. Freeze enlisted in Company I, One Hundred and Seventh Illinois infantry, under Col. Thos. Snell, and was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland. Among other battles in which he took part were those of Knoxville, Mossy creek, Bean station, Salina and Greenville, Tenn.; he also was in an encounter with John Morgan at Elizabethtown, Ky., and after twelve months' service in the infantry was transferred to a battery in the First Chicago light artillery, in which he served until the close of the war, when he returned to his old home in Illinois. There he remained until 1879; then made his home in Boone county, Iowa, until 1885, in March of which year he came to Nebraska and settled in Buffalo county, his present home. He bought the east half of section 3, township 9, range 15, two hundred and eighty acres of which were broken and improved with a fair dwelling; this dwelling he re-modded and now has a fine residence and also has the entire half section under cultivation and improved with commodious granaries and other out-buildings. He devoted the first three years of his residence here to the farm, raising mixed crops and live stock—chiefly hogs. He then entrusted the farm to the management of his four sons, and turned his attention to real estate, of which he has bought and sold largely in Kearney, and still holds large interests in that city. Mr. Freeze is a self-made man,

having received a somewhat meager education in his youthful days; but he is naturally shrewd and has availed himself of every opportunity for self-improvement—watching his business interests with a keen eye and always holding himself ready for a bargain. His standing in the community is very high and he enjoys to the full extent the respect and esteem of his neighbors.

**J**OHAN NASH. To be considered an old settler anywhere in central Nebraska does not necessarily imply that one is an old man. There are numbers of men to be found scattered over the territory covered by this volume, who are now only in middle life, but who nevertheless have seen this country when it was in the undisturbed possession of the Indians. Buffalo county, for instance, which contributes a large share of the sketches composing this work, began to be settled early in the "Seventies." With but very few exceptions does the residence of even the oldest settlers of this county extend back of 1870—or even a year later, 1871—at which time the settlement of the county began in real earnest. One of the citizens of this county, not yet an old man by any means, but still a man justly entitled to be called an old settler, is John Nash, of Gibbon township. Mr. Nash settled in Buffalo county in the spring of 1877. He took a homestead at that date in the old Fort Kearney military reservation, filing on the southwest quarter of section 4, township 9, range 13 west, lying between the south and main channels of the Platte river on Elm Island. There he located,

and lived for two years, at the end of which time he sold out, and, being then unmarried, struck for the Northwest. He went to Oregon, but remained there only about a year, returning to Buffalo county and purchasing a farm near his former one, and again settled. Shortly afterwards he married, and, selling out again in 1882, went to Texas, settling in Callahan county, but not liking it there came back to Nebraska and located in Buffalo county, in the vicinity of his former place of residence, since which time he has continued to reside there. Mr. Nash is a farmer, and has been steadily engaged at the business since he came to the state, except during what might be called his temporary absence as noted above. He is an honest, hardworking, economical man. He came to the county with no means, and began the struggle for existence as a common laborer. His ways have not been ways of pleasantness, nor have all his paths been paths of peace. He has had his share of difficulties to contend with, and he has had to meet them alone, never having had a dollar in his life that he had not made himself. Friends he has not been without, but from these he has received only the coin of friendship, "esteem." He has relatives, but they have never been able to help him, beyond extending their sympathy and kindly encouragement. He has made his way alone, and the fact that he has done it as well as he has, although he has never attained any great degree of success, ought to be a matter of pride and pleasure to himself as it is a matter of remark by those who know him.

Mr. Nash was born in Ora township, Ontario province, Canada, and is of English and Scotch stock. His father, John

Nash, was born in Somersetshire, England, and came across and settled in Canada when a young man. He there married, and, some years after, moved to the United States, settling in Michigan, where he died in July, 1881, at the age of seventy-nine. He was a farmer, a plain, unpretentious man. Coming of sturdy English ancestry, and trained to the steady-going, easy habits of his countrymen, he led the life of the plodding, well-to-do Englishman, working hard, living well, and dying comparatively poor.

Mr. Nash's mother, who, before marriage, bore the maiden name of Christina McCallum, was a daughter of Peter McCallum, and was born in Glasgow, Scotland. She was a child when her parents emigrated to Canada and settled in Ontario province. There she was reared and there married. She died in her native place in 1876, in middle life.

These, John and Christina Nash, were the parents of sixteen children, ten of whom reached maturity, and eight of whom are now living. The ten who became grown were—Peter, Elizabeth, Mary, Marion, Maggie, John, Thomas, Christina, Daniel and Mary Ann. Two of these, besides the subject of this sketch, were among the early settlers of Adams county, both since having moved on west. These were Peter and Daniel.

Mr. Nash had just turned into his twenty-first year when he came to Nebraska, having been born in 1856. He married in 1881, July 25, the lady of his choice being Miss Emma Belle McKinley. Mrs. Nash's parents were among the first settlers of the county, coming in April, 1871, with the soldiers' colony. Her father, Jeremiah McKinley, was born in

Milesburg, Centre county, Pa., in August, 1837, was reared there, and lived there till coming to Nebraska, excepting the time that he was in the army. He enlisted in the Union service in August, 1862, entering as a private in Company F, One Hundred and Forty-eighth Pennsylvania infantry. He served in Virginia, and was in all the principal engagements up to Gettysburg, at which place he was wounded by a gunshot through the lungs, and compelled to retire from the service in consequence. He never regained his health afterwards, and finally died in November, 1872, from the effects of his wound. Mrs. Nash's mother, who still remains as one of the original colonists, is also a native of Centre county, Pa., having been born there in March, 1835. She, too, was reared there, and there married in the fall of 1857. She is the mother of two children — Emma Belle, just mentioned, and Alma Catherine, wife of Hector Bookey. Mr. and Mrs. Nash have one child, a son, Harry Nelson.

**H**ALLECK H. STONEBARGER, one of the rising young farmers of Shelton township, Buffalo county, was born in Jasper county, Ill., April 23, 1863. His father, N. P. Stonebarger, was a native of Pennsylvania, and his mother, who bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Thomas, was born in Ohio. The parents were married in the Buckeye state and shortly afterwards immigrated to Illinois, where his mother died in 1873, and his father came to Nebraska in 1874 and died in 1889. Both were zealous members of the Baptist church.

The boyhood days of young Stonebarger were spent in attending the common district school and working on his father's farm until he was fifteen years old. After that period he had little opportunity for attending school.

Mr. Stonebarger came to Buffalo county, Nebr., in 1880, and bought a farm in Shelton township and has been successfully engaged in cultivating it ever since. He was married May 29, 1887, the lady of his choice being Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph Buck, a native of old England and one of the pioneers of this county. Mr. Buck bid farewell to John Bull in 1869 and sailed for the United States. He came almost direct to Buffalo county, Nebr., and was here in plenty of time to say farewell to the Indians as they made way for advancing civilization. Mr. Buch was here in advance of any actual settler, and, indeed, the county presented a wild and desolate appearance. Plenty of wild game abounded everywhere; buffalo, elk, deer and antelope grazed in great herds on the broad prairie, almost within gun shot of the homesteader.

Mr. Buck obtained a position with the Union Pacific Railroad Company and earned means with which he secured passage for his family the following year. He organized the first Sunday-school and was elected the first coroner of Buffalo county. He is now a well-to-do farmer in Shelton township.

Mr. and Mrs. Stonebarger have had two children, viz.—Ethel (deceased) and Russell. He has one hundred and twenty acres of improved land, which produces excellent crops, and nearly all of which is under a good state of cultivation. He is a member of the Alliance, and, while he



has always adhered to the principles of the republican party, he is becoming more and more inclined to vote independently in the future. He is an industrious young man and is on the road to success.

**J**OSEPH OWEN, the subject of this sketch, has been a resident of the territory now comprising Buffalo county, since the summer of 1863. He was born in Manchester, England, February 16, 1849, and is the son of David and Elizabeth (Lloyd) Owen. His father, who was of Welsh descent, was a blacksmith by trade, and came to the United States with his family in 1863. The voyage was safely made on the steamer *Adriatic*, which arrived in the New York harbor after a wearisome journey of seven long weeks. Soon after landing in the metropolis of the new world, the family came west as far as Omaha by rail. They then joined a Mormon train bound for the famous city of Salt Lake. The journey from this point was made with ox teams, a somewhat slow, but sure way of traveling. The senior Owen had relations living on the "Overland Route," near where the thriving little city of Shelton now stands, who had preceded him a year or so, and he determined to drop out of the train and remain at this point. A log house was provided for the family, who were soon snugly quartered on the cheerful banks of Wood river, almost in the heart of what was once considered as the "Great American Desert." The country presented a wild and forlorn appearance, and was only inhabited by Indians, buffalo, elk, deer and antelope. Immense herds of these wild

animals could be seen in almost any direction. The Indians, however, were regarded as peaceable, and as long as they were well treated and closely watched, there was not much danger of being harmed by them. Reports of Indian massacres, however, were frequently circulated, and at one time every settler left the country to escape the reported vengeance of the red men.

The father of the subject of this notice worked at his trade as a blacksmith at Shelton until 1864, when he died. His faithful wife followed him to the mysterious realm in 1874.

Joseph Owen spent his boyhood days in raising vegetables and disposing of them to immigrants as they journeyed westward in great trains. Ready sale was found for corn at \$3 a bushel, flour brought \$11 per sack and hay \$40 per ton. Old Fort Kearney, located up the Platte river a few miles, also afforded a ready market for all kinds of produce raised by the few squatters along Wood river. Mr. Owen is, therefore, familiar with every phase of pioneer life on the Western frontier. He has been identified with the settlement, growth and development of this locality, and has done as much as any man toward accomplishing these great results. Mr. Owen was married, in 1872, to Miss Sarah A. Oliver, a native of England, and who accompanied her parents to America in 1860. The Olivers settled in this same locality three years before the arrival of the Owen family. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Owen, viz.—Edward H. (deceased), Elizabeth J., Alice, Josie, Ida, and Annie.

Mr. Owen was deputy sheriff of Buffalo county under Mr. John Oliver, and has

also been justice of the peace two terms. He is a prominent member of the I. O. O. F. and K. of P. fraternities, and has always affiliated with the republican party in political matters. He owns two hundred and forty acres of choice land near the town of Shelton, and he enjoys the confidence and esteem of all who know him.

**D**R. WILLIAM J. NEELY, one of the enterprising farmers of Thornton township, Buffalo county, was born in Virginia, May 21, 1841. His father, Bashrod Neely, was born in Monongalia county, May 21, 1820. He was in the mercantile business in McGaheysville, Va., for several years previous to 1887, when he emigrated to Buffalo county, Nebr., where he now resides. Dr. Neely's grandfather was James Neely, a native also of Virginia. He died in 1879.

Dr. Neely enlisted at the age of twenty, September 6, 1861, in the Sixth West Virginia infantry. His regiment was stationed at Grafton, W. Va., for about three years. While here young Neely acted as post clerk for the regiment. He was mustered out in June, 1865, as quartermaster sergeant. After that he was engaged in the mercantile business at Mannington, W. Va., for a short time. In 1866 he began the study of medicine and subsequently graduated from the American Medical College, St. Louis, Mo. He emigrated to Buffalo county, Nebr., in September, 1833, and settled on a homestead in Thornton township. His first purchase, upon his arrival at Kearney, was a yoke of stalwart oxen, which served as his

team. Dr. Neely was among the very first settlers in Thornton township, and he and his faithful wife stood in a great many hardships, incident to those early days, and frequently suffered for the necessities of life. Their first night on the new homestead was spent in a hole in the ground, which was used subsequently as a cellar. They had no money and were obliged to adapt themselves to their surrounding circumstances. They had no well of water, and no money to aid them in constructing one; consequently, the doctor carried what water they were obliged to have for three long months from the house of a neighbor, one mile distant. He was used to walking in those days, and it was not an unusual thing for him to walk to Kearney, a distance of nine miles, and home again with his arms full of groceries. He built a sod house ten by twelve feet, which served them for several years. During the summer of 1874, the grasshoppers destroyed everything in the shape of crop, and Mr. Neely was obliged to move to Kearney, where he might be able to get work in order to supply his family with the necessaries of life. He returned to his homestead, however, the following spring, and he has continued to reside there since. Notwithstanding the innumerable hardships endured by Mr. and Mrs. Neely during their early experiences in this country, they have survived them all and are now among the most prosperous citizens in the county. The doctor practiced his profession during fourteen years after his arrival in the county. He was exceedingly generous during the dark days in grasshopper times. He administered to the needs of the sick and afflicted then and charged only half price for his services.

He now has three hundred and twenty acres in his splendid farm, which has yielded abundant crops every year since 1876. He has set out and cultivated with his own hands 40,000 trees, some of which now measure eighteen inches in diameter. He has always had great faith in the raising of fruit, and now points with pride to his fine orchard and well cultivated vineyards. He deserves especial credit for his marked success in this direction. He planted fruit trees and nurtured them when other men laughed at the idea of raising fruit on these Western plains. He has finally succeeded in demonstrating that with proper care the choicest kinds of fruits can be raised in this country.

Dr. Neely has served as justice of the peace, and held other offices in his township.

He was married August 17, 1867, to Rebecca S. Leston, at Mannington, W. Va. Mrs. Neely's parents were both Virginians by birth. Both the Doctor and Mrs. Neely are devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They have no children.

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**G**EORGE R. TRACY was born in Licking county, Ohio, Nov. 21, 1847. His father, George Tracy, was a native of Pennsylvania, but emigrated to Ohio at an early period of his life, and subsequently to Illinois, where he remained until his death. He engaged in various pursuits during the early part of his life, but farming was his chief occupation. He was a minister of the old school Baptist church; a close student of

the Bible and one of the best posted men of his day on the scriptures. He died in June, 1858, in Hancock county, Ill. His wife was Barbara (Lineberger) Tracy, a native of Germany. She is still living in Illinois and is a devoted christian woman.

George R. Tracy, the subject of this sketch, worked on a farm in Illinois until twenty-two years of age. He then determined to go to Missouri and try farming on his own responsibility. He finally purchased a small farm of Mary Power, who, on January 22, 1870, became his wife. Three children were born of this union, namely—Luella May, born November 27, 1872, Emma B., born February 4, 1880, and William H., born July 4, 1882.

Mr. Tracy immigrated to Nebraska in February, 1875, and took a homestead in Thornton township, Buffalo county. He built a sod house in which the family lived for twelve years. It still stands and is in a tolerably fair state of preservation. At the time of their settlement the country was new and settlers were few and far between. Wild game was plenty, especially deer and antelope, which were frequently seen in the vicinity. Mr. Tracy was among those who suffered on account of the terrible scourge of the grasshoppers. They descended in great clouds in the summer of 1876, and completely destroyed everything green, even eating a bed of fine onions growing in the garden. They flew in such droves that they fairly darkened the sun and made a roaring noise similar to a moving train of freight cars.

When Mr. Tracy first settled on his homestead there were only a few houses in sight and it would frequently be days and even weeks before they would see a stranger or even any one they knew.

During the first few winters they experienced several severe storms and blizzards, when the snow would drift so that it would be impossible almost to get about. They frequently were compelled to burn hay and corn-stalks for fuel.

Mrs. Tracy was born in Scotland county, Mo., July 3, 1849, and was the daughter of Richard and Mary (Turner) Power. Both her parents were natives of Kentucky, and after marriage located in Rush county, Ind., where several years of their early life were spent. In the spring of 1838 they started West, stopping in Illinois, however, long enough to raise and dispose of a crop, then they pushed on to Missouri, where they resided the remainder of their lives. They had nine children—four sons and five daughters.

Mr. Tracy is a pronounced religious man, although not at present a member of any church. Mrs. Tracy is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**J**OHN T. MALLALIEU, superintendent of the Nebraska State Industrial School, was born in Millington, Md., September 23, 1852, and is a son of Thomas and Mary Mallalieu, natives of England. His education was received at the common schools, and his early business training was acquired in the office of his father, who was an extensive wool manufacturer. At twenty years of age he entered Dickinson College, at Carlisle, Pa., from which he graduated in June, 1876, and in the fall of the same year came to Nebraska. At Columbus he was elected principal of the Gibbon Academy,

which position he held three years, and was then elected county superintendent, which office he filled in a most satisfactory manner for four years. In 1881 he was admitted to the bar, and in 1883 was elected regent of the University of Nebraska, which responsible office he filled for six years. In May, 1885, he was appointed superintendent of the State Industrial School. This institution at that time found its needs fully supplied by the occupancy of one small building, but now nine large brick buildings are required to carry out the designs for which the institution was established and to accommodate the attending inmates, whose numbers have increased from ninety to two hundred and sixty.

September 11, 1875, Mr. Mallalieu was united in marriage to Miss Alice Gotwald, a native of Indiana, and this felicitous union has been blessed by the birth of three children, viz.—Thomas G., Mary M. and Bessie.

**D**R. GEORGE M. MILLS is the third of thirteen children and was born in Liberty, Adams county, Ill., December 17, 1812. He is a son of Franklin Mills, who was born October 17, 1822, in New Haven, Conn., and while a young man emigrated to Illinois, where he was by turns, farmer, mechanic, and merchant, following these pursuits for years. Dr. Mills' mother's maiden name was Mary Galbreath, and she was born in 1822. These are still living at Perry, Ill.

At the age of three years the subject of this sketch was taken by his parents to

Brown county, Ill., where and in Pike county, that state, he was reared. He began the work at preparing himself for the duties of his profession in the fall of 1869 under the tutorship of Dr. Harvey Dunn, of Perry, Ill. He attended lectures at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Keokuk, Iowa, graduating in 1878, and then at the Rush Medical College of Chicago, graduating in 1883, taking three full courses in the latter institution. He began the practice before he graduated, locating in 1871 at Birmingham, Schuyler county, Ill., where he continued to administer to the wants of the sick till the fall of 1876, when he removed to Ripley, Brown county, Ill. He lived at the latter place, continuing at his profession till May, 1885, when he removed to Nebraska, locating at Kearney, where he has since remained.

He is a member of the Nebraska State Medical Society, ranking high in his profession and enjoying an extensive practice.

Dr. Mills was married July 2, 1874, to Miss Eliza H. Burch, daughter of Preston H. Burch, of Springfield, Ill. It is rare that a husband finds in a wife traits and tastes congenial to his own, but in this instance Mrs. Mills is also a physician and is a companion, student and partner of her husband, in the art of healing.

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**D**R. ELIZA B. MILLS is the youngest of six children, and was born in Springfield, Illinois. She is a daughter of Preston H. Burch, who was born in Harrisburg, Va., in 1809, and when a small boy moved with his parents to Kentucky, while that region in

fact was the dark and bloody ground. In 1820 he emigrated to Illinois and located at Lincoln, where he continued to reside till his death. He was intimately acquainted with the illustrious man for whom his adopted town was named, and was an ardent admirer and warm supporter of "honest old Abe" in the embryonic stage of his political career; and when his fame as a statesman burst upon the dazed vision of the world, as the great war president, Mr. Burch was still a follower of the flag of the Union and Lincoln, determined to share their fortunes whatever they might be. At Port Hudson, La., while filling the responsible position of brigade quartermaster, he succumbed to the hardships and ravages of war. He died at his post of duty in the service of his country while his honored chief and friend was guiding the ship of state upon a tempestuous sea of a cruel and bloody civil war.

The maiden name of the mother of the subject of this sketch was Elizabeth Suter. She was born in Charleston, S. C., "the beautiful city by the sea," and at an early age moved with her parents to Louisville, Ky., where she was educated. She died in 1864, at the age of forty-six.

Mrs. Mills received her education at Eureka college in Woodford county, Ill., and began the study of medicine at the age of eighteen, of which she has been a student ever since.

She was graduated an M. D. at the college of physicians and surgeons at Keokuk, Iowa, in 1881, and also took a course of lectures at the Woman's medical college of Chicago, Ill., during the session of 1882 and 1883.

Since her graduation she has devoted

herself exclusively and assiduously to the practice of her profession.

Mrs. Mills has done much to allay the prejudices in localities where she has lived. In fact, if her large practice is any test, she has succeeded in turning the tide in favor of woman as man's equal and co-laborer in the professions as well as the manual trades.

She was married, July 2, 1874, to Dr. George M. Mills, and in May, 1885, she came with her husband to Kearney, Nebr.

She is a splendid type of western womanhood, imbibing the spirit of her surroundings, and is energetic and progressive; not only as a healer of the body is she so favorably known, but many a ragged and hungry family, unable to keep the wolf of want from the door, bless her for the good she does. The poor and sick of her adopted city are pensioners upon her bounty and skill. As a physician she ranks high; as a generous, kind hearted woman she is without a superior.

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**W**H. SALISBURY. Among the many representative farmers and stock-raisers of Buffalo county, Nebr., is that worthy and genial gentleman, W. H. Salisbury, an American by birth and certainly one by principle. His father, John Salisbury, was born in Madison county, New York, where he married Miss Lucinda Brown. After the marriage he moved to Lake county, Illinois, taking an active part in progressive farming. Giving this up, he moved to Chicago, engaging in mercantile pursuits,

at which he acquired a splendid competence. While on a visit to his daughter at Dundee, Ill., being then past his seventy-seventh year, he was taken ill, and died January 9, 1877. His wife survived him eight years, then quietly passed away December 30, 1885, in her seventy-third year. Of this happy marriage there were born the following children — John C., Sarah, Emeline (now deceased), Leroy (also deceased), Annie, George (a hero of the late rebellion, who died at his post of duty), William H. and Bessie.

William H. Salisbury, the seventh child, was born in Lake county, Ill., but was raised mainly in Elgin and Chicago, being educated to mercantile pursuits, which he followed until his health failed him, when he resolved to seek quarters where he could regain it, and finally settled upon Nebraska. Hither he came, settling in Buffalo county in 1876, on the northwestern quarter of section 3, township 8, range 15, which he purchased; later on, he bought the quarter east of this, thus making him the owner of the north half of section 3. This land is under cultivation, the newest and best methods having been used.

Mr. Salisbury has turned his attention to fine horses, making a specialty of Clydesdales, and having five head of stallions. He also has a large, handsome stock, some of which are imported direct from Scotland, among which are some very fine brood mares. Mr. Salisbury hopes to revolutionize breeding methods, and his success so far entitles him to a great deal of credit among horsemen. His barns, pastures and groves are all in accord with his progressive nature, thus making his farm of the most attractive in the township.

Mr. Salisbury is a veteran of the late

rebellion, having enlisted in Company A, One Hundred and Forty-first Illinois volunteers, at the early age of fifteen. Owing to his youth he was appointed post-boy, carrying the mail for his regiment, serving mostly in Kentucky, and remaining with the troops until the surrender of Lee to Grant at Appomattox. He married, March 6, 1873, Miss Addie M., daughter of Albert and D. M. Bessie, both natives of Onondaga county, N. Y., where Mrs. Salisbury also was born. Her worthy parents are at present residing at Kearney City, this state. To this union has been born a son, Frederick H.

Owing to the great respect Mr. Salisbury has acquired from his fellow-citizens, he has been honored by election to the offices of treasurer of Centre township, road supervisor and school trustee, serving in each capacity with thorough capability. Progressiveness is his motto, geniality his characteristic quality, and thus he plods onward through life, beloved and honored by his fellow-citizens.

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**J**AHUGH WINSLOW, one of the first settlers on the old Fort Kearney reservation and a prosperous farmer of Centre township, Buffalo county, was born March 4, 1841, in Washington county, Ind. His father, Josiah Winslow, a farmer by occupation, was also a native of Indiana, born in the year 1819. The mother, Sarah (Shields) Winslow, was born 1821. There were twenty-one children in the father's family.

Jahugh Winslow, the subject of this biography, in his early days attended the neighboring school and assisted his father

about the home place. He worked with his father at the tanning business in Washington county until thirty years of age. He enlisted in the war, in response to a proclamation calling for more troops, in September, 1864. He was assigned to Company E, Fifty-third regiment Indiana volunteers, and served in Sherman's army, Seventeenth Corps. His company was sent from Indianapolis, via Louisville, Nashville and Chattanooga, near which last-named place they were deserted by their commander and for four days were without a mouthful of food, after which they procured some moldy bread which the men eagerly devoured. The regiment joined Sherman at Atlanta, and was with him on his famous campaign through Georgia, during which Mr. Winslow was taken with the measles and had to march thirty miles through the rain. Arriving at the rebel works at Savannah, he was put into an ambulance and sent to the hospital at Port Royal Island, where he remained from December to February, when he was transferred to Fort Schuyler, where a month later his folks came after him, procured a furlough and took him home. He remained at home two months and then joined his regiment at Louisville. He was discharged July 29, 1865.

He continued to reside in Washington county until October, 1875, when on account of his health he decided to emigrate West. He accordingly came and located first in Kearney, where he resided until January 3, of the following year, when he homesteaded a quarter section in what is called the old Fort Kearney reservation, on which he still resides.

In 1876, he broke out and put into crops a portion of his place. The crops

for a time flourished and gave promise of a rich harvest, but the grasshoppers came that year and destroyed everything, leaving the family with neither money nor food. That winter Mrs. W. plied her needle diligently, while Mr. W. trapped beaver and otter along the Platte river, the skins of which he tanned and made into gloves and mittens, for which he found a ready market. Mr. W. also shot prairie-chickens, which he shipped to Eastern markets. With the money they were able to earn in this manner, they managed to live. In 1877 Mr. W. took a load of flour in a train of provisions to the Black Hill country in western Dakota. He reports good crops ever since 1878, with the exception of 1887, when he had his crops destroyed by a severe hail storm.

Mr. Winslow was married March 14, 1867, to Sally A. Jones, daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Newby) Jones; the former a furniture-maker by trade, was born in 1819; the latter was born in 1817. They are both living and have been blessed with ten children. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Winslow has resulted in the birth of seven children, as follows—John, Lydia, Alelia, Cora, Elbert R. and Benjamin T., and one that died in infancy not named.

In politics, Mr. Winslow adheres to the principles of the republican party.

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**C**HARLES R. STIMPSON, a prominent farmer and cattle man of Buffalo county, is a native of Huron county, Ohio, and was born February 4, 1833. At the age of seventeen he left the home farm and went to Minne-

sota, where he grew to manhood and where he was married in 1861. In 1862 he enlisted in Company F, Sixth Minnesota volunteer infantry, and saw his first service in the Indian campaign at Fort Hudson. On his return home in 1864 he joined the Eleventh Minnesota infantry and was sent to Tennessee, where he was chiefly employed on garrison duty until the close of the war, when he again returned to Minnesota, and for a short time followed carpentering, also engaged in merchandising, and for a while worked for a railroad company. In June, 1872, he came to Nebraska. In August of the same year, Kearney city was platted and a hotel commenced, and for five years Mr. Stimpson followed his trade of a carpenter in the new town. When he came to the county Gibbon was the county seat and the land he now lives on in Center township was included in the Fort Kearney military reservation. After a residence of three years here he was the first to take a claim in this reservation, much to the surprise of his neighbors, but in a very few days afterwards the entire tract of ten square miles, on both sides of the river, was under "squatter" claims. The fall of the same year he built his house and moved in, being the first man to take that step. The land cost \$1.25 per acre and is located in section 32, in the northwest quarter of the reserve. Mr. Stimpson was the prime mover in securing from the government the right of settlers to this piece of public territory, to the exclusion of railroad companies' claims, and no company has ever owned an acre in the square by congressional grant.

Mr. Stimpson served for several years as marshal of Kearney, during the notori-



ous cow-boy troubles. In those turbulent times these boys committed numerous depredations and perpetrated numerous murders, and quite a number of the desperadoes also met their death at the hands of the citizens in defense of their own lives. In those days, Indians were numerous and many citizens were killed by them, while others were killed by their fellow-citizens or straggling strangers, and the blame thrown upon the Indians. Many efforts were made by the ranchmen to oust the settlers from the reservation, as it was then an unorganized territory, but these efforts were in vain. Mitchell and Ketcham were among the ranchmen who took part in the nefarious scheme and shot down more than one man, trumped up charges of cattle stealing against others, but were themselves eventually lynched. The country was for a time in a lawless condition, and it required pluck and nerve on the part of the honest settler to keep his residence in it.

Lovett Stimpson, the father of our subject, was a native of New York and was a veteran of the war of 1812. He married Miss Harriet Crane, also a native of New York and a daughter of Captain Crane, of the war of 1812. The Captain received for his services a land warrant, which he located near Little Rock, Ark. To Lovett Stimpson and wife were born twelve children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the youngest.

The marriage of Charles R. Stimpson took place, as stated, in 1861, to Miss Arvilla Harrington, daughter of J. S. Harrington, of Ohio. Mr. Harrington has always been a very popular man and has held many offices of honor and trust, and is still living, at the age of seventy-five

years, in Minnesota. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Stimpson has been blessed by the birth of five children, viz.—Adel, Byron, Leonard, Homer and Helen, all residents of Nebraska, excepting Adel, who is living in Los Angeles, Cal.

Mr. Stimpson is one of the most enterprising citizens of Center township. Among other projects of an industrial character he assisted in organizing a stock company for the erection of a large four-story structure for the production of oatmeal, and is himself one of its largest stockholders. He and son own an extensive cattle ranch, located near Medicine lake, Nebr., and he is, besides, interested in several other branches of business. Mr. Stimpson is an Odd Fellow and is also a member of the Farmers' Alliance. In politics he is independent and casts his vote as best suits his judgment. Socially, he and family stand in the front rank.

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**H**ON. R. R. GREER. Among the early settlers of the city of Kearney, and a man who has been prominently identified with the best business interests of the Midway city, as well as those of his adopted county and state, is Hon. R. R. Greer, more generally and familiarly known as "Bob" Greer, a biographical notice of whom here follows. Mr. Greer is of Irish-American origin and in his make-up he presents a happy blending of the chief traits of the two people from whom he is descended. His father, James L. Greer, was a native of Ireland and was brought to this country by his parents when a child. He was reared mainly in Pittsburgh, Pa., where his parents

settled, immigrating West at the age of nineteen and locating in Schuyler county, Ill. There he met and married Miss Nancy Wilson, a Kentucky-born lady, whose parents, Elijah and Martha Wilson, had immigrated some years before from Kentucky into the Illinois territory when that country was thrown open to settlement and had cast their fortunes on the then frontier, in what is now Schuyler county. Settling down to the peaceful pursuits of agriculture in the county of their adoption, James L. and Nancy Greer are living, engrossed in their personal and domestic affairs. They are both zealous members of the Methodist church and take an active interest in all church work, being generous contributors also to all charitable purposes. They reared a family of six children, four boys and two girls, as follows—Emma, Robert R., George, Charles, Hattie and Moulton. The second of these and the eldest son, Robert R., the subject of this notice, was born and reared in Schuyler county, Ill., having been brought up on his father's farm and following agricultural pursuits during his earlier years. Quitting the farm on reaching his majority, he began life for himself as a clerk in a mercantile establishment at Rushville, Ill., following clerical pursuits there and in that vicinity for some years. Coming West then, he lived a while at Peru, Nebr., and afterwards in Holt county, Mo., and finally in the spring of 1873 he came to Buffalo county, this state, and located in Kearney, which was just starting, having hardly then reached the dignity of a cross roads village. Mr. Greer engaged at once in the mercantile business, becoming one of Kearney's first merchants, as he afterwards became one

of the most successful ones. He was engaged in business for more than sixteen years, and it is no exaggeration to say that he sold, during that time, many a hundred thousand dollars' worth of goods, having a trade extending not only throughout all Buffalo county, but into the southwestern counties across the Platte river and into the northwestern counties among the ranchmen along several forks of the Loup and Dismal and beyond that. Of course he made money—with the early opportunities he enjoyed and his attentive business habits and methods, he could not do otherwise. Like a prudent man, he invested his means as they accumulated beyond his business acquirements, in real estate in Kearney and Buffalo county, and with the gradual improvement of the county and the consequent rise in values these investments brought him good returns. Closing out his mercantile affairs in July, 1889, he has since given his time and attention to his investments and to duties of a public nature, in connection with offices with which he has been honored. Mr. Greer has been identified with the growth and development of Kearney and Buffalo county since the day he cast his fortunes with them, and he has taken an active and, in some instances, a conspicuous, part in different enterprises which have been set on foot for the betterment of the material and social condition of his community. He has kept up his interest in agriculture and has been the able champion of the farmers' rights and privileges in this state.

He is now president of the Nebraska State Fair Association and has done much valuable work for the agricultural, horticultural, live stock and dairying interests of the state. Mr. Greer visits other states,

attends fairs and stock shows and gathers information, which he lays before the public, from time to time, in the shape of annual reports, and thus carries theory and practice along hand in hand and gets at the same time the benefit of the experience of others engaged by similar lines of endeavor. Mr. Greer is often called in consultation with Gov. Thayer.

Personally, Mr. Greer is popular, being well and favorably known by all the old settlers with whom he had dealings in the early days. He is wide awake and progressive in his views, and welcomes all new-comers and encourages the bringing of capital and new industries. He is, in short, a thorough-going man of affairs. Polite, genial and affable—one whom it is a pleasure to meet either in business or social relation, and of whose personality even the casual acquaintance retains a distinct and happy remembrance.

Mr. Greer was united in marriage to Miss Susie Peter in 1873, a very lovely lady of Rushville, Ill. Mrs. Greer is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

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**E**GAR H. ANDREWS is one of the most popular and best known young farmers in Buffalo county, and was born in Williamstown, Vt., Jan. 3, 1855. His father, David Andrews, was born in Cabot, Vt., August 1, 1821; was reared on a farm and upon arriving at the age of maturity chose farming as his occupation. He married Elizabeth House, daughter of Halsey House, a native of Vermont, who died about 1868.

The senior Andrews came West about

the close of the war, and resided at Black Hawk, Colo., for a short time; but, not being pleased with the appearance of the country in that region, he retraced his foot-steps, stopping at Grinnell, Iowa, where he purchased land and immediately engaged in farming. His experience in the field of agriculture at this point extended over a period of eight years. He was not satisfied, however, and, disposing of his chattels and realty, he moved to Buffalo county, Nebr., arriving here in the spring of 1873. After prospecting about for a short time he purchased a quarter section of land on the banks of the Wood river in Centre township, where the soil, for richness and fertility, can not be excelled in the county. He then and there decided to make this his permanent home, and seventeen years of marvelous development have proven the wisdom of his decision. He and his estimable wife are still living in the enjoyment of a ripe old age of almost three score years and ten.

E. H. Andrews, the subject proper of this brief memoir, was only eighteen years old when he came with his father to Buffalo county, but he had faith in the great future development of the Platte valley and took advantage of the exceedingly low price of land by purchasing two hundred and eighty acres in the Wood River valley in Centre township. The country then was one vast desert of unbroken prairie, and farming, as one can well imagine, was not a very paying business for the first three or four years. The grasshopper plague in 1874-5-6, was one of the most vexatious and discouraging things with which the early settlers had to contend. Fields of waving corn which gave every promise of an abundant crop

in the morning, would be stripped of every vestige of life by nightfall. The destruction was not so great the next year, but the third was simply a repetition of the first. Many, disheartened and on the very verge of starvation, returned to their former places of habitation, while others, some of whom did not have the means to get away with, remained. The next year a bountiful crop was harvested and the few remaining settlers renewed their courage and went forward, improving and developing the country, until now they know no such thing as a failure of crops. Young Andrews was one of the few who never lost faith in the future of the new country; but, instead, redoubled his energies in the midst of famine, and was prepared to welcome the new era of prosperity with a smile of serene confidence.

E. H. Andrews was married September 14, 1880, to Miss Carrie Longstreet, who was born in Syracuse, N. Y., December 11, 1858. She is the daughter of Cornelius and Esther Longstreet, both natives of New York, the former having been born October 11, 1833, and the latter December 27, 1830. Her father was a farmer and mechanic, and for three years was paymaster on board a ship. They were both strictly religious people and active members of the Methodist church. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Andrews has resulted in the birth of two children—Abbie, born July 15, 1883 (deceased), and Bessie, born September 5, 1885.

Mr. Andrews has always exhibited a fondness for fine stock, and his efforts for several years have been directed toward the production of the very best horses, cattle and hogs. Besides being quite an

extensive dealer in cattle and hogs, he makes a specialty of pure-bred horses. His stables contain several as fine specimens of imported Clydesdale and Norman stallions as the foreign markets afford. He also has a few imported brood-mares of the same pure blood, and takes great pains in raising their progeny. He believes the best is always the cheapest, and that it costs no more to raise a pure-bred horse than it does an inferior one. Mr. Andrews is a young man of good education, full of the vigor of life, and thoroughly posted on the leading issues of the day. He has several times been honored with the secretaryship of the Buffalo county agricultural society, and, in fact, is one of the rising young men of the county.

**G**EORGE W. CORNELL was born in Warren county, near Dayton, Ohio, Oct. 18, 1835, and is the son of Sylvanus and Sara (Flora) Cornell. His father was born in New York in 1790, and served in the war of 1812. About 1810 he moved to Ohio, where he died in 1879. John Cornell, grandfather of our subject, was a Canadian by birth, but whose father came from England and is believed to have constructed and operated the first flouring mill in the Dominion of Canada.

George W. Cornell began life as a farmer in Warren county, Ohio, at the age of twenty-four. He had, however, served an apprenticeship at saddle-making, but never followed the trade to any great extent. In 1852 he entered Delaware University, at Delaware, Ohio, where he remained for three years.

In 1859 he joined a company at Kansas City, comprising about seventy-five men and fifty yoke of oxen, and went on an expedition to Pike's Peak.

He returned in a year or so, however, and engaged in farming, until 1868, when he moved to Dayton and engaged in the coal and wood business.

In the fall of 1870 the Soldiers' and Sailors' Emigration Colony, of Dayton, Ohio, was organized, with Mr. Cornell as president. In 1871 several members, including the president, were sent to Buffalo county, Nebr., to inspect the country and report to the organization the result of their observations. The report sent back was highly satisfactory and in the following spring several more members came out and took claims. Mr. Cornell purchased 539 acres of railroad land just outside the present limits of the city of Kearney.

Mr. Cornell was appointed distributing clerk for Buffalo county during the grasshopper times, when provision and clothing were sent from all over the East to the unfortunate settlers in this desert region. Many families were so destitute of the actual necessities of life that they were obliged to live on frozen potatoes, corn meal and boiled wheat. It was indeed a time of great suffering throughout the entire county, and many men came to Mr. Cornell in those days and told him they did not have a mouthful to eat in their houses. In 1877 an era of prosperity set in and since then there has been very little suffering among the people for want of food and clothing.

Mr. Cornell was married January 25, 1860, to Rebecca Davis, who was born near Xenia, Ohio, January 7, 1837, and is the daugh-

ter of Jonathan and

Six children were born of this union, namely—Florence, born November 17, 1860 (wife of William Paterson); Willis E., born July 31, 1862 (deceased); Carrie I., born September 8, 1863 (deceased); Mary A., born October 10, 1865 (wife of Wm. Bishop); Sarah A., born September 23, 1873. George S., born October 22, 1879. Mr. Cornell was deputy sheriff under Capt. Anderson in 1875.

**R**W. FARR (deceased) was born in Ohio, July 23, 1832. His parents moved to Boone county, Ill., when he was seven years old, and there he was reared on a farm and had few opportunities for obtaining an education as the country was new and sparsely settled. He proved to be an industrious youth, however, and took advantage of every opportunity presented him for self-culture. In this way he managed to secure a fair business education, which proved a great boon to him in after life.

In 1855 he was married to Miss Mary C. Mullen. She was a native of New York and born August 10, 1838. She was a daughter of Philip and Raelael (Canty) Mullen, the former a native of New York and the latter of Wales. Her parents located in Illinois in 1852, and in 1871 they came to Nebraska, where her father died in 1884.

Soon after marriage Mr. Farr concluded to immigrate to Iowa, then being rapidly settled by Eastern people. He finally located near Fayette, Fayette county, that state, where he purchased a farm and entered upon the quiet pursuits of agricul-

ture, but his success in this line was frequently interrupted by ill-health. He suffered from frequent and serious attacks of a complicated nature and at one time he was confined to his room most of the time for four years. He finally disposed of his farm and moved to town, engaging in the livery business, but was sick so much of the time that he was unable to attend to his affairs in a satisfactory manner, so he finally disposed of his business and concluded to try his fortune further West. He set out for Nebraska, where he arrived in March, 1871, locating in Hall county, near Grand Island. He took a homestead, which he sold six years later and located in Buffalo county, where he took a tree claim in Cherry Creek township in August, 1877, but sold this in a few years and purchased a quarter section of railroad land in the same vicinity. He began breaking and otherwise improving until he made it one of the most attractive farms in the community. During these years he suffered from the usual annoyances incident to the early settlement of this part of the country. The crops were either entirely destroyed by the grasshoppers or were injured by hail or drouth. Mr. Farr, though suffering from ill health, was a man of remarkable courage and determination and was always of a jovial disposition and never appeared discouraged, although his patience was many a time put to a severe test.

To Mr. and Mrs. Farr were born two sons—Earnest H., born February 6, 1857, now a prosperous young farmer, and Levi J., born August 22, 1875. The last named has had poor health for some time, and the fond parents, thinking a change of climate would prove beneficial to the invalid

youth, spent a year and a half in Tennessee, returning in the spring of 1887. Mr. Farr seemed to have gained renewed vitality as well as his son, and upon his return began his farm work. He was taken suddenly ill, however, and died on the fifteenth day of July, 1887. Mr. Farr was a man who never lacked for friends and who enjoyed the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. To his faithful wife, who bestowed her tender care and sympathy through all his years of sickness, he was ever grateful.

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**W**ILLIAM McLELLAN is a prosperous farmer living eight miles north of Kearney in Divide township. He was born November 18, 1837, at Washington C. H., Fayette county, Ohio, and is the sixth in a family of twelve children born to William S. and Margaret (Wright) McLellan, who were natives of New England; the former, a farmer by occupation, was born at Portland, Me., in 1795; the latter was born in 1810. The other members of the paternal family are as follows—Maria L., Mary J., Eliza, Alfred, Theodore, Joseph, Elizabeth E., Maggie, Horton H., Oscar W. and Frank. His paternal grandfather, Joseph McLellan, was of Scotch-Irish descent, and was born April 18, 1762. He was captain of a boat on the Atlantic ocean, and the chart which he used has been handed down and is now in the possession of our subject. William in his early days attended school in the country until a rudimentary education was obtained, after which he

attended the high school in Washington C. H. He engaged in farming until the war broke out, and on April 20, 1861, he responded to his country's call, enlisting in the Twenty-second regiment, Ohio volunteers. He accompanied his regiment to Parkersburgh and Clarksburgh, Va., and was mustered out at the expiration of his time, August 19, 1861, at Athens, Ohio. He returned home and remained two months and then re-enlisted October 19, as a musician, with the same regiment, playing first baritone. The first engagement of note under this enlistment was the battle of Shiloh, where, on account of many of the soldiers being sick, the band boys left their horns in their tents and took guns, participating throughout the fight. In pursuance of an order sent out from head-quarters to discharge all band men who desired to go, he was mustered out April 24, 1862. He returned home for a short time, but the old war fever was too strong within him for resistance, and he accordingly volunteered August 9, 1862, and continued in the service until the close of the war. He did guard duty at Washington city, was with Kilpatrick on his raid to Richmond, and in all participated in seventeen battles, including the battles of Gettysburg, Brandy station (at which battle he had his horse shot from under him) and many others of note. He was discharged June 13, 1865.

Mr. McLellan was married August 26, 1862, just before returning to the war the third time, to Mary E. Saunders, which union has resulted in the birth of eleven children, as follows—William, born December 28, 1863; Nella, born August 5, 1865; Charles, January 28, 1867; Etta, January 31, 1869; Harry, March 13, 1871; Edwin,

February 13, 1873; Alvora, January 19, 1875; Maggie, March 4, 1878; Horton, December 8, 1883; Oscar, September 13, 1885; and Grace, born September 18, 1887.

Mr. and Mrs. McLellan continued to reside in Fayette county, Ohio, until March, 1880, when they came West and located on their present farm in Divide township, which they have greatly improved, having built a neat frame dwelling and put one hundred and thirty acres of their quarter section under cultivation. They are both active members of the Methodist church, he having been one of the trustees of the first organization in their community. Mr. McLellan, politically, is a staunch republican, and is now serving as the clerk of his town.

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WILLIAM G. PATTERSON is one of the earliest settlers of Divide township, Buffalo county, having located here in the early seventies, when but twenty-one years of age. He was born in Wayne county, Pa., July 27, 1853. His father, Robert Patterson, was a native of Ireland, born in the year 1827. His mother, Jane (Henry) Patterson, was also a native of Ireland, and was born in 1830. When William was one and a half years old his parents moved to New York, where they resided for nine years, after which they returned to Leadsdale, Wayne county, Pa. Remaining there two years, they next moved to Lincoln county, Wis., where they resided for two years, during which time William attended the neighboring school. In 1869 he, in company with his parents, returned to Wayne county, Pa., where he served a three-

years' apprenticeship at the tinner's trade. In the spring of 1872 he went to Chicago, where, on account of the big fire the fall before, there was great demand for workmen at his trade, and there he was employed on the dome of the great exposition building and many other structures of note. He remained in Chicago, working at his trade, for two years, and in April, 1874, came West and located in Buffalo county, Nebr. He farmed and worked at his trade in Kearney the first year, and the following year devoted his time exclusively to farming, putting out a large crop of corn, oats and wheat, from which he harvested a fair crop. In 1876 he put out forty acres of wheat, ten acres of corn and seven acres of oats, which were entirely destroyed by the grasshoppers; and he, like many others, was obliged to haul corn from Smith Centre, Kans., a distance of one hundred and twenty-five miles. When Mr. Patterson first came to this county deer and antelope were plentiful and some elk were still to be found. He hunted considerably in those days, and reports having killed both deer and elk. His well-improved farm, lying north of Kearney, in Divide township, speaks of itself of his prosperity since coming to this county.

Mr. Patterson was married February 27, 1877, to Florence E. Cornell, who was born November 17, 1860, and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Cornell, whose biographical memoir appears elsewhere in this volume. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Patterson has resulted in the birth of two children—George H., born November 14, 1878, and Stella A., born January 23, 1880. In politics Mr. Patterson is independent.

**A**ARON HEDGES is of the line of a thrifty Maryland family, who were pioneers of that state. His father was Moses Hedges, born in Maryland, in 1799, and in early childhood was taken by his parents to Virginia and remained there till 1864; thence he removed to Woodford county, Ill., and there remained till death, which occurred in 1872. He was a republican in politics. For a number of years Mr. Hedges was connected with the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he was an active member and liberal supporter. He married Miss Nancy Jones, a native of Virginia, and to them were born eight children, namely—David (died in 1868); Mary Ann, lives in Dawson county, Nebr.; Aaron; Sarah, wife of Mr. Ward, a retired farmer, and M. T., in Kansas. Three died in infancy. The subject, Aaron Hedges, is a native of Virginia and was born in 1831. In 1864 he moved to Woodford county, Ill., and thence to Nebraska, in 1881, settling on section 20, township 9, range 18 west, Elm Creek township, Buffalo county.

In 1851 Mr. Hedges began life for himself with only a strong body and willing hands. His first earnings were invested in cattle, which proved to be a good investment. He continued to be prosperous till 1873, being worth at that time \$22,000, when a firm, in which he had implicit confidence, failed; leaving him a security to pay \$16,000. He remarked "I have made it once and I can make it again." In 1873 he began a second time, and at present has 720 acres of land, fifty-three horses and 220 head of cattle, in company with his son.

Mr. Hedges was married to Miss Linsey, a native of Virginia, born in 1831, and an



active member in the Methodist Episcopal church for a number of years. Their union was blessed with an only son, Joshua K. (born 1851, died October, 1889). After the death of his wife, Mr. Hedges, in 1873, married Miss Sarah Boyd, a native of Illinois, and a graduate of Eureka College, that state. Mr. and Mrs. Hedges are both members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Their union has been blessed with four children, namely—Charles (born 1874, died 1889); Brook Talmage (born 1875); Ula (born 1877); Ella (born 1880).

**JAMES SMITH.** A history of Buffalo county, containing biographical mention of her prosperous farmers would be incomplete without the name of James Smith. He is the son of Robert and Nancy (Crawford) Smith, both natives of Ireland, who came to America, in 1827, to make their future home. Robert Smith first located at Paterson, N. J., remaining ten years; thence he moved to York State, where he remained three years, and from there to Monroe county, Mich., in 1840, where he remained until his death, which occurred in 1865. Just previous to death he called his children to his bedside and his parting counsel was for all to live a Christian life. When he had finished speaking he gently and peacefully fell asleep. Mr. Smith was a consistent and much beloved member of the Congregational church and was strongly opposed to secret orders. In the community in which he lived he was always highly esteemed for his upright and honorable

dealing, and his word was considered as good as his note. His occupation was farming, but in Paterson, N. J., he was engaged in weaving. He bore the reputation of being a good financier and was very prosperous in all his work. In politics he was a republican. Mrs. Nancy (Crawford) Smith was born in 1797, and was also an active member of the Congregational church for years. She was a kind and affectionate mother, with a heart full of sympathy for persons in poverty or distress. She survived her husband twenty-one years, and departed this life in 1886, well prepared to enter the "Heavenly Rest." She bore eight children, six of whom still live to mourn her loss—Jane (deceased), James, John, who lives in Los Angeles, Cal.; Robert, who lives on a homestead in Michigan; Thomas, Sarah (Mrs. Graham), Nancy (deceased), Martba (Mrs. Kimball), living on Indiana avenue, Chicago.

James Smith, the subject, was born April 15, 1823, in New Jersey. He remained with his parents on the farm until twenty-one years of age. He then went to Toledo, Ohio, and in 1883 migrated to Nebraska, settling on section 19, township 9, range 18 west. He now owns five hundred and sixty acres of good land, due to industry, but his prosperity has not caused him to forget the "Giver of all good," and he stands an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church, ever ready to respond to the calls of charity. He has been blessed with two children to bring cheer to his declining years—Julia Augusta, a graduate of the Toledo high school and a teacher for several terms, but now at home with her father, and James Joshua, also at home.

**J**OHN TYLER. Prominent among the early pioneers of Buffalo county is the subject of this sketch. His father was Joseph Tyler, a native of France, born in 1801, and who came to America in 1829, settling in Buffalo, N. Y. There for awhile he followed his trade—weaving. From Buffalo he moved to Burlington, Racine county, Wis., where he continued at his trade and also engaged in farming to some extent. From Wisconsin he moved to Elm Creek, Nebr., where he died in 1884. He was a kind and generous man, and from childhood was a devoted member of the Catholic church. His marriage took place in France to a Miss Barbara Ring, born in 1804, and likewise a devoted member of the Catholic church from childhood. She was a woman dearly beloved by all who knew her, and departed this life, May 9, 1880, four years previous to her husband. To Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Tyler were born the following children—Barbara, deceased; Joseph, who died in Andersonville prison, after a confinement of thirteen months; Jacob, living in Sterling, Nebr.; Catherine, now Mrs. Arendt; John, the subject of this sketch, and Josephine, who died in 1885. John Tyler was born in 1841, in Buffalo, N. Y. While in Wisconsin he began life for himself by engaging in the lumbering business. In 1873 he came to Elm Creek, Nebr., and engaged in mercantile business, in which he continued for ten or eleven years, and since then he has farmed. At one time he took a homestead along the Platte river but traded it for a spotted coach dog. He then settled on section 28, township 9, range 18, and also owns one-fourth of section 20, township 9, range 18. Mr. Tyler

is a member of the Catholic church, as is also his wife—Mrs. Bridget (Rodgers) Tyler. She was born in New Brunswick in 1843, and when ten years old moved with her parents to Carlton, Kewaunee county, Wis., and there was married in 1865. To this union have been born seven children—Josephine (Mrs. Loible), living in Elm Creek; John, who died when eight years old; Joseph, Charlie, Freddie, Georgie and Eddie at home.

**E**DWARD FITZGERALD, one of Buffalo county's most prosperous farmers, is a son of Patrick and Kate Fitzgerald, natives of county Waterford, Ireland. The father died in 1860, and was a man kindly thought of for his many good qualities. Both father and mother were devoted members of the Catholic church, and were the parents of eight children, viz.—Kate (deceased), Ellen and Lawrence (at home), Edward (deceased), James (in Australia), Matthew, Edward and Mary (Mrs. Coffee).

Edward Fitzgerald, the subject of this sketch, is also a native of county Waterford, Ireland. He came to America in 1875, first settling in Nebraska; he then moved to Colorado, where he remained for six years. In the year 1881, he returned to Nebraska, locating in Elm Creek township, Buffalo county, and settling on section 26, township 9, range 18 west, where he now resides. By economy and industry Mr. Fitzgerald has accumulated enough property to be called "well off" and he sustains an enviable reputation for honesty. He apparently

makes it a rule of life to "Owe no man anything." In 1881 he was married to Miss Kate Coffee, a native of county Waterford, Ireland, born in 1854. Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald are both members of the Catholic church. Politically, Mr. Fitzgerald is a democrat, and is now serving as school treasurer.

**J**OHAN LUCE, a prosperous farmer in Gardner township, Buffalo county, was born in Wyoming county, Pa., November 20, 1831, and is the son of Abram and Amanda (Osier) Luce. The senior Luce was born in New Jersey, in 1804, and after marriage settled in Pennsylvania. He was a wagon-maker by trade, but devoted most of his time to farming. He died in 1869.

John Luce, the subject of this sketch, was the youngest of a family of six children. His mother, who bore the maiden name of Amanda Osier, died when he was but six days old, and he was reared by his grandparents. His youthful ambition was to be a carpenter and he began serving an apprenticeship at sixteen. After an experience of four years he was obliged to quit work on account of trouble with his eyes, and for two years he was entirely blind.

He regained his eyesight, however, in time to offer his services to the government before the war closed. He joined the Second Pennsylvania heavy artillery, and saw some hard fighting in the battles of the Wilderness, Cold Harbor, Petersburg and Richmond. He helped tear up the Weldon railroad and was stationed at Petersburg for nine months after Lee's surrender. He was discharged January 29, 1866.

In March, 1878, he emigrated from Pennsylvania to Buffalo county, Nebr., taking up a soldier's homestead in Gardner township. His was the fifth family to settle in the township, and it was some time before there was any settlement to speak of in his immediate locality. He came to this country with very limited means and was compelled to practice economy in every way possible. He built a sod house and began breaking the prairie preparatory to planting a small crop the following season. He paid \$2.50 per acre to have fifteen acres of sod broke, and worked, himself, at sixty cents a day to pay for it. There were no regularly laid out roads in those days, and every traveler selected his own route. He made frequent trips to the Loup for fuel, and during the long and severe winter of 1880-81 he was obliged to burn hay and cornstalks for fuel.

John Luce was united in marriage, October 17, 1858, to Miss Annie MaGee. She was born in Susquehannah county, Pa., October 5, 1838, and is the daughter of Ebenezer and Lucy (Root) MaGee, the former a native of New York and the latter of Connecticut. Her father died in February, 1876, and her mother in 1885. Mr. and Mrs. Luce have had six children—Riley W., Benny (deceased), Mary (deceased), Charley, George and Ella E.

In April, 1885, Mr. Luce was instrumental in establishing the Luce postoffice, and has since been the postmaster. He is a member of the I. O. F. and Farmers' Alliance, and is independent in politics. He is one of the leading farmers in the township, and enjoys the confidence and esteem of all who know him.

**A**LBERT G. WELCH, one of the enterprising and well-to-do citizens of Gardner township, Buffalo county, was born in Vermont, March 10, 1854. His parents, George W. and Electa M. (Coney) Welch, were both natives of the Green Mountain State and moved to Illinois in the spring of 1856, when Albert was only two years old. The family settled in Henry county, where they remained for ten years. In 1866 they moved to Cass county, Iowa, where the father died in 1871. He was a farmer all his life, a zealous member of the Methodist church and a man respected and admired for his many good qualities.

Albert G. was the eldest of a family of six children. His educational advantages were limited to the common district school, which he attended during the winter months while engaged in assisting his father on the home place. Being brought up on a farm his natural inclinations seemed to run along on that line, and when he arrived at his majority he concluded to adopt farming as his vocation through life.

Mr. Welch, being of an ambitious nature, believed the West offered greater opportunities to a young man just starting in life than the older settled states. In 1878 he came to Buffalo county, Nebr., with the fixed determination of securing a home no matter what obstacles he might meet with. It was the last day in December, 1878, when he filed his papers on the northwest quarter of section 8, in Gardner township.

He built a dug-out in a convenient place, and settled down for the winter. He brought two teams, some cattle and about \$200 in money with him from Iowa. A few settlers were erecting houses in the

neighborhood, but the settlers were few and far between. His claim was located on the very backbone of the divide between the Loup and Platte rivers, and he could stand on one spot and look over into four counties. When spring opened he went seven miles to find ground enough broke that he could rent to plant some potatoes and corn. The second year he purchased a riding plow and his good wife broke sod while he did the planting. She also helped him put up sixty tons of hay that fall. There was plenty of deer, antelope and other wild game roaming about the bluffs, and the settlers who cared to shoot them could keep themselves well supplied with fresh meats. The Welch ranch was headquarters for some time for cattlemen driving their herds from the south Loup country to Grand Island to market. It was the only place on the route where they could corral and get water, and they always made it a point to stop over night when passing through that country.

The first two or three years in the new country tried the courage of the settler. Mr. Welch was no exception to the rule. He had come with limited means and had hard work to cope with the many disappointments and make both ends meet. In the fall of 1879 he procured employment in the mill race at Shelton and the money thus earned proved of great assistance. He often went sixty miles after timber with which to build sheds to shelter his stock.

Mr. Welch was married July 2, 1874, the lady whom he selected as his companion through life being Miss Amy Ayelsworth. She was born in McHenry county, Ill., July 20, 1856. She was a daughter of William H. and Amanda (Gardner)





A. H. CONNOR.

Ayelsworth, both of whom were natives of New York. They immigrated to Illinois in 1848, where her father died in 1870. He was a tailor by trade but followed farming the latter part of his life.

Mr. and Mrs. Welch have had two children, viz.—Flora A., born September 7, 1877, died December 16, 1887, and Theron Earl, born February 13, 1886.

Mr. Welch has one hundred and sixty acres of choice land, which he has supplied with all modern improvements. He has taken great pains in raising fruit and has one of the finest young apple orchards in the county. It comprises over four hundred thrifty trees which are beginning to bear handsomely. He has a large variety of the smaller fruits growing and is recognized as one of the most successful fruit-growers in the county. He also takes considerable pride in stock-raising and is just entering upon a successful career in that line.

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**G**EN. ALEXANDER H. CONNOR. General Connor's father, William Connor, was of Irish extraction, was born in Pennsylvania and raised in Michigan and Indiana. In western Pennsylvania, while a lad, he was captured by the Indians and taken to Fort Detroit, Mich., where he was released and conducted by white settlers to the Northwest Territory, now southeast Indiana, where he finally located near the present town of Brookville, and where he was for many years a surveyor and Indian trader. Inured to the dangers and hazards of pioneer life, he was a typical

frontiersman. He founded Connorsville, Ind., where he resided many years, afterwards moving to Hamilton county, that state, and then to Noblesville, where he died in 1855. He was a member of the Indiana legislature and held a number of minor positions in different localities where he lived. Like the early settlers of that period, he served in the Indian wars, and participated in the battle of Tippecanoe, the importance of which made the elder Harrison president of the United States. He rested at the ripe age of seventy-five.

The maiden name of General Connor's mother was Elizabeth Chapman, and she was a native of New York. She is still living, having attained the great age of eighty-six.

Alexander H. Connor was born in Hamilton county, Ind., in 1832. He was reared on his father's farm and received such an education as the common schools of that period afforded. He studied law under the tuition of Judge Earl S. Stone, afterward attending the New York law school, and was admitted to the bar at Noblesville in 1854, where he practiced till 1856, when he was elected a member of the state legislature. After serving his term in the legislature he located at Indianapolis, where he resided for a number of years, practicing his profession, taking an active part in the politics of the state, and being prominently connected with local interests in and around the capital city. In 1860 he was chosen chairman of the Indiana state republican central committee, and by his political sagacity and leadership the state threw its support to Lincoln. He was thus honored in 1862, 1866 and 1868. He was

appointed postmaster at Indianapolis in 1861 by President Lincoln in recognition of his valuable political services, and held this position till the tragic death of Lincoln made Andrew Johnson president; then he tendered his resignation in anticipation of being removed. From 1862 to 1871 he was interested in the Indianapolis *Journal*, then the leading party organ of the state, and now one of the representative papers of the West. His newspaper experience, while a success politically, was a failure financially, and to free it from the embarrassment of debt, General Connor gave up the hard earnings of a successful career and began life again almost penniless. As many others had done, he turned his face westward, and in September, 1872, he formed a partnership with F. G. Hamer in the practice of law, which continued till Judge Hamer went on the bench.

General Connor possesses an aptitude for politics. He was a member of the constitutional convention in 1874, presidential elector in 1876, and has been elected to the senate three times, and is serving his third term at the present time. His sterling integrity gives him a hold upon the people that renders his political aspirations devoid of opposition.

His chosen profession has been the ambition of his life, and success has attended his efforts in this direction. He is a logical thinker, eloquent speaker, ripe lawyer, able legislator, good citizen, beloved neighbor, earnest, liberal, progressive and charitable without stint. He seems to have inherited the world-famed patriotic eloquence of the sons of old Erin. Whether on the hustings, the ros-

trum, or in the forum, the pathos of his earnest appeals, the rhetoric of a silver tongue, and the logic of a well-drilled legal mind, carry his audiences away. As an orator, he has few equals in the state, and the secret of this dramatic power lies in his profound earnestness. He will live in the history of Nebraska, for he has helped to make it.

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CARLTON B. CASS, editor, publisher and proprietor of the *Ravenna News*, is a native of Albany, N. Y., and was born June 9, 1867. He is a son of Horatio G. and Mary (Babcock) Cass, natives also of New York and descendants of old York State ancestors. His parents came West in 1875 and settled in in Aurora, Hamilton county, this state, where they now live, his father being superintendent of the water works.

The subject of this sketch started out for himself at the age of thirteen, entering the office of the Hamilton county *News*, where he began to master the rudiments of the "art preservative." In 1886, then eighteen years old, he went to Ravenna, Buffalo county, and started the *Ravenna Star*, this being his first newspaper venture. After running this successfully for some time he sold it out and went then to Stratton, in Hitchcock county, this state, where he established the *Stratton Democrat*. He conducted this successfully for more than a year, when he sold it out and returned to Ravenna and bought the *News*, of which he is now editor, publisher and proprietor. Mr. Cass is a born and bred newspaper man. He has a strong liking



for the business, is a good rustler and a ready and forcible writer, and possesses decided convictions and is fearless and outspoken in opinion. He has a taste for politics and has been somewhat active in political matters. He is a thorough hater of pretense and profession, and scourges vice and iniquity with a vigorous hand wherever he finds it. In politics he inclines towards the democratic faith, but conducts his paper as an independent organ. He is young, ambitious, and possesses the will to do and the soul to dare. He is a hard worker, and is attentive to business. Although active in politics he has never sought office for himself, being content to pursue his own business purposes. He is public-spirited, however, and has attended several conventions and associations of a political and social nature. He is pleasant and companionable in common intercourse and as kind and accommodating a gentleman as one could hope to meet.

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**L** J. BABCOCK is a representative business man of the town of Gibbon, Buffalo county. He is not an old timer, strictly speaking, and the record of his experiences does not, therefore, begin with the date of the settlement of the colony. He located in Gibbon, October 20, 1875, four years and a half after the colony was started. He struck the receding end of the grasshopper season and got a few breaths of hot air from the dry years. He saw something of the historic hard times. Still he is a man of more recent growth than the

original old settlers. But he is, like them, almost a product of the soil. He came West, as most men do, with little or nothing. He started in, as the common saying goes, on the bottom round of the ladder. He is not yet either rich or famous, but he has secured a footing and, as appearances indicate, is in a fair way to get on in the world. The steps by which he has risen have necessarily been slow and tedious. His case at the outset of his career did not differ very widely from that of the average young man who comes West in pursuit of fortune. His methods and their results, however, have been decidedly different.

But few young men come West with a settled determination to locate in one place and by hard and persistent effort build up a business and a character which will serve them in years to come. The race for wealth, the contest for glory, becomes too absorbing to admit of the tedious processes of growth. It is worthy of note (and the fact is here emphasized because of the rarity of its occurrence), that the subject of this sketch, when he decided to stay in the West, made up his mind to locate in one place and remain there. His purpose was to grow with the place. He began at once to gather a practical knowledge of his intended business, of his surroundings and of the people among whom he expected to live.

Mr. Babcock served an apprenticeship to the tinner's trade in his youth and worked at it as a journeyman after growing up. He was master of the craft when he came to Nebraska. It was the chosen business of his life. On settling he at once secured a location and opened a shop. In connection therewith he opened

a small stock of hardware and tinware. His start in accordance with his means was modest. His chief income came from his labor at the bench. But as the town and county settled up, the demand for goods and wares in his line increased and his business prospered from year to year until now he owns the best equipped establishment of the kind in the town of Gibbon, and one which would be a credit to a town having twice the population that Gibbon has. Mr. Babcock has worked steadily at his trade during all these years and yet continues to do so. He has a business in the general line of hardware, which would reasonably occupy his entire time and attention, provided he chose to devote his time and attention to it. But he does not. This he carries on by means of a clerk while he, himself, works at the bench. Perhaps the explanation of this is to be found in the fact that competent clerks are plentiful while competent journeyman tanners are not. Certainly the fact illustrates one of the chief sources of his success. Besides his mercantile business, Mr. Babcock has an interest in the First National bank of Gibbon, being a stock-holder therein and a member of the boards of directors. He was one of the organizing members of this institution.

Recurring to Mr. Babcock's earlier personal and ancestral history, it will be in keeping with the character and purpose of this article to record that he was born in Walworth county, Wis., October 2, 1854. He was reared there and lived there till coming to Nebraska in 1875. He received an ordinary common-school education and was early apprenticed to the tinner's trade, a trade he mastered and the business he has since followed. He

is a son of James and Lovie (Roberts) Babcock, his parents both being natives of the town of Plattsburg on Lake Champlain, Vt. They were married there and moved West soon after and settled in Walworth county, Wis. There the mother died in 1856, in middle life, leaving a family of five children, of whom the subject, of this sketch is next to the youngest, the others being three sons and a daughter—Charles, Justina, Wesley and Marion. Mr. Babcock's father, after a second marriage, lived some years in Wisconsin, dying in his adopted county, Walworth, in 1862, somewhat advanced in years. He was throughout life a farmer being a plain substantial representative of his calling.

In his own domestic relations Mr. Babcock has been as fortunate as the average man. He was married, in July, 1876, to Miss Elizabeth Thomas, of Walworth county, Wis. His wife was reared in the same community with himself, but is a native of New York State. Her parents moved West years ago and settled in Walworth county, Wis., where her father died and where her mother yet lives and her grandmother too.

Being a descendant of New England stock, Mr. Babcock retains many of the characteristics of his people. His patience, his industry, his perseverance, his economical habits and his business sagacity, come largely from this source. In addition he received a correct early training. He was brought up in accordance with the New England idea of rearing children to callings of usefulness. He was imbued with no unreal views of life. The fact was placed before his mind, in an exceedingly comprehensible form, that the matter of living is

a serious problem to be solved in a practical way. His methods, therefore, are the methods of the man of business. He is plain in manner, pointed in speech, practical in means, and punctilious in all things. He is devoted exclusively to business.

He is engrossed with his own personal concerns. He makes no pretension in the matter of religion or politics. As a citizen he takes an interest in matters of general concern, at least as far as all good citizens are expected to. He gives to worthy purposes in proportion to his means. He is a zealous member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and his benevolent impulses take the practical shape inculcated by that fraternity.

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**J**OHAN M. BAYLEY. Any list of the old settlers of Buffalo county, however long, would be incomplete without mention of the name of John M. Bayley, of the town of Gibbon. Any record of the early experience of the first settlers of the county would be lacking in interest as well as historical accuracy that did not include the personal reminiscence of this gentleman. Mr. Bayley is an old settler in the strongest and most significant sense of the phrase. He was in Nebraska years before Buffalo county was ever thought of—when all the country now comprised within this county was part of the great domain of the northwest, and marked on the map as practically uninhabitable. Mr. Bayley came to Nebraska in April, 1857, three years after the territory was organized, and when it had a population of only a few thousand settled

in widely scattered communities, and not a village of over one hundred souls. He therefore saw the country almost in its primitive state, and gazed with his own eyes on the enchanting picture presented by the poet when he directed the eyes of the beholder in these lines:

“Behold the prairie, broad and grand and free;  
’Tis God’s own garden, unprofaned by man.”

Mr. Bayley was one of a colony of Pennsylvanians, twenty-seven in number, who made their way with ox teams and pack horses to the state, or rather territory, years before the railroads had belted the country with their glistening bands of steel or even the cumbersome stage coaches had penetrated far into the interior, off the main line of overland travel to the gold fields of the Pacific coast. A minute description of the mode of travel and the manner of living at that early date, would hardly be appropriate in a sketch like this, those things belonging more properly to the history of the state—but it may be here recorded with truth and historical accuracy, that Mr. Bayley was a pioneer in those days and lived the life of a pioneer with all that the term implies. The colony of which he was a member settled near Table Rock in Pawnee county, which was then considerably beyond the outposts of civilization. Most of the members took up land in that vicinity and many of them made permanent improvements. Some, however, returned to the old state as is usual in such cases; others moved on west and still others scattered off, settling in different localities. Mr. Bayley remained in Nebraska till the fall of 1857, when, being a young man and unmarried, he desired to see more of the world and accordingly,

in the fall of 1857, he started south, pulling up in Arkansas a few weeks later. A large part of that state was then new and just starting up, and offered some inducements to young men in search of locations. But Mr. Bayley did not take kindly to the malaria, mosquitoes, soda biscuits and six shooters of the swamp-land state, and he remained there only a year, returning in December, 1858, to his native place in Pennsylvania. He settled down there and was variously engaged until 1862, when, the Civil war having come on, and calls were being made for soldiers to defend the Union, he entered the military service of the United States as a member of an independent company, organized for the purpose of repelling invasions of rebel forces into Pennsylvania and especially the city of Philadelphia. He remained in the service of the government in this capacity for nearly a year, when the term of his enlistment having expired, he remained in Philadelphia city, where he took a position on the city police force, which position he held for three years. He lived there, engaged in this and other capacities, till 1869, when his mind again turned towards the great West, and in the fall of that year he moved to Michigan, having married in the meantime, settled and went into the lumber business on the Muskegon river. He lived in Michigan till 1871, coming thence to Nebraska and settling in Buffalo county. Beginning the record of his experience, therefore, as a resident of this county, even with the year 1871, he can justly be numbered as one of the old settlers, for the settlement of the county began in that year. Mr. Bayley came in the spring—April 7—the same time the colony did, and, like

most of the colonists, he was not burdened with an abundance of this world's goods, but came West purposely to better his condition. An actual inventory of his finances showed, at the date he landed in Buffalo county, that he had an even twenty dollars, his wife and babies, and a limited amount of household goods and wearing apparel. Like all the others, his first step was to secure land. He filed a homestead claim on the northeast quarter of section 22, township 9, range 13, lying about two miles east and a little south of where the town of Gibbon was located. On this he settled and began his improvements. After the first tedious stages of breaking and building were over, the invasion of the grasshoppers occurred, followed by the seasons of dry years with all their train of hardships and privations, through which Mr. Bayley passed, and of which he saw as much as anyone. He was not alone in his experience in those years. He shared the lot that fell to all. The fact is simply adverted to, here in this sketch, as one of the incidents of his first years in the county, and as showing that he furnished his part of the patient fortitude and heroic endeavor that carried the little settlement through their trials to more prosperous times. Mr. Bayley has been engaged in farming continually since coming to the county. He lived on his farm up to about a year ago, when he moved into the town of Gibbon, where he now resides. He has added, by purchases at different times, to his original homestead until he now owns five hundred and twenty acres of as good land as there is in Buffalo county, lying in Shelton township, all of which is under cultivation,

and which yields an abundance of Nebraska's sovereign products—corn and native hay. Mr. Bayley has been engaged in the stock and dairying business since he came to the state. He is one of the few men of the county who seem to have an intelligent conception of the possibilities of Nebraska soil, and who go about their work in a way to make it pay. One of his first moves the year after he located was to buy thirteen head of cows, in connection with Henry Green, a neighbor, and immediately embark in the dairying business. He now owns over one hundred head, which he has raised from scrub stock to high grades and thoroughbreds, and he has made and sold thousands and thousands of pounds of butter, having some customers to whom he has furnished this wholesome domestic article for more than fifteen years. He is a member of the State Dairymen's Association, and has been an active worker in its interest. He rarely misses a county fair with his exhibits and it is a fact worth mentioning that he has never failed but once to take the first premium on butter at any fair he has entered his products. He is also largely interested in the breeding and rearing of horses, and he now has some improved strains and thoroughbreds, which he shows with commendable pride and which are a credit to his zeal and judgment in this direction. He began in the horse business at an early day, also having had the honor of raising the first span of colts in the county.

As a citizen laboring in the interest and welfare of his adopted county, Mr. Bayley has been equally as active and his efforts have met with equally as fruitful results.

He helped to build the first school house in the county and helped organize the first school district. This was school district No.1, the school for which was taught about midway between the towns of Gibbon and Shelton. Later on, when the population of the district would authorize it, he, with others, secured a division of the old district, with others which were formed of it, and erected a new one, designated as No. 22, of which he became an official, holding the office of director for three years and that of treasurer for seven. He is not a politician even in the mildest sense of the phrase and therefore we have no political triumphs or disasters to record of him. He has been content to lead the life of an humble citizen, contributing by the work of his hands to the solid prosperity of his country rather than seeking the questionable honors that come of political machination and personal intrigue.

Mr. Bayley comes of a family of pioneers and he gets by heredity some of the qualities that best fit him not only for a pioneer but for a useful citizen as well. He was born in Wayne county, Pa., January 28, 1836, and his earlier years were passed amid scenes and incidents of a primitive kind even for that country, and among people most of whom had been the first settlers of that part of the Keystone State. His father, William Bayley, was a native of Newburyport, Mass., having been born there in 1792. He moved to Wayne county, Pa., in 1814, and settled in Clinton township. He was one of the first settlers of the township, going into that locality at a time when he had to cut his way through the timber and make a road over which to move his household goods and farming utensils. He settled nine miles

from the town of Honesdale, now the county seat of Wayne county, and there lived and died. He was identified with the early organization of the county and his own particular township, as well as active enterprises of a general nature. He held a number of smaller offices in the county, such as county commissioner, assessor, bridge and road supervisor and the like. He was also a member of the state militia, when that was one of the institutions of the day, and he volunteered in the service of his country, raising a company of which he was elected captain to fight the British in the war of 1812-14. The war, however, was over before he got into the field with his command. For the most part he led a quiet, unassuming life, devoting himself to agriculture in which he succeeded reasonably well. He died at his old home place in Chester township in 1853, then in the fifty-ninth year of his age. He was a life-long member of the Baptist church, a deacon of that church for years, and one of the founders of the First Baptist Association, and the builder of the First Baptist church in Chester township, Wayne county, where he settled. He was twice married, his first wife bearing the maiden name of Ruth Morse, a native of Haverhill, Mass., and a cousin of the inventor of the electric telegraph, Samuel F. B. Morse. This lady died a few years after their marriage, leaving two sons, both of whom are now also dead. He married again, his second wife being a sister of his former one, and a native of the same place. This lady's Christian name is Mary A., and she is still living. The second marriage was solemnized July 4, 1830, at Haverhill, Mass., and the newly wedded pair immediately

started to their home, then in the somewhat distant West. The fruit of this union was eight children, all of whom reached maturity and most of whom are now living. These are—Ruth, the wife of William Porter; Mehitabel, John M., the subject of this sketch; Edgar S., who died at Hilton Head, S. C., during the late war, being a member of the One Hundred and Fourth Pennsylvania regiment, Union Army; Harriet, wife of Offin B. Marshall; Jennett, wife of Sydney Newman; Sylvester E. and Charles.

John M. Bayley, himself, married in Honesdale, Wayne county, Pa., October 30, 1860, his wife being Adeline A., daughter of Lester Phelps and Margaret (Cooper) Adams. Mrs. Bayley's parents moved from Washington county, N. Y., to Wayne county, Pa., in 1830. Her father was a native of Troy, N. Y., and was by turns a farmer, tanner, shoemaker and turner, a man of considerable mechanical genius and an industrious, hard-working citizen. He was killed in a turner's factory in Sterling, his home, Pa., in 1864, being then in the sixtieth year of his age. Mrs. Bayley's mother was born in Red Hook, N. Y., and is yet living, having attained the great age of eighty-three and being at present a member of her daughter's household. Mrs. Bayley is herself one of a family of eight children, the full list in the order of their ages being as follows—Maria, wife of John Edwards; Henry N., Enoch N., John A., Thaddeus Z., Adeline A. (Mrs. Bayley), Lester V., Aurelius Sylvester and Margaret T., wife of Amasa Megargill. Of Mrs. Bayley's brothers all but one served in the Union Army—John A., in the One Hundred and Fourth Pennsylvania,

Henry N., Thaddeus Z. and Aurelius Sylvester in the One Hundred and Thirty-seventh Pennsylvania, and Lester V. in the Third Pennsylvania.

Mr. and Mrs. Bayley are the parents of five children, whose christian names are—Hattie, now deceased, Lester W., John A., Mabel A. and Nettie E.

It would be robbing this sketch of much of its value and denying a good woman her just deserts to fail to record that much that Mr. Bayley is and much that he has is due to the efficient help of his wife, who has willingly seconded and materially aided him in all his labors, bearing all and more than her full share of their common burden. She is not only a lady of great industry and intelligence, but she possesses culture and refinement, having been in her young womanhood a teacher for some years and still retaining in her later life her taste for the studies of her youth. Like all of her sex she is kind-hearted, ever ready to help the sick and the afflicted, ministering in times of need with her own hands to the wants of others. Her pleasant home is open to friend and stranger alike and she dispenses therefrom a warm and generous hospitality.

**S** R. TRAUT, of the town of Gibbon, Buffalo county, is a Pennsylvanian by birth and comes of Pennsylvanian parentage. His father, Samuel Traut, and his mother, Sarah Royer, both having been born and reared in Berks county, that state. His parents belonged to pioneer families, which moved into northwestern Pennsylvania, where they met and were married, and where they

passed the most of their lives, the mother dying in 1866 and the father in 1881, both in Erie county, and both well advanced in years. They were the parents of eight children, besides the subject of this sketch, these being four boys and four girls, by name and in the order of their ages as follows—Lydia, Reuben, William, Henry, Jesse, Eliza, Ann and Margaret; our subject, Samuel R., being the youngest and making the ninth. He was born in Erie county and lived there until moving West in 1871, being brought up on his father's farm, receiving a good common-school education and being reared to the habits of industry and usefulness common to farm life. He married in August, 1862, the lady whom he selected for a companion being Miss Sarah R. Shugert, daughter of Caleb and Ruth Shugert, of his native county, and began the race of life in the place and at the calling to which he was reared. He resided there till 1871, when having determined to move West, where land was more plentiful and opportunities for getting on in the world were better, he came in October of that year to Nebraska and located a claim in Buffalo county, four and a half miles northeast of the newly-settled town of Gibbon. Going back to Pennsylvania, he returned with his family in the spring of 1872 and settled on his place, where he continued to reside for a number of years, engaged in farming. He saw much of the hard times, having passed through the grasshopper seasons, the dry years, the hail and all the trying times incident thereto, as did all the old settlers who remained steadfastly by their choice and, as they say, "toughed it out." After the first few years Mr. Traut made some progress and in more

recent times he has reaped in a large measure the result of his first year's labor, privations and hardships. He quit the farm in 1879 and moved into Gibbon for the purpose of educating his children and has since resided there, but retains his old homestead and his farming interest. Mr. Traut had the misfortune to lose his wife in 1880, she dying that year. A year later he married Mrs. William Brady, of Gibbon, an old settler and a lady of many excellent qualities of head and heart. Mr. Traut is an intelligent, progressive, public-spirited citizen and one who is highly esteemed, as is also his excellent wife, who is now pointed out by her neighbors and friends as the most heroic woman of the original Gibbon colony. Mrs. Traut certainly did have a hard time of it in the earlier days and she deserves all the praise bestowed on her for the courage and fortitude she has displayed. She and her first husband came to Buffalo county with the Soldiers' Free Homestead Colony, coming from New York State. William Brady was a native of Ireland. He came to America when a lad, grew up in New York, enlisted in the Union army from that state, served during the war, married in Washington county, New York, in 1865, and lived there till 1871, when he came West, settling at Gibbon. He was killed by an accident in the summer of 1873 while making brick for the court house then being erected, his being the first death in the township. By his death Mrs. Brady with four little children was left to make her way as she could. She had only her homestead and, as it may be guessed, her lot was by no means an easy one. But by industry and good management she held on to her homestead, kept

her children together and reared them, giving to each the benefit of a good education. Mrs. Brady is herself a native also of the "Emerald Isle," coming to America when a girl and stopping in New York, where she met and was married to William Brady. By this union she has four children as noted above, all of whom are now grown, these being three daughters and a son—Ida M., Mary E., James A. and Graeie.

Mr. Traut also has six children by his former marriage—Sarah E., Ida M., Lilla Belle, Sydney D., Seth L. and Katie I.

Mr. and Mrs. Traut live on the old homestead where Mrs. Traut first settled, it being the first homestead taken in Gibbon township.

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**J** W. BERRY, farmer of Gibbon township, Buffalo county, Nebr., was born in Noble county, Ohio, and there reared. He enlisted in the Federal army, One Hundred and Twenty-second Ohio volunteer infantry, November 6, 1862, which command was attached to the Army of the Potomac and served with that army during the entire war. He was in all the principal engagements fought by the Army of the Potomac. Being a mere lad he was detailed as a musician, but carried a gun most of the time. His command participated in some of the heaviest battles fought by the Army of the Potomac, and sustained heavy losses in several engagements, notably at Mine Run and the Wilderness, Virginia. The total loss of his regiment in killed and those who died of wounds, disease, acci-



dent and in rebel prisons during the war, as shown by the official records at Washington, were: officers, nine, and enlisted men, two hundred and twenty-three. Mr. Berry has especial reasons to remember the battle of Cedar Creek as he there barely got off with his life. He had just been relieved of guard duty when Early made the charge on the Federal lines before sun-up and, there being a heavy fog, there was considerable confusion during which most of the Federal pickets took shelter in an old house. Mr. Berry was not fortunate enough to get in, it being crowded to over-flowing before he got to it. Being hard pressed by the enemy and seeing that something must be done, and done at once, he determined to make good his escape if possible, and keeping the house between himself and the advancing pickets the best he could, he battered down a large paling fence with his gun, made his way through, escaped and assisted in bearing off the field his general, who was wounded in the engagement. In this venture Mr. Berry lost all his accoutrements, had his cap shot off, seven bullet holes shot in his clothes and he was cut through the skin on both hips, but otherwise uninjured. He served as a private and was in from the date of his enlistment till the surrender, being present at Appomattox and saw Lee, as he says, "give up under the famous apple-tree." He was discharged July 5, 1865. Returning to Ohio, he moved shortly afterwards to Fulton county, Ill., where he lived, engaged in farming till March, 1872, when he came to Nebraska as a member of the Old Soldier's Homestead Colony and settled in Gibbon township, Buffalo county. He homesteaded the southwest quarter of

section 6, township 9, range 14, which he subsequently sold and moved on to the northeast quarter of section 7, adjoining where he now lives. He has a good farm, small, but well improved and pleasantly located, and everything on his place is in a thrifty, prosperous condition. He has been devoted strictly to agriculture and is now one of the oldest settlers in Gibbon township. He has served as assessor of his township three terms and has been active in school matters. He has a family—wife and two children. He married, November, 1862, Anna E. Mercer, of Noble county, Ohio; his children, Frank M. and Lula, now being grown. Mr. Berry cast his lot with the republican party on the war issues and has never seen cause to waver in his allegiance to that party since.

In personal appearance he is pleasant and affable. He has an honest, open countenance and greets friend and stranger alike with a hearty grasp of the hand. He is generous in disposition and as kind and hospitable about his home as any living man.

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**G**EORGE H. BAKER was born in Clinton county, N. Y., March 20, 1848. His father, Zebulon Baker, was a native of New York State, and for many years was known in the mercantile world as an extensive dealer in iron and lumber at Plattsburg. He won distinction as a messenger boy in the War of 1812, although he was quite young. He died in 1860. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Albee, is a native of Vermont, and after her husband's death

emigrated to Fort Dodge, Iowa, but returned as far east as Cleveland, Ohio, in 1862. Two years later she removed with her family of children to Linn county, Iowa. About four years later she came to Lincoln, Nebraska.

George H. Baker, the subject of this brief biographical sketch, came to Buffalo county in the spring of 1872, and located on Beaver creek, in Loup township, where he pre-empted a fine quarter section of land. There was no settlement in that section at that time and plenty of wild game abounded everywhere. Mr. Baker built a comfortable sod house and at once set about to bring order out of chaos. Being a man of remarkable courage he was prepared to undergo all the trials and vicissitudes incident to the first settlement of a county. He was visited by the festive grasshoppers, when they sampled the green products of the Nebraska farmers in 1874 and '76, and saw as fine a crop of corn, as any one would wish to see, disappear almost like a snow flake in the bosom of the ocean. Indeed Mr. Baker is as familiar with the ups and downs of pioneer life as any other man of his day. In the course of a year or so he located in the south part of the country, where he remained three years on a farm which he cultivated to good advantage. In 1877 he moved to Gibbon and engaged in the real estate business. During his several years' residence there he has prospered by his own enterprise and business sagacity. In 1888 he engaged in the dry goods business and is at this present time one of the leading merchants of that thriving town.

George H. Baker was married September 24, 1873, the lady of his choice being Miss Susie Lewis, a native of Indiana, and

a daughter of Horatio Lewis, also a native of the Hoosier State. He was a farmer by occupation and came to Nebraska with his family in 1872, where he resided until his death in 1887.

Mr. and Mrs. Baker have an interesting family of four children, namely—Ray, Arthur, Bert and Georgie.

Mr. Baker is an honored member of the Masonic order and also of the A. O. U. W. He is a republican, and, while he has never aspired to any public office, he has always taken an interest in politics. He has one hundred and sixty acres improved land near Gibbon, besides other landed interests in the western part of the state.

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**A**LBERT FELLOWS is a prosperous farmer in Grant township, and one of the first settlers of Buffalo county. He was born April 6, 1840, at Cambria, Niagara county, N. Y. His father, William L. Fellows, a wheelwright, was a native of Connecticut. His mother, Polly (Higby) Fellows, was a native of New York State, and was born in the year 1826. There were five children, four boys and one girl, in the paternal family, of which Albert is the third. Albert resided at home the greater part of his time until twenty-one and was engaged in farming and attending the neighboring school. In 1861 he emigrated West and located at Pontiac, Livingston county, Ill., where soon after he responded to his country's call and enlisted August 28, 1861, in Company C, Thirty-ninth Illinois regiment. The first battle in which he participated was in the Shenandoah valley, with Gen.

Shields in command on the Union side and Gen. Jackson on the rebel side. The rebel forces were not only treated to a severe whipping but were routed and driven in hot haste down the valley. The next battle in which he took an active part was fought at Port Royal, after which his regiment was ordered to Harrison's landing and finally to South Carolina. He was through the siege of Ft. Wagner and participated next in the battle at Chapin's farm and a little later in the battle of Bermuda Hundred, at which he was captured May 16, 1864, and taken to Petersburg, where he was confined for two weeks and then transferred to Andersonville prison, where he remained from June 1st to September 19th, and was then taken to Charleston, kept two weeks and finally taken one hundred miles north to what was known as the Florence stockade, where he remained until December 10th, and was paroled. Out of eleven men captured from his company at the same time and confined in Andersonville, only five lived to get out. There were thirty-five thousand prisoners confined in Andersonville at the time he was there, and the story of his experience and what he there witnessed is heart-rending in the extreme. After being paroled, he went to Annapolis, Md., received a thirty-day furlough, came home and returned again, shortly after which, February 19, 1865, he was mustered out. Although in his three and one-half years of experience in the war, he was never wounded, he had his gun shot from his hands at one time and two bullet holes put through his clothes at another. After being discharged he returned to Pontiac, Ill., and followed farming for four years, after which he moved to Tazewell county,

Ill., where he farmed for two years, and in April, 1872, emigrated West and located in Buffalo county, Nebr. He took up a homestead six miles west of Kearney in Odessa township. There were but few settlers in this section of the state at that time, and wild game, deer, antelope, elk, etc., were quite plentiful, and buffalo were not infrequently killed. There were many Indians along the Platte river and for the first two years proved very troublesome. One afternoon, when Mr. Fellows was away from home, and a neighbor woman was staying with Mrs. Fellows, a band of eighteen Indians stopped at the house and made threatening demands, whereupon the two women fired several loads from the barrels of a couple shot guns at them, and the Indians fled at full speed, hallooing, "brave squaws." In the grasshopper times, 1874-76, Mr. Fellows lost all his crops and was compelled to haul corn from Red Cloud, Kans., a distance of ninety miles. He finally sold his claim for \$350 and later bought the claim on which he now resides in the Wood River valley. He was burned out at one time and had nothing left but his team, wagon and some household goods. He was married, September 14, 1865, to Margaret Haines, who was born June 17, 1845, and is a native of Illinois. Their union has resulted in the birth of eleven children, as follows—Harriet E., August 10, 1867; William L., June 11, 1869; Emma J., May 9, 1871; John F., September 8, 1872; Alberta, July 7, 1874; Francis M., July 22, 1876; Albert, June 24, 1878; Guy, August 24, 1880; Lee, January 28, 1883; Grace, April 17, 1885; Jessie, March 5, 1888. In political matters Mr. Fellows is a democrat.

**E**W. BURKS, a prominent citizen of Buffalo county, was born in Hendricks county, Ind., August 14, 1841. His father, John D. Burks, was a Kentuckian by birth, but emigrated to Indiana, where he resided for several years. In 1856 he removed to Davis county, Iowa, where, for a time he became interested in agricultural pursuits. In 1865 he engaged in the mercantile business at Drakesville, which he continued for twenty years, eighteen of which he was postmaster of that town. When he finally resigned he was requested to name his successor, and did so. He served as commissioner of Hendricks county, Ind., for two terms, and held various other local offices during his lifetime. He was a prominent and influential man and enjoyed the entire confidence of all his fellow-citizens.

E. W. Burks, the subject of this sketch, was reared on his father's farm and enjoyed no special educational advantages other than those afforded by the common schools of the day. In September, 1861, while yet a boy, he enlisted in the Third Iowa regiment of cavalry and rendered nearly four years of honorable service to his country. His first experience in battle was at Pea Ridge, Ark. He also participated in the terrible siege of Vicksburg, and marched under Generals Steele and Banks in the Red river expedition. He was a prisoner for eighteen months, during which time he was taken from place to place, and even taken down to Homestead, Tex., where the yellow fever was raging at the time. He had no clothing to speak of, no medicine, no shelter. His food for a while consisted solely of corn, ground, cob and all, and three-quarters

of a pound of Texas beef. He was always promptly on hand, ready to perform any duty, no matter how arduous. During his service for two years and a half he never missed a single day from active duty. During the third year an order was made to record the daily deportment of each soldier. When the first report of his company was made he was one of the two that received a furlough for meritorious conduct. He did not accept it, however, but gave it to a comrade who had a sick wife at home. He went through the conflict without a scratch, but had thirteen bullet holes in his clothes. His discharge dates from February 1, 1865.

During his long term of imprisonment his eye-sight became seriously affected, and, acting upon the advice of physicians, after he returned home, he engaged in farming. He came to Buffalo county, Nebr., in April, 1884, and immediately occupied a quarter section of land he had previously purchased, in what has since been called Harrison township. Mr. Burks petitioned the board of supervisors in June, 1888, for the separate organization of the township of Harrison. The petition was passed upon favorably and Mr. Burks was appointed supervisor. He has also served two terms as justice of the peace for Armada township.

He was married, December 27, 1866, to Miss Mary N. Quigley, daughter of George and Sarah (Pifer) Quigley. She was born in Ohio, August 8, 1845. They have ten children, named—Fannie E., Sarah A., Ella, Melvin, Walter, Frank, Agnes, Clyde (deceased), Thomas (deceased) and Ralph. Mr. Burks is granting his children all the educational advantages within his power and some of his daughters are now

successful teachers. He is a reading and thinking man; he thinks and acts for himself, leaving others to do the same. He is a staunch republican and is recognized as one of the leaders of his party in the county.

**STEPHEN S. HILL.** This gentleman is one of the few remaining settlers who came to Buffalo county in 1872, and braved the storms, droughts and grasshopper raids of those early days. He is a native of New England and was born at Sharon, Vt, February 21, 1822. His parents were Benjamin and Sarah (Scales) Hill. The former was a native of Massachusetts, born in the year 1789; the latter was a native of New Hampshire and born in 1779. He has little recollection of his ancestry back of this, farther than that one Iekaber Hill, his paternal grandfather, was a native of Massachusetts and a farmer by occupation.

Stephen S. Hill resided in Vermont State until 1872, during which time he engaged in farming, buying and selling cattle, and the practice of veterinary surgery. In 1872, although fifty years of age, he decided to emigrate West, and acting upon this decision he came to Buffalo county in the fall of 1872 and pre-empted a quarter section in Riverdale township, nine miles northwest of Kearney. The country was new and settlers were few and far between. A few native Indians still remained and an occasional buffalo was to be seen grazing on the plains. Deer and antelope roamed at will and furnished the principal meat

for the few settlers at that time. Mr. Hill frequently saw as high as fifty antelope grazing in a single bunch. April 15, 1873, occurred the worst wind, sleet and snow storm that this section of Nebraska had experienced within the memory of the oldest settlers. The storm began on Sunday and for three days the wind and sleet came with such terrific force as to render it unsafe for anyone to leave his door. So fierce was the storm that Mrs. Hill was obliged to tie the clothes-line about her husband in order that he might find his way back to the house when he went to the wood-pile, which was distant only thirty feet, for an armful of wood. A great many head of stock perished during this storm. One of Mr. Hill's neighbors was only able to save three out of thirty-six head of cattle.

In 1873 the crops, on account of excessive drought, were almost a total failure. From ten acres of sod-corn Mr. Hill harvested but thirty bushels of grain. In 1874 the grasshoppers came and destroyed nearly everything. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon of August 8th, when Mr. Hill heard a noise like the distant rumbling of a train of cars and noticed a dark object rising like a thunder-cloud in the distant northwest. His curiosity, which was aroused, was soon satisfied. It was the grasshoppers. They fell like lava thrown from the crater of old Vesuvius, and in less than two hours, destroyed everything green on his place. This so discouraged Mr. Hill that he sold his quarter section of land that fall for \$150. This money, a team, one cow and a hog, were all of his worldly possessions left at that time. Those were discouraging

times and many settlers left the country. There was no corn in the county and Mr. Hill, Samuel Thornton and some others, hauled corn from Kansas, a distance of thirty miles. In 1875 he homesteaded a quarter section and began farming again. For several years thereafter he had about the same experience with drought and grasshoppers as before, but after 1877, had good average crops. In 1882 his wheat yielded twenty-five bushels to the acre, oats thirty-five bushels to the acre, and he raised five hundred and fifty bushels of rye from twenty-five acres.

In March, 1883, he retired from farming and moved to Kearney, where he now resides. He keeps a barn and practices veterinary surgery, having followed this profession for over forty years. He has treated over five hundred sick horses and has never lost a case of colic.

Mr. Hill has been married twice. He was first married, September 5, 1840, to Adaline Hicks, by whom he had three children. He married Martha Dockrel, his present wife, October 23, 1870.

In religious belief, Mr. Hill is a Universalist. Politically, he is a democrat, having voted for every democratic nominee for president from Buchanan down, with the exception of Horace Greeley.

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**S**TANLEY THOMPSON, attorney-at-law, member of the Buffalo county bar, was born at Hempstead, Tex., March 31, 1856. He comes of Southern ancestors, and is connected by kinship with two of the best families in the South—the Thompsons and McAfees of Kentucky. His father, Dr. James N.

Thompson, born in Kentucky, reared in Missouri, educated in New York and Paris, France, married Elizabeth McAfee, a Kentucky-born and Missouri-reared lady, and settled to the practice of his profession in Hempstead, Tex.; where unhappily he died just as he was reaching the full tide of a successful professional career, leaving a wife and two children—daughter and son—surviving him. The wife followed him, only two years later, to another world; and the son, Stanley, the subject of this notice—then a lad about nine years of age—was taken into the family of his sister, Mrs. James Ellison, at Kirksville, Mo., to be reared. His sister not long afterwards died, leaving him to the guardianship of her husband. He was reared in the family of his brother-in-law, and in that of his uncle, John Thompson, was educated at the Northeast Missouri Normal school at Kirksville, read law and was admitted to the bar in September, 1878. Coming West, he located at Sydney, Cheyenne county, Nebr., where he resided till June, 1887, when he moved to Kearney, entering on the practice of his profession there, where he has since continued. Mr. Thompson's career as a lawyer is yet before him; his fortunes are to be made. If it be proper in a sketch like this to predict what those fortunes will be, we predict they will be good. He is a man of clear head, sound sense and proper industry; and has brought to the discharge of his duties as a lawyer, a thoroughness of preparation not often met with in young men, even among those supposed to be "learned in the law." His early opportunities for acquiring a knowledge of his profession, both theoretical and practical, were good: having been

reared under the roof and had his studies directed under the personal supervision of one of the best lawyers in western Missouri, his brother-in-law, Judge James Ellison, now appellate judge of the Western district of Missouri. He availed himself of these opportunities and acquired not only much valuable knowledge, but what is of more importance—the habits of a lawyer: that rare combination of student and man of affairs. Mr. Thompson is ambitious—not for public position, but to succeed, to be a lawyer, in the truest and best sense of the word, and we predict he will be.

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**J**EREMIAH KARN is one of the well known men of Buffalo county, and was born near Massillon, Ohio, November 22, 1833.

His father, Samuel Karn, is a native of Lancaster county, Pa., and has been a German Baptist preacher for many years. He moved to Ohio soon after marriage, but in 1856 settled in Wabash county, Ind. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Liza Moler, died in 1863. She was a devoted companion to her husband and an earnest christian woman.

Young Karn was reared on his father's farm until he reached his majority. He was married May 22, 1856, to Elizabeth Fulgroad, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Page) Fulgroad, both of whom are natives of Pennsylvania.

After marriage, Mr. Karn devoted ten years exclusively to agricultural pursuits. He then entered the employ of the Phoenix Lightning Rod Company of La Porte, Ind., and acted as their trusted agent for

nine years, and then embarked in the business himself. He emigrated to Kearney, Nebr., in 1879 and three years afterwards took a homestead in Thornton township, where he remained five years and then returned to Kearney. About one year ago he moved on another farm near Armada, where he now resides. He is the father of seven children, namely—Armega, John W., Samuel H., Charles J., James and Jessie (twins) and Tommie.

Mr. Karn now owns three tracts of land, four hundred acres in all, and is energetically engaged in improving the same. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., believes in the principles of the republican party and has many friends throughout the country.

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**J**W. LELAND is one of Kearney's oldest and most highly respected citizens. He is a native of the town of Grafton, Worcester county, Mass., and come of "old Bay State" stock. His father was Luke Leland, a native also of the town of Grafton, an industrious, useful and highly honored citizen of that place, representing for several years his native county of Worcester in the state legislature. Mr. Leland's paternal grandfather, Elijah, and great-grandfather, Phineas, were also born, reared and passed their lives in Grafton, Worcester county, the former representing his county in the state legislature. The mother of J. W. Leland was Sarah Mellen, born in Middlesex county, Mass., July 24, 1792, and was a daughter of John and Mary (Bullard) Mellen, both natives of Middlesex county.

Mr. Leland traces his ancestry on this side of his house back to the first families of Middlesex county, being respectable, well-to-do people; his maternal grandfather Mellen having represented his county many years in the state legislature. His ancestors were all people of strong religious convictions and all stanch members of some religious denomination, mostly Baptists.

Three children were born to Luke and Sarah (Mellen) Leland—Joseph Warren, Sarah M. and Luke. The youngest two are now dead. The eldest, the subject of this notice, was born June 14, 1816. He was reared in his native place, received a good common-school training, and began life as a school teacher. He afterwards engaged in manufacturing and then mercantile trade, and has, in the course of a long and active life, followed many pursuits. He lived in Chicago some years, and while a resident of that place, in 1871, lost the bulk of his life's earnings by fire. With characteristic energy and determination, he came West after meeting with this misfortune, for the purpose of starting life anew, and settled, in 1872, in Kearney, Nebr. He has been a resident of Kearney since and has profited well by his residence there. He has been identified with the best interests of his adopted home since casting his lot there, and has always possessed an abiding confidence in the future greatness of the town. He took the census of Kearney in 1873, when the population numbered only 245. He took the census the following year also, when the population had increased to 775. He has seen the place grow and develop from a straggling railway station to a city of the first importance, and in the making it

what it is he has borne the full part of an energetic, public-spirited citizen.

Mr. Leland has been thrice married and has reared a large and interesting family of children. He was married first in 1839, his wife being Miss C. A. Slocum, daughter of John W. Slocum, of Grafton, Worcester county, Mass. This lady died in 1858, leaving four children—Charles Henry, Fannie, William E. and Lucinda. He next married in May, 1872, Miss L. A. Bostwick. This lady died August 20, 1874, leaving no children. He then married Miss Samantha D. Houghton, his present wife.

At the age of thirteen Mr. Leland signed the temperance pledge, and he has led a strictly temperate life since, never having violated this pledge. He joined the Masonic order in 1841 and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in 1846, and he has been a zealous worker in each since. He is a man of good intelligence, possessing a large fund of general information, and an interested spectator in all events of public note. He possesses a clear judgment and discriminating views. He has never sought public position, although well qualified to fill any position to which he might aspire.

**F**REDERICK LEBHART, a representative young business man of Kearney, Buffalo county, is a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, and was born December 31, 1855. He is a son of Christian and Barbara (Straehle) Lebhart, natives of the same place, who lived and died in the old country. His



father was born July 1, 1813, and died April 2, 1886. He was a wine-maker, an upright, industrious, useful citizen, and a zealous member of the Lutheran church, having been for twenty-four years a ruling elder in the local church where he worshiped. Mr. Lebhart's paternal grandfather, Frederick Christian Lebhart, a native also of Wurtemberg, was a wine-maker; served in the Russian war of 1812-15, and was taken prisoner in that war, but afterwards released and returned to his native country, where he passed his remaining years in the peaceful pursuit of his calling. Mr. Lebhart's grandfather Straehle also served in the Russian war of 1812-15, and was wounded near Moscow, in April, 1813, losing his left lower limb; but he survived many years to tell to his descendants the thrilling story of the burning of Moscow and the famous retreat.

The subject of this sketch was reared in his native country, coming to the United States in 1880. He made his first stop at Mason City, W. Va., and found his first employment, as a salt-maker, at that place. A year later he went to Toledo, Ohio, where he secured a position in the piano and organ factory of Whitney & Courier, remaining with them a year. He then went to Peru, Ind., and lived there a short time, and in 1882 came to Nebraska and settled at Kearney. He has been variously engaged since settling in Kearney, mostly in the hotel and liquor business. He began as clerk, but by saving his means he was enabled, on May 1, 1888, to engage in business on his own account, opening a saloon at that date, at which he has since continued. He is succeeding beyond the average, and has a large circle of friends. He keeps an

orderly house, and gives his time and attention strictly to his business. He is pleasant, accommodating, and observes and insists on a strict observance of all of the social amenities that should obtain among gentlemen.

Mr. Lebhart married, May 31, 1886, Miss Catherine Roeck, of Kearney, and this union has been blessed with three children, born as follows—Minnie, born May 14, 1887; Annie, January 4, 1888, and Louisa, August 4, 1889.

Having been reared in the Lutheran church, Mr. Lebhart naturally leans towards that faith, and he has been very liberal in his donations to that church. He is kind and charitable and gives freely to all benevolent purposes.

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**C**OSMO S. HILL, the subject of this biographical memoir, is a prosperous farmer in Riverdale township, and one of the very earliest settlers of Buffalo county. He is a native of the State of Vermont, and was born September 5, 1848. His father, Stephen S. Hill, also a native of Vermont, was born at Sharon, February 21, 1822, and is still living at the ripe old age of three-score and eight years, a resident of Kearney, having emigrated West and located in this county in the fall of 1872. He was married to Adaline Hicks, the mother of our subject, September 5, 1840. The mother was a native of Vermont, born August 19, 1805. To them were born three children—Cosmo S. (our subject), Francela and Rosa.

The paternal grandfather, Benjamin

Hill, was a native of Massachusetts, born in the year 1789. He was by occupation a farmer. The paternal grandmother, Sarah (Scales) Hill, was a native of New Hampshire, born in 1779. The paternal great grandfather, Ickaber Hill, was a native of Massachusetts, but beyond this fact little or nothing is known.

Cosmo S., our subject, resided in Vermont until twenty-one years of age, engaged part of the time on a farm and part of the time as sales clerk in a wholesale shoe store at Saysville, Vt.; attaining his majority he emigrated West in 1869, locating at Princeton, Ill., where for two years he was engaged in a livery barn. He moved, in 1871, to Palatine, Ill., where for one year he worked in a harness shop, and then returned to Vermont; remaining there one year, he finally decided to seek his fortune in the far West. Acting upon this decision he came to Buffalo county in May, 1873. He pre-empted the quarter section in the Wood River valley, in which he now resides. The country was sparsely settled at that time and looked wild and barren. An occasional Indian strolled by his door, stopping long enough to beg a mouthful of food, but never molesting or offering to harm his family. There were a few buffalo, plenty of antelope and deer, and an occasional elk to be seen. For the first five years he had a hard struggle for existence. The drought and grasshoppers destroyed his crops to such an extent that he hardly got back the seed that he sowed. In the summer of 1876 he met with the same result.

During the first five years, when crops were a failure, Mr. Hill cut wood on government land and hauled it to Kear-

ney, disposing of it at a nominal sum, and thus keeping the wolf from his door. He was united in marriage, October 3, 1872, to Mary (Higby) Hill, a native of Vermont, born August 26, 1846. To them have been born three children—Earnest, Rolla and Earl.

Mr. Hill is a firm believer in the principles of the democratic party.

**S**YLVESTER WEIBEL is a native of the city of Hohenems, Austria, and is a son of Charles and Marie Weibel, natives also of Austria, who lived and died in that country.

He was born December 31, 1832, and, being left an orphan at the age of seven, grew up in the place of his birth, among family friends and acquaintances. Although reared in a country noted for its educational advantages, his early training was none too thorough, even under the compulsory system. He had to work for his living, earning it as best he could, and there was but little time at his disposal for going to school. As he grew up he heard frequently of America, and he determined on reaching his majority to come to this country. He immigrated in 1854, landing at New York June 21, that year. The first few years he spent in this country he drifted about a good deal, trying his fortunes in various localities, east, west and south, and at various pursuits. He lived awhile in Iowa, Wisconsin, Missouri, Louisiana, Tennessee, Indiana and Illinois, and followed successively logging, steam-boating, hostling, butchering and merchandising. During this time

also he served for a while in the Confederate army, enlisting in the service in 1861, at Memphis, Tenn. He was in the battles at Belmont, Shiloh and Perryville, Ky., being captured in the latter engagement and after a short term of imprisonment released, and sent across the lines into Indiana, not entering the service again.

Mr. Weibel came to Nebraska in the spring of 1872, stopping first at Lincoln and afterwards going to Butler county and then to Kearney county, settling at Lowell, then the county seat. A year later he started a brick-yard at Kearney, and then a saloon at Lowell. He continued at Lowell till 1875, when he took up his permanent residence at Kearney and has lived there since. For a number of years he was engaged in the liquor business in Kearney, giving it up, in fact, only recently. He has made a great deal of money, and by making a wise investment of this means he has become quite wealthy. He is recognized as one of the heaviest capitalists of the city of Kearney, and has been and is now connected with a number of the leading business enterprises of the place. He is one of the largest stock holders in the Kearney National Bank and is a member of its board of directors. He is a public-spirited, liberal-hearted man, and assists all enterprises of a public nature, and is willing at all times to give encouragement to any deserving person. Having come up from the common walks of life himself, and spent the most of his years at hard toil as a common laborer, he is thoroughly in sympathy with the common people and gives generously of his means to any industry that will give them employment and support, and he contributes liberally also

to charity. He is a plain, unassuming, modest man who, having made all he has, fortunately has the wisdom to know how to use it. Having retired from active pursuits he is now devoting his time to his investments and doing what good he can as an humble citizen, with the means which have come into his possession.

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CHARLES A. WILLIS was born in Auburn, N. Y., in 1855. His father is C. W. S. Willis, also a native of Auburn, N. Y., born in 1822. He remained there till 1844, then moved to Oak Grove, Wis., there settling upon government land, which he held till 1858. He then returned to New York State, to East Bloomfield; thence moved to Auburn, and there remained for three years. In 1878 he came to Nebraska, settling in Kearney.

Mr. Willis is a skilled mechanic, and before retiring from active business he was a building contractor. The fact that he is a ruling elder in the Presbyterian church of Kearney, attests the esteem in which he is held by the community. He was married to Miss Amanda Smith, a native of New York, born in 1824. She was also an active member in the Presbyterian church, previous to her declining health. Their union was blest with two children, viz.—C. A. (our subject) and Ella (Mrs. Quinley), who lives in Kearney. Chas. A. Willis, the subject of this biographical notice, was engaged for several years with his father in the mercantile business, in Auburn, N. Y.; but, being seized by a violent desire to go West, he

urged his father to sell out and come to Nebraska, which course has yielded them a very handsome profit. Charles A. now owns a very nicely located and well improved farm, of three hundred and sixty acres, well stocked and supplied with all necessary accoutrements, and the father owns a quarter section of good land and property in Kearney. In 1882, Charles A. Willis was married to Miss Phebe L. Thomas, a native of New York, born in 1855—Rev. R. Spencer performing the ceremony. She was educated at Stamford Seminary, and for several years taught in the public schools of her county.

Mr. and Mrs. Willis are members of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Willis is a republican in politics, and has been assessor of Logan township for two years.

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**W**ILLIAM H. AUSTIN, a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1859, is the son of Lloyd Austin, born in Pennsylvania in 1824.

Lloyd, the father, migrated to Nebraska in 1881, settling in Wallace, Lincoln county. He was a mason by trade, and is quite energetic and prosperous. He is allied to the democratic party in politics, and has been connected with the Methodist Episcopal church for a number of years, and although not demonstrative in his profession of religion, he is considered a good quiet christian man. He was married, in 1844, to Miss Matilda Keller, a native of Pennsylvania, and born in 1826. To them have been born the following—Mattie (deceased); Mary, born

1847, died 1881; John, born 1849, died 1879; Julia (deceased); Anna (Mrs. Keene), lives in Pennsylvania; Edwin, lives in Lincoln county, Nebr.; Ida, lives in Pennsylvania; William H., Rosa (Mrs. Toby), lives in Steuben county, N. Y.

William H. Austin, the subject of this sketch, is a hard working, prosperous farmer of Logan township, Buffalo county. He emigrated from Pennsylvania to Nebraska in 1879, first locating in Elm Creek; after a few years he took up a homestead of one-fourth of section 28, township 10, range 18 west. Mr. Austin began life for himself when twenty years of age, with no capital; he now has 240 acres of well improved land, well stocked. In 1884 he was married to Samantha Baley, a native of Ohio—Mr. Frank Hull, county judge, officiating. She is a daughter of William and Mary (Stevens) Baley, natives of Ohio. Their marriage has been blessed with three children, viz.—Carl, born April 21, 1885; Perry, born February 23, 1887, and Emory, born May 23, 1889. Politically, Mr. Austin is a republican, and at various times he has held different township offices.

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**H** H. BOWIE, one of the largest land-owners and stock-raisers of Buffalo county, is the son of George and Kate (Ross) Bowie, natives of Scotland. George Bowie was born in 1809, and emigrated to America in 1834, settling in New York City. He was married to Miss Kate Ross, in Scotland, in 1830. To them have been born nine children, viz.—Alexander, lives in Ontario;

George; M. G.; William (deceased); John (deceased); Charles, lives in Buffalo county; Della (deceased); James (deceased), and H. H., the subject of this biographical notice, who is a native of New York City, born in 1851. At the age of nineteen, being a boy with a man's head, he was able to take the position as foreman for Campbell, the contractor of the Hudson tunnel; he remained with him for two or three years and then took a contract for the construction of 2,000 feet of it himself. Mr. Bowie came to Buffalo county, Nebr., in 1880, settling in Logan township, where he now resides, owning four and a half sections of land, and in the winter of 1889-90 fed about one thousand head of cattle. Mr. Bowie is to Logan township what a town of four or five hundred is to surrounding country. He buys annually about one hundred thousand bushels of grain, always paying above market price. Although Mr. Bowie is managing a business of such proportions, he at all times treats a person with the utmost cordiality and considers it a privilege to extend a favor. In 1878 he was married to Miss Deveraux, who is a native of Boston, born in 1860. She was the daughter of Walter and Margarette (Smith) Deveraux, the former a native of England, who came to America when young; the latter was a native of Boston. Mr. and Mrs. Deveraux both departed this life in 1878. They were strict adherents to the Episcopal church. To Mr. and Mrs. Bowie two children have been born, viz.—Henry V., born September 12, 1881, died August, 1882, and Edith Gracie, born October 29, 1889. Mr. Bowie is a republican in politics and has been county supervisor for five successive years.

**R**ICHARD F. WATERS is a son of Allen and Frances (Foster) Waters, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania. He was a devoted member and liberal supporter of the Presbyterian church, and he enjoyed the reputation of being a good, honest, christian man, and was not conscious of having an enemy. In politics he was a whig. Mrs. Waters was a native of Ireland, and came to America in 1828, settling first in Ohio. Mrs. Waters was also a member of the Presbyterian church, and was looked upon as a kind, consistent, christian lady. In 1889 Mrs. Waters departed this life, entitled to the plaudit, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Mr. and Mrs. Waters' union was blessed with seven children—Catherine, Mary Ann, Elizabeth, Joseph A., Richard F., Margarette and Andrew.

Richard F., the subject of this sketch, was one of the pioneers of Buffalo county, and, while he has not distinguished himself in any public capacity, he has distinguished himself as an honest, straightforward, reliable man, always encouraging anything that is in the interest of the county. He was born in Ohio, in 1849. His school advantages were meager, being chiefly tutored by that stern teacher—Experience—which, no doubt, was a principal factor in making Mr. Waters the cautious, frugal, thrifty man that he is.

In 1864 he enlisted as a one-hundred-day man in the One Hundred and Forty-third Ohio infantry, under General Butler, and was in the engagement at Petersburg. He was mustered out at Camp Chase, Ohio, the same year. In 1866 he moved to Scotland county, Mo., and there engaged in farming. From there he came

to Buffalo county, Nebr., in 1873, settling on section 30, Odessa township.

In the winter of the same year, while camping on his claim, he experienced a terrible storm, in which hundreds of cattle and two persons near Gibbon were frozen; but Mr. Waters, only sheltered by his wagon, escaped unharmed. Mr. Waters' next encounter was with the grasshopper plague. In this he shared the common fate, losing his crops for three years, but since that time has had good crops. In 1870 Mr. Waters was married in Scotland county, Mo., to Miss Jane Hage, a native of West Virginia. To them have been born eight children — Ida, Thomas A., Mabel, Roy, Cecelia, Mary, Hugh and Gracie.

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**A**DAM WILLIAMS is a son of Fred. Aeriek and Catherine (Mown) Williams, the former a native of the good, old, historic, Keystone State, Pennsylvania, the latter a native of Stark county, Ohio. Frederick, the father, migrated to Crawford county, Ohio; from there he went to California in 1851, engaged in mining, and continued in that business till death, which occurred in 1861. Politically, he was a whig. Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Williams were married in Stark county, Ohio, in 1824. To them were born seven children, viz.—Johnny, died in infancy; Rebecca, living in Grant county, Nebr.; Willie, died in infancy; Sarah, living in Hancock county, Ohio; Thomas, served three years in the war and lost his health, unfitting him for active business; and is now living in Washington, Adam and another.

Adam, the subject of this notice, is a highly respected and prosperous farmer in Riverdale township, Buffalo county. He was born in Crawford county, Ohio, in 1837. He there remained till he came to Nebraska, in 1873, settling on section 6, township 9, range 16. In 1874, 1875 and 1876 he experienced the common fate of the Nebraskans, losing his entire crops, excepting wheat; but, not despairing and hoping for better times for Nebraska, he remained, and now has a competency for himself in declining age. Mr. Williams was married, in 1860, to Miss Anna Ditty, born in Crawford county, Ohio, in 1842. She is the daughter of Amos and Sarah (Lenker) Ditty, natives of Ohio. To Mr. and Mrs. Williams have been born seven children, viz.—Willie, who was scalded to death in 1862; Charlie, who was born June 14, 1865, and died May 30, 1870; George Franklin; Freddie; Eva; Eddie and James Garfield. Mr. and Mrs. Williams are both members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and their home life and reputation accord with their profession.

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**D**AVID C. HOSTETTER was born in Lebanon county, Pa., in 1843. His father, Abraham Hostetter, was a native of Pennsylvania. In 1852 they moved to West Lebanon, Wayne county, Ohio, and there purchased a farm on which they resided but eight months, then returning to Lebanon county, Pa. Mr. Hostetter was alternately engaged in farming and mercantile business. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hostetter

were active and consistent members of the Lutheran church for a number of years. Politically, Mr. Hostetter was a supporter of the republican ticket, and was a member of the Odd Fellows order for years. To Mr. and Mrs. Hostetter were born eight children—Mary, Edwin, David C., Kate, Henry (dead), Lena, Christina, and Jacob (dead). All, excepting Mary (who lives in Wayne county, Ohio), and David C. still remain in Lebanon county, Pa.

David C., the subject of this biographical notice, began life for himself in 1863, by first evincing possession of that God-given element of true manhood—patriotism—enlisting in the service of his country and enduring the hardships of war for three years. He offered this service as a willing tribute, without now asking compensation for his patriotism.<sup>9</sup> After being mustered out of the service, he located in Missouri, and there followed his trade, “stove molder,” for seven years; then moved to Nebraska, settling in Kearney in 1873. He did not predict, then, the Kearney of to-day, there being about two hundred inhabitants. He first found employment with A. S. Webb in the hardware and implement business, and remained with him two years; then worked on the transfer eighteen months, at the expiration of which time he again engaged with Mr. Webb, remaining nine years. He then settled on the farm on which he now resides, which is nicely located and well improved. He is a republican in politics. Mr. Hostetter led Miss Lautz, a native of Lebanon county, Pa., to the altar in 1864. Mrs. Hostetter has proven herself a valuable helpmeet, rejoicing with him in prosperity and shar-

ing with him the responsibility in adversity. She has for years been a member of the M. E. church. To Mr. and Mrs. Hostetter have been born four children—Eliza S. (Mrs. Feather), Henrietta A. (Mrs. Lautz), Edwin H., at home, and Bernice B., at home.

**J**OHAN SWENSON. Very few of those who came to Buffalo county in the early “seventies” and homesteaded claims have had such marvelous success as this gentleman. He was born in Sweden, December 15, 1840, and is one of nine children born to Swen and Christena Swenson, both of whom are natives of Sweden, the former having been born in 1811 and the latter in the year 1807. John, our subject proper, resided at home, in Sweden, until eighteen years of age, during which time he attended school and clerked in a hardware store, and then went to Norway and engaged in merchandising, which he followed for three years. He came to this country in 1861, landing in Chicago July 4th. He engaged employment on a boat on Lake Michigan, and worked as a sailor for a short time, and then, true to the country to which he had sworn allegiance, he responded to its call, and enlisted in Company D, Fifty-second Illinois regiment. He participated in the battles of Atlanta, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth, siege of Corinth, and was with General Sherman on his campaign from Resaca to Atlanta. He was wounded twice—once in the back at Shiloh, and in the arm at Corinth, on account of which his arm was amputated. He was dis-

charged, July 12, 1865, and receives a pension from the government of \$45 per month.

After the war, he went to Batavia, Ill., and for one year was engaged in clerking in a clothing store, after which he entered the Soldiers' college at Fulton, Ill., remaining there five years, and graduating in 1871, receiving the degree of P. S. The following year he taught school in Clinton county, Iowa, and in April of 1873 came West to Nebraska, and located in Buffalo county. He entered a quarter section twelve miles north of Kearney, in Divide township, and engaged in raising sheep. In 1874, he was elected superintendent of county schools, which office he held for two consecutive terms. He made some efforts at farming, which, on account of drought and grasshoppers, was practically fruitless up to 1877, after which he raised good crops. In 1879, he moved to Sartoria, in the northern part of the county, and bought up considerable railroad land, beside pre-empting a quarter section. He now owns fifteen hundred acres of fine land, the greater part of the little town of Sartoria, and operates two stores of general merchandise, besides dealing largely in cattle and sheep. Few, if any, of those who came to this county in its early days, with practically nothing to begin with, have amassed such a fortune, and surely none are held in greater esteem by their neighbors and acquaintances than humble John Swenson.

Mr. Swenson was married, January 11, 1875, to Eva J. Thornton, who was born June 5, 1855, and is the daughter of Samuel and Sarah Thornton, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. Their union has resulted in the birth of no children.

They are both members of the Lutheran church. Mr. Swenson affiliates with the republican party.

**P**HILETUS PIERCE is a native of Illinois, born at Springfield, November 5, 1827, and is one of five children born to Lanson and Mary Pierce, both of whom are natives of New York State. His father and mother emigrated West in an early day, locating in Illinois, or what was then known as the Western frontier. His father followed farming, and was a sawyer by trade. Philetus lived in Illinois until nineteen years of age, during which time he attended school and labored on the farm. In 1846 he went to Iowa county, Wis., where he resided for ten years and was engaged in mining lead. He next moved to Dubuque, Iowa, where he engaged in mining for four and one-half years. He then moved to Clayton county, Iowa, and farmed one year, after which he moved to Buchanan county, same state, and followed farming for two years. He afterwards located in Harrison county, Iowa, and for a period of fifteen years was engaged in the lumber and tie business, and also farmed a portion of the time. From there, in July, 1878, he started West, with a view of looking up a suitable location and taking up a government claim. For two months he traversed Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming, and finally decided to locate in Buffalo county, Nebr. He accordingly filed a claim on his present land in Sartoria township. In those days that section of the county was scarcely settled at all, and Mr. Pierce's



nearest neighbor was four miles distant. In those times money was a scarce article and, in order to get some with which to purchase flour and clothing, Mr. Pierce trapped beaver and hauled cotton-wood bark to Kearney, a distance of thirty-five miles, and sold it at one dollar per load. There were plenty of deer, elk and antelope only a few miles away, and he reports having killed a fine large buck near his place with a load of fine bird-shot. Mr. Pierce took, in addition to his homestead, a timber claim, and now has three hundred and twenty acres, most of which is well improved. He lives in a commodious frame house, and his surroundings in general speak well for his prosperity since coming to this county. He was married in January, 1850, to Louisa Noyes, who was born May 13, 1832, and is one in a family of ten children born to Harman and Mary (Harrison) Noyes. The former was a native of New Hampshire, and was born in the year 1800; the latter, a native of New York State, born in 1798.

The union of Mr. and Mrs. Pierce has been blessed with the birth of fifteen children, as follows—Ira N., September 7, 1851; Harman L., December 8, 1852; Mary E., March 5, 1854; Abiatha R., May 13, 1855; Maria L., November 13, 1856; Percie A., February 5, 1859; Emma A., November 5, 1861; Eva B., August 12, 1863; Chester S., March 6, 1865; Lillie M., March 17, 1866; Albert P., March 27, 1869; Laura M., January 23, 1872; Reuben W., April 11, 1874; Minnie V., August 23, 1876; Ella M., August 3, 1879.

In political matters Mr. Pierce is a staunch republican.

**H**ENRY PETERS is one of the earliest settlers in the Loup valley and one of the best known farmers in Buffalo county. He is a native of Germany, and was born October 21, 1833. His father, Henry Peters, Sr., a farmer by occupation, was a native of Germany, born in the year 1797. His mother, Catherina (Meumen) Peters, was also a native of Germany and was born in 1796. There were five children—three girls and two boys—in the father's family, of which Henry is the youngest. Henry lived in the old country until twenty-seven years old and was engaged in farming. In 1861 he came to this country and located at Connville, Ill., where he resided seven years and was employed part of the time as a common laborer and part of the time at farming. In 1868, he emigrated West and located in Cass county, Nebr., at first renting a farm and afterwards leasing school lands. He came to Buffalo county in the spring of 1875, and bought the claim on which he now resides, which he afterwards pre-empted. In those days the country in that section was wild and barren and very sparsely settled. Deer and antelope roamed through the valley in abundance, and elk, while not plentiful at that time, were frequently seen near his place. His nearest neighbor, in 1875, was three miles distant. He put out a small crop the first year and harvested from five acres of corn an average of eighty bushels to the acre. The following year his crops were entirely destroyed by the grasshoppers, and he was left in almost destitute circumstances. The grasshoppers ate holes through the blankets which were spread over vegetables and ate the cabbage roots in the

ground. That summer and fall he earned money, with which to keep the family during the winter, by hauling a load in a provision train to the Black Hills country. In 1879, he had twenty-five acres of wheat, thirty acres of corn and twenty-one thousand young, growing trees destroyed by a severe hail storm. The hail stones were so large as to knock the horns off the sheep, break window-glass, etc. With few exceptions, he has had good crops. Mr. Peters was married March 27, 1859, to Tolcke C. Dires, who was born in Germany, January 15, 1836, and is the youngest in a family of three children born to John and Sofiah Dires, both of whom are natives of Germany. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Peters, as follows—Riche, John, Fred, Benjamin, Riche 2d., Henry, Louis and William.

Mr. and Mrs. Peters are both active members of the Lutheran church. Mr. Peters is a republican.

**J**OHANN YELINCK was born in June, 1845, in Budweiser, Bohemia, and came to Schneider township, Buffalo county, Nebr., directly from his native land, July 28, 1887, and here he has ever since been engaged prosperously in farming. Mr. Yelinek was married June 23, 1870, to Johanna Julsen, who has borne eight children, viz.—John, Karl, Mary, Heinrich, Franek, Laurence, Conrad and Anastasia. The family are devout members of the Catholic church and are pursuing peaceful, industrious and prosperous lives. Joseph Yelinek, father

of Johann, was born in Heimath, Budweiser, Bohemia, March 19, 1823; was a farmer, died in March, 1875, in the Roman Catholic faith. The mother of Johann Yelinek bore the maiden name of Theresa Keiser.

**J**AMES M. DEVALL is a native of Preston county, West Virginia, and was born February 20, 1821. Mr. Devall spent the early part of his life in Virginia and enlisted in the Union army from that state, on the fifth of October, 1861. He joined the Sixth West Virginia regiment of infantry and saw his first service at the battle of Cedar creek. He chased Morgan along the Ohio river, when that noted rebel raider was playing havoc in Ohio. He was captured near Oakland, Md., while on the Jones raid in that state. He fell into the hands of the men who were his neighbors in West Virginia, and was paroled in the field and sent home for ten days. He returned to Wheeling, when his regiment was soon ordered down on the Potomac river. He participated in the engagement at Antietam and was for some time afterwards put on guard duty on the B. & O. R. R. He spent one month in hospital and was discharged at Oakland on the nineteenth day of December, 1864.

Mr. Devall came to Buffalo county, Nebr., on the twenty-eighth day of March, 1874, and filed on a homestead on section 4, in Sharon township. He was among the very first settlers in that section of the county and has endured some of the vicissitudes of a pioneer life. The grasshop-

pers took all he raised for three years in succession, but he never gave up. He still had faith in the ultimate development of the country, and, though disheartened by loss of crop, he never gave up.

Mr. Devall was married in 1882 to Mary M. Kirkpatrick, a soldier's widow from his native county. To this union has been born one child, Abigah L. He has filled the office of justice of the peace, but has never been an aspirant for political favors. In politics he is independent and will not allow himself to be dictated to by any party or faction. He has 240 acres of good land, 160 of which are under good cultivation.

Mr. Devall suffered untold exposures during his service in the army, from the effects of which he is now almost totally blind. He is an intelligent man and talks fluently upon any of the leading questions of the day.

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**W**ILLIAM R. WHEELER, one of the early settlers of Buffalo county, was born in London, England, March 16, 1846, and is the son of William D. II. and Jane (Hazel) Wheeler. He was brought to the United States by his parents, who located at St. Louis, Mo., in 1847, where they lived for several years. They subsequently located at Alton, Ill., where the father followed his trade as a machinist. He was an industrious, hard-working man; he died in 1880.

The educational advantages of William R. Wheeler were somewhat limited. He attended the common schools until about

fifteen years of age, when he entered Seleartloff college, at Alton, Ill., one of the oldest institutions of learning in the state. He gave close application to his studies here for nearly two years.

In June, 1864, Mr. Wheeler enlisted in the One Hundred and Forty-fourth Illinois regiment, and determined to help put down the cruel rebellion. His regiment was sent up and down the Mississippi river twice and participated in a part of the famous Red river expedition. Mr. Wheeler was an active participant in the battle at Vicksburg and afterwards was sent to Alton, Ill., to guard prisoners. He was corporal of the six men detailed to take the rebel general, Marmaduke, from the boat to the prison. Gen. Marmaduke afterwards became governor of Missouri. Mr. Wheeler was mustered out at Camp Butler, on the twenty-third day of July, 1865.

He returned to his home in Illinois and decided to adopt farming as his vocation through life. This he has followed more or less of the time since, but prior to this resolution he followed railroading about two years. He accepted a position as brakeman on the Rock Island & St. Louis railroad and was soon afterwards promoted to conductor. His promotion was in recognition of his efforts in preventing a terrible wreck by flagging a train in time to prevent it from plunging into an obstruction on the track.

Mr. Weeeler is one of the first settlers of Buffalo county, having come here from Illinois on the twenty-sixth day of March, 1873. He came with the express purpose of making his home here and to that end took a homestead on section 30 in Valley township. Of course the country was

new and settlers few and far between. The broad prairie was well stocked with wild game, such as antelope, deer, and occasionally a buffalo was visible. Mr. Wheeler and Mr. S. C. Ayers killed the last wild buffalo ever seen in the county. Indians were by no means scarce in the days of 1873. It was not an uncommon thing to see five hundred Indians at a time strolling over this part of the country. Mr. Wheeler was not absent from home when the grasshoppers paid their long-to-be-remembered visit to this section of the county. They feasted sumptuously on his promising fields of corn for three years in succession. They boarded with the farmers of Buffalo county as long as the green corn lasted and then they moved on.

The marriage of Mr. Wheeler to Miss Etta M. George was celebrated on the sixteenth day of January, 1874. Mrs. Wheeler was born in Massachusetts, April 14, 1855, and is the daughter of Truman Q. and Abbie M. (Gilfast) George. The former is a native of New Hampshire and the latter of Massachusetts. The children in the Wheeler family number five and are as follows—Hasell, born October 6, 1876; Thyra, born June 7, 1879; Ethel, born November 13, 1882; Viola, born March 24, 1885 and Chester, born March 7, 1890.

Mr. Wheeler has taken considerable interest of late years in the cultivation of various kinds of vegetables and in this particular is one of the most successful men in the county. During the year 1889, he raised and marketed one thousand four hundred bushels of tomatoes, one hundred and eighty-four bushels of small pickles, sixty bushels of onions for which he received \$4 per bushel, and seventeen

thousand five hundred heads of cabbage. No man thus far in the county has anywhere near equaled this enormous crop of vegetables.

Mr. Wheeler has never specially undertaken to learn any trade, but he possesses rare mechanical talent and is handy at most anything he goes at. Several fine specimens of furniture in his house attest his rare genius in this particular.

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**S**OLOMON F. HENNINGER, a prominent and influential farmer of Sharon township, Buffalo county, is a native of Trumbull county, Ohio, and was born January 3, 1833. He comes of Pennsylvanian parentage, his father, Solomon Henninger, and his mother, Catherine Lawrence, both being natives of the "Keystone State." They were married in their native state and moved West in 1830, settling in Trumbull county, Ohio, where they afterwards lived and died, both passing away in the year 1864, the father at the age of sixty-four and the mother at the age of sixty-three. They spent their entire lives on the farm, engaged in the peaceful pursuit of agriculture. They were among the early settlers of the locality where they lived and saw much of the hardships as well as many of the pleasures of pioneer life. They belonged to the industrious, thrifty, sturdy class of people by whom the middle states were mainly settled, and they exemplified in their lives many of the best qualities of the race, that race peculiar to the American frontier. Carrying the Bible in one hand and the ax in the other, they sub-

dned the savagery of nature and made the waste places blossom with the best fruits of an advanced civilization. Solomon and Catherine Henninger were devout members of the Lutheran church and died strong in the faith by which they had lived. They left a family of seven children, of whom the subject of this notice is the third, the others being Christopher, Priscilla, William, Nathan, who was killed at the battle of Atlanta, in the Union army, July 22, 1864, Polly and Jacob.

Solomon F. Henninger was reared on his father's farm in Trumbull county, Ohio, and received an ordinary common-school education, such as could be obtained in his day from the district schools where he grew up. Having something of a mechanical turn of mind and his father being able to spare his services from the farm, young Henninger, while yet a lad, took it into his head to learn the miller's trade, a thing which he successfully accomplished and afterwards devoted himself to the calling for some years. In 1855 he married Miss Barbara A. Coffman, a daughter of Isaac Coffman, then of Trumbull county, Ohio, but formerly of Pennsylvania. In the summer of 1861, when the clouds of the Civil war had fully burst upon his unhappy country and calls were being made for volunteers to defend the Union, Mr. Henninger, with a cheerfulness and alacrity born of the patriotism in him, responded promptly to the call and enlisted in Company II, Twentieth Ohio infantry. The organization of his regiment having been completed in Sept., 1861, it moved at once to the front and began active service. Mr. Henninger was with it from that time on till the surrender. He participated in the Vicksburg campaign,

his regiment being one of four that sustained the heaviest losses at Raymond, Miss., losing at that place in killed and wounded sixty-eight men. It was also in the Atlanta campaign and sustained heavy losses in the assault on Kenesaw and in the attack on Atlanta; its casualties in these two engagements in killed and wounded being two hundred and twenty-seven. Mr. Henninger was in the service till the surrender, being mustered out at Camp Dennison, Ohio, in September, 1865. Returning to Trumbull county, he purchased a farm of forty acres and settled down to the peaceful pursuits of life, which he followed as zealously and with as much success as attended his military career. With an increasing family growing up around him, he decided, in 1872, to move West, where land was more plentiful and opportunities for giving his children a fair start were better, and in the spring of that year he came to Nebraska and settled in Buffalo county, in what is now Sharon township, taking a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, where he has since lived. From a modest, not to say humble, beginning he has grown to be one of the most prosperous farmers in the locality where he lives, owning a tract of five hundred and sixty acres of land, most of which he has purchased with means accumulated since settling in the county. He has his land in a good state of cultivation, making it all yield him a revenue in some shape. He has stuck steadily to farming, allowing no interests of a conflicting nature to interfere with the prosecution of his chosen calling. It could not happen, however, that a man of his extensive interests and well known business qualifications should not be called on

to fill some positions of trust in connection with the administration of local affairs. He has served his township two years as assessor and is now serving as township supervisor. In politics he is a democrat, and, his township being largely republican, it is needless to add that the positions he has filled he has been called to because of his recognized fitness for them and not through political favors. He made the canvass a few years for the legislature, running on the democratic ticket, and was beaten by only about eighty votes in the county, as largely republican as Buffalo county is.

Being an old soldier, Mr. Henninger affiliates with the G. A. R. boys, being a member of Joe Hooker, Post at Shelton. As a citizen he is popular with everybody. He weighs over two hundred pounds and is as kind-hearted, jolly, good-natured a man as lives within the borders of Buffalo county. He has an interesting family of children growing up around him, some of whom are married. In these and his pleasant home he naturally finds much of the pleasure of this life. His children, in the order of their ages, are Annie Mariah, now wife of Walter J. Steven, a sketch of whom appears in this work; Stephen, A. D., Monroe, Isaac, Minerva and Cora.

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**T** D. THATCHER, one of the earliest settlers of Sharon township, Buffalo county, and a man who has been actively identified with the best interests of his locality, is T. D. Thatcher, the subject of this brief biographical notice. Mr. Thatcher came to Buffalo county in 1871, taking a homestead of eighty acres at that date in

Sharon township, where he settled and where he has since lived. He had then just turned into his twenty-first year, was newly married and came West in pursuance of the farmer-editor's advice "to grow up with the country." He came direct from his native place in Medina county, Ohio, where he was born March 2, 1850, and where he grew up to maturity and resided till moving West. Having had the misfortune to lose his father when he was hardly two years of age, and being one of a large family of children, Mr. Thatcher was, in a measure, in youth, his own preceptor, guardian and counselor, and has made his way almost entirely alone in the world. What education he received he obtained mainly in contact with the practical affairs of life, supplementing this with a meager common-school training, such as could be had by irregular attendance at the district schools during the winter months. He was brought up partly on the farm, partly at the dairy business, being chiefly engaged in cheese making, following this as a pursuit after growing up until moving West in 1871. The close application and exacting duties of his position in the latter business broke down his health, and it was partly also to regain this that he left Ohio and moved to Nebraska. He has been steadily engaged in farming since settling in Buffalo county and has succeeded far beyond the average in his chosen calling. To his original homestead of eighty acres he has added by purchase from time to time, until now he owns 240 acres, all of which he has under cultivation and yielding him a revenue in some shape. He is one of the wide-awake, progressive and successful farmers of the Wood River valley in

Buffalo county, noted as it is for its enterprising, substantial, well-to-do citizens. He is also a stock-holder and member of the board of directors of the Shelton State Bank, which institution he assisted in organizing, and with the affairs of which he has been actively identified since. Mr. Thatcher has never suffered the buzzing of the bee for public office to interfere with his private pursuits or disturb the serenity of his mind. He has found his chief enjoyments, as well as his highest reward, in attending strictly to his own business. He has a pleasant home and an interesting family, to which he gives his time and which yield him in return for his care and thoughtful solicitude in their behalf that highest form of earthly happiness, peace and contentment, garnished with those delightful home loves and fire-side attachments, which neither wealth can buy nor position give. Mr. Thatcher was married in 1870, the lady whom he selected for a life companion being Miss Flora M. Blanchard, a daughter of William M. Blanchard, of Medina county, Ohio. Four children have graced this union, all girls, the eldest of whom is now dead—Emma H., Angie, Lora and Hazel. Mr. Thatcher's father, as already stated, died when he was young. His christian name was Buckley and he was a native of New York; married and came West, settling in Medina county, Ohio, where he followed the peaceful pursuit of agriculture till his death, which took place in 1852 and was caused by a railroad collision. Mr. Thatcher's mother, Emerancy Culver, was also a New Yorker by birth, and following the fortunes of her husband to the West, she discharged her duties of wife during his life and a mother

before and after his death, in a way becoming her sex, rearing to maturity a family of nine children, to whom she gave up to her latest hour wholesome advice, and enforced this with an example in her own person of a pious, christian mother, having been a life-long member of the Congregational church. She died in 1886, at the age of seventy-seven. The children who survived her were Roland C., Gilbert J., Melvina, Georgia, Mattie, Sarah, Abbie, Charles P. and Timothy D., the last mentioned being our subject. Mr. Thatcher and his excellent wife are members of the Presbyterian church and generous contributors to benevolent and charitable work.

**G**EORGE MILLER, one of the most prosperous farmers of Buffalo county, is the son of William and Fannie (Hicks) Miller. The former was a native of Delaware county, N. Y.; from there he emigrated to Perue, hence to Iowa, and from there to Missouri. In 1861 he returned to Iowa, where he still resides. In politics he is a democrat. He was married to Miss Fannie Hicks, a native of New York State, in 18—. They were both active and zealous workers in the M. E. church.

To Mr. and Mrs. Miller were born twelve children, viz.— Charles, George, Calvin, Lynas (dead), Mary Catharine, William, Josephine, Willis, Miles, Martha, Lizzie and Samuel.

George, the subject of this biographical notice, was born in New York in 1841. With his parents he moved to Pennsylvania and thence to Missouri. He then began

life for himself, first going to Kansas. He there began freighting across the plains, making his first trip to Mexico, next to Colorado, and then to Wyoming, where he remained four years; he then returned to his old home in Iowa, and thence came to Nebraska, first locating in Omaha, then came to Buffalo county in 1871, where he has since remained. Mr. Miller has met with very marked success, which is due to hard work, good management and economy. He now ranks as one of the most prosperous farmers of Buffalo county, owning at present over one thousand acres of land and feeding 150 head of cattle and 50 horses, this being but a part of his present possessions.

While Mr. Miller has made a financial success, he has made a success which is

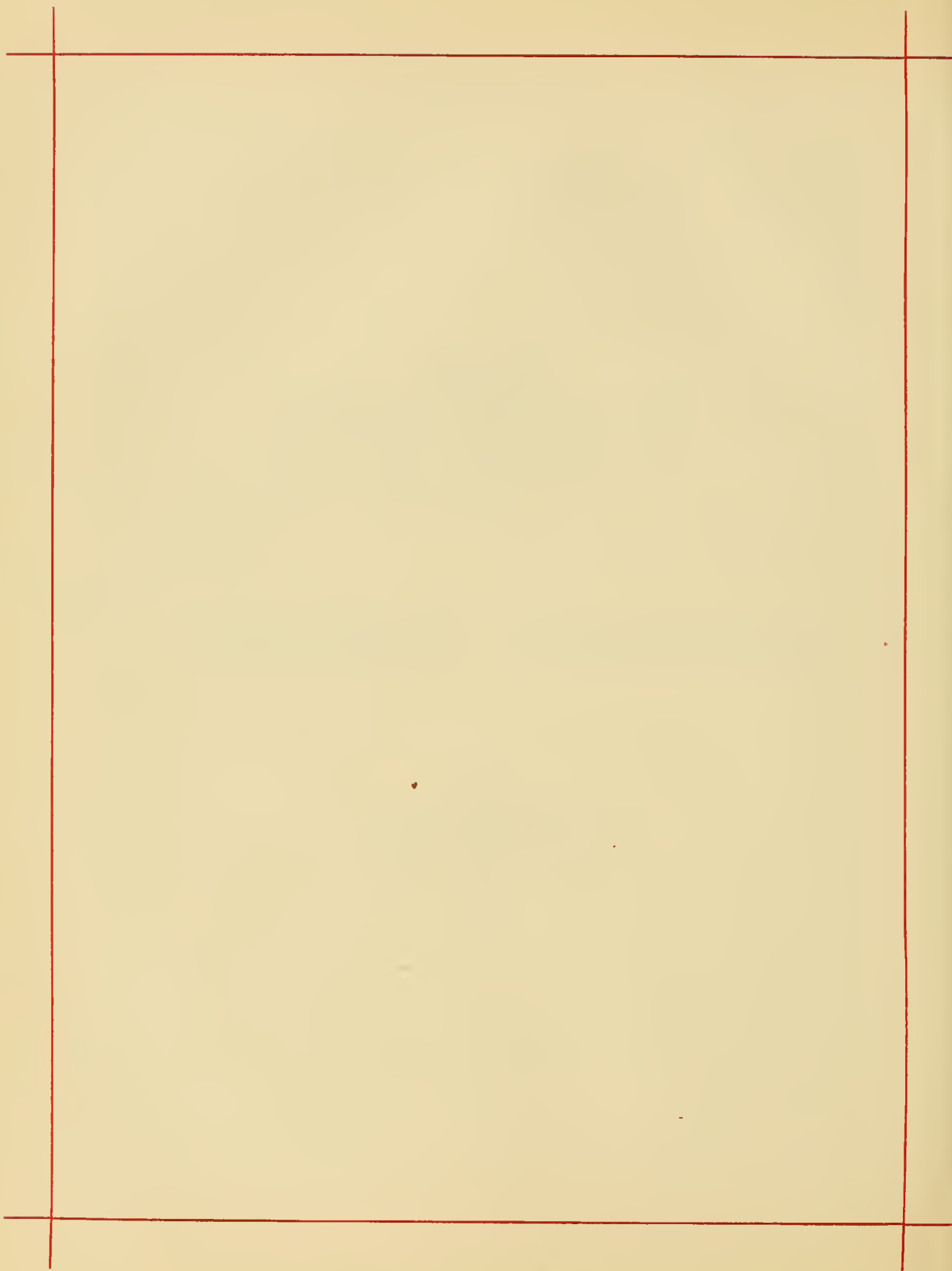
more enduring, in securing for himself a reputation for being of irreproachable character, in all things doing unto others as he would wish to be done by. In 1872 he was married at Anamosa, Jones county, Ia., to Miss Angeline B. Cohorn,—Rev. Lease officiating. Mrs. Miller is a native of Iowa, born in 1849. Being a lady of keen insight and good judgment, she has proven herself to be a valuable helpmeet to Mr. Miller. To them have been born eight children, viz.—Alma, Alva Howard, Henry Augustus (dead), Arthur C., Bertie, George E., Dolly (died in infancy) and Kattie Blanche. Politically, Mr. M. is a democrat. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have been members and liberal supporters of the Methodist Episcopal church for a number of years.





**KEARNEY COUNTY.**





## BIOGRAPHICAL.

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**M**ATTHEW D. BOGERT, a prosperous farmer and highly esteemed citizen of Kearney county, is a native of New York, and through his veins courses the blood of the sturdy old Dutch stock, which for many generations has formed the best citizenship of New York, and won for it the distinctive appellation of the "Empire State." He is the only surviving child of David and Sarah (Tinkey) Bogert, the former of whom was a son of Matthew T. and Polly (Demorest) Bogert, and the latter a daughter of Andrew and Jane (Vanderbilt) Tinkey. His grandfather Bogert was a native of New Jersey and a soldier in the War of the Revolution, a faithful adherent to the cause of the colonies, and one who attested his faith by his services in the long and arduous struggle by which the liberties of the colonies were achieved. Mr. Bogert's paternal grandmother was also a native of New Jersey. His great grandfather, Jacob Tinkey, was a native of New York, and was reared an orphan, being brought up in a family in which he afterwards married; his wife, Sarah Onderdonk, being born and raised in York State.

Mr. Bogert's father, David Bogert, was born in New Jersey in 1791. He was reared in his native state and in New York, whither he moved when he went in busi-

ness. He was a brickmason by trade and followed contracting and building. He married in 1812, and the same year enlisted in the United States army to fight the British during the War of 1812-14, dying in 1815 from fever contracted in the army. He was a man of active life and robust physical constitution, a great lover of sports, and noted as the most graceful dancer in social society in the city of New York. He was a democrat in politics in the days when the two great parties were whigs and democrats, and he was an ardent patriot. Mr. Bogert's mother, Sarah Tinkey, was born in New York in 1794, dying in 1861. She was a pious, good woman, a life-long member of the Dutch Reformed church. There were only two children in the family to which the subject of this sketch belonged, himself and a sister, Ann Maria, afterwards wife of James Eckerson. She died in 1882, leaving a family of five children—Matthew, John Esler, Sarah Catherine, Maria Elizabeth and Harriet Anna.

Mrs. Sarah (Tinkey) Bogert was married the second time to John A. Sewin, by whom she had two children—Andrew T. Sewin, who now is postmaster at Lenox, Mass., and John L. Sewin (now deceased).

The subject of this sketch was born in 1813 in the city of New York. He was

reared mainly on a farm, receiving a good common-school education and being brought up to the habits of industry and usefulness common to farm life. In 1831 he married Miss Catherine Blawvelt, a lady of his own age, being a native of New York, and a daughter of Dowah and Elizabeth (Van Houten) Blawvelt. Mr. Bogert continued to reside in New York State, engaged in farming and kindred pursuits until 1879, when he moved to Nebraska and settled in Kearney county, taking a homestead in section 26, township 7, range 16 west, where he now resides. He has led an active, industrious and useful life, and, although somewhat advanced in years, he continues to look after his affairs with undiminished interest and prosecutes them with unabated vigor. He has held a number of public positions in life, the duties of which he has discharged with zeal and fidelity. He was elected to the state legislature in New York, in 1849, and represented his people acceptably in the state assembly for one term. The legislature of New York State is composed of one hundred and twenty-eight members. Mr. Bogert was one of fifteen members that came out boldly as free soilers, opposed to the extension of slavery. He was then appointed treasurer of Rockland county, and after filling that office for one term he was elected county treasurer, which office he held for eighteen years by successive re-elections, and during said time held the office of deputy county clerk for sixteen years. Since locating in Kearney county he has filled the office of county supervisor from his township for five years, and was elected in November, 1889, for two years more, and has served as postmaster at Blaineville from March,

1880, to the present time; and was chairman of a committee appointed to examine the county treasurer's accounts four years in succession. In politics he is a democrat, and he has been for a number of years a member of the Masonic order. He is a man of sound intelligence and possesses a wide range of knowledge. He was left a widower in 1884, his most excellent wife now sleeping in Oak Hill cemetery, at Nyack, on the Hudson river, in her native place.

**CYRUS A. WEBSTER**, a thriving farmer of Blaine township, Kearney county, Nebr., was born in 1848 in Fulton county, Ill., and is a son of Elisha and Lovine (Pigsley) Webster. Elisha Webster is a native of Chautauqua county, N. Y., and was born in 1819, but in 1835 moved to Fulton county, Ill., and thence came to Nebraska in 1880. He is a farmer by vocation, in politics is a republican, and in religion a Methodist. Mrs. Webster is a daughter of Welcome and Thiza (Clark) Pigsley, and was born in the State of New York in 1830; from New York she went to Ohio, thence to Michigan, and thence to Fulton county, Ill., where her marriage took place in 1847. She has had three children, as follows—Cyrus A., Asel M. (who died in 1878, at the age of twenty-seven years) and Mrs. Louie Love. The paternal grandfather of our subject was Martin Webster, a native of Vermont, who married Susan Rogers, a native of New York.

Cyrus A. Webster was reared on a farm and received a good common-school educa-

tion, and at the age of twenty years began his business life on his own account. In 1879 he came to Nebraska and for a year resided in Polk county, then for two years in Buffalo county, and then came to Kearney county, settling on section 24, township 7, range 16. Here he has a farm of six hundred and forty acres, of which four hundred acres are under cultivation. He keeps from fifty to one hundred and twenty-five head of cattle and about the same number of hogs and from twelve to fifteen horses.

Mr. Webster is a local preacher in the Methodist Episcopal church and has of late held large and successful revival meetings. Politically, he is a staunch republican.

In January, 1869, Mr. Webster married Miss Mary I. Barnes, who was born in 1851, in Ohio, from which state she was taken to Illinois by her parents. To this felicitous union have been born ten children, viz.—Otis Melvin, Stella, Etta Belle, Ada L. (who died December 10, 1887), Louis, Thomas (who died in 1882), Adolphus (who died also in 1882), Clyde, Laura and Fay. The parents and surviving children hold a very high place in the esteem of their neighbors and their walk through life is such as to merit this esteem.

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**P**ETER NYQUIST, an old settler and prominent farmer of Kearney county, is a native of Sweden and a splendid representative of that large class of industrious, enterprising citizens, the Swedish-Americans, by whom Kearney

county is in a great measure settled. He comes from a long line of Swedish ancestors, being a cion of that sturdy, thrifty stock that has made the "snowy kingdom amid the icy seas" blossom with the best fruits of an advanced civilization. His father, Olaf Nyquist, was born in the year 1818, and is still living, being a resident of his native country, where he has been engaged all his life in the pursuit of agriculture. He is a good type of his race and calling, being an industrious, hard-working, economical man, diligent in the discharge of his duties as a citizen and greatly devoted to his family and church. He has affiliated with the Lutheran church almost all his life, and is not only a man of great devoutness, but possesses a very tender regard for all his fellow-men and is ever ready to render any assistance in his power to those in affliction or distress. Mr. Nyquist's mother, whose maiden name was Mary Magnurson, was born in 1807 and died in 1875, having led a life of great industry and christian devotion, a zealous member all her years of the Lutheran church. These were married in 1836, the father, for lack of age, obtaining special permission for the purpose from the Crown. They had born to them a family of six children, all of whom reached maturity, and all but one of whom are now living, the full list in the order of their ages being—Carolina, Joannah, Helena, Peter, Gustave and John. The subject of this notice was born in the year 1844, was reared on his father's farm and received an ordinary common-school education. He came to America in 1868 and stopped in Illinois, where he engaged as a farm laborer and railroad hand for seven years, working industriously and saving

his earnings with a view of putting them to a good use later on. He returned to Sweden in 1875 and secured the promise of a neighbor girl, Miss Ann Soloman, to join her fortunes with his in the new world; and, bringing her with him, returned, and in the city of Chicago was married and came at once to Nebraska. He settled in Kearney county, taking a homestead in section 33, township 7, range 16 west. It is needless to state that the country at that time bore an appearance of newness to which Mr. Nyquist was decidedly unaccustomed, and that he encountered many obstacles of a discouraging nature in his first efforts to make a home in the West. When he settled in Kearney county it was ten miles to his nearest neighbor on the north and twelve miles to his nearest one on the south, and the whole country to the west was practically unsettled. He had \$500 with which to begin, and with this and two willing hands and a stout heart, re-enforced by the efficient aid and sustained by the sympathy and counsel of a good wife, he set about to build out of the rude and inhospitable forces of nature a home and an asylum where he might spend his declining days in peace and plenty. He worked hard and managed well, and as the result of long years of patient toil and thoughtful attention, he now has what he so much desired, a good home surrounded by the necessaries and comforts of life. He owns two hundred and forty acres of good land, most of which he has under cultivation and otherwise well improved, his sod-house and barn having given way to larger and better buildings, and his place being ornamented with trees and shrubbery, and showing in every detail

the industry and thrift that prevail on his premises.

His marriage has been blessed with six children, four girls and two boys—Mary, who departed life June 26, 1884; Caroline, Emma, John, Charles and Helen. Mr. and Mrs. Nyquist are both members of the Lutheran church, being zealous in the support of all church work and generous in their contributions towards the furtherance of the gospel cause.

OFFER POULSON is a native of Denmark and was reared on a farm until about twenty-two years of age, when he began to learn wagon-making. At the age of twenty-six he came to America, landing in Baltimore and going thence directly to Chicago, where he arrived in 1872, and followed his trade there until coming to Nebraska in February, 1876. Here he located a homestead of eighty acres (all the law allowed at that time) in the east half of the northeast quarter of section 2, township 5, range 14, in Cosmo township, Kearney county; since then, however, in 1881, he has purchased the southeast quarter of section 35, township 6, range 14, in Lincoln township, adjoining his first tract, and his farm now comprises 240 acres. His first dwelling was a small, cheap shanty, in which he managed to live until 1880, when he erected his present comfortable dwelling. His farm is now highly improved with good barns, groves, orchards, and every convenience calculated to make home desirable, and he has 240 acres under cultivation in mixed crops.

When he first came he had about enough money to pay the expenses of himself and family on the way, and his only farm stock consisted of two small mules and two cows. The first two or three years were disastrous ones, and it was a hard matter for him to make ends meet. The grasshoppers the first year destroyed everything green in the country, and the second year, 1878, hail was equally as destructive, he being one of the greatest sufferers in the neighborhood. He was in debt for his farm machinery, but his creditors never annoyed him, but waited patiently until he could raise and dispose of a crop or two. He is now as nicely situated as he could desire, and is giving much attention to breeding fine-grade live stock. He has on his farm an imported English stallion that weighs 1,800 pounds, and his stock of hogs is very large and of choice varieties.

Paul Cristoffesson Poulson, the father of the subject proper of this sketch, was also a native of Denmark and came to America in 1879, and died in Nebraska in 1888. He married Anna C. Ottasan, who died in her native country in Denmark in 1877, the mother of six children, of whom our subject is the second and the first of the family that came to America. All of these children are now in Kearney county, Nebraska, with the exception of the eldest brother, who is still in Denmark.

Offer Poulson was married at Plano, Ill., to Mary Larsen, just prior to coming to Nebraska. She is the daughter of Dalgard Larsen, of Denmark, who never reached America. The widow of this gentleman, however, died in this country soon after arriving here. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Poulson have been born

three children, viz.—Louie C., Arthur M., and Emma E. Politically, Mr. Poulson is independent; he is a member of the Masonic fraternity and of the Farmers' Alliance and Club, the latter organized for the purpose of advancing the interests of agriculturists.

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**W**ARD SHUE, a native of Pennsylvania, was born in 1849. His father, E. H. Shue, was born in 1812, in New York State, whence he moved, when a young man, to Wayne county, Pa. He was a successful farmer, and for years was a deacon and ruling elder in the Presbyterian church. In politics he was a republican. About 1881, while visiting our subject, he was taken sick, and a short time after returning to his home in Pennsylvania, passed away to his long home. Vashti (Wright) Shue, the mother of Ward Shue, was born in Pennsylvania, in 1820, and for some time was a school teacher. In 1848 she was married to E. H. Shue, to whom she bore four children, namely—Ward, Nancy A., Elizabeth P., who died young, and Edward A., who died in 1881.

Ward Shue was reared a farmer and was educated at Deposit Academy. He taught school for a while, and at the age of twenty-six went to Iowa. In 1878 he came to Nebraska and settled in Kearney county, on section 34, township 7, range 16 west. For some time after arriving here he was engaged in teaching, often being away from home a week at a time, leaving his newly-wedded wife alone, half a mile from a neighbor, and seeing no human being except her husband for

weeks at a time. His worldly possessions on reaching Nebraska were very limited, but he now owns a quarter section of well stocked and well improved land. He has always made it a rule of his life not to go in debt for anything, and to this rule he attributes much of his success. In politics he is a republican and a prohibitionist.

In 1878 Mr. Shue married Miss Amelia Vaupel, an estimable German lady, who was born in 1855, and who was left an orphan at the age of seven years. Her father was George Vaupel, a native of the city of Hanover, Germany, and a tailor by trade. Her mother was Minnie (Bergmuller) Vaupel, also a native of Germany, who bore her husband five children, namely—Anna, now teaching in Brooklyn, N. Y., and who has traveled through Europe, studied French in Paris, and who has given lessons in French and German for years; Mary, now Mrs. Reynolds; Amelia, now Mrs. Shue; Minnie and Antoinette, who died in infancy. To Mr. and Mrs. Ward Shue have been born four children, as follows—Emma Elizabeth, who died when young; Anna Althea; Minnie Vashti, who died last winter of scarlet fever; and Eddie Ezra. Upon the death of Minnie, her uncle, Mr. Reynolds, wrote the following touching lines:

Dear Minnie is dead!  
So gentle and beautiful,  
Loving and dutiful—  
Her last prayer is said.

So trusting and mild,  
So sweet in her purity  
She rests in security,  
By sin undefiled.

But God's way is best!  
We give her up tearfully,  
Yet think of her cheerfully  
In heaven at rest.

JOHN N. WARP, a farmer of Cosmo township, Kearney county, was born in Norway, near Koenigsburg, August 23, 1847, and was reared to farming. He was but seven years of age when he lost his father, and was but a little older when his mother died. His struggle with the affairs of life began at the age of thirteen, when he hired out as a common laborer. At the age of twenty-two he came to America, landing in New York, whence he went to Chicago, and then to Wisconsin, where, for two or three years, he was employed in rafting timber; he then returned to Chicago, and for nearly two years worked in a foundry and machine shop. In March, 1874, he came to Nebraska and passed two years in Omaha; in 1876, he located a homestead of eighty acres in the southwest quarter of section 10, township 5, range 14; in 1877 he had five acres broken, and then returned to Omaha, where he passed another year, and then came back to his farm to stay. He built the usual sod house, in which he lived alone two years, when, in December, 1880, he married, but still kept his habitation in the old sod house until 1888, when he put up a nice frame dwelling. When Mr. Warp came here he had a small amount of money, but it was soon exhausted, and his progress has been made by hard labor. He has added to his original eighty acres the adjoining tract of eighty acres, and of the one hundred and sixty has one hundred and ten under cultivation in mixed crops and well stocked with choice animals, as well as improved with orchards, groves and convenient barns, etc. Mr. Warp married Miss Hilza Johannes, daughter of Johannes Johannesen, the latter a stone-



mason and farmer, who died in Norway. Mrs. Warp came to America with a brother in 1878, and this brother is still living in Kearney county. Five children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Warp, named as follows—Julius N., Edward M., Oscar, Lena and Ida. Since Mr. Warp has lived here he has been very successful as a farmer, and has fully established himself in the good opinion of his fellow-citizens, whom he has served in several official capacities. In 1885 he took the census of Cosmo township; he has filled the office of assessor five terms, and has just been elected to fill it a sixth term; but politically, he is independent. Since 1876 he has been a member of the I. O. O. F., and has long been a consistent member of the Danish Lutheran church.

Nelson Warp, the father of our subject, for a number of years worked for the government in the silver mines of Norway, but in 1850 emigrated to California, where he remained about four years, when he returned to his native country and soon after died. He married Miss Inger M. Jacobstatle, who bore him three children, of whom John N. is the eldest. One daughter is a resident of Omaha.

**M**ICHAEL C. BANG, farmer of Cosmo township, Kearney county, was born in Denmark, October 5, 1849, and was reared on the home farm until nineteen years old, when he left his home and worked out as a farm hand for two and a half years. In October, 1872, he departed from his native shore and soon found himself in Quebec, Canada. The same year he came to the

United States and worked in the great canal at Sault Ste Marie, Mich., till the spring following, when he went to the copper mines of Lake Superior, where he worked for fourteen months; he then went to Kendall county, Ill., where he worked for monthly wages until 1878, when he married and lived on a rented farm until January, 1880, when he came to Nebraska and bought a claim and located his homestead in the southwest quarter of section 18, township 5, range 14, Kearney county. The place contained a dug-out, a stable and a well, and twenty-five acres of the land were broken. He lived in the dug-out at first, but soon built a sod house, in which he lived until 1884, when he erected a fine frame house, in which he now resides. When he came here he had a small amount of money, which he paid out for his land. He had brought some farming implements from Illinois, and had four head of horses. After the first year he was very successful with his crops and now has 115 acres under cultivation; he has groves, orchards, and fine live stock, has everything in good shape, and is looked upon as being one of the best farmers in his township.

Mr. Bang married Mary Anderson, daughter of Andrew C. Nelson, from Denmark, and this union has been blessed with seven children, viz.—Andrew C., Nora M., Kristena E., Ingeborg A., James E., Emma Johanna and Saddle C. Since coming to Nebraska Mr. Bang has served two terms as school treasurer—six years; he was justice of the peace two terms and has served three terms as county supervisor. He was nominated at a recent democratic convention for sheriff of the county, and came very near being elected,

receiving a flattering vote for the republicans, and carrying his own township with a heavy majority, receiving every vote but eleven, as well as carrying the township of his opponent. He and his family belong to the Danish Free Lutheran church.

Kristen Bang, the father of our subject, was a carpenter by trade, but passed the best part of his life on the farm where he died in 1878, at the age of seventy-one years. His first wife, the mother of Michael Bang, bore the maiden name of Dortha Jensen, and became the mother of eight children, four of whom were reared to maturity. By a second marriage Kristen Bang had born to him ten children. A year after our subject reached America he was followed by a brother, who is also now living in Kearney county, Nebr.

**J**ENS IVERSON, one of the most enterprising and wealthy farmers of Cosmo township, Kearney county, was born February 16, 1854, in Schleswig Holstein, at one time a province of Denmark, but now belonging to Prussia. He was reared a farmer and followed that vocation in his native country until 1872, when he came to America, landing in New York, but immediately departing for Lee county, Ill., and passing a few days in Chicago, en route. He went to work as a farm hand, was married in Lee county, in 1874, and both he and his wife toiled on together until 1878, in October of which year they reached Nebraska. Mr. Iverson located his homestead on section 34, township 5, range 14, and at the same time took a timber claim

on the southwest quarter of section 34, township 5, range 14. On his homestead claim Mr. Iverson built a sod house, broke twenty acres of land, dug a well and made other improvements, and, after a residence there of about two and one-half years, abandoned it and in 1880 settled on his timber claim. He has added two hundred and forty acres to the original plat and has two hundred and fifty acres under cultivation in mixed crops, has plenty of live stock, including graded Durham cattle; his granaries and barns are all commodious frame structures and supplied with every convenience, and groves of timber are pleasant features of his farm. Since residing here he has never met with a total failure in his crops, but in 1887 came pretty close to one, on account of dry weather and chinch bugs. Otherwise, he has been very successful and is now one of the wealthiest farmers of Cosmo township—all his wealth having been gained by his own industry and the aid of his most excellent wife. It will be remembered that when he was first married he lived on a small piece of rented land; in the cultivation of this, his wife assisted at the plow, and since coming here she has never tired of rendering her aid in any respect. He commenced his career in Nebraska with five dollars in his pocket, and owned, besides, an old team and two colts, but no cattle. Now he has an abundance of everything, and Mrs. Iverson has no longer to aid in the farm work; but the couple still cling to the old sod house as a residence.

The maiden name of Mrs. Iverson was Sophia C. Grisen, a native of Prussia, but she has borne her husband no children. In politics Mr. Iverson is a republican,

and has filled the offices of school treasurer and township treasurer. With his wife, he belongs to the Lutheran church.

Jacob Iverson, father of our subject, is a farmer and is still living in Prussia, at the age of seventy-six years. He married Cristine Damgaard, who bore him nine children—Jens, our subject, being the seventh. Jens Iverson has one sister in America, who is married to Fred Cristison and resides in the neighborhood. Mrs. Iverson has one brother and two sisters in this country.

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**C**HARLES A. HANSEN, a prosperous farmer of Cosmo township, Kearney county, was born at Thisted, Denmark, May, 14, 1848. He attended the school of his native town until fourteen years of age, when he was apprenticed for five years to the painter's trade, and followed this business in the old country until 1869, when he came to America. He landed in New York, but at once went to Chicago, where he continued working at his trade until 1876, in March of which year he came to Kearney county and located a homestead on the east half of the northwest quarter of section 26, township 5, range 14, and also bought the remaining half-quarter adjoining, of the railroad company. On this property he erected good buildings, set out groves and added all the conveniences necessary to make farm life profitable and pleasant. One hundred and ten acres are under cultivation in mixed crops, and the live stock is all of the best class, hogs being a specialty. During the first four

years of his residence here Mr. Hansen had a rather tough time of it, as at the start his only possessions consisted of a team and one cow; but his industry and skill have made him quite wealthy.

Mr. Hansen was married at Chicago, in 1872, to Miss Cristena Neilson, a native of Denmark, and this union has been blessed by the birth of five children, viz.—Harrel, Anine, Rosana, Christian and Lorvad. Mr. Hansen is politically a democrat and has served one term as justice of the peace.

The father of our subject, Hans August Hansen Brönderslev, is still living in Denmark, and was at one time chief of the fire department of his native city. His regular business, however, was that of ale brewer, but he is now retired, at the age of sixty. He married Cristena Thorp, who bore him four children, Charles A. being the eldest. Another son is in Kansas City, Mo., engaged in steam dyeing.

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**S**OCRATES ATWATER was born in Wells, Rutland county, Vt., January 12, 1823. His parents, Daniel and Louise (Stevens) Atwater, were both natives of the Green Mountain State. His father was born October 27, 1785, and his mother, June 27, 1795. They were married about 1816, and had ten children.

His paternal grandfather, Simeon Atwater, was a native of Vermont and a soldier in the Revolutionary war. The Atwater family are of English-French descent. The maternal grandfather of Socrates Atwater, named Stevens, was

also a native of Vermont and a Revolutionary soldier. His father and mother both died on the same day, in 1861, and sleep side by side in the same grave. Both were members of the Methodist church.

Socrates Atwater, the subject of this sketch, was married, March 30, 1850, to Lydia Wendover, who was born in Butler, Wayne county, N. Y., July 11, 1831. She is a daughter of Thomas and Margaret Wendover, both natives of New York, the former having been born at Sand Lake, January 2, 1808. They have reared two children, namely—Erastus W., born July 8, 1855, and Orlando D., born December 30, 1865.

He came to Kearney county, Nebr., in 1879, and settled in Eaton township, where he purchased railroad lands, and now has three hundred and twenty acres of as fine land as lay in the state. He has taken great pains with the cultivation of trees, and he can show as thrifty a lot as one would wish to see. He has served the people of his town as justice of the peace, and is regarded as one of the representative men of the county. He has several interesting relics which carry us back to old revolutionary times, having an old flint-lock, brass-barreled horse-pistol, such as were used by cavalymen in revolutionary days; also a powder-horn, on which is artistically carved an ingenious representation of the harbor of New York city, also showing the courses of the Hudson and Mohawk rivers, with a description of the country along each. Another interesting specimen in his collection is a British red military coat. All these were captured from the British by Mr. Atwater's two grandfathers.

**J**OSEPH SEWARD FRANK was born in Will county, Illinois, September 7, 1838, and is the son of Nathaniel and Lydia (Curtis) Frank. His father was born at Granville, N. Y., September 22, 1805, and his mother was born August 28, 1807, in Berkshire county, Mass., and died December 15, 1870, in Omro, Wis. His paternal grandfather, Nathaniel Frank, was born in Connecticut, November 26, 1776, and died January 31, 1824. He was a colonel in the War of 1812, and one of the prominent and influential men of his day. Nathaniel Frank, Jr., engaged in mercantile business at Gawanda, N. Y., in an early day, and continued in that line for several years; subsequently he moved to Omro, Winnebago county, Wis., where he continued his former business together with buying and shipping stock. He served as justice of the peace for over forty years in the States of New York and Wisconsin. During his official career he performed the ceremony which united, for better or for worse, over ninety couples. He is still living, and has been a devoted member of the Presbyterian church for many years. Joseph Seward Frank was next to the youngest of four children, and remained at home assisting his father in business until he enlisted. He attended the common schools of his day as well as the high school at Omro, Wis.

When the war broke out he was a young man, but not too young to offer his services in defense of his country's flag. Enlisting for three years, December 7, 1861, in Company F, Eighteenth regiment Wisconsin volunteer infantry, he served under the gallant Gen. Prentice, and was

an active participant in the terrible battle of Shiloh, where he was taken prisoner on April 6, 1862, and held as such for six long months. He was a sufferer in Libby, Montgomery and Macon prisons, when he was finally exchanged. The prisons were examined, and all those unfit for further service were discharged and sent home. He had suffered the tortures of prison life until he was a mere skeleton.

After partial health was restored, Mr. Frank spent seven years in the mining regions of northern Michigan, and a few years in the mercantile business at Omro, Wis. He came to Kearney county, Nebr., July, 1876, in a prairie schooner, and took a homestead in Eaton township, where he has since resided. There was scarcely any settlement in the vicinity at that time, and the country presented a wild and somewhat dreary appearance.

On October 15, 1868, Mr. Frank was married to Miss Anna H. Amerman, who was born at Tompkins, Delaware county, N. Y., December 24, 1842, but reared in New York City. She was a daughter of Rev. Thomas Amerman, a prominent Presbyterian divine. Her parents emigrated to Wisconsin in 1850. Her father was compelled to quit the ministry on account of ill-health, and died in 1884. He was a graduate of Amherst College and of the Theological Seminary of New Brunswick, N. J., and was ordained in 1830. Mrs. Frank was a frequent contributor to the religious press and was a devoted christian woman and a very successful teacher in the public schools. She died November 6, 1889. To this union were born eight children, viz.— Charles E., born July 20, 1869; Irving

A., born April 21, 1871 (deceased); George S., born August 18, 1873; Percy L., born March 17, 1875; Cornelia E., born January 19, 1877; Eleanor Anna, born December 16, 1880; Sarah H., born August 3, 1883; Jennie L., born January 3, 1886.

Mr. Frank was justice of the peace for a number of years, and was the first supervisor of Eaton township. He has been a zealous christian for many years, and enjoys the respect of all who know him. He is an enthusiastic temperance man, and hopes to live to see the total prohibition of the liquor traffic. Mr. and Mrs. Frank were charter members of the First Presbyterian church of Kearsaw, Nebr., and, when the country got more thickly settled, helped to form the Eaton, now the Hartwell, Presbyterian church. Mr. Frank has been for years a ruling elder, and Mrs. Frank one of the main supporters of the Sabbath-school.

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**D**AVID JONES, a prominent farmer and early settler of Eaton township, Kearney county, was born in Wales, February 16, 1820. His father, Jenkins Jones, came to America in 1830 and his wife came ten years later. David came in 1832 and settled at Philadelphia, where he found employment, and while there served an apprenticeship at wagon-making. He was but a young man when he moved to La Salle county, Ill., in 1843, and worked at his trade there until 1854, when he went to farming. He came to Nebraska in the spring of 1875, and settled in Eaton township, Kearney

county, where he has since resided. He had his entire corn crop destroyed by the grasshoppers the second year, but aside from that he has enjoyed a reasonable degree of prosperity. February 22, 1880, however, he lost by fire all his buildings, except his house; all of one year's crops, and machinery to the amount of \$1,500, carrying no insurance. Mr. Jones was married April 8, 1848, to Lucitia Peck, a native of New York, born May 10, 1829, and a daughter of David and Levilla (Hawkins) Peck, both of whom were natives of New York and members of the Baptist church.

Mr. and Mrs. David Jones have five children, viz.—Margaret, born February 28, 1849; John, born March 1, 1851; India, born January 27, 1854; George D., born July 21, 1860 (deceased) and Ida May, born February 6, 1864. Mr. Jones was elected county commissioner of Kearney county in the fall of 1875, and served three years, and was re-elected in the fall of 1881 and served until a change of township representation was made. During his official term as commissioner, the county seat was changed from Lowell to Minden. Mr. Jones is one of the substantial farmers of Eaton township, and one of the best known men in the county.

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**J**OEL HULL. More than any other man, Joel Hull, the subject of this sketch, has been instrumental in the founding and developing of the city of Minden. Born in Meigs county, Ohio, November 23, 1831, he traces his ancestry back through a long line of staunch

New England stock, members of whom were prominent in the early struggles with the Indians in the Revolutionary war, and in every conflict in which the nation has had a part, from its earliest history to the present.

His father, of whom a sketch appears elsewhere in this volume, was Hiram Hull, son of Joel Hull, of Massachusetts, whose father was William Hull, of same state. Luna (Bosworth) Hull, the mother of our sketch, was a daughter of Hezekiah Bosworth, of Vermont, and Huldah (Pearce) Bosworth, of New York.

Mr. Hull was educated at the Ohio Wesleyan University, at Delaware, Ohio. At this point he took up the study of law, which profession he had decided to adopt for his life work. His preceptors were the law firm of Sweetser & Reid, both of whom were eminent men, not only having made a success of their professional work, but having also served in Congress.

Too close application to study soon impaired the health of young Hull and compelled him for a time to abandon his chosen work and he consequently engaged in the business of dealer and manufacturer of leather. At the outbreak of the war of 1861, he was one of the first to spring to the aid of his distressed country, and in 1862 received a commission to recruit a company for the Ninety-first regiment Ohio infantry volunteers, and was commissioned a lieutenant in Company B of the regiment he helped to form. He was prominent in leading the army in the battles in the Shenandoah valley, at Winchester, Lynchburgh, and many minor engagements. His unflinching bravery was demonstrated at the battle of Bunker Hill in the Shenandoah valley, where he



JOEL HULL.





led the skirmish line of the little force of thirteen hundred men against the enemy which numbered seventy-seven hundred men, under Rosser, of Earley's corps. The spirit which animated their leader thrilled his men, and they undauntedly followed him to success, routing the entire rebel force and capturing all their artillery, taking prisoners, and disabling the enemy in greater numbers than the little force, of which he was the prominent part, consisted. For his brilliant service in this action and the military ability there displayed, he was the next day promoted to the responsible position of adjutant-general of his brigade, then commanded by General Crook.

His brigade was engaged in the battle of Winchester, where the army under Crook was defeated by the overwhelming numbers of the opposing army, but the retreat was effected in good order and with such military precision, that his brigade was carried out with but slight loss. His service expired in 1864 and he was immediately, by the governor of Ohio, tendered the colonelcy of a new regiment; but before he accepted, the call for more men was countermanded and the war came to a close.

The war being ended, General Hull located in Toledo, Ohio, and there established a large steam tannery, and in company with a firm of dealers in hides and leather, he operated the business under the firm name of Joel Hull & Co. till 1872, then selling his interest to his partners he came to Nebraska, and, after inspecting various portions of the state, decided to cast his fortunes in Kearney county, and there located June 30, 1872, just ten days after its organization as a

county, it having then a voting population of only thirty-one. Thus it will be seen that General Hull was a pioneer in this part of the state. Of his compeers at that time but four remain, the others having passed over to the silent majority. Hon. Lewis A. Kent, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Dr. Cooper, of Lowell, and Charles Sydenham, in company with the subject of our sketch, constitute the quartette still living in the county of those brave men, who, in early days, paved the way for civilization.

Mr. Hull entered a homestead near the site of the present city of Minden, and at once engaged in farming. He early conceived the idea of moving the county seat from the village of Lowell to a more central portion of the county, and to this end began to agitate the question in his vigorous way. Hard work, and against strong opposition, accomplished his end and he succeeded in having the county seat located at Minden, where it still remains. He, himself, laid out the town and built the first four houses after the removal of the county seat to the site had been secured by a very large majority of the voters of the county.

He presented city lots to seven different religious denominations and aided six of them in erecting their church edifices upon the donated lots, and presented to the school district a quarter block on which to erect its first school house in the city.

In 1855, in Newark, N. J., Mr. Hull was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. Frisbie, daughter of Nathaniel Frisbie, of New York State. To bless this home, five children have been sent, whose names in the order of their birth are—John F.,

Arthur E., George H., Frances E. (now Mrs. R. L. Marsh) and Carrie A. On March 31, 1879, Mr. Hull was married the second time to Mrs. Elsie E. Granger, daughter of Robert and Mary D. Scott—this being the first marriage celebrated in the present city of Minden.

A fine baby boy in due time put in an appearance; to him, as the pioneer baby of Minden, the town site association deeded a lot. Joel L. is his name. Two others, Walter Scott and Otis H., followed in due time.

Judge Hull was admitted to the practice of law in Nebraska, in 1878, and since that time he has followed the practice of the profession of his first choice, from which he was, by unavoidable circumstances, so long delayed in entering upon. Judge Hull is a stanch republican, although political aspirations have never given him any trouble.

Since the location of Minden, his efforts for its upbuilding have been untiring, no opportunity having been lost to forward the interests of that community. He has had the pleasure of witnessing its growth from its incipiency, and of knowing that to his efforts is largely due its present thriving and growing condition. Though his own private interests have often been sacrificed for the interest of the community of which he is a part, he feels amply repaid for any sacrifice he may have made; but to enter into the detail of all that he has done for the county of his choice and the town of his creation, would require pages where we can devote but paragraphs.

Judge Hull and his wife are both broad-minded christians and are especially noted for their widely spread and judicious charities. Their church affiliations are

with the Methodist denomination. It is not necessary for as to add, perhaps, that Judge Hull is counted as a part of the bone and sinew of Minden, of Kearney county, and of the State of Nebraska.

His friends are legion.

**D**AVID SCRAMLIN is one of the well-to-do farmers of Eaton township, Kearney county, and one of the most successful agriculturists in the county. He was born in Grand Rapids, Mich., June 3, 1842, and is the son of Jacob and Ann (Dickie) Scramlin, the former a native of New York and the latter of New Brunswick. David Scramlin is the fifth of a family of seven children and was reared in Illinois. He began working out when seventeen years old, and at nineteen went to northern Michigan, where he remained several years. He was a resident of La Porte county, Ind., from 1865 to 1872, and from there he went to Minnesota. He came to Kearney county, Nebr., in the spring of 1874 and took up a homestead, on which he built a sod house and began breaking sod for a crop. He could only see two houses when he first settled where he now lives. He was married January 31, 1866, to Harriet Cowgill. She is a native of Ross county, Ohio, and was born June 21, 1843. They are both devoted members of the Presbyterian church. Mr. S. has always affiliated with the democratic party and at one time was a member of the K. of L. He has three hundred and twenty acres of rich land, well improved, and is one of the most highly respected citizens of Kearney county.

**M**ILES FIERO, one of the most prominent men of Eaton township, Kearney county, was born in New York, December 11, 1838. His parents were John and Nancy (Comcross) Fiero, both of whom were natives of New York. His father was a farmer and died in 1847.

At the age of eighteen, the subject of this sketch began farming for himself. Five years later he responded to his country's call by shouldering a musket and joining the Union army. He joined the One Hundred and Thirty-eighth regiment New York volunteer infantry, in August, 1862, but was transferred in about three months to the Ninth New York heavy artillery. He saw service at the battle of North Ann river, and was with the Army of the Potomac in the battle of the Wilderness, but was not in the engagement himself. He was also at Cold Harbor, where he was wounded by a minie-ball in the left leg, just above the ankle. He was sent home on furlough, where he lay under the doctor's care for one hundred and twenty days, when he reported back to New York hospital, and was mustered out June 6, 1865. He hobbled about on crutches, about eight years in all, and his left leg was amputated twenty-three years after it was shattered by a rebel bullet.

Mr. Fiero came to Nebraska in the spring of 1874, taking a soldier's homestead in Kearney. The entire county was scarcely settled at that time and cast only forty-four votes. He was a victim of the grasshopper raid, and like hundreds of others saw his corn crop disappear before the army of hoppers in a remarkably short space of time. During those

dark days Mr. Fiero was obliged to go to Kansas for corn to feed his horses.

Our subject was married, October 4, 1857, to Jane E. Tiffany, who is a native of Ontario county, New York. Four children have been born to this union, viz.—Emma Jane, born January 16, 1860, now the wife of John D. Jones; John Miles, born November, 1862; Mattie Belle, born May, 1866, now the wife of Stanley Carpenter, and Carrie Alice, born August, 1869, wife of W. D. Howard.

Mr. Fiero has served as justice of the peace for several years and is now postmaster of the village of Hartwell, having been appointed in December, 1889. He is a member of the A. F. and A. M., also the G. A. R., and is a republican. He came to Hartwell in 1884 and engaged in the implement business, but is now in the grocery business and enjoys the good will of everybody in the town and community in which he lives.

**C**HARLES A. ROHDER was born in Germany, September 17, 1834, and is a son of Adam and Mary (Niederhof) Rohder, both natives of the Fatherland. The subject of this sketch left his native land when nineteen years old to escape the draft. He first went to England, and there found an opportunity to work his passage to America on a boat which was about ready to sail, landed at New York and immediately went to Cambria county, Pa., where he had a sister living. He next went down the Ohio river to Cairo and served as a cook on a steamer on the Mississippi for eight years.

He came to Lowell, Nebr., in the spring of 1873, and immediately engaged in the bakery business. The town was prosperous, and Mr. Rohder's business flourished, and he remained there till the town went down, when he purchased railroad land in Eaton township, where he has since resided. He went all through the grasshopper famine and has seen great herds of Buffalo, antelope and deer in the vicinity where he now lives.

Mr. Rohder was married, February 8, 1865, to Eva Ebel, by whom he had four children, born as follows—Augustus, September 1, 1866; Fred, July 27, 1868; Elizabeth and John. His second marriage was on February 20, 1871, to Dora E. Reeder. This union has been blessed with the following named children—Henry W., born June 25, 1872; Dora E., born September 8, 1874; Chas. S., born October 23, 1876; Leona, born September 17, 1878; Emma, born August 23, 1880; Frank, born March 17, 1882; William, born October 18, 1884; Earnest, born June 6, 1886, and Josie, born November 7, 1887. Mr. Rohder has 160 acres of well improved land, and has a considerable number of trees growing. He is a democrat and has held various local offices; in religion he is a member of the Catholic church.

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**J**OHAN DAVIDSON is one of the prosperous and well-to-do farmers of Kearney county. He was born in Scotland, January 14, 1850, and was reared on a farm in Ayrshire, south Scotland. He came to America when he was twenty-one years old, and is now thoroughly imbued with

American thrift and enterprise. He landed in New York city and spent the first year in that state. He came West as far as Silver Creek, Mich., in 1872, where he spent two years, coming to Kearney county, Nebr., in the spring of 1874, and was among the first to take a homestead in that county. There was scarcely any settlement previous to that time, and the country was anything but inviting to a man like Mr. Davidson, who had so recently come from one of the oldest and most densely populated countries of Europe. But he was here, and he determined to stay. He was young and ambitious, and he made up his mind that what others had done he could do, so he located his claim and erected a small frame house upon it. He was single and without means, so he went to Lincoln and worked during the summer, returning to spend the winter upon his claim. He hired some breaking done, and the second year prepared to do some farming, but the grasshoppers came and destroyed everything green. This caused great suffering among many of the early settlers, and had not aid been sent them from the East, many would doubtless have suffered greatly for the necessaries of life. When the provisions were distributed, Mr. Davidson refused to accept anything, as he was young and had no family to look after and could take care of himself. The following year crops prospered and a fair yield was made, and since that time the farmers have had no cause to complain.

Mr. Davidson was married April 28, 1879, the lady whom he chose for a companion being Miss Lydia J. Barnhart. She is a native of Michigan, having been born in Berry county June 29, 1852. Her

father, Samuel Barnhart, is a native of Ohio, and her mother, whose maiden name was Sarah Everdeen, is a native of Virginia. They were married in Ohio, and located soon after in Michigan, where the father died in 1885, the mother in 1878. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Davidson has been blessed with three children—David, born August 19, 1884; James, born March 7, 1886, and John, born November 16, 1889.

Mr. Davidson has been county supervisor, and made a reputation as a careful and conservative official. He owns three hundred and twenty acres of as fine land as can be found in the state, has it under good cultivation, and his improvements are among the best in the township of Eaton.

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**L**ARS PETERSON, a native of Denmark, was born March 5, 1845, and is a son of Lars and Kate (Johnson) Peterson. The senior Peterson was a farmer and died in 1847. There were eight children in the Peterson family, five boys and three girls. Lars Peterson is the youngest of the family and remained on the old homestead, attending school when he could, until he was about twenty years old, when he came to America in 1865, and landed at New York City August 5, and came West immediately as far as Muskegon, Mich. He worked in a saw-mill at this point for a few months, when he departed for Rock Island county, Ill., and found employment on a farm there at fair wages. He next went to Omaha and worked for a transfer

company for two years. Subsequently he visited Denver and spent three years in the gold and silver mines of Colorado. His next move was to California, where he was employed at farm work for about three years. In 1878 he visited Denmark, and, after his return, spent six months in Omaha; he then came to Kearney county and bought railroad land in Grant township.

Mr. Peterson was married, October 26, 1878, to Kirstine Holst, who was born in Denmark, June 23, 1853, and came to America in 1876. Eight children grace the happy home, born as follows—Andrew, July 19, 1879; Christian, November 14, 1880; Matilda, November 16, 1881; Frederick, January 24, 1883; Willemoes, March 19, 1885; George, November 29, 1886; Eva and Adam (twins), May 28, 1889. Mr. Peterson has three hundred and twenty acres of land, all under cultivation. His house and barn are new and substantial structures and everything bears the mark of a thrifty and enterprising husbandman.

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**A**NDREW P. PETERSON was born in Sweden, January 29, 1848, and is a son of Andrew and Anna Catrena Anderson. His father died in 1860 and his mother in 1876.

Mr. Peterson came to America in 1871, and went first to Connecticut and later to Michigan, where he worked in the mines along Lake Superior. He subsequently worked in the marble quarries in Vermont. In 1875 he spent five months in Sweden, and shortly after his return he

came to Nebraska and settled in Grant township, Kearney county. He took a homestead and had only \$160 in money. He purchased a yoke of oxen, for which he paid \$75, constructed a dugout and later a sod house. At first he met with much difficulty and worked on a railroad for a short time in order that he might get money to provide for his family; but he has been industrious and economical and has prospered.

He was married December 26, 1873, to Miss Imer Rayena, a native of Sweden, who was born January 1, 1854, and came to America in 1870. They have six children, viz.—William, born August 20, 1874; Ida, born January 16, 1876; Frank, born June 10, 1878; John H., born October 8, 1885; Peter J., born December 17, 1886; and Alice E., born August 3, 1889.

Mr. Peterson has been a deacon in the Lutheran church for several years and has always endeavored to live an honest, consistent and upright life. He addresses the people at Norman and other points, at regular intervals, upon religious topics.

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**J**AMES THOMPSON was born in Canada, January 21, 1853, and is the son of James and Mary (Tarney) Thompson, the former a native of Scotland and the latter of Ireland. He was one of a family of fifteen children, and left his home and kindred in Canada when only thirteen years old to fight his own battles through life. He crossed over into the States in the fall of 1866, and wended his way as far West as Win-

nebago county, Ill., where he hired out to work for a farmer. He soon gained an established reputation as an industrious young man, and he always found a demand for his services during the seven and one-half years he remained in that locality. In March, 1874, he came to Kearney county, Nebr., with a view of securing for himself a farm. After prospecting about for a short time, he located a homestead and tree claim in Grant township, and constructed a dugout, which served as his place of abode for some years. There was scarcely any settlement in all that section at that time, and it was not an uncommon thing to see a herd of antelope, and occasionally a few buffalo. He worked in the Gibbon settlement north of the Platte most of the time during the first season, and in this way managed to secure money with which to provide himself with the necessary food for the winter. He passed through the famous grasshopper raids of 1874 and 1876, and witnessed considerable suffering among his less fortunate neighbors. He was young and unmarried, and refused to accept aid that was sent to alleviate the wants of the sufferers, seeing about him men with families, who stood in greater need of assistance than he.

Mr. Thompson lived the quiet life of a bachelor until February 13, 1890, when he was married to Miss Kate M. Doal, who is a native of Denmark, born July 29, 1864, and came to America with her parents when about six years old.

Mr. Thompson has two hundred and forty acres of as fine land as can be found in the county, and it would be difficult to find as many acres as pleasantly situated.

On his timber claim are fully twenty

thousand large, thrifty trees, planted and nurtured by his own hands.

Being a son of poor parents, young Thompson was denied the excellent advantages enjoyed by the youth of to-day for obtaining an education, but, since thrown upon his own resources, he has improved his spare time and collected a generous fund of useful information. He is well posted upon the topics of the day, and is a ready conversationalist upon almost any subject. He has filled the office of justice of the peace acceptably, and has held various other local offices. Although formerly an enthusiastic republican, he has changed his political views and become an ardent advocate of the union labor party. He is one of the recognized leaders of his party in Kearney county, and a man who is highly respected by all who know him.

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**L**EWIS T. MEYER was among the first settlers of Kearney county, Nebr., and is to-day one of the substantial farmers of Grant township. He is a native of Illinois, born in St. Clair county, April 23, 1844. His father, Charles A. Meyer, is a native of France, but is now residing at Davenport, Iowa. He is a shoemaker by trade and an ardent believer in the Catholic religion. Lewis T. Meyer was only seventeen years old when the Civil war broke out, but he had a loyal heart in him and was among the first to offer his services to his country. He enlisted August 10, 1861, in the Thirty-seventh Illinois volunteer infantry, and rendered gallant service at Pea Ridge,

Prairie Grove and Vicksburg. His regiment was also placed in charge of Ft. Blakely, near Mobile, Ala., for some time. He marched into Texas under General Ord, and was in the Army of the Southwest until mustered out May 15, 1866. After returning from the scene of the great civil conflict, Mr. Meyer went to Iowa and engaged in farming for several years. He came to Kearney county, Nebr., in the spring of 1873, and his was one of the first dozen families that settled in Grant township. When he halted on the vast prairie, where he has since lived, there was not a house in sight and the nearest trading point was Lowell, some twenty miles distant. Wild game was plenty, and it was indeed fortunate for the early settler that such was the case, for he depended largely on the antelope and buffalo for his meat. His first act after selecting his homestead was to construct a sod house. This done, he proceeded to break prairie enough to plant a few acres of corn, only to have it entirely destroyed by the grasshoppers. He tried to smoke them off from a small patch of corn, but his efforts were all in vain. The grasshoppers had come to stay as long as a green blade of corn was left. Thus he has endured all the trials and vexations incident to the life of the early settler, and has lived bravely through them all, and is now in possession of a splendid farm for his reward.

Mr. Meyer was married November 2, 1870, to Miss Rhoda A. Owen, who is a native of Kentucky. This union has been blessed with eight children as follows—Carrie C., born November 11, 1871; Olive E., born December 20, 1872; Nolie, born October 25, 1874; Anna M., born

July 31, 1876; Effie Bernice, born March 10, 1878; Lewis T., born September 2, 1880; Alberta P., born April 16, 1884; and Walter L., born November 17, 1886.

Mr. Meyer has served the people of his township as county supervisor and has filled numerous other local offices. He has taken special pains in raising fruits, and, as an evidence of the success he has attained, it might not be out of place to remark that he has been awarded several first premiums at fairs. In politics he is a republican first, last and all the time. He and his estimable wife are devoted members of the Presbyterian church.

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**J**AMES PRICE, one of the representative pioneers of Kearney county, was born in Cayuga county, N. Y., March 10, 1835. His parents, Aaron and Jemima Price, both died in 1889; the former was a native of New Jersey and the latter of New York, and both were members of the Congregational church. At the age of sixteen Mr. Price came west to Ohio and found employment in Fulton county, where he remained for six years. He was married March 28, 1855, to Miss Jane Porter, and this union has been blessed with eight children, namely—Mina (deceased), James (deceased), Elmer (deceased), David (deceased), Charles, William, Adelina and Guy.

Mr. Price enlisted September 12, 1864, in the Fourteenth Michigan regiment, but served on detached duty mainly, and was engaged in guarding recruits through to headquarters. He was mustered out

May 16, 1865, and returned to Michigan, at the close of his military service, and resumed his favorite occupation as farmer. He emigrated to Decatur county, Iowa, in 1869, where he farmed for four years and then removed to Kearney county, Nebr., in the spring of 1873, and is one of the first settlers in Grant township. He took a soldier's homestead and broke fifty acres of sod, but his entire corn crop was destroyed by the grasshoppers, and he was left without a thing in the world to support his family on, so he went to Arkansas, where he worked on the Arkansas river for some time. In the spring of 1875 he returned to Nebraska and resumed his efforts at farming. Many settlers became so discouraged at seeing their crops destroyed, that they offered their claims for almost nothing in order to get out of the country. In 1875 Mr. Price secured the crop on a half section of land for a horse. Lowell was the nearest town, and there was only one house between his place and that. It was not an uncommon thing for settlers to get lost in those days and be obliged to camp out on the prairie all night. Mr. Price has had experience of this kind frequently, and he knows what it is to spend a night on the prairie during a terrible thunder storm. He has 320 acres of splendid land, for when he selected his homestead he had the pick of nearly the whole township, and he could not have selected a more beautiful piece of land. He has improved it from time to time, as his circumstances would permit, and has taken special pains with fruit trees, and now has one of the best young orchards in the county. He set his apple trees out in 1880 and during the summer of 1889 gathered 160 bushels of that fruit.



Mr. Price affiliates with the democratic party, holding pronounced views in regard to the tariff that are in harmony with that party.

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**S**OREN C. LARSON, one of the well-to-do farmers of Kearney county, was born in Sulsted Sogn, Kjaer Hirre, Alborg Amt., Denmark, August 22, 1843. His father's name was Lars Peter Sorenson, and his mother's name was Karn Kirstine Pedersdotter, before marriage. His father was a wood-worker, and, although born poor, he proved to be a hard-working, industrious man, and by his rigid economy and unceasing perseverance succeeded in acquiring considerable property. His first wife (the mother of the subject of this sketch) died in 1860, and he remarried. He died about 1868, the father of thirteen children, seven of whom were boys. Nearly all of the boys learned the same trade as the father had, and as fast as they became of age invariably left for America.

After serving about three months in the marine service of Denmark, Soren C. Larson came to America in April, 1866, and came as far west as Milwaukee, but soon returned as far east as Michigan, where he worked for a few months. He then went to Racine, Wis., where he found employment in the great wagon shops there. In 1867 he came as far west as Omaha and helped erect a large number of houses in that city, during the nine months he was there, then returned to Racine, Wis. After the great fire in Chicago, he went there and worked at the carpenter trade

for sometime and again returned to the shops in Racine, Wis. He came to Nebraska in 1882 and settled in Kearney county, where he purchased a quarter section of land, on which he has since resided and has greatly improved.

He was married in Racine, Wis., May 15, 1868, to Miss Johanne Katrine Anderson. She was a native of Denmark, born August 15, 1848, and came to America in 1865. This blessed union has resulted in the birth of ten children, namely—Louis, born January 3, 1869; George, born August 24, 1872; Clara, born December 10, 1874; Rosa C., born June 9, 1877; Arthur, born October 14, 1879; Alice, born October 27, 1885; and Harry Alwin, born December 28, 1888, and three deceased. Mr. Larson has been treasurer of Grant township for two years and is now serving his third term as county supervisor.

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**J**OHAN ANDERSON, one of the honored pioneers of Kearney county, is a native of Denmark, and was born January 25, 1840. His father, Andrew Anderson, was a native of the same country and lived the modest and unpretentious life of a farmer. He was twice married and was the father of fourteen children, thirteen of whom were by his first wife, who died in 1862. The senior Anderson lived to a ripe old age, and always remained a loyal subject of his native country. He died in 1886.

John Anderson, the subject of this sketch, served an apprenticeship at the carpenter trade. The year of 1863 marked the breaking out of the war between

Germany and Denmark. Young Anderson, loyal to his country, left his workshop and joined the army.

The Danish throne passed that year from Frederick VII. to Christian IX., who began his administration with an attempt to detach Schleswig from Holstein and to incorporate the former province with his own kingdom. This action on the part of Christian was not in accordance with the treaty of Loudres of 1852, and naturally produced great excitement throughout Germany. A diet was convened and it was determined to prevent by force the consummation of Christian's plans. A German army was accordingly thrown into Schleswig, and the Danes were driven back to a line of fortifications called the "Danneverk," which they had drawn across the peninsula. The Prussian army greatly outnumbered that of the Danish, and in April of 1864 these works were carried by storm. The brave and plucky Danes could doubtless have resisted the attacks of four times their own number, but an army of two hundred thousand men against twenty-four thousand was too powerful and they were compelled to succumb to the inevitable. Mr. Anderson belonged to the department of heavy artillery, and was stationed at Fort Dybbøl, where the brave Danes were under the constant fire of the opposing armies for five long weeks. John Anderson proved his loyalty to his native country, but, as an industrious and ambitious young man, he longed for opportunities that were beyond his reach. He had already heard considerable about the advantages enjoyed by the citizens of America, and he determined upon further inquiry, which eventually led him to resolve to become a

citizen of the western world. He accordingly set sail and arrived on the shores of the new country in the spring of 1866. He journeyed as far west as Milwaukee, and thence soon after to White Hall, Mich., where he worked a short time as a mill-wright. He subsequently established himself at Paintwater, Mich., where he remained for seven years.

Mr. Anderson came to Kearney county, Nebr., in the spring of 1874, and was among the first to take homesteads in Grant township, where he has since resided. Settlers in Kearney county then were few and far between. Antelope, and occasionally a few buffalo, roamed about the vicinity with little fear of molestation.

Mr. Anderson, being an expert carpenter by trade, found plenty of employment in neighboring localities, and concluded to hire his "breaking" done the first season, while he worked at his trade. He planted twenty-five acres of sod corn, which was entirely destroyed by the grasshoppers, that being the first year of their famous raid. He had brought with him from the East, lumber and other necessary material, with which he erected a substantial frame house in the following fall. He planted seedlings, which have since developed into shady groves, and otherwise improved his farm from time to time as circumstances would permit, until he now has one of the choicest farms in the county.

Mr. Anderson was married in November, 1867, to Miss Mary Rassmussen. She, too, is a native of Denmark, born December 21, 1840, and came to America in the spring of 1863. This happy union has been blessed with four children, namely—

Clara, born November 15, 1869; Minnie, born September 15, 1873; Annie, born November 6, 1876, and Clara Annie, born April 3, 1880. Great sorrow was brought upon this happy family by the death of the three eldest daughters in a single week, in 1879.

Mr. Anderson has filled the important office of assessor for three times, has served once as supervisor, and took the United States census of Grant and Cosmo townships, in 1880. He is a prominent member of the Farmers' Club, and enjoys the high esteem of all who know him.

**J**ACOB MATSEN was born in Denmark, June 14, 1852, and came to America in the spring of 1873. He first located in Ludington, Mich., where he spent two years, and went from there to Racine, Wis., where he worked on a farm for about two years. Next he came to Kearney county, Nebr., in the spring of 1876 and settled on a homestead in Grant township, and built a sod house, and farmed some the first year. His farm now comprises two hundred acres and it is well improved. One of his first acts was to plant fruit trees, and as a result he now has considerable choice fruit.

Mr. Matsen was married August 9, 1879, to Miss Carrie Larson, who is a native of Denmark, born July 6, 1850. She came to America in 1879. This union has been blessed with three children, viz.—Annie M., born July 4, 1880; George, born October 7, 1882; and Jim M., born March 9, 1888.

He has filled various local offices and is one of the representative Danes of Grant township. Both Mr. and Mrs. Matsen belong to the Lutheran church.

**L**EWIS J. LORAIN, one of the first settlers in Kearney county, is a native of Ohio, born in Washington county, November 5, 1845.

His father, Croton J. Lorain, was born in Bedford county, Pa., and his mother, who bore the maiden name of Mary Lobdell, was a native of Ohio. She died in 1855. The senior Lorain, who has resided in various states, now lives in Franklin county, being one of the early settlers in that section of the great state of Nebraska.

Lewis J. Lorain, the subject of this sketch, was reared on a farm, and, like most farmer boys of his day, had to depend solely on the common district school for his education. When the war broke out he was but sixteen years old, too young to be accepted as a soldier, but the following year, 1862, his services were gladly accepted, and he accordingly enlisted, joining the Fourth West Virginia regiment. His first skirmish was with Moccasin's Rangers. He afterwards was at the battles of Cedar creek, Winchester and Petersburg. He was taken prisoner while under General Hancock in the Shenandoah valley, but was fortunate enough to make good his escape. He served till March 1, 1864, when he was mustered out. He then re-enlisted in the three-months' service, and was mustered out the second time in September, 1865, being one of the

last boys in blue to leave the field of the great civil conflict.

After the war, Mr. Lorain emigrated to Jersey, Ill., where he was a successful farmer for ten years. His next move was to Nebraska, where he arrived in 1877, settling in Kearney county, which at that time bordered on the frontier, and took a tree claim in Grant township, in the southeast corner of the county. At that time there were very few settlers in that section, and the country, of course, was very new. There was any amount of antelope and deer, and once in a while a few buffalo could be found. He built a comfortable sod house and was not long in bringing order out of chaos.

Mr. Lorain was married, March 13, 1869, to Miss Mary C. Whitten. She is a native of Jersey county, Ill., and was born December 1, 1849. As a result of this happy union, four children have been born—Mary A., born March 26, 1870; Charles, born January 20, 1874; Minnie B., born December 2, 1876, and Crayton J., born February 19, 1881.

Mr. Lorain has one hundred and sixty acres of land well improved, and has fully thirty thousand thrifty trees growing nicely. He also has a large variety of fruit trees, many of which are beginning to bear. He is one of the few Nebraska farmers who believe all the common kinds of fruit can be successfully raised in this country. He is a firm believer in the principles of the republican party, and has always strictly adhered to the party on all state and national questions.

There is a bit of ancestral history concerning the Lorain family, which is of sufficient general interest to deserve mention. Mr. Lorain's father was one of the

radical abolitionists of Ohio in the *ante bellum* days, and was a member of the famous James G. Birney party. He was a conductor on the "Under Ground" railroad, which was successfully operated in those exciting days. Like most radical leaders of great moral reforms, he had enemies by the thousands and was closely watched on every side. He and his companions were arrested at one time, charged with aiding negroes to escape, and were thrown in jail, in which they suffered confinement for six months. His comrades were Peter Garner and Mordecai Thomas. Mr. Lorain's paternal grandfather was a private soldier under General LaFayette, and came to America along with that distinguished personage.

JOHN F. FRANKLIN, the subject of this sketch, was born in Sweden, February 20, 1849. His father, Benjamin Franklin, a farmer by occupation, was also a native of Sweden, born in the year 1792, and was an officer in the regular army, and when a mere boy our subject traveled with him as one of the camp followers and was wounded during an engagement with Napoleon, in one of his campaigns through Germany. Anna (Anderson) Franklin, mother of our subject, was also a native of Sweden, born in 1809. There were in all eight children in the family—three brothers and five sisters—as follows—Andrew, who is now a farmer in the old country; Ephraim, who is a section foreman in the old country; Anna, Christena, Clara, Jane, Mary and John F., our subject.

Swan Franklin, the paternal grandfather, was a native of Sweden, and throughout life was an officer in the regular army and was commander of the Esworth regiment. He was noted for his bravery and was wounded in the battle of Leipsig with Napoleon. He died at the age of sixty-eight years.

John F. Franklin spent his early boyhood days at home on the farm and attended school until sixteen years of age. He had the advantage of one term of high school and received what was considered a liberal education. He helped his brother farm the home place, and for a short time was engaged with a telegraph company. Arriving at the age of twenty years, he decided to seek his fortune in the western hemisphere, and accordingly embarked for America. After visiting a few weeks at Burlington, Iowa, he engaged employment as brakeman on the I. B. & W. railway, between Urbana, and Peoria. He followed this for nine months and then went South and for two years worked on the old Jeff. Davis plantation in Mississippi. He then came North and hired to a farmer in Henderson county, Ill., as stock feeder. At this he worked for five years, and in February, 1879, emigrated West and located in Kearney county, filing a claim under the homestead law on the southwest quarter of section 6, township 6, range 15, on which he still resides. At that early day the country, which is now studded with fine farm residences, presented a wild and baron aspect. Antelope were numerous, but the settlers were few and far between. Mr. Franklin built a small frame shanty in which he kept bachelor's hall, and broke out eighty acres of his land the first year.

The following year he built a more substantial frame dwelling and is now replacing it with a still more substantial one. He was married December 11, 1880, to Anna Carlson, who was born in Sweden, November 3, 1855, and came to America in 1871. Her father, Carl Peterson, was a native of Sweden, and was a carpenter by occupation. Her mother, Anna L. Peterson, was also a native of Sweden, born in 1826, and came to America in 1872. There were eight children in the Peterson family, viz.—Caroline, John, Fred, Anna, Matilda, Sophia, Ida and one that died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Franklin have four children, viz.—Amanda W., Jessie L., George B. and Rudolph C. The parents are both members of the Swedish "Bethania" church.

Mr. Franklin is a republican in politics and for the past four years has held the office of assessor.

**G**USTAF A. STRAND, a highly prosperous farmer of Hayes township, Kearney county, is a native of Sweden, and was born September 18, 1842. He is a son of John and Anna (Johnson) Strand, natives also of Sweden. His father was born January 21, 1818, and still lives in the old country, being a small but successful farmer; and yet over thirty-seven years of his maturer life were spent in the regular army of his country. Mr. Strand's mother was born in February, 1821, and is still living in the old country. Four children were born to these—three boys and one girl, of whom Gustaf A., our subject, is the eldest, the

others being John A., Claus O. and Anna C. Three of these are in America.

Gustaf A. was reared in his native country, received a good common-school education, learned the shoemaker's trade and followed it and railroading until he was nearly twenty-eight years of age. He came then in the spring of 1869 to America, reaching New York May 7th and going direct to Red Wing, Minn. There he found his first employment as a laborer on the railroad, but followed that only a short time, going soon afterwards at his trade as a shoemaker, in Cannon Falls, Minn. Subsequently he went to Burlington, Iowa, and engaged in the nursery business, following it for fifteen years. In the fall of 1880, he came on a prospecting tour to Nebraska, and, after looking over a considerable portion of the southwestern part of the state, he made up his mind to locate in Kearney county, and bought, at that date, the northwest quarter of section 3, township 6 and range 15 west. The country was then new and in a comparatively unsettled condition, and Mr. Strand, not caring to settle his family so far west, returned home to Burlington and continued to reside there till March, 1885, when he came back, bringing his family with him, and settled on his purchase. He built a small farmhouse, 16 by 20, which he occupied till the fall of 1889, when he erected his present large and handsome residence. He has been steadily engaged in farming and the nursery business, having established the first nursery in the county, and having been very successful in the handling of trees and shrubbery.

Mr. Strand has been twice married, and is the father of six children. He married

first, March 8, 1869, his wife being Miss Louisa Sampson. She died February 2, 1886, leaving four children—Gustaf, born March 8, 1870; Charles E., born September 24, 1871; Anna L., born February 24, 1883, and Amelia C., born December 29, 1885. Mr. Strand married again November 13, 1886, his second wife being Mrs. Anna Headstrom, widow of Eric Headstrom. She is a native of Sweden, and was born October 24, 1850. She is a daughter of John Johnson and Hettie Miller. Her father and mother were both born in 1818, and lived always in their native country. Mrs. Strand has one child by her former marriage—James W. Headstrom, born April 4, 1872. To the latter marriage have been born two children—Edward, July 16, 1887, and Paul W., May 19, 1888.

Mr. and Mrs. Strand are zealous members of the Swedish Lutheran church.

**J**OHAN M. LEWIS, the subject of this biographical sketch, was born in Wayne county, Ind., March 19, 1838. His father, Caleb Lewis, a farmer by occupation, was born in West Virginia, February 22, 1793. His mother, Polly (Willitts) Lewis, was a native of Indiana, and was born March 6, 1803. There were ten children in the family to which our subject belonged, three boys and seven girls.

George Lewis, the paternal grandfather, was a native of Virginia, and was born January 8, 1762. Leah Lewis, the paternal grandmother, was also a native of

Virginia, and was born November 12, 1769. There were eleven children in their family.

John M., the subject proper of this sketch, attended the neighboring schools in early life and worked the farm until his father's death, which occurred in 1870, after which he settled up his father's estate. In 1876 he moved to Illinois, and worked on a farm for his brother in Mercer county, where he worked till January, 1878, when he emigrated West and settled in Kearney county, Nebr., homesteading the eighty-acre tract on which he still lives, in section 14, township 6, range 15. At the same time he took a timber claim of one hundred and sixty acres in section 22, township 6, range 15, which he still owns. The country was wild and unbroken, and one mile from where the city of Minden now stands were only one store and a schoolhouse, and where scores of good farm houses are now were then only small sod huts. Wild game was plentiful, and antelope roamed over the unbroken prairie in herds. The first year Mr. Lewis erected a small frame house, twelve by fourteen feet, and broke out forty-seven acres of sod, on which he harvested an abundant crop. He has been very prosperous since coming to Nebraska, and the elegant residence and other buildings which adorn his place show his success.

Mr. Lewis was married, October 3, 1879, to Nancy A. Robbins, who was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, August 16, 1840, and is the daughter of Abram and Nancy (Johnson) White, both natives of North Carolina, but no children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Lewis.

Politically, he is a republican.

AUGUST JOHNSON is one of the most prosperous farmers of Hayes township. He was born in central Sweden, August 15, 1839, and is the son of John and Sarah (Styne) Larson, both of whom were natives of Sweden.

Our subject spent the first thirty years of his life in his native place, attending school and working on the farm. He came to America in 1869, landing at New York, June 15, and soon found employment in the stone quarries there. He then came West and located in Henderson county, Ill., where for eight years he labored on a farm. In 1873 he came to Kearney, Nebr., and with the money he had saved through his industry and rigid economy he purchased a half section of railroad land at \$3.50 per acre. At that day there were but two or three settlers to be found between his place and Kearney (city), and it was one wild, unbroken prairie, and antelope could be seen in herds of twenty or thirty. Mr. Johnson returned to Henderson county, Ill., and in 1875 came back to look after his land. The grasshoppers had devastated the country the year previous, and when he arrived were fast destroying the crops of that year. Mr. Johnson was so discouraged that he offered his half section of land for sale at a great discount, but did not dispose of it. He went to Kearney, there being but five stores there then, and while there witnessed the grasshoppers come in clouds like an approaching storm and fall so thick and fast that he could not place his finger on the ground without touching one. He returned to Illinois, and, February 15, 1876, came back to look after his land. The outlook was but little better. Hearing better reports as time

advanced, he came back in 1879 to stay. He traded his 160 acres of railroad land for eighty acres homestead and eighty acres railroad land, constructed a small dug-out and began "baehing" it. He lived a lonely life for three years and then built a fine frame house. He has had good crops every year except one, when he had a partial failure. The fine buildings, together with the high state of cultivation of his farm, are good evidence of his prosperity since coming to Kearney county.

He was married March 15, 1885, to Louisa Wielhemena, who was born November 21, 1863, in central Sweden. She came to America when eighteen years of age, with an uncle, her father and mother having died when she was quite young. Her father and mother were Andrew P. and Sarah Louisa Weisman, both natives of Sweden. There were four children in the family, the other three still living in the old country. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson both incline to the Lutheran faith, although they are not members of the church. He helped to build the old sod church in his community, and later on contributed towards the erection of the present fine structure. Politically, Mr. Johnson is a republican.

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**S**ALMON C. STEWART. A comparatively old settler of Kearney county, as he is one of that county's most prosperous, most intelligent and most highly esteemed citizens, is Salmon C. Stewart, cashier of the State Bank at Axtell, a short biographical sketch of whom is here inserted.

Mr. Stewart comes of the pioneer stock of the "Buckeye State," his parents both being natives of Ohio, the father having been born in Hamilton county and the mother in Belmont county. His father, James A. Stewart, who is still living, being a resident of Minden, Kearney county, this state, was born in the year 1811 and reared in his native county in Ohio. He has been twice married, his first wife having been Miss Bradley of Hamilton county, by whom he had one child, William H. Stewart, now residing in Danville, Iowa, and holding a prominent position with the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Company. His second wife was Miss Lucinda Cowles, a daughter of Salmon and Polly (Miner) Cowles, natives of New York. Salmon Cowles was an eminent Presbyterian minister, who served his church with distinction to the age of eighty-five years, passing most of his life in southeastern Iowa, where he is still most pleasantly remembered. The elder Stewart was married the second time in 1843, and by this marriage had born to him ten children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the fourth, the others being—Oscar E., who resides at Ottumwa, Iowa, being assistant superintendent of the C. B. & Q. R. R., which position he has held for seven or eight years—a gallant ex-federal soldier, who served with distinction as a member of the Fifteenth Iowa infantry during the late war and carrying with him wounds received in the battle of Atlanta; James H., another volunteer to the Union cause, who died of disease contracted in the service of his country; Mary E., widow of A. G. White and now resident of Minden, Kearney county, this state; Laura M., wife of J. H. Cheney,





S. C. STEWART.



of Livermore, Cal. : Rebecca A., wife of J. W. Gilman, of Minden, Kearney county, this state; John M., assistant attorney-general of this state; Nellie, wife of J. M. Bird, of Hastings, this state; Sybil L., wife of M. J. Wickersham, of Axtell, Kearney county, and Emily T., residing with her father at Minden and a teacher in the public schools at that place.

The subject of this notice, Salmon C. Stewart, was born in Henry county, Iowa, in 1850, and was reared mainly in Des Moines county, that state, being brought up on his father's farm. He received a good English education and was trained to the habits of industry and usefulness common to farm life. In 1874, he married Miss Ellen Goldsmith, of Lee county, Iowa, and, returning shortly afterwards to Henry county, that state, engaged in agricultural pursuits, which he followed till 1880, moving that year to Kearney county, this state, and locating on a farm near Minden. He was engaged in farming in Kearney county, only two years, when he moved into Minden and engaged in the loan business. In 1884 he, in company with others, organized the State Bank, at Axtell, of which he became cashier at that date and has held that position since. He has extensive interests outside of the bank, being identified with the leading enterprises and a zealous supporter of the leading interests where he lives. Mr. Stewart has been a hard worker and has been rewarded for his labor far beyond the average man. Fortunate by circumstances, he has been singularly happy in the turn in which he has been able to give his affairs. He began with comparatively little, his start having been secured from his earnings as a school teacher. His in-

vestments have been judiciously made, and under his watchful attention have yielded him good returns on every hand. He is a man of sound intelligence as well as discriminating judgment, and he bestows on his affairs that care and solicitude which are the surest guarantees of success.

In 1882, Mr. Stewart was called upon to mourn the loss of his most estimable wife, who had borne him for several years the cherished companionship which he sought with her hand. She had been a life-long member of the Presbyterian church and died happy in the faith which had born the richest fruits in her life and shed over her every act its sweetest fragrance. Besides her husband she left surviving her three children — Lona S., now a student in the Wesleyan University at Lincoln, this state, and Vallie E. and Viola D., at home with their father.

In 1885, Mr. Stewart married again, selecting as a second companion Miss Dora Carpenter, then of Kearney county, but a native of Iowa, who, abandoning the home of her nativity and foregoing the pleasures of youth, came to Nebraska and cast her lot on the then frontier, taking up the rude and inhospitable life of the pioneer, braving all the dangers and hardships of that life, in order to secure an independent living. She took up a claim and became one of the first teachers in Phelps county, making her way heroically and successfully alone until she joined her fortunes with those of her husband. Their union has been blessed with two children—Stanley and Maxwell.

In politics Mr. Stewart is a republican. He has never aspired to public life, but is a staunch supporter of the principles of his

party, and renders it efficient aid when called upon for that purpose. He is a zealous member of the Masonic fraternity, and, although a member of no church, he is a liberal contributor to all charitable purposes.

**AUGUST E. ANDERSON**, the subject of this biographical memoir, is one of the rising young men of Kearney county, and was born in Sweden, December 21, 1859. His father, A. M. Anderson, an early settler of Kearney county, was born in Sweden on May 2, 1835, and is now living. His mother, Mary (Anderson) Anderson, was also born in Sweden, in 1839, and is now living in Kearney county. These were the parents of six children, three of whom are now living in this county. His paternal grandfather, Andreas Anderson, a farmer and carpenter by occupation, was born in Sweden in 1804. The paternal grandmother, Elizabeth Anderson, was also a native of Sweden, born in 1807. His great-grandfather on his father's side was Nicholas Anderson, a native of Sweden, but beyond this nothing is known. His maternal grandfather, A. P. Nelson, a blacksmith and farmer by occupation, was born in Sweden in 1805, and died at the extreme old age of eighty-four years. His maternal grandmother, Carrie Nelson, was born in Sweden in 1810.

August E., the subject proper of this sketch, attended school in his early boyhood days, received a liberal education and also helped his father about the farm.

Hearing flourishing reports from friends in this country and desiring to better his condition, he, in 1874, at the youthful age of fifteen, embarked for America. In 1876 he came with his parents to Kearney county, when there were but five dug-outs and shanties in sight. The country was new and work was scarce, so he went to Iowa and for three years worked on a farm near Mt Pleasant. He afterwards worked for some time on a farm in Henderson county, Illinois, and after accumulating a small sum of money, returned to Kearney county and bought one hundred and twenty acres of railroad land, paying \$4.00 per acre. This land was in section 35, township 6, range 15. He had about fifty acres broken out, when he sold it and in 1882 bought the quarter section on which he now resides, in section 28, township 6, range 15. He at once built his present neat frame dwelling and moved on the place, and now has his farm under a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Anderson married January 17, 1882, taking for a life companion Miss Gussie Peterson, who was born in Sweden October 14, 1862, and when only three years of age came to America. Their union has been blessed with four children, as follows—Arvid H., born May 11, 1883; Lillian M., born March 18, 1884; Elmer C. born June 5, 1886; Eber E., born May 1, 1888. Mr. Anderson and his excellent wife are both members of the Swedish Lutheran church.

Politically, Mr. Anderson is a staunch republican. He has held every office in his township, having first been elected road overseer in 1882, which office he held one year. He was elected assessor for three continuous years, town clerk two

years, town treasurer one year, and is now serving his second year as a member of the board of supervisors. All these offices he has filled with credit to himself, and, notwithstanding his youthful age, he is already prominently mentioned as one of the coming candidates for the office of representative for his county in the state legislature.

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**A**DELBERT B. ANDREWS is one of the early settlers and most prosperous farmers of Kearney county. He was born in Rhode Island December 10, 1852, and is a son of Benton S. and Phoebe (Capwell) Andrews, natives of Rhode Island. The father was a cotton-spinner by occupation, and was born in 1826; the mother was born in 1828; and these were the parents of fourteen children, the subject being the second. The paternal grandfather, Jonathan Andrews, was born in Rhode Island in 1808, and the paternal grandmother, Phoebe (Sweet) Andrews, also a native of Rhode Island, was born in 1810.

Our subject moved with his parents to Brownsville, Minn., when only two years of age, and remained with them until he reached his sixteenth year. During the greater part of the time he attended school, receiving a good education. He next moved with his parents to Crossville, Tenn., where he was for six years engaged principally in farming. From there he went to Wheaton, Ill., and there farmed for two years, and in 1876 came to Nebraska and settled in Kearney county. He at once filed a claim under

the homestead law on eighty acres, being a quarter of section 32, township 7, range 15. He erected a small frame house and began farming, which was considered a great experiment in Kearney county at that early day, and there were but few settlers at this time, and no roads, except a trail from Bloomington to Kearney, and one from Bloomington to Lowell, then the county seat. The prairie had been burned over the winter previous to his arrival, and presented a gloomy appearance. Mr. Andrews had very little with which to begin farming when he came to the county; nevertheless, he broke out twenty-five acres with an ox team and planted it in corn. This flourished for a time, and gave evidence of an abundant crop, but the grasshoppers destroyed every vestige of his crop in August, leaving him with practically nothing on which to live. Hard times, accompanied with many hardships and privations, followed. He was compelled to haul brush from the Platte river, a distance of twelve miles, and besides, the winters were colder then, the winds more severe, and the snow more abundant, so that it was a struggle to live; but he was determined to stick to his claim, notwithstanding that one summer he was compelled to go East and work in order to get money with which to harvest his own crop. Although very poor in the early days, he has since prospered far beyond his expectations, and now owns four hundred acres of well improved land. His success is due to his industry and good management.

Mr. Andrews married December 15, 1880, taking as a life companion Miss Ollie Semones. Their union has been

blessed with five children, four of whom are now living.

In politics, Mr. Andrews is a staunch republican. In 1886 he served as justice of the peace, and in 1887-88 filled the office of supervisor. He and his excellent wife are highly esteemed in the community in which they live.

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**T**HOMAS SMITH, the subject of this biographical memoir, is one of the early settlers and most prosperous farmers of Kearney county, Nebr. He was born in England, October 22, 1844. His father, Nathan Smith, a farmer by occupation, was born in England in the year 1814, and is still living and is in good health. His mother, Sarah (Kent) Smith, also a native of England, was born October 6, 1817, and bore her husband thirteen children.

Thomas, our subject, came to America with his parents at the early age of eighteen months, and consequently has no recollection of his native country. The family settled on a farm in Clark county, Ind., where Thomas resided until twenty-three years of age. In early life he attended the district school during the winter months and worked on a farm during the summer. He began farming for himself at the age of twenty years, and two years later he went to Warren county, Ill., where he spent the next twelve years of his life, principally engaged in farming. In February, 1880, he immigrated West, and located in Kearney county, Nebr., buying southeast

quarter of section 21, township 6, range 15, on which he still resides. The country, though new at that time, was fast settling up. There were a few antelope to be seen, but the rapid settlement of the country that and the following year caused them to disappear entirely. The first year Mr. Smith broke out forty acres of land and erected his present fine frame dwelling. In 1884, he purchased a homestead claim in section 22 and lived on it six months—long enough to prove up on it. He also purchased another eighty-acre tract in section 15, and now has three hundred and twenty acres of fine land—most of which is under a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Smith was married October 18, 1866, to Rebecca M. Ganote, who was born in Clark county, Ind., July 17, 1848, and is one of nine children born to John and Catherina (Greenlee) Ganote; the former of whom, a farmer by occupation, was a native of Kentucky, born in 1829; the latter was born in 1838. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Smith has been blessed with six children, as follows—Alberta, born December 5, 1868; Calvin T., born February 22, 1870; Alice, born May 30, 1875; Nathan G., born November 1, 1876; Maggie E., born May 9, 1889; and one, Sarah C., who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Smith incline religiously to the Methodist faith. Politically he is independent in county elections, but on national issues he is a republican. He was the first township treasurer in 1884, and also filled that office in 1886-90. He has ever held the respect of his fellow-citizens, and the confidence they have placed in him has never been betrayed, nor will ever be.

**C**HARLES WEEDLUN. Among the many fine farm residences that greet the eyes of the traveler through Hayes township, one of the most conspicuous is that of this gentleman. He was born in Sweden March 25, 1843, and is the son of Charles and Gertie (Munson) Carlson, both of whom were natives of Sweden. The former, a farmer by occupation, was born in 1806, and the latter in 1811. These were the parents of six children, four boys and two girls, two of whom live in Kearney county.

Charles resided in Sweden until twenty-five years of age, engaged in early life in attending school and working on the farm. His father died when our subject was only nine years old, and many of the duties of farm life fell upon the latter, who emigrated to America in 1868, and went direct to Altona, Ill., where he remained a few weeks and then went to Burlington, Iowa, and was a resident of that place for eleven years. While there he was engaged at farm and railroad work. In February, 1879, he came to Kearney county and homesteaded a quarter in section 22, township 6, range 15. He constructed a small dug-out, in which he lived about four months, and then built a comfortable frame house. He and his brother broke out eighty-five acres the first year and planted it in sod-corn, from which they harvested a fair crop. Corn-stalks and weeds, with an occasional load of willow brush from the Platte river, twenty miles away, served as fuel the first year. When Mr. Weedlun came to Kearney county he had but little to start with—a team, harness and wagon were about all. At the present time he owns four hundred acres of fine land, three hundred of which are

under cultivation. He has raised considerable stock and has prospered far beyond his expectations, his success being due to his own industry and good management.

March 10, 1880, Mr. Weedlun married Tilla W. Carlson, a daughter of Charles and Anna Carlson, natives of Sweden. Mr. and Mrs. Weedlun have had born to them one child—Mabel, born February 7, 1889.

In politics Mr. Weedlun is a republican and takes an active interest in his party. He held the office of road supervisor for his township in 1887-88. In 1886 he built the present residence at a cost of \$1,500 and the spacious barn at a cost of \$1,000.

**O**TTO PETERSON. The subject of this brief biographical sketch is one of the early settlers of Kearney county and a representative citizen of Hayes township. He was born in Sweden April 3, 1831, and is one of the family of five children born to John and Mary (Johnson) Peterson. The father was born in 1801 and followed farming all his life. Both parents were members of the Lutheran church and zealous christian people.

The early life of our subject was spent in attending school and working on his father's farm. He received a good common-school education, began life for himself at the age of twenty-one, and was engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1867, when, in April of that year, he embarked for America. Arriving in this country, he first located at Burlington, Iowa, where for four years he was engaged in farm and nursery work. He next

moved to Henderson county, Ill., where he farmed for seven years, and in the spring of 1878 came to Kearney county, Nebr. Two years previous he had come to the state to consider the advisability of locating, but the few half-starved settlers of that early day presented anything but an inviting appearance to a new-comer, and he returned home, having decided to wait a few years. When he came to the county in 1876, there was but three houses between Kearney and Bloomington, but on his second visit he counted seventy, so rapidly had the country settled up. The country at that time teemed with antelope and other wild game, but the rapid settlement of the next few years drove them to the outskirts of the settlement. He homesteaded a quarter in section 20, township 6, range 15, and erected a sod house thereon. The following year he took another quarter in the same section as a timber claim, which gave him the east half of the section, making three hundred and twenty acres. This he still owns and has well improved. He had previously purchased a half section of railroad land in section 29, but sold it in 1880 and bought a quarter section across the road from his present place. The first year he broke out forty acres and raised a good crop of corn. Of the four hundred and forty acres which he now owns, four hundred and ten are under cultivation.

Mr. Peterson married June 25, 1855, taking for a life partner Miss Anna Johnson, a native of Sweden. This union has been blessed with seven children, as follows—Peter J., Minnie, Gussie, Edward, Tilda, Charles and Otto, all of whom are now living and are consistent members of the Lutheran church.

Mr. Peterson has been deacon in the Swedish Lutheran church ever since he has been in the county, and superintendent of the Sunday-school since its organization. He gave liberally and was instrumental in erecting the present fine edifice, one of the best of that denomination west of Chicago. Mr. Peterson has, by his generous acts and kind disposition, endeared himself to his people, and his name will long be remembered in connection with the early history of the church.

He is a good man and highly esteemed by the people of Kearney county.

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**N**ELSE ANDERSON, the subject of this sketch, is one of the earliest settlers and most prosperous farmers of Hayes township, Kearney county. He was born in Sweden, October 6, 1833, where he resided the first thirty-six years of his life, attending school in his boyhood and working on the farm in after years. In 1869, he came to America, locating in Moline, Ill., where he found employment as a farm hand. He resided there until 1877, when he came further west and settled in Nebraska, taking a homestead in Hayes township, Kearney county, where he has since resided. When Mr. Anderson settled in Kearney county he was unmarried and for the first eight years he led the bachelor life of the frontier. His means were limited and he of necessity began in an upretentious way, building the primitive dug-out, which he fitted up with rude furniture manufactured by himself. He endured many hardships and privations, but he



fought the battles of the pioneer alone and he came through the trying times of those years all the better off for what he endured. He now has one of the best farms in Kearney county in a good state of cultivation and furnished with a splendid class of buildings, his sod house having given away to a large frame and his small thatched roof barn to a most commodious one—in fact one of the best in the township—and all the result of his own industry and economical management.

In 1884, he married Ellen Akesson, by whom he has had two children—Hulda J. and Clara J. In the labor of making for himself a home, he has been ably assisted by his excellent wife, who has borne her full share in her economical management of the household.

Mr. Anderson never allowed any political aspirations to interfere with his usefulness as a citizen, but is a republican, and is a staunch supporter of the principles of his party. He is progressive and enterprising and takes an active interest in all the affairs of his township.

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**N**E. NILSON, JR., the subject of this biographical notice is a native of Sweden, and was born in the year 1856. He is a son of Nils and Hannah Nilson, natives also of Sweden, the former having been born in 1825 and the latter in 1823. His father and mother were married in 1851, and became the parents of five children, all of whom are now living, having reached maturity, are married and are themselves the heads of families. These are—Mrs. Bettie Nilson,

Peter Nilson, Nilson E. Nilson, Mrs. Ellen Lind and Mrs. Anna Bergom.

The subject of this notice was reared in his native place and began the battle of life at the early age of nine, hiring out to a farmer at that time for his board and clothes, doing farm work through the summer and attending school during the winter. In this way he received the rudiments of a common-school education and the training of an industrious, frugal farmer's boy. He came to America at the age of twenty and stopped in Henderson county, Ill., where he went to work as a farm hand, and remained till 1877, coming then to Nebraska. He settled in Kearney county, taking a homestead in section 8, township 6, range 15 west, which he proved up on and sold, purchasing another place in the same vicinity, where he located and continued to reside. He had been steadily engaged in farming, and although he has had many ups and downs, not the least of which have happened to him since becoming a citizen of Kearney county, he has, notwithstanding, prospered under all his trials and hardships, and he is to-day recognized as one of the most successful farmers, as well as one of the most highly esteemed citizens of the locality where he lives.

In 1882 Mr. Nilson married Miss Kate Oleson, a native of Sweden, born in 1853, and this union has been blessed with a family of three children—Mary E., born April 20, 1883; Oscar, born August 1, 1887, and Arthur A., born May 12, 1888.

Mr. and Mrs. Nilson are zealous members of the Lutheran church, as were also their parents. In politics Mr. Nilson is a republican and takes an active interest in public matters, though never to the ex-

tent of asking office for himself, he being a man of plain life and unambitious impulses, content to follow the even tenor of his way, discharging his duties as a citizen and to his family and his church, therein finding his chief pleasure and best reward.

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**D**AVID S. NEWBOLD, one of the first settlers in his immediate vicinity in Liberty township, Kearney county, was born in Rush county, Ind., near the city of Rushville, in May, 1847. He was reared on a farm, received a good common-school education, and learned carpentering for a trade in Illinois, to which state, at the age of eight years, he was taken by his parents. In this state he grew to manhood, and here, also, he married, in 1870, and followed his trade, as well as farming on rented land for about six years, and then ran a saw-mill until 1878, when he came to Nebraska. In this state he settled on section 7, township 7, range 14, in the northeast quarter. He, as was the habit of all settlers in the early days, built a sod house, which lasted him for eight years. His fuel consisted of hay from the prairie and the stalks of the corn which he subsequently raised on his ploughed land, coal being unknown in his section at that time. Going manfully to work, he has developed from the raw prairie a splendid farm, improved now with groves of timber, with bearing fruit trees, and with a first-class frame dwelling-house, and commodious barns and other outbuildings. He has been untiring in his industry, but the result is wealth and a most comfortable home,

with trading point and postoffice within convenient distance. This is another example of success with which an energetic young man can meet by exercising his ability to labor and by energy and industry in a newly developed country.

The father of David S. Newbold was William R. Newbold, a native of Delaware, who, when a mere lad, being an orphan, went alone to Kentucky, in which state he learned blacksmithing. After his marriage in Kentucky, he migrated to Indiana, and afterward to Illinois, and in Crawford county of the last named state died, in 1866. His wife was named, in her maiden days, Susannah Hufford, a daughter of Daniel Hufford, a very prominent Kentuckian. This union was blessed by the birth of eight children, and, of these, three sons reside in Nebraska, David S. being the youngest child.

David S. Newbold married Miss Frances Ream, daughter of Solomon Ream, formerly of Zanesville, Ohio. Seven children were born to this marriage, of whom three have died. The living are named—William G., Lillian B., Louis F., and Warren D. Alluding again to William R. Newbold, the father of David S., it may be well to add that he was a descendant of a signer of the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America—Cæsar Rodney, who was an ancestor of Wm. R. Newbold's mother, her maiden name being Comfort Rodney. The descendants of Cæsar Rodney have never failed to keep up the dignity pertaining to so illustrious a family through all generations to the present time, and among them the subject of this sketch commands the highest respect of his fellow-citizens. Since his residence in Nebraska, Mr. New-

bold has never made a failure in securing a good crop, and the dangers he encountered traveling through ice and snow in his early days to gather willow brush for fuel from the islands of the Platte river, some eight miles away from his homestead, have all passed away, and he is enjoying peace and comfort on his pleasant homestead. In religion Mr. Newbold is a free-thinker; in politics he is a democrat.

**E**DWARD KRICK, a farmer of Liberty township, Kearney county, is a native of Pennsylvania, and was born in July, 1843. He was reared in Schuylkill county, Pine Grove township, and was educated at the common schools until he reached his fourteenth year, when he entered upon an apprenticeship at the shoemaker's trade. In 1861 he moved to St. Joseph county, Ind, where he followed his trade until October, 1864, when he enlisted in Company II, Ninety-first Indiana volunteers, but was afterwards transferred to Company C, One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Indiana infantry, and was assigned to the Western Department, under General Schofield. He served in Kentucky, Tennessee; he was also at Atlanta; reached Washington; took part at Fort Fisher, and throughout all his skirmishes and battles escaped without a wound or capture. He was mustered out at Greensboro, N. C., in September, 1865, and received his discharge papers and pay at Indianapolis. He then returned to St. Joseph county, Ind., and on October 21, 1865, married Miss Matilda

Stewart, daughter of John Stewart, of Pennsylvania, who settled in Indiana in an early day, and followed farming until his death in 1861. For seven years after his return to St. Joseph county, Ind., Mr. Krick followed his trade as foreman of a shoe manufacturing company, and later carried on the boot and shoe business at Mishawaka, until his coming to Nebraska in 1878. Here he located his present homestead on the southeast quarter of section 9, township 7, range 14, Kearney county. To this quarter he has added one hundred and eighty-three acres of school land, and has improved both tracts. His residence is a good two-story frame house, and his farm is improved with groves of trees and bearing orchards, although, on settling, the whole prairie around him was one barren waste. He has two hundred and forty acres under cultivation in mixed crops, and has an abundance of live stock. Since he settled here he has always made a success of farming and has met with no failure, with the exception of the loss or great damage done to one crop by a hailstorm. All his accumulations are the result of his own industry; for he had, on arriving here, only 44 cents in cash and a worn-out team as personal property. The residence of himself and family for the first seven years in Liberty township was a dug-out; his present substantial two-story frame dwelling shows the good fortune he has met with by good management.

Henry Krick, the father of Edward, is a native of Pennsylvania, of German descent. He has been a shoemaker the greater part of his life, and is now a resident of Indiana. His wife, before marriage, bore the name of Sarah Shraffer.

She also is a native of Pennsylvania, of German descent, and has borne her husband eight children, of whom Edward, the subject of this sketch, is the eldest and the only one living in Nebraska. To the union of Edward and Matilda (Stewart) Krick have also been born eight children, named as follows—Ellsworth, Ida, Sadie, Johnnie, Eleanor, Louis, Freddie and Gracie. Of these children, Ellsworth died in 1866, at the age of six months; Freddie died in 1882, at the age of six weeks, and three days later Sadie expired at the age of fourteen years.

Mr. Krick is a member of the I. O. O. F. and the G. A. R.; in politics he is a republican. He now looks back with pride on the success he has met with in Nebraska since his financial ruin by the panic in Indiana, prior to his coming hither, and thinks that all his early struggles in this state have been fully compensated for by fortune and the esteem in which he is held by his neighbors.

**J**OHAN ETZELMILLER, an extensive farmer of Kearney county, and one of her most enterprising citizens, was born in Hesse Cassel, Germany, in January, 1831, in which country he was reared to farming and received a fair education. At the age of twenty-four years, in 1855, he landed in New York City, and thence went to Illinois, in which state he worked as a farm hand until September, 1861, when he enlisted in Company B, Sixty-fourth Illinois sharpshooters, and served throughout the war. He took part in many battles, and

among them were those at Island No. 10, Iuka, Corinth, Snake's gap, Dallas, and many others. He was also with Gen. Sherman in his famous "March to the Sea," and was at Bentonville, N. C. He was never wounded or captured, nevertheless he was several times shot through his clothing, and once had a ball go through his canteen, and on another occasion had his hat penetrated with bullets. His comrades fell all about him, but he escaped unharmed; nevertheless, he suffers from the effects of rheumatism, with which he was affected while in the service, and his eyes are also badly affected through exposure while in the army. His corps commanders were Gens. Buck, Dodger, Rosecrans, Ransom and Mower, and under all he served faithfully and gallantly. Mr. Etzelmiller was mustered out at Louisville, Ky., in 1865, and received his discharge papers and pay at Chicago. After serving his adopted country thus faithfully, he returned to the state in which he had lived prior to the war, and followed farming until 1877, when he came to Nebraska. Here he located a soldier's claim in the northwest quarter of section 28, township 7, range 14, in Liberty township, Kearney county, and to his first entry has since added acres upon acres, until he now owns about seven hundred and twenty, with about two hundred and seventy-five under cultivation, the balance being in pasture and hay. He raises mixed crops, and also gives much attention to live stock. His horses, cattle and other stock are all well graded. His farm is improved with fine groves, orchards and buildings, and commands a fine view of Minden, which is almost four and one-half miles distant. When Mr. Etzelmiller

first came to Nebraska he brought to the new country all farming implements, horses, etc., necessary for his purpose, and was in good condition to commence the improvement of the then unbroken country, and has contributed largely to its development. Since his settlement he has always succeeded in raising good crops, with the exception, perhaps, of the season of 1889, when his small grain was badly injured by hail.

Henry Etzelmiller, the father of John, was a farmer and died in his native country of Prussia, in 1885. His wife, Elizabeth Walenfiner, bore him seven children, of whom our subject is the eldest. Two sisters followed John to America a few years after his arrival here, and both are married and residing in Boston, Mass. Mr. John Etzelmiller was married in 1867, to Miss Katrina Haley, a native of Germany, who found her way to America unattended. This union has been blessed by the birth of seven children, named—John, William, Henry, Theodore, Katie, Lizzie and Mary. In politics, Mr. Etzelmiller is a democrat. He is a member of the German Lutheran church, of which the adult members of his family are also members. As a soldier his standing is unexceptionally good and he stands high in the esteem of the G. A. R., of which order he is also a member. Prior to his coming to this country he had served in the army of his native country three years, and after his arrival was one of the first to respond to the call to arms in defense of the Union. He is now nearly three-score years of age, and the battle of life with him has been a victorious one.

He stands beyond reproach as a citizen and neighbor.

JOHN W. HAWKINS, a prosperous farmer of Liberty township, Kearney county, was born in Rush county, Ind., in October, 1839, but at the age of twelve years was taken to Illinois by his parents. He was reared to farming, was educated at the common schools, and in 1865 was married and began the battle of life on his own account by farming in Coles county, on rented land; subsequently, he bought land near Homer, Vermilion county, which he farmed, and was also engaged in running teams and manufacturing brooms, as well as acting as policeman for some time in Hoopston, Vermilion county, Ill. In 1880 he came to Nebraska and bought a pre-empted right from a squatter on the southwest quarter of section 28, township 7, range 14, about four miles northeast of Minden. There was a sod house on the land, and some little breaking of the soil had been done; but after three years of occupancy of the sod cabin, Mr. Hawkins built himself a handsome frame dwelling, in which he now lives. His farm is improved with commodious barns and granaries, groves, orchards of apples, cherries, etc., and berry patches, the balance, not under cultivation, being in pasture and hay. He has never met with a failure in his crops since settling here, but in 1889 a hailstorm damaged his product to a small extent, and this is the only thing he has to complain of as an impediment to his otherwise successful progress. As an evidence of his skill as a farmer, it need only be said that it was but lately that Mr. Hawkins captured a prize for his exhibit at the Lincoln Corn Show, or Fair.

Richard Hawkins, the father of John W., was a native of Indiana, was a farmer, and

died in Illinois in 1870. He married Miss Jane Wilson, of Indiana, and this union was crowned by the birth of nine children. John W., the second born, is the only member of the family residing in Nebraska. Mr. Hawkins, the subject of this sketch, married Miss Sarah Danner, a native of Delaware county, Ind. Mr. Danner was for many years a school-teacher, was a justice of the peace, and died in Delaware county, in January, 1851; his widow afterwards was married to Joseph Danner, brother of the former husband, and in 1858 moved to Coles county, Ill. Mr. Hawkins is politically a republican, and with his wife is a member of the Christian church.

**J**ASPER WILSON, a wealthy farmer of Liberty township, Kearney county, was born March 15, 1838, in Monongalia county, W. Va., and reared on a farm until sixteen years of age, when he began an apprenticeship at carpentering, at which he was working when the war broke out. In June, 1861, he enlisted in the Union army, Company E, Second West Virginia infantry, and first served under McClellan, and later under Gen. Pope. He took part in many memorable battles and skirmishes innumerable, but passed through them all without a wound and without being captured. At the end of three years he was mustered out at Wheeling, and returned to his home, where he was married in 1864, and where he lived eleven years, engaged in farming and milling, and then moved to Illinois and

remained a year or so. In 1878 he came to Nebraska and located his homestead in the southeast quarter of section 7, township 7, range 14, then all raw prairie. He at once put up a sod house, and the first year broke up about ten acres of the prairie and raised some sod-corn and plenty of melons. His fuel was willow brush, for which he went seven or eight miles to gather from the banks of the Platte river. Later he had his corn-stalks and cobs for fuel. After his sod house was built and a well dug, Mr. Wilson had left but \$2.50 in cash and no team or farm implements worth mentioning. But he possessed an immense amount of determination, and at the end of two years had succeeded in proving up his claim to his homestead. By persistence in hard work and proper attention to the details of his farm economies, he has succeeded in reaching a point at which he can, in ease and comfort, enjoy the fruit produced by his pioneer labor. The sod house has been replaced by a comfortable two-story frame, and the raw prairie turned into blooming orchards and groves, fields teeming with grain, and meadows on which cattle graze in luxury. He has always met with success in raising good crops, and has escaped the many devastations of his section caused by snow, hail and grasshoppers.

The father of the subject of this sketch is Levin Wilson, who is a native of Virginia and a farmer. He was a strong Union man during the dark days of the Rebellion, but, being too old to enter the army, he gave his sons to the service of his country. Levin Wilson married Amanda Dawson, a native of Virginia, who bore him three sons and three daughters—Jasper, our subject, being the third

in order of birth. Levin is still living in West Virginia, at the age of eighty-three years. Jasper Wilson married Miss Elizabeth Shriver, daughter of Abram Shriver. Abram is still living in his native State of Virginia, at the age of seventy years. To the union of Jasper Wilson and Elizabeth Shriver have been born twelve children, viz.—Martha F., Silas E., Ervine, Abraham, Anthony C., Albert, Arley S., Marion B., David G., Eva G., Floyd and Maggie J. Of these, Silas E., died September 8, 1868, about five years of age, and Abram died December 23, 1868, at the age of one year.

Jasper Wilson is in politics a republican and has served two terms as supervisor and has been school treasurer ever since his district has been established. He is a member of the Christian church, as well as of the G. A. R., and, as his military record shows, is a true lover of his native country.

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**A**LBERT G. BLOOMFIELD is a native of Parke county, Ind., and was born March 8, 1855. At the age of eleven years he was taken by his parents to Illinois, where he was reared to farming and educated at the common school. At twenty one years of age he married Miss Anna, daughter of James Barwick, of Ohio, and this union has been blessed with six children—Dora Myrtle, Guy H., Erma L., Elma R., Elfa and Sarah Letha. Of these, Dora and Sarah Letha died young. Immediately after marriage, Mr. Bloomfield began teaching

and also farming on rented land, but found that the two would not go together, and gave up teaching. He also became tired of renting, and in the fall of 1881 came to Nebraska and bought one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land in Kearney county; but about five years later, early in 1886, located a homestead of eighty acres in the northwest quarter of section 24, township 7, range 14, which adjoins his railroad land, and in 1890 he purchased eighty acres, the east half of the southeast quarter of section 23, township 7, range 14, making a total of three hundred and twenty acres. He had a small amount of money and a team, and industriously set to work to cultivate his land. For four years he lived in a dug-out, but this was replaced in 1885 by a commodious frame structure. He has been successful ever since his arrival here, has raised bountiful crops and is now very well to do. His retrospect of the inconveniences and hardships he endured and overcame after his arrival here is not an unpleasant one, and his present beautiful homestead he considers to be ample compensation for his past labor. He stands high in the esteem of his fellow-townsmen, and has served them as town clerk for four years, and also as town treasurer, and now holds the office of county supervisor—an office established in 1883. In politics he is a republican.

David Bloomfield, father of Albert G., was a farmer, and a native of Ohio, from which state he migrated to Indiana and later to Illinois. In 1883 he came to Nebraska and here he died the same year, at the age of eighty years. He had married, while a resident of Indiana, Miss Sarah, daughter of Jacob Shoekey, a Bap-

tist minister, and to this union were born six children, Albert G. being the fourth in the order of birth. Mrs. Sarah Bloomfield is now a resident of Nebraska.

**C**HRISTIAN BROTHE was born in the city of Halle, Prussia, June 16, 1825. He attended school until fifteen years of age, when he was employed by an uncle, a grain dealer, with whom he remained until twenty years old, when he entered the regular army, in which he served until his discharge in 1848. In October, 1851, he was married, and the same year re-entered the army and served a year and a half longer. He then established a swimming school, which he managed until 1865. In 1866 he came to America; remained in New York City three years, working at brick-making, and then went to Haverstraw, on the Hudson river, and was employed in a large calico factory until 1874, when he came to Nebraska, and, March 13, entered eighty acres in the southeast half of the southwest quarter of section 26, township 7, range 14, to which he has since added, until he now owns four hundred and eighty acres, of which he has three hundred and eighty under cultivation in mixed crops. He also gives his attention to live stock, especially to hogs. His farm is improved with large bearing orchards and groves and commodious buildings. He has met with no absolute failure in his crops, although on one occasion his grain was damaged by hail to some extent, and for the first two years the grasshoppers made sad havoc

with everything green, and then, indeed, he found it rather hard to make a living. He secured possession of two calves, however, which grew to be of use to him in plowing the land, etc., and thus he has progressed, until the sod house in which he lived the first nine years has given away to a fine frame dwelling, and he now stands in front rank of the wealthy and respected men of his country.

Gottlob Brothe, father of Christian, served in the Prussian army as sergeant in all its wars against Napoleon, and died in his native country at the age of eighty-five. He married Miss Caroline Saalman, daughter of Gottlieb Saalman, and to this union were born seven sons and seven daughters, Christian being the fourth child. When the latter came to America he left his family behind him, but at the end of eighteen months had been enabled to save sufficient to send for his wife and living children. He was married in his native city to Henrietta Seydel, daughter of Gottlieb Seydel, who was a butcher and died in his native Prussia in 1867, at the age of eighty-four years. Henrietta, his wife, died in 1863, at the age of seventy-eight. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Christian Brothe four children have been born, two of whom died in the old country. Of the two still living, Hilda is married, and Kurt, the son, is living with his parents.

Mr. Brothe in politics is a democrat and has met with much popularity with his fellow-citizens. For two terms he has served as school director, he being an especially well educated man, having acquired a great portion of his knowledge by self-tuition and hard study during his long term of service in the Prussian



army; he has also served one term as justice of the peace and is now serving his first term as township clerk. Although not an office-seeker, nor an aspirant to office, these positions which he has been placed in have been thrust upon him, and he has considered it to be his duty, as a good American citizen, to yield to the wishes of his fellow-townsmen and serve them when desired to do so. He has filled every position with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of his constituents. His perfect knowledge of both the German and English languages makes him an especially valuable aid in the service of his adopted country, and his wonderful industry and enterprise make him equally valuable in the development of the section in which he has cast his lot.

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**W**ILLIAM W. GORMLY was born in Lawrence county, Pa., and is a son of David Gormly, also a native of Pennsylvania, and a carpenter by trade, and at present a resident of Allegheny City. David Gormly married Miss Meluzena Clements, a daughter of John Clements, a boiler-maker of Ohio. To this union have been born four children, of whom William W., our subject, is the youngest. One daughter married William McFate, and lives in Custer county, this state; one son is in the milling business at Kearney city.

William W. Gormly was reared on a farm, and at the age of twenty-two left Pennsylvania and passed a year in Mis-

souri, then went to Kansas and worked as a farm hand until 1880, when he came to Nebraska, and for three years stopped at Shelton, Buffalo county, working as a miller; he then took a mill at Lowell, Kearney county, which he conducted one year; in the spring of 1885 he bought his present homestead—the southeast quarter of section 12, township 7, range 14—which had been entered as a timber claim by another party who had set out ten acres in timber, and this was the only improvement that had been made. Mr. Gormly has now seventy-five acres under cultivation in mixed crops, and has a good dwelling and farm buildings, and plenty of live stock.

In 1883, Mr. Gormly married Miss Alice, daughter of Jason Bloodgood. Mr. Bloodgood is a native of Pennsylvania, who moved to Iowa, but in 1876 came to Nebraska, and at present is a large land owner in Kearney county. He served in the Union army during the late rebellion, was twice wounded, and is now receiving a pension. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Gormly has been blessed with three children, viz.—Jason, Meluzena and Amy. Mr. Gormly is a democrat, and has served one term as town treasurer; he is now filling the office of justice of the peace.

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**C**HARLES A. SMITH, one of the early settlers of Nebraska, was born at Madison, Wis., January 4, 1856. He came to this state at the age of twenty-one, with his mother and stepfather, Joseph Pinkham, who settled on the prairie near where the city of Minden has since been located. The country was

wild and unsettled, with no improvements, and it was a long time before Mr. Smith could make up his mind to remain. He assisted Mr. Pinkham, however, in building a sod house, and in arranging for the future life on the prairie of his mother and step-father, and was eventually induced by them to remain himself. He finally secured some cattle and broke the raw prairie for other persons, at \$2.50 per acre. He thus acquired a small capital, and in the meantime, having located a homestead of eighty acres on the north half of the northwest quarter of section 19, township 6, range 14, commenced making improvements. He built a sod house, as was the custom, living with his mother meanwhile. Before he could fully get ready for living on his own place, however, he had to mortgage his cattle to raise means to buy a stove, plows, etc., and was then ready to start housekeeping and farming on his own account. For two years he led a single life, and then, in February, 1880, was married, and life became more enjoyable. He occasionally did a little freighting and other odd jobs, to raise a little cash, which was a very scarce article in those days, and on one occasion he was obliged to sell his last hog in order to raise money to buy coal. Just before his marriage he traded his ox teams for horses, and farming became more pleasant. He prospered, built a comfortable frame dwelling, and after living on the place six years sold out and bought land nearer Minden, where he could carry on farming and at the same time reside in town, where he had built a pleasant residence. He now owns two hundred acres of fine land and an interest in a brick block on the square in Minden, and is engaged in

trading as well as farming, and is financially one of Kearney county's most substantial citizens, and very glad that he took his devoted mother's advice to make Nebraska his home.

Mr. Smith married Miss Lilly A., the estimable daughter of George C. and Lucia A. Dutton. Mr. Dutton is a native of New York State and of English descent. He moved to Lake county, Ind., where he was engaged in the lumber business and farming until 1878, when he came to Nebraska, and is now running a stock ranch near Cozad, in Dawson county. He is about sixty-four years of age, and is in receipt of a pension for disease contracted while serving in the Union army during the late war. To the happy union of Mr. and Mrs. Smith have been born two children—Clarence H., who was born February 22, 1887, and who died July 4 of the same year, and Cora B., now a little over two years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are members of the Presbyterian church, and Mr. Smith is a member of the A. O. U. W. and the Sons of Veterans. In politics he is a republican.

William E. Smith, the father of our subject, died while in the service of his country, at Jacksonport, Ark., June 27, 1862, of congestive chills; his brother, a lieutenant, died soon after. The mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Debora Miles, and was a daughter of Warren Miles, who was born in New York State, but moved to Wisconsin and farmed near Madison until his death, in 1876. To William E. Smith and wife were born four children—two of whom died before the war; the two who survived until after the war closed were Charles A. and William H. The latter was killed in his third term





W. D. HART.

as constable, while in the discharge of his sworn duty. The two brothers had always acted together in business, and were full of enterprise and always enjoyed the full confidence of their fellow-citizens.

**W**ILLIAM D. HART, the genial and popular postmaster of Minden, who is the subject of this sketch, is a native of Indiana, having been born in Decatur county, that state, May 25, 1859. His father, Calvin D., was a miller by trade, and a Mexican veteran, who also served during the war of the rebellion as second lieutenant of Company C, Forty-seventh regiment Indiana volunteers. The mother of Mr. Hart was Ann Eliza (Blood) Hart.

Mr. Hart was the second of two children, and is the only living representative of his family, all the rest having passed over to the silent majority. Mr. Hart was educated in Indiana, at Fremont, and came to Nebraska in 1879 in search of a place to locate—arriving at Minden soon after the town was laid out, and has made Kearney county his home since that time.

He first engaged in teaching, but shortly thereafter decided to turn his attention to the study of law, and began to read with this end in view. As a means of livelihood, while preparing for his profession, he engaged in the loan and insurance business, which so greatly increased on his hands that he was obliged to abandon the study of law, and, in 1882, to admit a partner to his busi-

ness. He afterwards sold his interest to his partner, and bought an interest in the *Kearney County Gazette*, taking editorial charge of the same. This position he continued successfully to fill, and in November, 1887, he purchased the entire concern, greatly increasing its facilities by the addition of steam-power presses. Under his efficient management the circulation of the paper rapidly rose from seven hundred to eleven hundred.

In October, 1888, he organized The Gazette Publishing Company, of which he, himself, was elected president; Joel Hull, vice-president, and A. M. Louie, secretary and treasurer.

Mr. Hart, on May 1, 1889, disposed of the controlling interest in this company to citizens of Minden. In August of that year, he was appointed, by President Harrison, postmaster at Minden, and the appointment was confirmed on December 24, 1889. Mr. Hart is a republican in politics, and is also an enthusiastic advocate of temperance, heartily favoring the prohibitory amendment soon to come before the people.

Mr. Hart was married on the twenty-fifth of June, 1885, to Miss Ella Van Hise, daughter of W. H. and Mary H. Van Hise, of Minden. This union has been blessed by two children—Ray W. and Leone Clare. In addition to his laborious business enterprises, Mr. Hart has found time to cultivate the social side of his nature. He is a Mason, and a member of the A. O. U. W., a select knight, uniform degree, being its first commander. Mr. and Mrs. Hart are members and earnest workers in the Presbyterian church, Mr. Hart being an elder.

CURTIS E. SHELDON, an enterprising farmer and live stock raiser as well as borer of wells, of Lincoln township, Kearney county, was born in Portage county, Ohio, in October, 1845. His father, Seth A. Sheldon, also a native of Ohio, but lately a resident of Illinois and recently removed to May township, is a prominent man in his township, and also has held several local offices. He married Miss Sally A. Chapin, of New York State, who has borne two children—Curtis E. and Mary A., the latter married to Huston Banton, a resident of Macon county, Ill.

Curtis E. Sheldon was reared on a farm and was educated in the common schools. At the age of thirteen years, he was taken by his parents to Moultrie county, Ill., where he lived ten years and then moved to Douglas county, was there married and there lived until February, 1876, when he came to Nebraska, located in Kearney county, and after living four years at different points, settled on a timber claim of one hundred and sixty acres in the southeast quarter of section 12, township 6, range 14, which he at once commenced improving, and now has thirteen acres in timber and has under cultivation about seventy acres in mixed crops; he is also a stock-raiser to a considerable extent, and, in addition, gives much attention to boring wells; his sons in the meantime conducting the farm. Mr. Sheldon's possessions have all been gained by his own industry since coming to Nebraska, as he reached here comparatively a poor man. In 1849, while a resident of Douglas county, Ill., Mr. Sheldon married Martha, daughter of A. H. Harland. Mr. Harland has been county judge of Kearney county three terms, but is now engaged in farming. To

the union of Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon have been born ten children, viz.—Hattie C., William S., Milton H., Arthur E., James L., Ashley E., Walter R., Oda A., Bertha P. and Earnest E., the last two being twins. Mr. Sheldon is not a party man, but votes as his conscience dictates.

JOSEPH PINKHAM, a pioneer and one of the most successful farmers of Kearney county, was born near St. Marys, Canada, July 9, 1845. Samuel Pinkham, father of Joseph, was also a native of Canada, was a farmer, and married Miss Domachille Sharka, a native of Canada, of French descent, who bore her husband five children, of whom Joseph is the eldest. The death of Samuel Pinkham took place in 1888, at Austin, Minn.

Joseph Pinkham was reared on a farm in Canada until about twelve years of age, when he was brought to the United States by his parents, who located in Green county, Wis., in 1856; in 1859 they moved to Crawford county, in the same state, where, in November, 1861, Mr. Pinkham enlisted in Company K, Twelfth Wisconsin infantry. His regiment was assigned to the Western division of the army, and was at once employed in the pursuit of Price, mostly in Missouri, Arkansas, and Kansas. Mr. Pinkham was subsequently at the siege of Vicksburg, and after the fall of that city re-enlisted with his regiment, which still retained its name. It then joined Sherman's army at Resaca, and was made part of the seventeenth

corps, under Gen. McPherson, and was at the siege of Kenesaw mountain, and was engaged in the battles of July 21 and 22, 1863, before Atlanta, at the time Gen. McPherson was killed, and participated at its siege, was with that part of the army that circled or swung to the right and engaged the enemy at Jonesborough when Atlanta fell, and afterwards, through all the engagements in the famous "March to the Sea," was at the grand review at Washington, and, although in many terrific battles, Mr. Pinkham was never captured nor severely wounded. He was mustered out at Louisville, Ky., and received his discharge and pay at Madison, Wis., at which point he was enrolled. Returning to his home, he resumed farming, but in a few years sold out and turned his attention towards acquiring an education, his opportunities for that purpose having been quite limited in his earlier days. Beginning in 1868, he attended a select school one year, then studied three years at the State University, Madison; next took a commercial course, and in 1873 married and resumed farming, raising tobacco chiefly for two years. Seized with a desire to come West, he moved to Iowa, lived there until August, 1877, when he came to Nebraska and settled in Kearney county.

He located his homestead claim on the northeast quarter of section 8, township 6, range 14, two miles from Minden, built a dug-out with no floor, and lived in this a short time. He next built a sod house, in which he lived about three years, when the town of Minden was located. He then moved to the town, erected several buildings, and made the town his residence for seven years. Here he was elected justice

of the peace, which office he held six years. While here he also studied law during his leisure hours and was admitted to the practice in the lower courts. In 1887 he erected a commodious two-story frame dwelling on his farm and moved into it. He is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres, of which two hundred and twenty-five acres are under cultivation. He raises mixed crops and stock, giving special attention to Norman horses, as well as graded cattle and hogs. He has an orchard of 225 apple trees, and large quantities of small fruits, and for several years his displays of fruit at fairs have received numerous premiums. He has never made a failure in raising a good crop since his arrival in Nebraska, and his farm shows every evidence of thrift and good management. When he settled here there were only two frame shanties in his part of the country, the other dwellings being all dug-outs. In the direction of Kearney city there were but one or two houses. Mr. Pinkham was largely instrumental in procuring the removal of the county seat from Lowell to Minden, the latter being near the center of the county. During the stay of Mr. Pinkham in Minden, hotel accommodations were very meager, and with his characteristic energy, assisted by his noble wife, he started a hotel and boarded all the leading men connected with the railroad, during its survey and building. He still owns considerable property in the town, but is enjoying the fruit of his early pioneer life on his original homestead entry.

Mr. Pinkham married Mrs. Deborah A. Smith, widow of William E. Smith, a soldier of the late war, who died at Jacksonport, Ark., of congestive chills, June

27, 1862. His brother, Lieutenant Smith, died a short time after. At that time Mrs. Smith had made arrangements, and had her trunk packed, to go into the army as a nurse, but an attack of illness forced her to relinquish her purpose. To the union of William E. and Deborah Smith were born four children, of whom two died before the war. Of the two surviving after the war—Charles A. Smith is married and is a progressive farmer; the second son, William H. Smith, served three terms as constable in Nebraska, and was killed in the discharge of his sworn duty. He was an enterprising man and belonged to the Sons of Veterans.

Mrs. Pinkham is a daughter of Warren Miles, of New York State, who married there, but afterwards moved to Wisconsin, pursued farming as a vocation, and died in 1876, near Madison. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pinkham have been born three children, named—Inez P., Lewis W. and Nellie L. Inez died soon after coming to Nebraska, there being no physician to be had, and but a few neighbors at hand to sympathize or render aid during her illness.

Mr. Pinkham is a member of the G. A. R. and in politics is a republican. Mrs. Pinkham is a member of the Presbyterian church and also of the Ladies' Relief Committee. Mr. Pinkham is of a quiet disposition and is highly respected by all who know him. He has been greatly aided by his amiable wife in his acquisition of his present property, she being a lady of most excellent judgment, great foresight, and possessed of much energy and industry, as well as great suavity of manners, winning friends wherever she is known.

**J**OHAN LIENHART, a well-to-do farmer of Kearney county, is the second son born to John Lienhart and Anna C. (Killer) Lienhart, both natives of Germany. John Lienhart was a young man when he came to America. He first located in Canada, where he was married, December 25, 1845, and resided in Waterloo county, Province of Ontario, where his wife died, October 16, 1861. In 1865 he moved to La Porte county, Ind., where he followed farming for a number of years, then went to Nebraska and resided with his son John, whose name heads this sketch, until his death, September 7, 1890. To the union of John and Anna C. Lienhart were born three sons and three daughters. One of these daughters is a resident of Canada, one of Nebraska, the other was a resident of Chicago, Ill., until her death, in 1889. The three sons, Henry, John and Conrad, are all residents of Nebraska. John Lienhart, the subject of this sketch, was born in Waterloo county, Canada, January 29, 1854; he went from there with his father to La Porte county, Ind., when a child. At the age of twenty-one he immigrated to Kearney county, Nebr., arriving here in the fall of 1875, and located a homestead in the southwest quarter of section 10, township 6, range 14, on which he still resides. He at once began improving, building at first a sod house, which served him as a dwelling for nine years.

He has never met with a failure in raising a crop. He now has good improvements, including a good bearing orchard, and has about one hundred and twenty-five acres under cultivation in mixed crops; his farm is also well stocked with cattle, horses and hogs. When he came here he



had but little means, and soon got rid of what little he had; for the spring following his arrival found him with no money at all. His present prosperous condition is due to his earnest determination to have something. That something he has succeeded in getting.

He was married, January 1, 1880, to Miss Azora Kronkright. Her father, George Kronkright, was a native of Vermont, from which state his parents moved to Indiana, when he was a child. From Indiana he went to Iowa, where he was married to Eliza J. Rodgers. To their union were born five children. Azora, being the second, was born June 11, 1862. Her father is a farmer, now living in Nebraska.

To the union of our subject with Miss Kronkright have been born five boys, viz.—George W., born September 20 1880, died May 6, 1885; Ralph V., born January 27, 1883; Raymond H., born April 18, 1886; John L., born April 6, 1887; Frank E., born December 24, 1889.

**C**HRISTIAN PETERSON, one of the most prosperous young farmers of Kearney county, was but twenty-one years of age when he came to Nebraska in 1876. His father, Peter Henryson, was a native of Denmark, was a carpenter and a farmer, and died in his native land in 1885. Peter Henryson married Cristena, daughter of Paul Swanson, who was also a carpenter and farmer, and who died in his native land,

Denmark. The children born to this union were seven in number, of whom four sons came to America. Of the three brothers of our subject, the eldest, Anthon, lives in Lincoln township, this county, and owns a large and well improved farm; Jens Peter Peterson lives in an adjoining township and is also the owner of a well improved homestead. Henry, the youngest brother, was the last to come to America, but has not yet settled, and is working in the Union Pacific railroad shops in Wyoming. On first coming to Nebraska, Christian Peterson located his homestead in Lincoln township, Kearney county, in the northeast quarter of section 18, township 6, range 14, Lowell being the county seat. Mr. Peterson began improving and broke up land preparatory to cultivation, when the question of establishing the town of Minden was broached and the village was soon seen to rise from the prairie. In the meantime, however, Mr. Peterson had secured a contract to carry the mail, and for two years his route lay between Lowell and Keene; he also carried to and from Fredericksborg, and had, in all, routes for five post-offices. His farm, which is one mile from Minden, is now well improved and comprises five hundred and sixty acres, four of which are under cultivation. He has groves, orchards and commodious buildings and a handsome and desirable dwelling-house, all gained by his industry, economy and practical good sense. Taking advantage of the rapid rise of the town of Minden, Mr. Peterson, with his usual foresight, started a dairy, and for three years supplied the citizens with milk, butter, etc., and from the traffic derived a very fair income.

In 1887 Mr. Peterson was married to

Miss Nellie May Warner, a daughter of H. H. Warner, a farmer of Wisconsin, but at that time a resident of Kearney county, Nebr. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson are both members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics Mr. Peterson is a republican. The career of Mr. Peterson, as recorded above, gives a fair example of what a young man of well directed ambition can accomplish. He was young when he came to this country, but soon imbibed American ideas of progress, and, with a natural aptitude, put them to practical use. Aided by his excellent business qualifications, this practical use of these ideas has led to wealth, honor and the respect of all who know him.

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**J**OHAN BRAUN is a native of the town of Lutzk, Russia, and was born in March, 1846. He received very good schooling in his youthful days, and later learned the trade of a tanner, which he followed during his stay in his native country. In 1871 he married Miss Ernestina Renn, daughter of Johan Renn, a weaver, who still resides in the old country. In 1874 Mr. Braun came to America, landing in New York City, from which point he came at once to Kearney county, Nebr., and in June of the year named located a homestead near where Minden now stands. This farm is in the northeast quarter of section 12, township 6, range 15, and on it he lived for ten years, when he sold out and bought the farm he at present occupies, situated in

the southwest quarter of section 29, township 6, range 14. This farm was then raw land, to which Mr. Braun added eighty acres, making a total of two hundred and forty acres, all now under fence and improved with good buildings, orchards and groves, and one hundred acres under cultivation. It is located three miles south of Minden, which town affords him a ready market for his produce. Mr. Braun was a stockholder in the Town of Kearney Land Association, that platted the young city in 1881, but he has since sold out his shares at a considerable profit. He is a gentleman possessing keen foresight and business sagacity, and, although of foreign birth, has become a true American and takes a genuine interest in the advancement of the country in which he lives. He was among the first to settle in Kearney county when the then frontier was an unbroken prairie, but he has lived to see it become a well improved and blooming section of the country, that has become wealthy through the enterprise of just such men as himself. On his first settlement here he had but little money, and for two years was harassed by the grasshoppers, which devastated the country and brought ruin in their train. Notwithstanding these pests and the visitation of disastrous storms, Mr. Braun was tenacious in his purpose and held his own until now he is quite as comfortable as one would wish to be.

August Braun, the father of the subject of this sketch, followed the trade of a tanner in his native Russia until he came to the United States, where, until recently, he followed farming in Nebraska until about seventy years of age, when he retired from active work. He married

Miss Johanna Jurack, who bore him four children, and the whole family came to Nebraska with Johan in 1874, he being the eldest child. Of these children one girl has died since coming here. The union of Johan Braun and Ernestina Renn has been blessed with five children, born in the following order—Otilie, Wilhelm, Frederich, Ludwig and Anna. In politics Mr. Braun acts independently; in religion, he and his family affiliate with the German Evangelical Lutheran church. Mr. Braun has had his military experience, but not in this country, as the late Civil war was happily over when he arrived here; but he served in the army of his native country in the war of 1866 as a private, and in the war of 1870 as a sergeant, and passed through both contests without injury, and without doubt he would willingly have given his services to his adopted country, had he been present when she required the aid of soldiers such as he.

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**O**LIVER SUTTON, a thriving farmer of Kearney county, was born in Portage county, Ohio, August 2, 1845. He was reared to farming and was educated at the common schools. After reaching manhood he moved to LaPorte county, Ind., was there married July 21, 1871, and continued to farm there until 1875, when in April of that year he came to Kearney county and located eighty acres in the west half of the northeast quarter of section 22, township 6, range 14. He built a sod house, which for seven years served him as a

dwelling, when he erected a frame house, in which he now lives. Since first locating he has purchased eighty acres of railroad land adjoining his original plat, and now has a fine farm improved with orchards, groves and commodious buildings. As will be seen, he was a pioneer of the county. He came with an old team, bringing his wife and two children, but his stock of money was very small, and that small stock was soon exhausted. The country was a broad expanse of unbroken prairie and his neighbors were about five miles distant; but immigrants soon commenced coming in and now the prairie is dotted over with fine dwellings and barns and well fenced farms; the town of Minden, the present county seat, with a population of 2,500 inhabitants, has risen from the wide waste, and every evidence of progress and civilization is within view of his homestead. After sheltering himself and family with his sod-built house, Mr. Sutton broke up his prairie farm to the extent of twenty acres and raised a fair crop of grain, and, with the exception of the years of the pestiferous grasshoppers and those of the terrific storms, has raised very good crops. The deer, antelope, and buffalo, which were plenty when he first came, have disappeared, and his post-office, instead of being at Lowell, is at Minden, and his trading point is here also, instead of being at Kearney Junction—fifteen miles away. Of course it will be understood that there were no railroads through Kearney county in those days, and going to his market point with his produce and returning with his purchases he was compelled to use a team over the whole fifteen miles, both ways. But Mr. Sutton was

enterprising and energetic, and was resolved to overcome every difficulty, and succeeded in overcoming each, being now quite wealthy. Mr. Sutton took for his wife Miss Annie Lienhart, daughter of John Lienhart, who is of German descent, and now a resident of Kearney county, where also reside his sons, brought hither through the influence of our subject who, in his early days, was very active in inducing immigration to the county. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Sutton have been born eight children, who were named as follows—Charles, John, Minnie, Warren, Mary, Ada, Ida and Oliver. Ida, the twin of Ada, died when about eighteen months old.

Milton Sutton, the father of Oliver, the subject of this sketch, is of Irish descent and was born in Ohio, of which state he is still a resident. He has always followed farming and stock-raising on the Western Reserve, and now, at the age of seventy-one years, is enjoying the comforts resulting from his early industry. He has enjoyed the full confidence of his neighbors and has held several county offices. His wife was Miss Eleanor, daughter of John Caldwell, a native of Ohio and a farmer, who at one time was clerk of Williams county. To Mr. and Mrs. Sutton have been born two children—Oliver, the subject of this sketch, and Frank, a resident of Nebraska. Mrs. Eleanor Sutton died while her children were quite young; and subsequently, Mr. Sutton married Mary Woodward, daughter of Amos Woodward, and to this union have been born five children—Seneca, Le Roy, Julia, Mary and George (the last named now deceased). Mr. Oliver Sutton is a member of the I. O. O. F., and of the Knights of

Labor. Politically, he is a democrat. Personally, he is renowned for his hospitality and always extends a hand to welcome a new-comer.

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**J**OHAN W. TIPTON, attorney-at-law, Minden, Kearney county, is a native of Westminster, Md., and was born October 11, 1830. He comes of Southern parentage, his father, mother and grandparents having been natives also of Maryland, but his stock came originally from Virginia. Ammon Tipton, his father, lived always in his native state, dying there in 1863, and being buried in the city of Baltimore. His mother survived her husband some years, died in 1875 at the home of her son, the subject of this sketch, in Northfield, Ind., and was there buried. Only two children survive of this union. These are Mrs. Emily J. Knotts, a widow of Richmond, Va., and John W., the subject of this biographical notice.

John W. Tipton was reared in his native place, getting what education he received from his attendance at an old log school house near the old home place. He began the active pursuits of life as a blacksmith's apprentice and followed the trade for a number of years after reaching maturity. He came West in 1849, located in Indiana, and in 1851 married Miss Betsy Ann Hickson, daughter of Wesley and Marquette Hickson, of Northfield, Ind. He lost his estimable wife in 1856, she leaving surviving her three children—Melissa (now deceased); Edward P., and Anna, now wife of Frank Vance, of Jasper county, Ill. He married again in 1860—his second wife being Miss Elmira

Caldwell, of Kokomo, Ind. Eight children have been born to this union—Ida, Dora, John W., Jessie, Henry, Burt, Roy and Claude.

Judge Tipton came to Nebraska in 1880 and settled in Kearney county. Taking a homestead at that date, he began farming and was so engaged for some years. Having read law in Indiana and been admitted to the bar, he moved into Minden after he had proved up on his homestead and entered upon the practice of his profession. He retains his farming interests, still owning the homestead where he settled, which he now has in a splendid state of cultivation. He takes much interest in agricultural pursuits, being thoroughly in sympathy with every movement looking to the improvement of the condition of the farmer. He is also identified with the best interests of the town of Minden, where he lives, entering zealously into every enterprise of a public nature, and giving liberally in proportion to his means for the encouragement of them all. In recent years he has given his time and attention mainly to the practice of his profession, having built up a large and lucrative practice. He is a hard worker, and watchful of the interest of his clients. As a lawyer, his main forte lies in his strong common sense and the practical methods he brings to bear in the management of his cases. He is a searching examiner of witnesses and an effective speaker before a jury. Having been born, reared and passed the most of his life among the great body of the common people, he knows their wants thoroughly and understands the motives by which they are actuated, being in full sympathy with them in all things. As a gentleman he is

pleasant, genial and affable, and has a host of friends. The only public position of any consequence that he ever held was that of postmaster at Northfield, Ind., some years before he moved to Nebraska. In politics he is a republican, a staunch supporter of the principles of his party, and an able expounder of its principles.

THOMAS BAYER, one of the wealthiest and most enterprising farmers of Kearney county, Nebr., was born in Eiger Kries district, Bohemia, December 21, 1832, and after reaching manhood came to America (in May, 1867), and for one year and a half resided in New York; he then went to Du Page county, Ill., remained there until 1869, and then went to Missouri, but afterwards returned to Illinois, and remained there until his coming to Nebraska. May 20, 1869, he was married in Livingston county, Mo., to Miss Frances Schwab, daughter of Elias Schwab, a native of France, who came to this country when quite an aged man. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Bayer have been born seven children, in the following order—Frank, Barbara, Maria, Josef, Anton, Anna and John. The parents of Thomas Bayer are Josef and Barbara (Shaver) Bayer. The father was, in his early business life, a dealer in hard timber, accumulated quite a fortune, and is now enjoying all the comforts of life in his native land in Bohemia. There were born to them six children, of whom our subject is the third, and all are doing well—Thomas being the only one of the family that has come to America.

While living in Missouri, Mr. Bayer acted as fireman on a railroad locomotive, and while in Illinois was agent for a brewery. He came from the latter state to Nebraska October 19, 1874, and located the homestead on which he still lives, it being the southeast quarter of section 6, township 6, range 14, about a mile northeast of Minden. Like all the early settlers, he secured a choice piece of land, and put up a small board shanty, which served him as dwelling for the following two years. In 1875 he broke land and commenced farming, at which he was quite prosperous, and in 1884 was able to erect a good, large, comfortable, two-story frame house, together with barns, sheds, and all necessary buildings for a first-class farm. He now owns over seven hundred acres, more than two hundred of which are under cultivation, in mixed crops. The whole farm is fenced in, and the uncultivated portion is devoted to pasturage and hay. Mr. Bayer gives much of his attention to live stock, and has a large number of horses, cattle and hogs, to which he prudently feeds his grain, thus reaping, through his fat stock, a reward for his labor in the field; his hogs are of choice breed, and of these he makes a specialty. Mr. Bayer is a man of superior judgment, and as a farmer stands foremost among the best in his country, and this latter fact is fully proved by the statement that he has never made a failure in securing a good crop since his residence in Nebraska. He has reached a high position in the esteem of his neighbors, and has been often urged to accept offices of trust and honor within their gift, but has always declined, his ambition not leaning towards political

preferment; his affiliations, however, are with the democratic party. In religion, he and his family are consistent in their faith—that of the Roman Catholic church.

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**S** J. JOHNSON, the subject of this sketch, is a native of Sweden, born in the year 1850. His father, J. P. Johnson, is still living in the old country at the age of 76 years, but the mother of our subject died some years since. Three sisters are still living—Eliza, Caroline and Anna; Matilda is dead.

At the age of twenty-one our subject landed at Castle Garden, New York City, and immediately journeyed to the Hawkeye State, landing first at Burlington. Here he accepted the first position which offered, which happened to be in a saw-mill, in that thriving city. This, however, proved to be unfortunate for him, for he had followed this occupation but six weeks, when he met with the serious misfortune of losing one hand in the machinery. This resulted in three months of enforced idleness; but, undaunted by the adversity which he so soon met with, he found employment on a farm near Morning Sun, and went bravely to work to earn a livelihood, notwithstanding the fact that his father had offered to send him money with which to return to the old country. He persistently refused to do so, believing that for him the new world held brighter prospects. We next find him in Swedesburg, Iowa, where he secured a position in the store of Otto Abrahamson, which, by close attention

to his duties and faithful devotion to his employer's interests, he retained till failing health compelled him to abandon the position three years later. During the succeeding summer he worked in the harvest field, and in 1876 he came to Nebraska, locating at Kearney junction, Buffalo county. Here he obtained employment as a clerk, working variously for J. S. Harrington, Hiram Hall and G. Cramer. Later he secured a position which he was well fitted to fill and which required less of manual labor than that which he had formerly followed, namely, acting as advertising agent for this section of the country, urging people to emigrate to this part of Nebraska. In this capacity he did valuable service, and many are the substantial citizens of Buffalo and Kearney counties who were induced to come hither by his efforts. He next obtained a position with Achey Themanson, and later with Stein & Cramer, in the dry goods business, following this line of effort till 1881, when he moved to Minden and, having accumulated, by frugal and industrious habits, a little competency, he embarked in the mercantile business with A. G. Rylander. This co-partnership continued till April 1, 1885, when he purchased the interest of his partner. Three years later, on January first, he sold out the entire concern, having been chosen at the previous fall election to fill the responsible position of county treasurer, having been nominated by the republican party. His official duties began in 1888, and in 1889 he was re-elected, by a largely increased majority, to the same position. He has proven a faithful and efficient officer, always careful of the county's interest, and can doubt-

less have the position as long as he cares to give it his attention.

Mr. Johnson was married, in 1879, to Miss Matilda Broman, daughter of G. Broman, of Axtel, Nebraska. Four children grace the home of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson—John Hugo, Bessie, Anna and Harris. Still another, Carl Maritz, died at the age of two years and rests in the family burying-ground at Minden.

In politics, as above hinted, Mr. Johnson is a straight-out republican. He has allied himself with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in whose ranks he holds honorable station.

Mr. Johnson is a good example of what may result from honest and persistent effort in the face of the most adverse circumstances. He is an honored and respected citizen, and, on the whole, has had and will have an honorable part in developing the section of Nebraska where he has cast in his lot.

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**J**ORR FLEMING, the subject of this sketch, a son of Henry G. Fleming, of Illinois, was born in that state on May 23, 1853. There his childhood and youth were spent, but in March, 1886, becoming persuaded of the wisdom of Horace Greeley's well known advice to young men, he decided to go West and grow up with the country, which he accordingly did, in company with his brother, Harry C. Fleming. He bought a half section of land, which they have improved and given the name of Grand View Stock Farm. This farm is already celebrated for its excellent and well bred horses, and is destined to have

a constantly growing reputation for excellence in this line. Here is the home of the celebrated Helen G., a beautiful bay mare with black points, broad limbs, full breast — a beauty in every respect — and, at the age of six years, with a record of 2:28 1-4. Helen G. is a standard bred mare under rules 2 and 6 of Wallace's trotting register. Here also is the paeing stallion EnRoute, a Hambeltonian, sired by Ensign, record 2:28 1-2, dam by Prince Albert. These gentlemen have also on their farm three excellent brood mares by Battalion (3096), also one brood mare by Ensign, record 2:28 1-2, a half-sister to Helen G. Besides the above named horses, they have for sale a large number of thoroughbred driving horses of all kinds.

The Grand View Stock Farm consists of three hundred and twenty acres of land, two hundred and thirty of which are under a fine state of cultivation, ninety acres being devoted to pasture and hay land. The farm is also provided with an abundance of stable room, including modern and well-fitted box stalls, and an elegant half-mile track, which has been built upon the farm for exhibition purposes.

Grand View Stock Farm lies three miles north and west of Minden, in Kearney county, Nebr. The enterprising proprietors propose to make it the leading stock farm in the state, and their intentions will undoubtedly materialize within the near future. They pay strict attention to correspondence, and any information in reference to their adopted county and Nebraska they are always willing and glad to give.

These gentlemen are also interested in the livery business in the city of Minden,

the style of the firm there being Fleming & Calder. Their stables are well patronized, especially by traveling men, who have always found the firm accommodating and ready to furnish first-class outfits. They are constantly making additions to their well-stocked stables in Minden, new horses, buggies and carriages being constantly added, as the demand calls for them.

In addition to trotting stock they also breed draft horses, imported Normans taking the lead, although other leading and excellent breeds will be found there.

These young men have achieved that success which always attends honest effort in the growing West, and their advice to young men is to come to this part of Nebraska, which, in their estimation, has excellent advantages over the more thickly-settled states.

**J**ENS H. JENSEN, an old resident of Kearney county, Nebr., was born in Denmark, in 1849, and is a son of Thomas and Mern Jensen, who came to the United States in 1871. Jens H., however, reached this country in 1870, landing at Castle Garden, New York City, in the month of May. He first went to Missouri, but in the fall of 1872 came to Nebraska, and for a year worked at rail-roading in Omaha. In 1874, he took up a homestead in Kearney county, and with his brother, Jens L., opened the first store south of the sand hills, in what was known as Fredericksborg.

He soon united himself with the republican party, and in the fall of 1881 was



elected county clerk; in 1883, he was re-elected, having in the meantime moved to Minden, in January, 1882. In the summer of 1883, he invested in Minden real estate and has since laid out the Jensen addition and the Evans addition to the city, which he platted and which have been built up with residences, and otherwise improved, although he still has a number of lots for sale. He has also erected a fine hotel, with a frontage of eighty-eight feet and four stories in height, and supplied with electric call bells, water, steam heat, and other modern improvements, the lower floor being occupied as a drug store, a dry goods store and a clothing and gents' furnishing goods store. The Jensen brothers also conduct a large farming implement business, and are noted for their fair dealing and liberal terms to their customers.

Jens H. Jensen was united in the bonds of matrimony in January, 1884, with Miss Mary Beisel, daughter of Valentine Beisel, a native of Germany. Mrs. Mary Jensen, however, is a native of Iowa. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Jensen have been born three children—Valentine, Thomas and Goldie. The parents are consistent members of the Lutheran church, in the charities of which they take great and liberal interest.

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**R**OLLIN H. ORCUTT is one of the rising young men of Kearney county. He was born in St. Joseph county, Mich., November 15, 1856, and is the son of Daniel L. Orcutt, who was born May 6, 1817, in New York State; is a farmer and merchant by occupation,

and still living in good health in Branch county, Mich., but having been one of the earliest settlers in St. Joseph county. He crossed this section of Nebraska in 1849 on his way to California in search of gold. The mother of our subject, Lydia (Langdon) Orcutt, is also a native of New York and was born August 12, 1822. She is still living in Branch county, Mich. There are three children in the paternal family, two boys and one girl, as follows—Adelbert, Rollin H. and Lillian.

Rollin H. Orcutt, our subject, resided with his parents in St. Joseph county Mich., until eight years old, and then moved with them to Branch county, Mich., where he resided with them until twenty-two years of age, engaged in attending school and helping his father on the farm. He had poor health in early life and came West to Kearney county in 1878 to visit a cousin, with the hope of improving his condition. His health improved rapidly, and he, becoming infatuated with the new country, decided to file claim on a quarter section and make it his home—a decision he has never yet regretted. He accordingly filed homestead papers on the northwest quarter of section 11, township 7, range 15. He returned home at once and announced his intention of making the West his future home, much to the surprise and consternation of his relatives and friends, who predicted that a few years of Western life would suffice for him. He returned to his claim the following spring, and hastily constructed a sod house, and began life on his own account with very small means, having only one hundred and fifty-five dollars with which to purchase his ticket on leaving Michigan, and with the balance he bought a yoke of oxen, with which

he broke the first fifty acres of his land. He put out twenty-five acres of corn the first year and raised a good crop, having not only enough to feed his cattle through the year, but some to sell as well. For four years he lived alone in his sod house, and his nearest neighbors, in the early days, lived a distance of two miles. Becoming tired of the life of a bachelor, he wedded, October 15, 1882, Mary E. Bent, which union has been blessed with two children, as follows—Earl B., born October 26, 1883, and Horace, born August 3, 1889, but died March 13, the following spring, of lung fever.

Mrs. Orcutt was born at North Monmouth, Maine, March 30, 1865, and is the daughter of Isaac A. and Mary (Brown) Bent, both of whom are natives of Maine; the former, a farmer by occupation, was born in 1839, and the latter in 1836. They are both now living in Kimball county, Nebr., having come West and entered a homestead claim in the Platte valley in 1876. They moved to Kimball county, Nebr., four years ago, and entered a claim where they now reside. After marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Orcutt abandoned the old sod house and erected one of the finest and largest frame dwellings in Kearney county. Mr. Orcutt now owns four hundred and eighty acres of fine land, the most of which is well improved and stocked, and it may be said to his credit that he has made this honestly and honorably through the untiring industry of himself, and, instead of a few years of Western life sufficing for him, as his relatives and friends predicted in the beginning, he has erected a monument to his pluck and industry that will remain an example to the young men of

the future. Mr. and Mrs. Orcutt have both joined the Methodist church recently, and are trying to rear their family in the virtues of that doctrine. Politically, Mr. Orcutt is a republican and served a term in 1887 and 1888 as supervisor, or member of the county board from Logan township. He is the kind of timber that will make for the farmers of Kearney county a good representative in the state legislature at some future day.

**L**UCIUS R. BROWN is one of the standard citizens and early settlers of Kearney county. He was born at Auburn, Pa., July 30, 1839, and is the son of Henry and Hannah (Carter) Brown, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania; the former, a farmer by occupation, was born in the year 1812, and died at the ripe old age of three-score years and ten; the latter was born in 1817, and is still living in Illinois.

Lucius R. Brown, the subject of this biographical memoir, resided at home on his father's farm until sixteen years of age, attending school and helping on the farm in the meantime. At this age he emigrated West and located at Lyndon, Whiteside county, Ill., where he engaged in farming until August 6, 1861, when he responded to his country's call and enlisted in Company C, Eighth Illinois cavalry, and entered the war. He was in the 1st brigade and 1st division of cavalry under Gen. Pleasanton, in the army of the Potomac, and was in the engagements up the Rappahannock, the second battle at Bull Run, South mountain, Antietam and

in many skirmishes, too numerous to mention. He came home on furlough during the holidays in 1864, and returned to Washington in the spring. He engaged in the battle at Frederick city, battle of the Wilderness, and in the raid after Mosby, which was almost continuous fighting. In the spring of 1865 he did patrol duty in Washington and was transferred to the Western department, taken to St. Louis, and on July 17, 1865, at Benton Barracks, was mustered out. He received injuries from being run over by a wagon, and draws a pension of four dollars per month. After the war he returned to Prophetstown, Ill., and was a farmer until 1876, when in February of that year he came West to Logan township, Kearney county, Nebr., and entered as a homestead the northwestern quarter of section 26, township 7, range 15, on which he now resides. The country in his vicinity was new and barren at the time of his coming, and there was but one house between his place and Kearney, a distance of sixteen miles. There were plenty of deer, antelope and coyotes in the sand hills to the north and along the Platte river. There were a good many settlers came in 1878, 1879 and 1880, and the country surrounding him was soon settled up. Mr. Brown now owns three hundred and twenty acres of fine farm land, well improved with a spacious frame dwelling, large barn, tame grass, one hundred bearing apple trees, and two hundred acres under cultivation. He has had good average crops every year except the first, when the grasshoppers destroyed them. He was married September 12, 1865, to Mary Davis, who was born November 29, 1841, at Lyndon, Ill. Her father, Joseph C. Davis, a farmer by oc-

cupation, was a native of New Jersey, born July 14, 1810. Her mother, Sarah (Putnam) Davis, was born at Brattleborough, Vt., in 1821, and died at the age of fifty-seven years. Her parents were both members of the Congregational church. Her grandparents, Aaron and Electa (Lurn) Davis, were born January 20, 1782, and September 12, 1786, respectively, and were members of the Presbyterian faith. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Brown has resulted in the birth of five children as follows—Giles W., born August 14, 1866; Joseph H., born October 15, 1868; Lillian I., born August 16, 1872; Cora I., born September 10, 1876; Mary A., born March 21, 1885. Mr. Brown is a republican in politics, and is serving his second term as supervisor of Logan township. They are both members of the Presbyterian church. He is also past post commander of the G. A. R. Post in Minden.

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ALEXANDER McDONALD is an early settler and a highly respected citizen of Kearney county. He was born at Mullingrey, Scotland, seven miles from Glasgow. His father, William McDonald, was a Highlander by descent, and born in the year 1794, in County Tyrone, Ireland, but lived in Mullingrey, Scotland. He came to America in 1861 and located at Philadelphia, where he engaged in shoemaking, and died in 1877, at the ripe old age of four-score years and one. Margaret (Harkness) McDonald, the mother of our subject, was a native of Ireland, born in 1793. There were eight children in the family.

Alexander was sixteen years of age when he came to America. Previous to that time he had attended school and received a somewhat liberal education. He located in Philadelphia and engaged in a retail grocery and provision business, which he continued for twenty-six years. He enlisted in the Ninety-first Pennsylvania regiment, Company H, February 25, 1864, and was in the 5th corps, 1st brigade, and 2d division of the Army of the Potomac. His first engagements were at Bolivar Heights and Harper's Ferry, where he was detailed on guard duty. After wintering at Warrenton junction, he engaged in the battles of the Wilderness and Spottsylvania, at which latter place he was wounded in the left leg and stampeded by the cavalry. His corps had originally three hundred thousand men, but at this time had dwindled down to fifty-five thousand. They were commanded in person by General Grant, who aroused them to their utmost efforts by shouting "Boys, your country and your flag." Mr. McDonald was given up for dead and lay on the battle-field three days and nights, but was finally picked up and taken to the hospital at Mt. Vernon, where he lay for several weeks, and was transferred to Findlay hospital at Washington, and later on to Satterlee hospital, Philadelphia. His breast-bone was broken and crushed in the stampede of cavalry, but after many months of nursing he was able to be about again. So inherent was his love for his adopted country and its flag that, notwithstanding the fact that he was crippled for life and incapacitated for duty, he announced his intention of re-entering the service, and was accordingly sent to Alexandria,

where, upon examination of the examining board, he was returned to Moore hospital, near Philadelphia, and finally, on May 23, 1865, was discharged. He receives \$16 per month pension, it having been increased gratuitously from \$8 to \$12, and finally to the latter amount. After the war he continued in the grocery business until 1877, when, in September of that year, he and his son came West and entered as a homestead the southeast quarter of section 11, township 7, range 15, on which he still resides. On arriving, he and son constructed a ten by twelve sod house and made preparation for the family, who came a few months later. The country was very wild at that time, and settlers were few and far between, there being but one within a radius of two miles. Later on he constructed a larger sod house, sixteen by thirty-six feet, and in the summer of 1884 built the present spacious frame dwelling—one of the largest and finest in the county.

Mr. McDonald was married, November 15, 1853, to Mary A. Kirkpatrick, who was born April 29, 1832, in County Tyrone, Ireland, and is the daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Bruce) Kirkpatrick, both of whom were natives of Ireland. Her father was a very rich farmer. The union of Mr. and Mrs. McDonald was blessed with the birth of twelve children, as follows—Margaret J., born July 16, 1854; Anna F., born September 18, 1855; Sarah L. M., born October 14, 1856; William T., born December 26, 1857; Mary L., born January 5, 1861; Samuel A., born January 15, 1862; Mary L. A., born January 22, 1864; Henrietta O., born July 2, 1865; Marion O., born November 6, 1866; Osear E. A., born March 29, 1868; Laura, born

September 2, 1872, and one that died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. McDonald are both members of the United Presbyterian church. Politically, he is a republican, having voted that ticket for forty years. He has been postmaster at Harmony for eight years, and his son is mail-carrier from Minden to Kearney.

**R**OBERT WIER is one of the early settlers of Logan township, Kearney county. He was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, in 1831. The ancestry of this family came originally from Scotland during the persecution of that country. The father of our subject, Robert Wier, was a native of Ireland, born in the year 1796. He was by occupation a farmer and linen-weaver. His mother, Nancy (Ferguson) Wier, was also a native of Ireland, born in 1799. There were seven children in the family.

Robert Wier resided in Ireland until twenty-one years of age, engaged as a linen-weaver. At that age he came to America and located on a farm near Philadelphia, where he resided for some time, finally moving into the city, where he engaged in carpet-weaving. He resided in Philadelphia twenty years, during which time he continued to follow weaving. Before the war, during Buchanan's term as president and while free trade was practically in vogue, he could make but \$1 per day, and after the war, when protection was in force, he made from \$16 to \$20 per week.

In January, 1889, Mr. Wier emigrated West and located in Kearney county, Nebr., entering as a homestead a quarter section of land in section 12, township 7, range 15. He erected a sod house in which he lived seven years. There were few settlers in the vicinity where he located at that time. There were some antelope remaining among the sand hills and an occasional deer on the islands of the Platte river. He lived on his homestead for four years and had one hundred acres broken out when he sold it. In 1883 he bought the farm on which he now resides, and now has one hundred and twenty acres broken out and the place otherwise well improved. He had a hard time to make ends meet in those early days, it being almost impossible to get a day's work. He had nothing but a team of horses to start with, and three months after he came one of those sickened and died. He finally bought a cow and she also died. He afterwards purchased a horse from a herd in Kearney, paying therefor \$24. He still has the horse and would not take \$100 for him. Taxes were very high in the early days and he had to pay \$9 tax on his team and what little lumber he had in the roof on his sod house.

Mr. Wier was married November 15, 1853, to Sarah Seaton, which union has been blessed with nine children, as follows—Matilda, Thomas (deceased), Anna, Thomas, Robert, John, Elizabeth (deceased), William, and Samuel (deceased). Mr. and Mrs. Wier are both members of the Presbyterian church in Minden, being charter members of that organization. Politically, he is a republican,

**J**ASON F. BLOODGOOD, one of the prominent and well-to-do farmers of Lowell township, Kearney county, was born in Bradford county, Pa., March 4, 1834. His parents were Cyrus and Caty A. (Wright) Bloodgood, both natives of New York State and of English-Scotch descent. The senior Bloodgood is a farmer and lumberman, and still lives in his native state. Jason Bloodgood, upon arriving at his majority, chose farming as his occupation and began work in Bradford county, Pa. On May 15, 1861, he enlisted in the Sixth Pennsylvania reserves. He participated in the battles of Drainesville, the second Bull Run, Antietam and Fredericksburg, where he was wounded. His regiment guarded White House landing on the peninsula, where supplies were received until after McClellan's campaign. He also participated in the battle of Gettysburg. He was, in addition, under the fire of the enemy on the bank of Broad creek, in October, 1863, the rebels being on the opposite banks dressed in Union clothes. Here he was wounded again, and sent to a hospital at Alexandria, but soon after was transferred to the Prince Street hospital, where he remained for several months. He carries a ball yet in his left shoulder. He suffered twice from intermittent fever, as well as from exposure on many occasions; and, after leaving the hospital, was mustered out, with his health greatly impaired. He moved to Linn county, Iowa, in September, 1865, and continued to reside there until April, 1876, when he came to Kearney county, Nebr., settling on the old Fort Kearney reservation. He was one of the first settlers on the military

reservation, and now owns one of the best farms in this famous tract. His home is located near where the old California trail passed.

Mr. Bloodgood was married January 1, 1855, to Mary E. Park, a daughter of Thomas and Margaret Park, and born in Bradford county, Pa., March 12, 1835. Her father died in 1861, but her mother is still living at the age of ninety-two years. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bloodgood, viz.—Margaret Ann, born September 6, 1856; Alice, born December 24, 1858; Wilbur J., born September 18, 1860; Della, born February 11, 1866; Katie, born January 19, 1868; Jane, born October 5, 1870; Birdie, born September 7, 1874, and Hattie, born March 13, 1876.

Mr. Bloodgood is a republican in politics, and an influential man among local party workers in his party.

**T**HOMAS VAN DUZER, one of the representative men of Kearney county, was born in Chemung county, N. Y., April 25, 1841. He is the son of Charles and Jane (Andrews) Van Duzer, both natives of the State of New York, the former having been born in 1818, and the latter in 1822. Both are now living and zealous members of the Methodist church. Thomas Van Duzer remained with his parents until the war broke out, when he enlisted in the One Hundred and Forty-first regiment Pennsylvania volunteer infantry; but he was discharged, however, after three months' service, on account of chronic rheumatism.

On October 11, 1865, he was married to

Miss Frances Jane Bloodgood, and soon afterwards moved to New York State from Pennsylvania, where he had lived for many years. He settled in his native county, where he remained eight years, during which time he was engaged in the milling business at Van Ettenville. The only child vouchsafed to Mr. and Mrs. Van Duzer was Victor by name, who was born May 25, 1869. Mr. Van Duzer came to Kearney county, Nebr., in the spring of 1876, and settled on a homestead on the old Military reservation. This tract of land, about ten miles square, was opened to actual settlement in 1878, by act of congress, Mr. Van Duzer being one of about sixty who petitioned congress to throw the Military reservation open to settlement. When he first settled on this famous piece of prairie land, it served as a great field for thousands of Texas cattle. Lowell, then the county seat of Kearney county, was situated near by, and at that time was already on the decline. The county seat in the course of a couple of years was moved to Minden, and what was once a promising little city, is now but a mere village.

The year of his settlement in the county was made famous by the re-appearance of the grasshoppers. They were so thick that they ate the cotton screens in the doors and windows, and it was by the most persistent efforts that he managed to save his garden truck. He came here with limited means, and, like many others, saw hard times. He would often walk ten miles to do a day's work in harvest time, and his family was actually without bread of any kind for two weeks. During the harvest of 1877, Mr. Van Duzer had five acres of wheat. He was the first to

harvest, and several of his neighbors borrowed wheat of him in order to supply themselves with flour until they could thrash.

The first year of Mr. Van Duzer's residence in Kearney county he had no team, and he would wade the Platte river (which was about half a mile from his house), to the little islands, situated in the river, and on which grew small box-elder, cottonwood and elm. He would cut them down, trim and drag them to the shore, often wading to his waist in the water with a heavy load of these poles on his shoulder. This he would do in the forenoon of each day, for several weeks, then in the afternoon he would carry them to the house and cut them up, where it could become seasoned and fit for fuel. His shoulder became so tender carrying such heavy loads, that he had Mrs. Van Duzer make a sort of a pad or saddle to protect his shoulder.

Until the fall of 1878 the nearest schoolhouse was at Lowell, three miles distant. Their son, Victor, eight years of age, attended school there for one year. In the winter season, the days being so short, the little fellow would have to leave home before it was scarcely light in the morning, and it would be nearly dark before he would reach home at evening. The mother would often become so anxious that she would go to meet her boy on his return, for it seemed a long, lonesome road for one so young to travel alone, and it was a glad day for the family when there was built a neat and comfortable little school house within a mile of their home.

Mr. Van Duzer has served his township as supervisor for three terms and has been

an efficient and faithful official. He is one of the most ardent believers in temperance in the county, and while he was reared a republican, he now votes with the prohibitionists. Mrs. Van Duzer was born in Bradford county, Pa., in 1845, and is the daughter of Cyrus and Caty (Wright) Bloodgood. Her father was a minister in the Methodist Episcopal church and is a leading citizen in the community in which he lives. Mrs. Van Duzer met with a shocking accident in the summer of 1889, being struck by lightning, during a terrible thunder storm, on the eve of August 6. She, in company with a lady friend who was paying a visit to the family, were passing from the house to a summer kitchen, when both were struck and rendered insensible for several hours. Both were under the watchful care of a physician for several weeks before they recovered sufficiently to be free from the danger.

Mr. and Mrs. Van Duzer are among the highly esteemed citizens in the community, and their generous hospitality has won them many lasting friends.

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**D**R. H. T. COOPER, one of the first settlers at Lowell, Kearney county, was born in Venango county, Pa., May 22, 1828. His parents were John and Nancy (Acorns) Cooper, the former a native of New York, and the latter of Pennsylvania. His grandfather was Samuel Cooper, who was a second lieutenant in the War of 1812. John Cooper died in 1840, and Nancy Cooper in 1874. In 1868, Dr. Cooper emigrated to Montgomery county, Iowa,

where he resided for two years, and then came to Lowell, Nebr., in the spring of 1871. He was a practicing physician, having entered upon the profession in 1856. He pre-empted a piece of land near the Platte river and continued the practice of his profession, and in 1872 he was employed to attend the sick at Fort Kearney, which position he held until the fort was abandoned. When the Doctor first located here, his nearest neighbor was twenty miles east of him. Lowell was laid out in May, 1871, and flourished for a few years—becoming one of the principal trading points in the West. The town began to decline in 1874, when the county seat was changed to Minden.

Dr. H. T. Cooper was the first probate judge of Kearney county, having been elected in 1872, and has also held various local offices since. He has always been a republican in politics, and is a member of the Masonic order.

In his early days in Nebraska, the Doctor saw many herds of buffalo and antelope numbering up to the hundreds, and has been a member of several noted hunting parties. In 1873 he joined the surveyors and other officials of the St. Joe and Republican Railroad in a buffalo hunt, and relates many thrilling tales of similar expeditions. In 1876, the Doctor married Catherine Carpenter. Nancy Cooper bore the maiden name of Nancy Acorns, and was a native of New York. On the eve of the blowing up of Fort Erie by Gen. Wayne, and the sacking of Buffalo, Nancy, with her sister and David King, embarked in a canoe at the mouth of the French cr ek, and followed it to where it empties into the Alleghany near Franklin, the county seat of Venango



county. In that year, 1813, Samuel Cooper came with his family across the Alleghanies from Westmoreland county, Pa. Nancy Cooper was a school teacher at Titusville, which is twelve miles up the Alleghany from Oil city, Pa.

John Cooper was born in 1800; Nancy Cooper was born in 1805.

H. T. Cooper was born in poverty and raised in the woods. During the administration of Martin Van Buren, under his free trade policy, John Cooper lost all his property. John Cooper died in 1841, leaving a wife with five helpless children, three girls and two boys, H. T. Cooper being the oldest, and Fulson the youngest.

At the death of President W. H. Harrison, who lived one month only after his inauguration, our subject and his mother started for Ohio, and at Barnesville young Cooper found employment and also received the rudiments of an education. The mother and the other members of her family in a short time moved to Belleville, Ohio, where for two years our subject worked for Jesse Morris. Mr. Morris still resides in Belleville at the age of one hundred and seven years. From this point Mr. Cooper went to Cumberland, Ohio, where he began the study of medicine under the preceptorship of Evan Cagill; thence he went to Afton, Iowa, thence via St. Louis up the Missouri river to Plattsmouth Nebr., in 1868, reaching Lincoln in March, 1871. He filed his pre-emption claim on the half section 20, east of section 24, Lowell town site. He built a house, broke four acres of ground, and planted it in corn. When this corn was soft, the Pawnees came on a hunt, and as Mr. Cooper had a well noted for its good water, the Indians surrounded it.

Mr. Cooper was at the time about four miles away hunting wood, and in crossing the mouth of Whisky run on his way home, he caught sight of his house surrounded by the redskins. He at once took in the situation, and started for his farm on a full run, but before he had got within two miles of his house he met the Pawnee chief, who cried out — “No hurt the pretty squaw,” thus relieving Mr. Cooper’s anxiety.

In the fall of 1871, the Doctor built a house on the site of Lowell, where he still resides, and where he and family enjoy the respect of all who know them, and there are very few who do not. That winter was the hardest of any the Doctor has experienced since coming to the state, a constant and severe frost lasting fully ten consecutive weeks. It was almost a daily occurrence for scouts to bring in some man lost while on a hunt and found frozen to death. With the exception of the grasshopper raids and the drought, times since then have been fairly prosperous in Nebraska.

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**C**HRISTIAN WEBER is one of the enterprising young farmers of Lowell township, Kearney county. He first saw the light of day in Allegheny county, Pa., March 6, 1852, and is the son of Peter and Mary Ann Weber. His father came from Germany when about thirty years of age. He was a weaver by trade, and died April 29, 1871. His mother was born in Pennsylvania, and is now living with her children.

Christian, when fourteen years of age, began doing for himself, working by the

month on a farm. He later served an apprenticeship as a wheel-right, and worked at his trade for about seven years. He came West in the spring of 1876, and freighted from Cheyenne to Deadwood for a few months previous to his final settlement in Kearney county, Nebr. He took a homestead in Lowell township, on which he has since continued to reside. He was elected county commissioner of Kearney county, and served one year. He has served as supervisor of Lowell township four years, and is one of the most popular young men in the township.

There were six other children in the Weber family—Barbara, born July 18, 1841 (died November 1, 1887); John, born March 11, 1844; Abraham, born January 7, 1849; William, born December 21, 1854; Cornelius, born April 5, 1858 (and drowned June 12, 1884), and Annie, born April 4, 1862.

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**H**ARDEN J. YENSEN was born near Stenbenville, Ohio, November 14, 1859. His parents were Nicholas and Karen Yensen, both natives of Denmark. They came to America in 1854, and lived in various states, until they finally settled in Nebraska, where the father died in 1888. Harden came with his parents to Nebraska in 1872, and lived in Webster county. The country then was new, and no settlement had been made previous to that time, except by a few bachelors along the Little Blue river. The Yensens hauled wood from the Little Blue to Lowell, and in this way made their living during grasshopper time. Mr. Yen-

sen well remembers when Lowell was a flourishing little city, with great possibilities for the future. The sudden removal of the county seat to Minden, however, killed the town. He has seen buffalo, antelope and deer as plenty as domestic animals are now and has often met and conversed with the Big Sioux Indians. He also visited the Spotted Tail Agency in 1876, while on his way to the Black Hills. He settled on a farm near Lowell in 1881, where he now resides.

Mr. Yensen was married June 9, 1884, to Miss Ida Frances Gibson. She was born in Mecosta county, Mich., September 22, 1864, and is the daughter of William and Lottie (Taylor) Gibson, both natives of Pennsylvania. They came to Custer county, Nebr., in 1881, where they now reside. Mr. and Mrs. Yensen have two children, viz.—Harden J., born April 3, 1887, and Lottie Mabel, born November 25, 1888. Mr. Yensen has served as justice of the peace and filled other local offices of trust. He has one hundred and forty-eight acres of land, and makes a specialty of broom corn, marketing all of twenty tons a year.

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**P**ETER C. BOASEN, a successful farmer and stock-raiser of Kearney county, was born in Denmark, November 4, 1842. His parents, Christen and Sicilia Boasen, were also natives of Denmark. His father was a tailor by trade and a noted musician. He was born in 1802 and his wife in 1804. They were married early in life and lived together almost sixty years. They had

seven children, three boys and four girls, of whom two boys and two girls came to America. Peter Boasen worked out from the time he was fourteen years old till he was twenty-two, and the highest pay he received was \$25 per year. He was industrious and economical and saved enough money to pay his way to America in 1866. He landed at Castle Garden, New York City, and immediately proceeded West as far as DeKalb county, Ill., where he secured employment at \$17 per month. He worked steadily for seven months and saved every cent of his earnings. He came to Omaha in November, 1866, and engaged with a transfer company at \$25 per month. Proving to be a trusty and faithful employee, his salary was increased to \$30 at the end of three months and to \$35 at the end of five months. He remained in the employ of this company three years, and then entered the service of Mr. Herman Kountze, president of the First National Bank of Omaha. His term of service here covered a period of three and one-half years. In the spring of 1873, Mr. Boasen visited his native country, being absent about six months. Previous to this time, however, he took a timber claim and purchased a quarter-section of railroad land in May township, Kearney county, Nebr. He had also secured a pre-emption in Saunders county.

Upon his return from Denmark he worked for the firm of Sheely Brothers, of Omaha, in whose employ he remained for two years. In 1876 he was appointed to the responsible position of gardener and chief engineer for the State Deaf and Dumb Asylum located near Omaha. In 1879 Mr. Boasen sold his farm in Saunders county, receiv-

ing \$1,600 for it. He invested a portion of this sum in real estate in the suburbs of Omaha, and concluded to go into the gardening business, and, with that purpose in view, he purchased ten acres, for which he paid \$60 per acre. He continued in this business for about seven years, when he sold this tract for the magnificent sum of \$1,000 per acre. In 1882 he moved his family on his farm in Kearney county, where he has since resided. He now has seven hundred and twenty acres of splendid land, the greater portion of which is well improved.

Mr. Boasen was married, May 7, 1879, to Miss Maggie Corbid, a native of Ohio and of English descent. This union has been blessed with six children, namely—Charles C., Fanny, May, Irene, Frank and Herman. Mr. Boasen is an extensive raiser of stock and now has more than one hundred head of cattle. He is a breeder of thorough-bred Short-horn cattle and takes great pride in exhibiting his fine specimens.

In politics, Mr. Boasen is independent. He believes it to be his duty to honor God and to respect man, and he also believes that fair dealing makes long friendship.

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**G**EORGE P. KINGSLEY, JR., president of the Bank of Norman, Kearney county, Nebr., was born at Freeport, Ill., November 11, 1864. His father, George Kingsley, is a native of Northampton, Mass., while his mother, whose maiden name was Harriet Swift, is a native of Geneva, N. Y.

His parents emigrated West in 1853, locating at Freeport, where the senior Kingsley has practiced his profession as a dentist up to within the past few years.

George P. Kingsley, Jr., availed himself of the common-school privileges afforded at Freeport, and in addition spent two years in Hobart College, at Geneva, N. Y. He also spent two years at Cornell University, where he could more successfully prosecute his studies in the higher branches. After he had completed his collegiate education, he secured a position in the Lincoln National Bank, at Lincoln, Nebr. He filled a responsible position in this establishment for two years, when he resigned and came to Minden, Nebr., where he remained a short time previous to his locating at the thriving little city of Norman. He went to Norman, then a village about one year old, and determined to start a bank there, and accordingly, on the eleventh day of August, 1888, he organized the bank of Norman with a capital stock of \$10,000. Mr. Kingsley is a young man of fine presence and splendid business capabilities. He is shrewd and energetic and already enjoys a business surpassing his most sanguine expectations. He enjoys the esteem and entire confidence of the community, and is on the broad road to success.

**AUGUST SWANSON** was born in Sweden, September 14, 1844, and has been dependent upon his own resources ever since he was fifteen. He reached America in 1871, and coming as far West as St. Paul he found employment on a railroad for about one year, and

next followed the same vocation in Michigan for a short time. He worked in the iron mines in northern Michigan for about four years, and came to Nebraska in the spring of 1876. He took a homestead in May township, Kearney county, on which he has since resided. Being a hardworking, industrious man, he now has one of the best improved farms in that section of the country. He lived the life of a bachelor for awhile and saw some pretty hard times during his early days in the country. He was married May 30, 1881, to Miss Hilda Oberg, a native of Sweden, born March 21, 1863, who came to America with her parents when four years old. They have two children, namely—Albin, born February 20, 1883, and Arthur, born January 2, 1885. He and his wife are both members of the Lutheran church. Mr. Swanson has been deacon in the church and is a republican in politics.

**MRS. MARY A. WHITLOCK**, one of the plucky pioneer women of Kearney county, Nebr., was born in Clinton county, N. Y., March 28, 1833, and is the daughter of John Van Horn and Lucinda (Tubbs) Vandervort.

Her father was born on the Mohawk river in New York, while her mother was a native of Vermont. The former died in 1856, and the latter in 1867. Both were devoted members of the United Brethren church. The subject of this brief memoir was married to Hiram P. Whitlock, January 1, 1851. He was a native of the Green Mountain State, having been born in Rutland, May 10, 1827. He was a son of James and Elmira (Eaton) Whitlock, both

of whom were natives of Vermont. His parents immigrated to New York soon after marriage, and subsequently to Illinois, where they died. Mr. Whitlock came with his parents to Illinois in 1845, and upon arriving at the age of maturity, began farming, which vocation he has since followed. To this union were born four children, namely—John C., born August 11, 1852 (deceased); Cornelius L., born November 29, 1855 (deceased); Lucinda E., born April 24, 1858, and David L., born April 25, 1863. Mrs. Whitlock came to Kearney county, October 5, 1877. The country was new and thinly settled, but she was delighted with it and determined to make her home here. She accordingly took a homestead in May township and began to improve the same at once. She caused a substantial frame dwelling to be erected, and planted several acres of timber, which has since grown to a considerable height. Settlers were few and far between and buffalo and antelope roamed almost at will. She now owns 240 acres of as fine land as can be found anywhere in the state, and the improvements are of the best. She is a woman of more than ordinary intelligence and possessed of an indomitable will.

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**J**UDGE A. H. HARLAND, one of the first settlers of Kearney county, was born in Butler county, Ohio, November 24, 1822. He is the son of John and Frances (Hoffman) Harland, the former being a native of Virginia and the latter of Pennsylvania. Both were reared in Kentucky, where they were

married, and soon after removed to Ohio, and subsequently to Indiana. John Harland was a minister in the Christian church.

The subject of this sketch learned the wagon-maker's trade when a young man, which vocation he followed for several years. He subsequently found farming more profitable and followed it for a few years in Montgomery county, Ind. He moved to Douglas county, Ill., in the fall of 1859, and continued farming for several years. In the spring of 1874, he came to Kearney county, Nebr., bringing considerable stock and farming utensils with him, and took a homestead in May township and began at once to break prairie for a spring crop. The country was new and settlers were few and far between; wild game, such as buffalo, antelope and deer, was plenty on every hand. He was poorly rewarded for his toil the first year, for the grasshoppers came when his crop looked most promising, and remained long enough to destroy all. The strange appearance of the pesky little things was a great mystery to the early settlers, and their disappearance two or three years later was equally as mysterious. The Judge declares in all candor that he has seen the 'hoppers so thick that they fairly darkened the light of the sun as they flew over. Many settlers were not prepared for the famine caused by the grasshoppers, and in consequence there was great suffering among many. Mr. Harland was married, in 1846, to Miss Margaret Bailey. To this union were born seven children, namely—John M., Martha F., William M., Ashley R., Arthur B., Mary M., and James J.

Mr. Harland was elected judge of Kearney county in 1876 and was re-elected again in 1878. He has also filled various local offices. He has been a member of the Masonic order for forty years and both he and Mrs. Harland were members of the Christian church, the latter leaving the church below to join the church above in 1871. The homestead comprises one hundred and sixty acres of choice land adapted to raising almost any crop. Mr. Harland has always taken great interest in the planting of trees, and previous to its destruction by fire had one of the finest groves of timber in the county.

**A** H. HOLMES is one of the rising young business men of Norman, Kearney county, Nebr. He was born in Canada June 6, 1863, and is a son of Henry and Harriet (Elliott) Holmes, both natives of Ireland. The parents emigrated to Canada in 1854, and there the father followed the peaceful vocation of a farmer for several years. In 1862 the Holmes family located in Jefferson county, N. Y., where the father died in 1868.

The mother and two children, A. H. and Maggie, accompanied by the maternal grandparents, emigrated to Harlan county, Nebr., in November, 1874. They took homesteads and built the first house in Antelope township, now the wealthiest in the county. The country was exceedingly wild at that time, and antelope and buffalo could be seen in great numbers almost any time. Here this pioneer family lived, enduring all the trials and hardships incident to frontier life, moulding the raw unbroken

prairie into well cultivated farms. The mother died in 1888, and the only daughter, Maggie, became the wife of N. G. Stevens, January 22, 1890.

A. H. Holmes, whose name heads this sketch, is now the only living representative of the family name, as far as he knows. Being left alone, and being a young man of keen perception, he concluded to become a druggist. He accordingly obtained a situation in a drug store at Wilcox, Nebr. He subsequently became proprietor of the only store in town, but sold out in a short time and went into business as a partner of Dr. English, at Bird City, Kans. He continued there for a short time only, then came to Norman, and established a drug store, July 24, 1889, and has since been doing a most successful business.

Mr. Holmes is a young man of splendid business capabilities, and enjoys the high esteem of all who know him. He owns two excellent farms near Wilcox, Harlan county, and has considerable means invested in his business at Norman. He is full of push and enterprise, and never fails to make a success of whatever he undertakes.

**W**ILLIAM P. ACKERMAN, an enterprising young hardware merchant of Norman, Kearney county, is a native of Wisconsin and first saw the light September 29, 1857. His parents, William H. and Alzina L. (Amous) Ackerman, were natives of Jefferson county, N. Y., and emigrated to Adams county, Wis., in 1856, but returned

to New York in 1863. They, however, concluded to try the West once more, and in 1880 moved to Nebraska, settling in Adams county, where they now reside. The senior Ackerman became a sailor on the great lakes when a young man, but subsequently followed farming. He served in the war nearly a year, rendering honorable service in the One Hundred and Eighty-first New York volunteers. He and his wife are both members of the Methodist church.

W. P. Ackerman, our subject, was the elder of two children. He had no educational advantages other than those obtained from the district school which he attended when a youth. Being a young man of temperate habits and of an industrious disposition, he has managed to acquire a splendid knowledge of business. He came to Nebraska with his parents, with whom he remained for a year or so after coming to the state, and then purchased a farm in May township, Kearney county, and followed farming for a few years. In 1886 he purchased a half-interest in a hardware store at Juniata, Adams county, and in 1887 completed the first business building in the thriving town of Norman, Kearney county.

On April 7, 1880, Mr. Ackerman was married to Miss Harriet L. Luther. She is a native of Jefferson county, N. Y., born November 7, 1858, and is the daughter of Aldrich S. and Amanda (Thumb) Luther, both of whom are natives of the Empire State. Her father is a farmer and was a soldier all through the late war. Mr. and Mrs. Ackerman have two children, viz.—Paul A., born July 11, 1883, and Mason A., born January 6, 1885. Mr. Ackerman has 120 acres of good land

near Norman and conducts a successful hardware business in the town.

He was appointed to take the census of May and Grant townships in 1885 and has held various township offices with credit to himself and constituents. He is an ardent temperance man and in politics generally votes with the prohibition party.

**G**EORGE W. WASHBURN was born at Beloit, Wis., January 17, 1844, and is the son of Ira F. and Jane E. (Pratt) Washburn, both of whom are natives of New York. His parents emigrated to Wisconsin in 1839 and were among the first settlers in the section of the county in which they settled. After spending a few years in Illinois the family came to Nebraska in 1876 and settled in Kearney county. The senior Washburn was a farmer by occupation. He died October 31, 1889, and his wife died in 1877. Both were members of the Baptist church. George W. Washburn remained at home until he was sixteen years old, when he went to Chicago and worked in a sash and door factory for a few years. He enlisted August 28, 1861, in the Thirty-ninth, Illinois regiment and served two years in the war. He was in the second battle of Winchester, was a participant in the storming of Ft. Wagner and several short skirmishes, and was discharged August 5, 1863, for disability. He returned to Chicago and engaged in carpenter work, which vocation he has continued to follow more or less of the time since. In 1869 he went to Arkansas, where he spent a few years in the vast

timber regions of that state. He came to Kearney county, Nebr., in 1875, and was among the first settlers in this new country. He took a homestead, which he at once put under cultivation and which he now owns, it being among the best improved farms in the township. When he first settled here the country was full of wild game, such as antelope, deer, etc. He was a victim of the grasshopper raid and witnessed a great deal of suffering among the early settlers. Many of the settlers of those days have gone and their places filled with new-comers. During the grasshopper raid he has seen eighty acres of land exchanged for a common cook stove, an incident which well illustrates the small value placed upon land by the settlers, after they had had their grasshopper experience.

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**J**OHN BINGHAM, a limb from the branch of the noted Bingham family, was born in Harrison county, Ohio, February 17, 1826. His father, Joseph Bingham, was born on Cape May, in 1797, and his mother was a native of Chester county, Pa. Both died in Ohio, about 1875.

John was the eldest of twelve children and started out for himself at the age of eighteen. He learned to be a wagon-maker of an uncle, and followed his trade in Morgan county, Ohio, from 1844 to 1873. From Ohio he came to Nebraska in 1878, settling in Kearney county, and took a homestead in May township, where he has since resided. His pioneer residence consisted of a dug-out, which was superceded

by a comfortable sod house. He came to Hartwell in 1884, when that town was first started, conducted the first hotel, and did a successful business while the town was booming. He was also interested in a store, which was stocked with a general line of merchandise. He was married, December 26, 1853, to Minnie Mitchner, who was born in Chester county, Pa., on March 10, 1824. She is the daughter of John and Mary (Good) Mitchner, both of whom belonged to a noted Quaker family.

The Bingham family consists of six children, namely—Foneta, born October 15, 1855 (deceased); Laurena, born June 22, 1857; Francis, born July 21, 1859; Mary A., born May 4, 1861; Alice, born March 5, 1863, and Joseph J., born September 20, 1864 (deceased).

In 1863, while a resident of Morgan county, Ohio, Mr. Bingham joined the state militia in an effort to capture John Morgan, who was then raiding the southern part of the state. He is perfectly familiar with every detail concerning the famous pursuit and final capture of that noted Southern rebel. He firmly believes John Morgan was assisted in his escape from the Ohio penitentiary by persons holding high official positions in the state. Mr. Bingham has been justice of the peace of May township, and is recognized as one of the best informed men in the town. Several of the daughters are school teachers and their ability to successfully conduct a district school is not confined within the boundary lines of their own township.

Mr. Bingham and his estimable wife are zealous members of the Christian church, and both take great interest in Sunday-school work. In politics, Mr. Bingham is a republican.



**J**OSIAH A. MATHERS, one of the honored pioneers of Kearney county, is a native of Indiana, born in Washington county, July 30, 1831. His parents, Lyman and Fannie (Bonard) Mathers, came from the New England States and were among the early settlers in Indiana; the former died in 1852, and the latter in 1853.

"Joe," as he is familiarly known, early chose farming as his occupation in life, and has followed it since with no small degree of success. He came West, settling in Iowa, but was not satisfied there and so crossed over into Missouri, in 1853, where he remains for ten years. During the war it became necessary for every loyal man in Missouri to shoulder a musket, and in the early days of that great struggle we find Joe Mathers a volunteer on the side of the Union. He enlisted in June, 1862, in the Twenty seventh Missouri regiment, and saw the hardest kind of fighting at Vicksburg, Lookout mountain, Resaca and Atlanta, and marched with Sherman to Charlottesville. He was wounded at the battle of Resaca, but was laid up for only two weeks. He was mustered out June 13, 1865, after three years of most honorable service. After the war he went to La Porte county, Ind., where he farmed for about ten years. In 1869 he immigrated to Cass county, Nebr., and in 1871 came to Kearney county, and is now perhaps the oldest settler in the county south of the sand hills along the Platte. He pre-empted a claim in Eaton township when there was not a family living in sight—and one could see a long way then. He brought with him about one hundred head of cattle from Missouri, but lost them all in the great Easter storm

of 1873. When he first came to this section of the county he procured a cottonwood pole about fifteen feet long and planted it near his sod house, and on this he hung a buffalo hide to serve as a guide to him, when miles away from home. This section of the country was settled mainly in 1874-5 and 6, but many left during the famous grasshopper famine. Mr. Mathers came here well supplied with means and was exceedingly generous towards many of the unfortunate settlers.

In 1854 he was married to Malinda Cowgill, who bore him seven children. His wife died in December, 1873, and Mr. Mathers was married September 4, 1875, to Mary Jane Conyers, by whom he also had seven children—Fannie, Riley, George, Elizabeth, Jane, Lydia and Maggie. Mr. Mathers has been justice of the peace, is a member of the G. A. R. and is one of the most respected citizens in the county.

**W**T. THORN. This well-known gentleman is one of the oldest settlers of Kearney county, as he has been one of the most successful business men of its thriving county-seat town, Minden. He is a native of Hillsdale county, Mich., and was born April 11, 1840. He was reared in his native county, and from there, at the age of twenty-one, entered the Union army, enlisting in Company G, Eleventh Michigan infantry. He immediately went to the front, and during the term of his service participated in the following engagements: Gallatin, Tenn., August 13, 1862; Fort Riley, Tenn., September 1, 1862;

Stone river, Tenn., December 29 to 31, 1862, and January 2 and 3, 1863; Elk river, Tenn., July 1, 1863; Davis' cross-roads, Tenn., September 11, 1863; Chick-amanga, Ga., September 19, and 20, 1863; Mission ridge, Tenn., November 25, 1863; Buzzard's Roost, Ga., May 10, 1864; Resaca, Ga., May 14, 1864; Kenesaw, Ga., June 22 to 27, 1864; New Hope church, May 27, 1864; Rough's station, Ga., July 3 and 4, 1864; Peachtree creek, Ga., June 20, 1864; siege of Atlanta, July 21 and 22, 1864. His term of enlistment expired prior to the taking of Atlanta, but, prompted by a soldierly ambition, he continued in the service till Atlanta was captured. His military career is remarkable. He never missed a day from service and was never sick a day from the time of his enlistment; he never missed a battle in which his company was engaged, and was never wounded or captured. He served as a common private, bearing from the field no titles or honors, save the proud consciousness of duty well done.

In 1873 Mr. Thorn came to Nebraska and settled in Kearney county, taking the first homestead that was filed on in town 6, that county. Most of the country now comprised within the geographical limits of Kearney county was then one vast prairie. There were but two houses on "the divide," and these were next to the sand hills. Mr. Thorn continued on his farm for some years, successfully engaged in farming and stock-raising. He was the first merchant in the town of Minden, opening a store there, in fact, before the town was started. He was the first post-master at Minden, and he has been actively identified with all the material interests of the place since the town was founded,

being now the oldest, as he has been the most prominent and successful, of all of Minden's business men. His career has been that of a man of private affairs strictly, he never having aspired to any public position. He possesses sound intelligence and discriminating judgment, and when in business his conduct was marked for his thorough-going business ways. He has been very successful, having accumulated a competence, and has retired to enjoy it in comfort and ease.

He married, March 3, 1867, Miss Sarah A. Dutton, daughter of John and Evaline Dutton, of Hillsdale county, Mich. January 26, 1871, he lost his wife. He married again, April 22, 1879—the lady whom he selected for his companion being Miss Ida L. Schmidt, a daughter of Andrew Schmidt, then of Kearney county, but a native of Germany. To this union have been born four children—Eva S., Wray, Clara and Edward L. Mr. Thorn has been a member of the Masonic fraternity for some years, and is a man of generous impulses and kindly disposition. Having been successful in the accumulation of this world's goods, he uses them with wisdom and discretion, applying them to the comfort and social improvement of himself and family, and giving liberally to all charitable purposes looking to the good and improvement of others.

**G**EO. H. HARTSOUGH, county clerk of Kearney county, was born in Ontario county, N. Y., May 23, 1852. He was reared mainly in his native place, received an ordinary common-school education in the district

schools of Ontario county, finishing with an academic course in the Canandaigua Academy of Canandaigua, N. Y. He began his career as a school teacher, going South about the time he reached his majority, and taking a school in South Carolina. He remained South only long enough to reach one term; when he returned to New York and engaged with D. M. Osborn & Co., manufacturers of reapers and mowers at Auburn, that state. While in the employ of this firm he took up the study of telegraphy, and, discovering in himself a growing taste for it, he quit Osborn & Co. after two years and went to Akron, Ohio, to perfect himself in his chosen study. In the spring of 1873 he came to Nebraska in search of work as a telegraph operator, having mastered his craft and acquainted himself with the forms and business branches which usually go with a knowledge of telegraphy. He began work for the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company at Harvard, this state, and worked for it at several places until December, 1883, when he was placed in charge of the station at Minden, Kearney county. He located there at that date and looked after the B. & M.'s interests for six years, or until December, 1889. He was elected clerk of Kearney county at the November election, 1889, and resigned his position as station agent of the B. & M. to accept this office. Mr. Hartsough's rise in life has not been very rapid, but it has been well deserved, including his recent election as clerk of Kearney county. He is a thorough business man and a man of intelligence. He owes his position and his success in general to his own efforts, having begun his career alone, and he has come up solely by dint of hard

work and faithful attention to business. He is systematic in his habits and his work, careful and painstaking, a rapid penman, competent accountant, and possesses a talent for the details of business. He is polite and accommodating, genial and companionable. His personal popularity is well attested by the fact that he was elected to his present position in a county largely republican in politics, while he is a democrat. He was elected solely on account of his well-known ability and fitness for the place, and has not disappointed his friends and those who stood by him. He has taken to the discharge of his public duties the same industry and application, the same thoughtful attention and marked solicitude for the public interests, that he displayed in the prosecution of his own affairs, and as he grows in public knowledge he also grows in public favor.

Mr. Hartsough married, in 1879, Miss Della Babcock, of Dundee, Mich., the lady whom he selected for a companion being one in every way worthy of him and eminently fitted to bear him the companionship which he sought with her hand.

Mr. Hartsough is a member of a number of the benevolent orders and has held several positions of prominence in them. He is a man of broad views and charitable impulses, and he finds the best field for his endeavors in behalf of his fellow-men in the avenues opened through these fraternities.

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**L**EWIS W. HAGUE, attorney at-law, member of the Kearney county bar, was born in Fayette county, Pa., January 9, 1853. His parents were natives of the same county and descendants

of Scotch and Irish ancestry. His father, Albert G. Hague, after following the business of an iron-worker and merchant for some years in his native state, moved West, and settled in Jefferson county, Iowa, where he took up agricultural pursuits, which he has steadily followed since. In 1861 his father enlisted in the Union army and served until the close of the war. Mr. Hague's mother, who bore the maiden name of Martha Antram, died in 1860, in her thirty-first year. Four children survived this union, only two of whom, however, are now living. These are—Lewis W., the subject of this notice, and Loretta B., now wife of J. S. Dearth, of Grand Ridge, Ill.

Lewis W. Hague attended the public schools of his native county, but being thrown on his resources early in life, after working on a farm for some time, in order to complete his education, he alternately taught school and went to Waynesburg College, Waynesburg, Pa., the State University of Iowa, and finished his education at Knox College, Galesburg, Ill., graduating in the spring of 1880. He read law with Blanchard & Blanchard, attorneys, at Ottawa, Ill., and was admitted to the bar in 1883. He came to Nebraska in February, 1885, and located at Minden, at which place he has since been engaged in the practice of his profession. He has held the position of city attorney of Minden two years. In politics he has always been an active republican. In 1887 he married Miss Clara M. Chisler, a native of Wisconsin, a lady of culture and refinement, being a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, and one who is eminently fitted to bear him companionship through life. Mr. Hague is a zealous member of

the Ancient Order of United Workmen and a prominent communicant of the Cumberland Presbyterian church.

**L**EWIS A. KENT. In writing of the early settlers of Kearney county, there comes to mind at once the name of Lewis A. Kent, now a prominent business man of the town of Minden. Not only is Mr. Kent an old settler of Kearney county, but he has been actively identified with all its interests, its settlement, growth and development, having assisted in its organization and having held a number of responsible offices, and is therefore deserving of special mention in connection with its history.

Lewis A. Kent is one of a family of seven children born to David and Hester (Gynn) Kent, there being besides himself three brothers and three sisters—William Alexander, Benjamin Franklin, Aaron Lytle Maggie E., Emma and Anna. The subject of this notice is a native of Richland county, Ill., and was born October 29, 1847. He was reared in his native county on his father's farm, receiving an ordinary common-school training. His first pursuits were those of agriculture. Marrying in 1870, he came to Nebraska a year later and settled in Kearney county, taking a homestead four miles east of the town of Lowell, and there began his career in the West. He began in an humble way. In fact, he drove through from Illinois with a team, and after two years' farming he moved into Lowell and began clerking in a store. In the fall of 1873 he was elected county clerk of Kearney county, having assisted in the organization of the county



LEWIS A. KENT.



in June, 1872, and held the office of clerk by successive re-elections for five terms. The county seat was then at Lowell. After it was moved to Minden, Mr. Kent moved there, and after he finished out his term of office as county clerk he began the banking business, opening a private bank at that date in partnership with Rush H. Palmer, which bank was re-organized as the First National Bank of Minden, in 1883. Mr. Kent became president and has been the active and efficient chief executive of the First National since. He has given his time almost exclusively for the past ten years to his private interests; but, as stated at the outset of this sketch, he has held a number of public offices at one time and another in Kearney county. After assisting in organizing the county, he was elected superintendent of public instruction; he was then elected county clerk, serving five terms; he served then in the legislature; in the senate, from Harlan, Kearney and Phelps counties, and he has been a member of the State Board of Agriculture for fifteen years, having been manager of the board for five years and treasurer five. He was the first mayor of Minden, and has at all times been actively identified with the best interests of his adopted town and county.

Mr. Kent married in 1870, prior to moving West—the lady whom he selected to share his fortunes with him being Miss Leona M. Barney, then of Woodford county, Ill., a daughter of Hiram Barney, now of Kearney, Buffalo county, Nebr. Mr. and Mrs. Kent have a pleasant home in Minden. They are members of the Methodist church and liberal contributors to all charitable purposes.

**E**D. L. ADAMS, judge of the Kearney county court, is a native of Monroe county, Ind., was born May 24, 1861, and is the fourth of a family of seven children born to Joseph and Minerva (Whisenand) Adams. On his father's side he comes of one of the historical families of America, being a great-grandson of Captain Samuel Adams of Revolutionary fame. Judge Adams' father was born near Charleston, S. C., September, 1823, and was brought when a lad to Indiana by his parents, where he was reared and where he now resides, being a resident of Monroe county. He has been a life-long farmer, a man of plain tastes and industrious habits, and is a good representative of his calling.

The subject of this sketch was reared in his native county and received an ordinary common-school education. Perhaps to get a correct idea of the sort of education Judge Adams obtained, it will be necessary for the reader to lay emphasis on the word ordinary, for his school training, even with the best advantages his parents could give him, was of a very ordinary kind. Yet what he got was sufficient to arouse in him a thirst for knowledge, and he made up his mind while yet a lad that he would have an education. He sat about studying in private, and having acquired considerable knowledge in this way he started out at the age of sixteen as a teacher of country schools, beginning his career as thousands of other ambitious boys have done who have had to carve out their fortunes in the world. It was never his intention to make a professional teacher of himself. His school-room work was only to afford him the best attainable means to a higher end. He taught during

the winter months in different localities in his native county, and worked during the summer months at any sort of manual labor he could find, reading and studying and perfecting himself as best he could, continuing at this for a period of nine years. In the meantime, in 1881, he married—the lady on whom his choice fell for a life companion being Miss Alta Streat, a native of Monroe county, Ind. Having determined in the meantime, also, to devote himself to one of the liberal professions, he selected law and began reading with Fulk & Mulky, of Bloomington, Ind. His law studies were pursued under some difficulties, but he kept them up as closely as possible, and never lost sight of his purpose to fit himself for a calling of usefulness and one, as he believed, of congeniality, in that of the law. In March, 1885, he moved to Nebraska and settled in Kearney county. He rented a farm in Sherman township and devoted himself for a time to agriculture, but in the fall of that year he was appointed to the position of assistant principal in the public schools at Minden, when he moved into town and assumed the rôle of teacher. In the fall of 1887 he was solicited to make the race for judge of the county court, a flattering recognition of his ability, but a step which he hesitated about taking. He knew that Kearney county had a large republican majority, and being a man of strong democratic principles he naturally considered his chances for an election as by no means promising. He yielded, however, to the importunities of his friends and made the race, and was elected by a majority of three hundred and sixty-three. Taking the office in January, 1888, he served the people of Kearney county for two years,

at the end of which time he was re-elected and is now serving his second term. The best evidence of the satisfaction he has given is to be found in the fact of his endorsement with another term at the last election. Had he failed to give this satisfaction the people of Kearney county would have been quick to emphasize the fact at the polls, while self-sacrificing citizens would not have been lacking to have taken up the work he could not do. But Judge Adams has steadily grown in public favor. He came into notice rather suddenly, but he has met public expectation, and it may safely be said that he has passed the probationary period in his public career. He has won the esteem and respect of all citizens, even of those who differ from him widely in political faith, and has done this in the only way such things can be done, and that is by a conscientious discharge of his public duties, using his office as a public trust. He is a man of intelligence, and therefore possesses one of the first requisites of a public official, whatever the capacity he may be chosen to fill. He has a good knowledge of the law, without which he could not be a good judge; he possesses a taste and aptitude for the duties of his office, without which he could not give satisfaction, whatever his intelligence or special training in the law might be; and above all is he a polite and accomodating, genial and affable gentleman, which qualities, while they adorn the man, whatever his position, set with special grace upon him who has been elevated to a position of trust and honor by his fellow-citizens. Judge Adams is universally and deservedly popular, and, being yet a young man, has a bright future before him.



**L**EVI M. COPELAND, the pioneer druggist of Minden, Kearney county, is a native of Henry county, Ind., and was born December 26, 1842. He is the oldest of nine children born to Nathan and Amelia (Clanton) Copeland, and is the only representative of his family in this state, most of his brothers and sisters residing where they were born and reared in Henry county, Ind., where also live the parents, now well advanced in years.

The subject of this notice was reared on his father's farm in Henry county, Ind., and received an ordinary common-school training, working as a farm hand through the summer months and attending the district schools in the winter. He entered the Union army in July, 1862, then just turned into his nineteenth year, enlisting in Company I, Sixty-ninth Indiana infantry. He served till the close of the war, participating in all the campaigns and engagements that his regiment served in till the surrender.

This simple narrative of Mr. Copeland's military career will probably excite no special interest in the mind of the general reader, as it is the oft-told story, true of thousands of old soldiers, but it will, nevertheless, be of absorbing interest in years to come to his descendants who will treasure the meagre facts thus preserved of his army life as the miser treasures his gold. They will look upon those years as the eventful ones of his life as well as of this nation—those years when patriotism flashed through the land like an electric thrill; when the canker of gold and the dust of cotton dropped from the manhood of the nation, and men went forth to battle for their country; when they sur-

rendered the search for wealth, dropped the plow in its furrow, the hammer at the forge, the pen at the desk and marched cheerily to wounds and to death.

The war over, Mr. Copeland returned to his home in Henry county, Ind., and again went to farming. March 6, 1867, he married Miss Sarah E. Harrold, of his native county and a lady whom he had known from childhood. He resided in Henry county, engaged in farming, till 1876, when he moved to Henry county, Iowa, thence in 1878 to Cowley county, Kans., thence in 1879 to Harlan county, Nebr., and in December of the same year to Minden, Kearney county, where he has since resided. On locating in Minden he bought of George W. Espey a drug-store and began the drug and book business. In addition to this he has been identified in a general way with the best interests, material and social, of his adopted town and county, and there is hardly a more liberal-minded or public-spirited citizen to be found in this community than himself. He has never aspired to public office, preferring the peaceful paths of private life and the pleasure that comes from a consciousness of duty well done as a humble citizen to the turmoil, disappointments and heart-burnings incident to the life of the office-seeker. He takes an active interest in the Grand Army of the Republic, having been commander of Strong Post, No. 91, at Minden, and adjutant of the post for three years, and a liberal contributor to all purposes looking to the betterment of the condition of his old comrades. He is also a zealous member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, having joined them over twenty-two years ago. He has passed all the chairs in this frater-

nity and has represented his lodge on two occasions in the grand lodge.

Mr. and Mrs. Copeland have a pleasant home and are justly popular with the best people where they live. They have two daughters—Cecil C. and Anna B., both grown and around whom now naturally clusters the chief interest of their lives, and in the unfolding and development of whose characters they find their keenest pleasures.

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**J**AMES A. MARTIN, A. B., M. D., a prominent physician of Minden, Kearney county, is a native of Scotland and was born November 8, 1853. He is a son of William and Ellen (Young) Martin, both natives also of Scotland and descendants of Scotch stock from time immemorial. His father was a physician, a graduate of the best schools of his native country. He came to America in 1859, and after a short residence in St. Louis settled in Madison county, Ill., where he practiced his profession till his death, which occurred March 22, 1883. The subject of this notice, accompanying his mother, came to the United States in 1867, joining the husband and father at that date. Young Martin was educated at Lincoln, Ill., receiving both his preliminary and collegiate course there, graduating from the Lincoln University in 1878. He read medicine with his father and graduated from the American Medical College at St. Louis, February 28, 1884. The following April he came to Nebraska and located at Minden, where he at once entered upon the

practice of his profession. February 16, 1887, he married Miss Joe Healy, of Richmond, Va., a lady who by her birth and training is eminently fitted to bear him the companionship he sought with her hand.

Dr. Martin is a trained physician, a ripe scholar for his years, and a pleasant gentleman. He devotes himself exclusively to the practice of medicine, believing in the homely old saying that "Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well"

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**F**INDLEY DUNN, boot and shoe merchant of Minden, Kearney county, is a native of Erie county, Pa., and was born September 15, 1841. He is one of a family of thirteen children born to Oliver and Elizabeth (Du Mars) Dunn. He was reared in his native county, attending the district schools during the winter months and working on his father's farm in summer. On August 11, 1862, he entered the Union army, enlisting in Company B, One Hundred and Forty-fifth Pennsylvania infantry. His regiment enjoys the distinction of having been one of the "three hundred fighting regiments" of the Union army in the late war. It was recruited mainly in Erie county, and left the state September 12, 1862, arriving five days later on the field at Antietam. While at Harper's Ferry it was assigned to Caldwell's brigade, Hancock's division, 2d corps. At Fredericksburgh it took eight companies into action, two companies having been de-

tailed on the skirmish line. The eight companies lost thirty-four killed, one hundred and fifty-two wounded, and forty-three missing, a total of two hundred and twenty-nine out of five hundred and five in action. The missing ones were wounded or killed. Nine of the officers lost their lives in this bloody assault, and the commander of the regiment, Col. Hiram L. Brown, received a serious wound. The regiment fought at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, taking part in the latter engagement in the famous contest in the wheat field, where, with about two hundred men in line, its casualties amounted to ten killed, sixty-six wounded, and eight missing. During the winter of 1863-4 the One Hundred and Forty-fifth occupied a well-built camp, which combined a neat, tasteful appearance, with substantial warmth and comfort, and took the field in May, 1864, in efficient condition. A large number of the men were captured at Petersburg in June, 1864, which, with previous losses, left but few in line at the subsequent actions in which the division was engaged. The regiment took into the service one thousand four hundred and fifty-six men. It lost in killed and wounded six hundred and fifty-one. It was in fourteen of the principal battles fought in Virginia and Pennsylvania and was present also at eleven others. In the engagement at Fredericksburgh Mr. Dunn was wounded, December 13th, by a gun-shot in the left knee. He lay on the battle-field after he was shot until he contracted a cold, which brought on congestion of the lungs. Retiring from the service on account of his wounds and the diseased condition of his lungs, he returned home, where he went on crutches for more than a year. As

soon as he recovered sufficiently he began teaching school; then kept books for different firms in Erie City, and then, on the bursting out of the oil fever in western Pennsylvania, he went into the oil regions, where he began operations, and there continued during the "flush times" of that famous period. He made money, but like hundreds of others he was caught in the panic of 1873-4, and lost all he had made. He then went to Wayne, Erie county, Pa., where he engaged in mercantile business and remained there for a period of seven years, making some money during that time. In 1881, he came to Nebraska and settled in Thayer county, where he began farming and stock-raising. In 1883, he moved to Minden, Kearney county, where, after a year, during which time he was engaged in clerking and book-keeping, he in partnership with W. E. Nichol, opened a store and embarked in general mercantile business. Selling out his interest after the expiration of a year, he began handling real estate, in which he was engaged up to March, 1888. He then bought of Meek Brothers the boot and shoe business, in which he is now engaged.

Mr. Dunn is strictly a man of business, and has never aspired to any public position. Of quiet tastes and studious habits, he finds more pleasure in the peaceful pursuit of his own affairs than in chasing the phantom of public office.

January 6, 1887, he married Miss Flora Ribble, of Page county, Iowa, a lady eminently fitted to bear him companionship throughout life.

Mr. Dunn is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, a staunch adherent of the republican party, and is now and

has been for years a zealous member of the United Presbyterian church.

Mrs. Dunn was born January 14, 1856, is a native of Page county, Iowa, and is the eldest of a family of ten children born to D. C. and N. J. (Martin) Ribble, was educated in the high school of Clarinda, began teaching in the fall of 1872, and followed that profession successfully for eight years in Page county, and was principal of the graded schools at Burlington Junction, Mo., two years. She came to Nebraska in 1881, and taught steadily in the common schools of the state for seven years—three years in Pawnee county and four years in Adams and Kearney counties, and settled in Minden in 1886, and was married to Findley Dunn, January 6, 1887.

**J**OHN HAMMERSTROM, saddle and harness merchant of Minden, Kearney county, is a native of Sweden and was born April 6, 1854. He came to the United States in 1869, and after a short stop in New York city went to Cook county, Minn., where he began work as a laborer on the railroad. Continuing there till 1873, he came at that date to Kearney county, Nebr., and took a homestead and settled down to farming. He followed farming till 1887, then moved into Minden, and opened a saddle and harness store, continuing at this since. Mr. Hammerstrom's life has not been an eventful one, but it has been one marked by great industry and crowned with success far beyond that of the average man. When he landed in America

he had only fifteen dollars; and this was soon consumed while looking for something to do. He literally began life in the new world on the bottom round of the ladder. His rise was slow, but steady. He worked hard and faithfully saved up all he earned. He applied himself industriously to the task of mastering the English language and the American ways of doing things. His first few years, although spent in unremitting toil and not without much hardship, brought him, nevertheless, much experience, which he has since turned to good account. He is not only an industrious, economical man, but he possesses good intelligence and thorough-going business ways. He is highly esteemed in the community where he lives, and is pointed out by his admiring fellow-citizens as a splendid example of what one with sound head and strong heart, coupled with industry and frugality, may accomplish in this land of peace and plenty.

**C**HARLES W. SPENCE, senior editor, publisher and proprietor of the *Kearney County Democrat*, is a native of Fulton county, Ill., and was born April 6, 1865. He is the fifth of eight children born to William and Caroline (Ruble) Spence, now of Fulton county. He is a newspaper man by choice and long years of training. He left home at the age of ten, and went to Peoria, Ill., where he learned the "art preservative" on the *Transcript* of that place, and then, at the age of fifteen, he started on the road as a journeyman

printer. He traveled for some years, working in different localities and gathering a knowledge of his business and of the world, pulling up in 1881 at Lincoln, this state, where he held a place as compositor for some time on the *State Journal*. Leaving there, he went to Alma, Harlan county, where he published the *Alma Times* for about six months. Returning to Lincoln, he was again engaged on the journal for six months longer, going thence in January, 1886, to Minden, Kearney county, where he, in company with H. H. Dunkle, bought the *Kearney County Democrat*, continuing its publication under the firm name of Spence & Dunkle, till the summer of 1889. At that date H. W. Mackey bought Mr. Dunkle's interest, and the firm became Spence & Mackey, and has continued so since. The *Democrat* is a six-column quarto weekly, democratic in politics, and is devoted to the interests of Minden, Kearney county, and the great southwest of Nebraska. It is a live, progressive, newsy sheet, the champion of the right, and the uncompromising enemy of the wrong; free, fearless and without favor in dealing with public questions. It is the exponent of the best thought of the times, and the leader in all public enterprises in the community where it is published. It has a large and constantly increasing circulation, and is popular with the citizens of Kearney county, even among those who differ widely with it in political faith, and even on some matters of public policy. Messrs. Spence & Mackey, in addition to their newspaper interest, have built up a large job department, turning out constantly an immense amount of job work of a superior quality. Their paper is the official organ of the

county and they do all the public printing for the county. Few have ever visited the town of Minden who have not heard of the *Democrat*. Many have heard of it who never saw the town. The citizens in the community where it is published have every reason to be proud of it.

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**C**HARLES G. BROMAN. The subject of this sketch is a splendid example of that enterprising class of citizens, the Swedish Americans, by whom a large part of Kearney county is settled and whose industry and thrift have made it one of the best counties in central or southwestern Nebraska. He was born in 1851 and is the fourth of a family of eight children born to Andrew G. and Christina (Dahlstrom) Broman, natives of Sweden. His father was born in 1814, and died in 1884; his mother was born in 1818, and is still living; these parents were married in 1840 and came to the United States in 1877. Their children were Alfred, Oscar, Mary, Charles G., August, Frank, Tilda and one that died in infancy.

The fourth of these and the subject of this sketch was reared in his native country to the age of twenty, coming thence in 1871 to America, stopping first in Henry county Ill., and afterwards in Henderson county, Iowa, and finally moving in 1876 to Nebraska and settling in Kearney county, where he has since resided. He took a homestead on locating in the county, and he has been steadily engaged in farming since. He had but little means with which to begin, but he had an

abundance of energy and believed in the future of the country, and he worked away from year to year, gradually accumulating property and building up his place, until now he is one of the best farmers in the community where he resides, and has one of the best improved and most desirable places.

Mr. Broman has been twice married and is for a second time a widower. He is the father of five children, one by his first marriage and four by his last. He is a consistent member of the Lutheran church, as were also his parents and both his wives.

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**F**RANKLIN SHOFF, M. D. This gentleman, a graduate of Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York, holds high rank in his profession. He is a son of Daniel and Jane Shoff. His father was a native of Ontario, Canada, and was born in 1817; his mother bore the maiden name of Jane Summers, and was born in England in 1821, came to America in 1830, and settled in Ontario where she was married to Daniel Shoff in 1845. These are the parents of eight children as follows—Oscar, Amanda, Elgin, Sarah, Fred, Franklin, Ernest and Harry.

Franklin Shoff, the subject of this notice, is a native of Canada and was born in Ontario in 1859. He remained in his native place till 1883, and while there took a course in the collegiate institutes at St. Catharines and Toronto, and was engaged in teaching for five years. Coming to the States in 1883 he located in Kansas and re-

mained there one year. From there he went to New York and entered the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, from which he graduated in 1886. That year he came to Nebraska, locating in Axtell, Kearney county, where he began the practice of his profession. He has been a resident of the place since and has a large and lucrative practice.

Dr. Shoff married in 1889, taking for a life companion Miss Millicent M. Hudson, a native of England. She is an intelligent lady and well fitted to bear the companionship he sought with her hand.

Dr. Shoff is an energetic and public-spirited citizen, and is interested in all movements contributing to the advancement of his town and county.

Politically, he is an upholder of republican principles. The doctor and his estimable wife are highly esteemed in their community.

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**J**OHAN M. HOUSEHOLDER is a prosperous farmer in the Platte valley and a leading and representative citizen of Kearney county. He was born in Philadelphia, Pa., November 27, 1834, and is the son of Adam and Mary (Moss) Householder, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, the former having been born in the year 1799, and the latter in 1795. John M. was the sixth child in a family of seven children—six boys and one girl—and resided with his parents in Philadelphia until fourteen years of age, during which time he attended the public schools, and then, in company with his brother, went to Del-

aware City, Del. There he resided ten years, serving an apprenticeship of five years at the carpenter's trade, which he continued to follow while there. In 1858 he removed to Wilmington, Del., where he resided six years and was engaged in Hollingsworth's shipyard at shipjoining.

November 26, 1862, he responded to his country's call and enlisted in Company F, Fifth regiment Delaware infantry, and was under Capt. John R. Holt. He was on skirmish duty during Lee's raid through Virginia and Maryland, and afterwards ordered to join an escort of prisoners to Fort Delaware, where he guarded these and others three months, at which time his enlistment expired and he was discharged at Wilmington, Del., August 10, 1863. In June, 1864, he entered the construction department of the army, and for eight months was engaged in erecting barracks and storehouses for Sherman's army at Jacksonville and Nashville, Tenn. He next returned to Wilmington, Del., and remained three months, removing to Chester, Pa., where he resided until the spring of 1879, and was engaged as contractor and builder. He was a member of the state militia and during the Pittsburgh riots of July, 1877, commanded, as captain, Company K, Eleventh regiment, 10th division. He was first commissioned second lieutenant, then first lieutenant, and finally captain. His division was the only one provided with battery and artillery. Its members were supplied with ammunition at Malvern, Pa., where they were joined by the governor and took the train for Pittsburgh, and after much difficulty succeeded in reaching that point and dispersing the mob and taking possession of the burnt district. His com-

pany was noted for its fearlessness and was the first to escort stock trains from the city. They remained in Pittsburgh until August 8, when, the trouble being over, they returned home. So well did the company of which Mr. Householder was commander deport itself, that it received honorable mention in Adjutant James W. Latta's state report.

In February, 1878, Mr. Householder emigrated West and entered his present claim of one hundred and sixty acres on the east side of section 22, Newark township, Kearney county, Nebr., on what was originally the old Fort Kearney reservation. The country was new and sparsely settled at that time, and deer and antelope roamed over the valley, filled the sand hills to the south and thronged the neighboring islands of the Platte river. Mr. Householder constructed a frame shanty sixteen by twenty, a sod barn and cave, and began farm life after the manner of pioneers. The first few years were accompanied with many vexations on account of cattlemen driving their cattle over farms and destroying crops, etc. There were a few Omaha and Pawnee Indians who used to come down the Platte river and trap beaver and mink, but never molested the settlers beyond an occasional scare. The cow-boys were a source of great annoyance to the settlers, and when one would remonstrate at having his crops run over and ruined, they would pull a revolver from their belts, point it at him and tell him to shut his mouth. In the fall of 1879 a prairie fire swept down the valley, destroying many homes and much property, and was supposed to have been started one hundred and fifty miles up the river by the Indians for the purpose of depriving

the cow-boys of winter feed for their cattle, so much were they hated by the Indians. Mr. Householder fought the fire until his whiskers and eyebrows were burnt off, and finally succeeded in saving his home from the flames.

Mr. Householder was instrumental in establishing the first school in his neighborhood in 1880. He has had good success at farming, having raised good crops every year except 1887, when they were nearly totally destroyed by hail. He now has seventy acres broken on his farm, a fine growing orchard, and thirteen hundred forest trees of thrifty growth.

Mr. Householder was married, July 11, 1856, to Margaret Allen, by whom he had six children, two of whom are still living. He lost his wife and was married the second time, January 7, 1871, to Fannie E. Brown, widow of James E. Brown, and whose maiden name was Grindle. This union has been blessed with the birth of five children, four boys and one girl, as follows—Earnest B., born October 11, 1871; Bennie G., born March 9, 1873; Christie, born November 16, 1874; Frank M., born July 26, 1878; Thomas D., born November 7, 1880, the last named having died at the age of sixteen months. Mrs. Householder was born April 24, 1842, at Penobscot, Me., and is the daughter of Addison B. and Mary (Grey) Grindle, both of whom were natives of Maine, the former having been born November 18, 1816, and the latter December 28, 1820. In their family were five children—all girls. Mr. Grindle was by occupation a sea captain.

Mr. Householder is a republican in politics, having been one of the prime movers in the organization of that party in the

State of Delaware. He has held the office of town clerk several terms, and is now prominently mentioned as a candidate for the office of representative to the state legislature in the interests of the farmers of Kearney county, and it might be casually remarked that no better choice could be made.

**A** J. LINDBECK is one of the oldest settlers of Kearney county and an honored and respected citizen of Newark. He was born in Sweden August 22, 1830, and is the son of Jonas and Margaret (Strong) Lindbeck, both of whom were natives of Sweden. The former, a farmer by occupation, was born in the year 1793, and the latter in 1799. He is one of a family of nine children—seven boys and two girls. He resided with his father in Sweden until fifteen years of age, during which time he attended school and served an apprenticeship at the tailor's trade. About this time a new religious sect, called Johnsonites, was organized in opposition to the State religion, and he became convinced of its good principles and joined it. There was great opposition to the new religion, and its followers were stoned and beaten about by the followers of the old church, until they were finally compelled to seek refuge in fairer fields and "pastures new." They accordingly, in 1845, embarked in five ships for America. Four of the ships arrived in Brooklyn March 5, 1846, after a



tedious voyage of ten months, and the other was never heard from. There were originally 1,150 in the colony, but it is supposed that 350 of them found a watery grave. The remaining 800 were compelled to seek quarters in Brooklyn for two months until the canals were opened for traffic. They took lodging in vacant houses, and after two months of weary waiting, embarked on the canal boats for Buffalo, and thence to Chicago by way of Lake Michigan. Mr. Lindbeck remained in Chicago two weeks, and roomed in the first brick house ever built in that city, and afterwards joined the colony in Henry county, Illinois. That section of Illinois at that time was a new and barren country and anything but inviting to a new-comer. He pre-empted land and remained there until 1847, when he moved to Princeville, Ill., and engaged in the tailor business. He lived there and at Chillicothe and Peoria until 1852. He left Princeville April 12, 1852, for the far West and September 8th, of the same year, landed in California, having walked the entire distance. He engaged in mining at first, and later in the hotel and grocery business in San Francisco. He was taken with an attack of rheumatism in 1869 and went on a trip to the Sandwich Islands. In the spring of 1870 he returned to Henry county, Ill., and for six years worked at the carpenter trade, which he had learned while in California. In April, 1877, he again emigrated West and located in Kearney county, Nebr., where he entered as a homestead a quarter section in section 24, township 8, range 15, on which the town of Newark now stands. In the fall of the same year he took a timber claim of one hundred and fifteen

acres, on which he has since set out one hundred and five thousand trees and cuttings, with a view of some day erecting there a home for destitute children. Although his financial ventures have not proved as successful as he at one time anticipated, he still has hopes of accomplishing his desired end. Kearney county was new and barren when Mr. Lindbeck first came, and deer and antelope were quite plentiful among the sand hills and along the Platte river. He built a store and blacksmith shop and wagon works, and started the town of Newark; he also donated eighty acres of land to the Burlington & Missouri River R. R. Company, to get them to place a station and elevator there, and after the town was fairly started he bought and had published a newspaper called the Newark *Herald*. He had two objects in starting the newspaper, one to advertise the town and the other to burst an obnoxious political ring in the county, which latter thing he accomplished. When he started the town of Newark he had numerous propositions from men who desired to open saloons, but refused to allow any such establishments to open within the corporate limits, saying that he would rather fail in his project of establishing a town without saloons than to succeed with them. He has remained in this belief, and it is to his credit that Newark has never had a saloon. Politically, Mr. Lindbeck is a greenbacker. He served as postmaster of Newark for six years and is at present supervisor of Newark township. He has never married, and although a member of no particular church, he has lived a life consistent with religious principles and has within him the hope of a better world beyond.

SAMUEL G. DICKMAN is one of the oldest settlers in Kearney county, now living on the old Fort Kearney reservation. He was born May 4, 1833, in Cambridge, Mass. His father, Joseph S. G. Dickman, a rope-maker by occupation, and also a native of Massachusetts, was born November 30, 1793. He served in the War of 1812 in Isaac Story's company of light infantry in defense of Marblehead. He was a resident of Cambridge, Mass., for fifty-five years and a member of the Masonic order. Mt. Lebanon Lodge, No. 5815. He died May 29, 1878, at the ripe old age of eighty-six years. The mother of our subject, Mary (Deacons) Dickman, was a native of Marblehead, Mass., born in the year 1788, and died August 17, 1871. There were six children in the family—three boys and three girls, of whom the eldest son and brother of our subject served in the War of the Rebellion. The paternal grandfather, Joseph Dickman, was of English descent, but it is not known to a certainty whether he was born in this country or in England. He was a jeweler by occupation.

Samuel G. Dickman, our subject, resided at home with his father until his marriage at the age of twenty-seven years. In the meantime he attended the Cambridge public schools and at the age of thirteen years began work in the rope factory. He afterwards drove stage on the line from Boston to Cambridge and still later filled the capacity of street car driver. This he followed until the spring of 1866, when he emigrated West and located in Eureka, Woodford county, Ill., where he resided ten years, and was engaged in farming. He again emigrated

West, and June 15, 1876, landed in Kearney county, Nebr., and located on his present site. The reservation, consisting of ten miles square, had not at that time been surveyed and opened to settlement. The country was new and wild, and antelope and deer were roaming about in herds. There was an occasional settler, or squatter, as they were termed in those days, but they were few and far between. He at once began the construction of a sod house and soon had his family in comfortable quarters. He broke out eight acres of raw prairie that season and attempted to raise some buckwheat and a few potatoes. His meager crops flourished for a time, but the grasshoppers, which thronged the country in great abundance that year, totally destroyed them. As a result he saw hard times the following winter and was compelled for the most part to live on corn meal. He worked one winter for fifty cents a day and board, while his wife and son built a sod barn. The heavy driving rains of that period, unlike the gentle showers of to-day, played havoc with the sod house, and frequently after a heavy rain storm there would be from three to four inches of mud on the ground floor. On a cold, blustery winter's night in 1877 the snow drifted through the cracks in the sod shanty until everything was covered, and they were compelled to hold the umbrella over their faces in bed. When Mr. Dickman landed on the reservation he had but one team and fifty-nine dollars in money, but he has labored assiduously and now has one of the best improved farms in Newark township.

He married, September 17, 1860, Ellen S. March, who was born at Bangor,

Me., August 3, 1841, and is the adopted daughter of James and Mary March, her real parents having died with cholera when she was but four years old. This happy union has resulted in the birth of seven children, two only of whom are living, as follows—Joseph S., born October 29, 1861; Charles E., born August 28, 1865 and deceased September 27, 1865; Mary E., born March 6, 1868; Edith W., born July 23, 1869, deceased August 31, 1869; Bertie L., born July 8, 1870, died August 6, 1870; Lena B., born May 12, 1874, died September 12, 1874; Willie F., born April 21, 1878, died July 10, 1878. Joseph, the oldest son, served in the capacity of deputy county clerk for three years, and in 1885 was elected clerk, which office he has held for four years. He is also a member of the Masonic order at Minden. Mr. and Mrs. Dickman are consistent christians and members of the Baptist church; politically, Mr. Dickman is a republican.

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**W**H. LEASURE, the subject of this biographical notice, is a native of Ohio, and was born 1847. His father, Jesse Leasure, was a native of Virginia, and was born in 1810. When a young man, he moved to Jefferson county, Ohio, and died there in 1888. He was a consistent christian, and was deacon in the Baptist church for a number of years.

His mother bore the maiden name of Sarah Rine, and was born in Maryland in 1804. When three years of age she

moved with her parents to Ohio, where she died in 1886, the mother of eight children.

W. H. Leasure, the subject of this sketch, lived in his native state until thirty years of age. Coming in 1877 to Nebraska, he settled near Walker's Ranch, and located a homestead on section 27, township 5, range 16 west. After a residence there of six years, he moved to Keene and engaged in mercantile pursuits for a period of three years. In 1886 he came to Wilcox, where he again embarked in mercantile pursuits, at which he has since continued.

Mr. Leasure started out to make his way in the world in 1876. When he reached Nebraska, he had only five cents left, but by perseverance and industry he now has a stock which will invoice \$6,000, and also owns a quarter section of good land.

Mr. Leasure married in July, 1876, taking for a life companion Miss Orpha Jordan, a native of Ohio. This union has been blessed with one child—George, born November 3, 1880.

When Mr. Leasure came to Wilcox there were only two families in the town. He was the first merchant in the place, and without interruption has continued to the present time, his trade increasing steadily with the growth of the place of his adoption. Although constantly employed in the details necessary to the success of a large and flourishing business he has also held a number of local offices, having been justice of the peace and town treasurer for a number of years. As one of the thoroughgoing business men, enterprising and public-spirited citizen of Wilcox, Mr. Leasure takes high

rank, and in an eminent degree holds the respect and confidence of its citizens.

In politics, he is a hearty supporter of the republican party. Mr. and Mrs. Leasure both hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, and take an active interest in all church work.

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**G**ABRIEL D. COUTANT was born in the State of New York in the year 1844. He is the only son amongst four children—two sisters older and one younger—born to Lewis and Jane (DuBois) Coutant, both natives also of New York, the father having been born there in the year 1800 and the mother in 1802. The father, a farmer by occupation, died in the noon-day of his career, having lived a sober, industrious life. The mother is still living.

The subject of this notice, bereft of the guardianship of his father at the tender age of three, grew up under the maternal grandfather's roof and under the fostering care of an affectionate mother and received such training as she was able to procure for him. He was reared on the farm and trained to the habits of industry and usefulness to common farm life. Being of a mechanical turn of mind he also learned the carpenter's trade in his youth, and he alternately followed the pursuits of farming and working at the carpenter's trade. In 1866 he married Miss Cornelia M. Noxon, a native of New York, born in 1843. He came to Nebraska in 1877 and settled in Kearney county, taking a homestead in section 31, township 5, range 16 west, where he located, and where, and in

that vicinity, he has since resided. He has been steadily engaged in farming and carpentering, and has been successful both as a farmer and mechanic. He owns a place near the town of Wilcox, which he has in a good state of cultivation and well furnished with neat and commodious buildings for man and beast. He also owns a half interest in "Coutant's addition" to the town of Wilcox, and is interested in other ways in the community where he resides. He has filled a number of local offices since settling in Kearney county, the duties of which he has discharged with credit to himself and satisfaction to the people whom he served. He is at present postmaster at Wilcox.

He and his wife are both members of the Congregational church and take much interest in church work and charitable movements in their community.

Mr. and Mrs. Coutant are the parents of four children, around whom naturally clusters much of their interest in this life and for whom they now chiefly live, these being John F., born in 1869; May R., born in 1878; Lewis H., born in 1882, and Grace, born in 1886.

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**A**P. HOLLISTER. This well-known and highly esteemed gentleman, is a native of Ohio, and was born in Clermont county. He is a son of Jesse and Elizabeth (Jordan) Hollister. His father was a native of Vermont and was born in 1792. From Vermont he moved to Kentucky and from there to Clermont county, Ohio, where he died.

The mother of our subject was born in

Kentucky in 1799, and married in 1820. These were the parents of nine children, as follows—William, Richard, James (deceased), Margaret, Mark, Joseph, Alvah, and two that died in infancy unnamed.

The subject of this brief sketch was reared in his native state, and remained there till 1872, engaged in teaching seven years, and also working at the carpenter's trade, and farming for some time. In 1872 he moved to Iowa, settling in Andrew, Jackson county, where he remained two years, engaged in the drug business. Coming in 1874 to Nebraska, he settled in Kearney county and located a homestead on section 34, township 5, range 16 west. He has been a resident of Kearney county since, and during all the intervening years since the date of his locating there he has been identified with the best interests of his adopted county. Being a man of intelligence and industry, he has contributed in no small degree to the growth and development of his community.

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**A**MOS R. LEWIS is a native of New Jersey, having been born in Jersey City in 1854. He is the only child of Capt. Edwin and Sarah (Wilson) Lewis, the former a native of New Jersey and the latter a native of New York. His father was born in 1827, and was lost at sea between San Francisco, Cal., and China, being then captain of a sailing vessel, named "The Waldo." He came of seafaring stock and followed the high seas all his life. He was one of eight brothers, all of whom were seamen and whose lives

were marked by many nautical adventures and thrilling episodes.

Mr. Lewis' mother, who bore the maiden name of Atkinson, was a widow when she was married to Capt. Lewis. She had but one child by her second marriage, that is the subject of this sketch, but she had two daughters by her former marriage, the older of whom is now Mrs. Anna Shave, of New York City, and the younger Mrs. Rebecca Butler, of Brooklyn, N. Y. Mr. Lewis' mother was born in 1827 and now resides with her elder daughter in New York City.

The subject of this notice was reared mainly in New York City. When a lad he was apprenticed to the trade of nickel-plating and brass-finishing, which he followed for some years in the city of New York. He came to Nebraska in 1878, and settled in Kearney county, taking a homestead at that date, filing on a quarter in section 34, township 5, range 16 west. He began life in the West in the usual primitive way by erecting a sod-house and breaking out all the prairie he could, preparatory to seeding. In 1880, his first crop year, he raised nothing. In 1881, he had fifty acres in wheat and raised one hundred bushels. The following year he had the same number of acres in, but harvested nine hundred and thirty-three bushels. Since then his affairs have gradually prospered and he is now one of the most substantial farmers of his locality. He has a good farm, well improved, and it produces an abundance of Nebraska's sovereign products—corn and wheat.

Mr. Lewis has filled a number of local offices and discharged the duties of them with credit to himself and satisfaction to his neighbors. In politics, he affiliates

with the republicans and is a staunch supporter of the principles of his party and an efficient worker at the polls.

Mr. Lewis has a family, having married in 1878, the lady on whom his choice fell for a life partner being Miss Clara V. Tice, a native of New York City. This union has been blessed with five children—John, Edwin, Sarah, Laura and Christie.

**P**ARKS I. KENNEDY, one of the pioneers of the prosperous little town of Wilcox, Kearney county, Nebr., is a native of Iowa, but has spent the greater part of his life in Nebraska, and is in every essential a Nebraskan worthy of the name. He is one of a family of four children born to Roswell A. and Melissa A. Kennedy, the others being a sister and two brothers—Guy L., Cora E., and Ralph J., all living, and, like himself, having begun the solution of the problem of life for themselves. His father was a native of Ohio, born in 1826, married in 1849, and died in 1886, a farmer in early life, a merchant later, and successful at both. He moved from Ohio to Iowa in 1854 and from that state to Nebraska in 1873, settled at Fairbury, where he died thirteen years afterwards. He was an industrious, economical, shrewd and intelligent business man, and one who took much interest in the welfare of his kind. He was a zealous member of a number of beneficial orders, among them being the Masonic, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, and Independent Order of Good Templars. Mr. Kennedy's mother was born in 1831, and is still living.

The subject of this notice was born in 1856, and reared in his native state of Iowa, coming to Nebraska in 1873 with his parents. He grew up on the farm and received a good common-school education, completing it by a commercial course at the Commercial College, at Keokuk, Iowa. For seven years he was in the employ of C. F. Steele, at Fairbury, Nebr., in the furniture business. Quitting this position, he secured employment with Eldridge Bros., hardware merchants, at Chester, this state, with whom he remained until 1885, and engaged in the meantime on his own account in the handling of sewing machines and wind-mills, up to 1886, when he moved to Wilcox, where he has since resided. He was one of the first men to cast his lot with the town of Wilcox, settling there about the time the town was surveyed, and erected one of the first buildings that was put up in the place. He has been variously engaged since locating there, and has been actively identified with the best interests of his adopted home. He has prospered in business and has been fortunate in his investments, and from the means so secured he has acquired a competence.

In 1880 Mr. Kennedy married Miss Ellen Culver, of Fairbury, who, like himself, is a native of Iowa—having been born in 1857—and was reared mainly in her native state. To this union have been born five children, namely—Lyda May, Cora Lee, Edna Fay, Ruby Hazel and Glenwood Parks. Like all happily-mated husbands and wives, Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy have rendered each other the active and efficient aid so necessary to their mutual prosperity and happiness. Mrs. Kennedy was the second lady who settled in Wilcox.





HENRY WILCOX.



and she has been ever zealous in the church and charitable work of that community, being an active member of the Christian church.

**HENRY WILCOX.** One of the self-made men of Kearney county, who has hewn out his own fortune and made for himself a name and place in the community, is the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this sketch. He is a fine example of what can be done by any young man of ordinary intelligence, industry and good habits. He is the son of Martin V. Wilcox, whose sketch appears in this work. His mother bore the maiden name of Eliza Osborn, and was born in New York in 1836. Her father, W. H. Osborn, was a native of New York, and was a Congregational minister of considerable note.

Henry Wilcox, the subject of this biographical notice, is a native of Michigan, born in 1858. In 1861, his father (who was a farmer at that time) enlisted in the Thirtieth infantry, and went South to help put down the rebellion, and was with the Army of the Cumberland the most of the time during his service of five years. He enlisted as a private, but after about three years' hard service (he was in the battles of Stone river, Mission ridge, Lookout mountain and various other hard-fought battles), he was commissioned second lieutenant (afterward promoted to first) in the Fifteenth colored infantry. Shortly after receiving his commission, he was joined in camp by his wife and his son Henry, who remained with the army until 1866, during which period Mrs. Wilcox taught the colored soldiers to read and

write, while Henry spent his time playing with the pickaninnies in the "contraband camp."

In 1866, at the close of the war, Mr. Wilcox, with his family, went to Iowa Falls, Iowa, where Henry attended the public school until he was fifteen years old. In the spring of 1874, the family, consisting of father, mother and son Henry (aged fifteen), and infant son Frank (aged two years), boarded a "prairie schooner" and moved to Harlan county, Nebr., where they settled on a raw half section of "Uncle Sam's" land, and went to work to make a home in the wilderness. They lived four years, with their nearest neighbor four miles away; Kearney, their nearest market and railroad point, thirty-five miles away, and water so deep in the earth that they were not able to pay for boring a well, and had to haul all the water they used seven miles from Turkey creek; when a well was finally sunk on the place, they had to go two hundred and thirty-four feet through the earth to get water.

In the meantime, Henry, in December, 1876, was married to Miss Mary Elkins, at the early age of eighteen—in fact, lacked three days of being eighteen on his wedding day—and his girl-wife was but a few days over seventeen. Miss Elkins' parents resided on Turkey creek, a few miles from the Wilcox homestead, and were really earlier settlers than the Wilcox family, as they settled there in 1873. Both families were very poor and went through all the "grasshopper years," and received rations from the government, which rations were issued to the "grasshopper sufferers" in 1874-75 to keep the settlers from starving.

Both families of the young people were somewhat opposed to the marriage, owing to the youth of the parties and the fact that it was almost impossible to make a living for a family in the "Great American Desert" at that time. But the young folk seemed determined to mate first and see about getting something to eat afterwards; and an increase in his father's pension about that time enabled him (his father) to help him to get a team, and as soon as married he became the "head of a family," thus becoming, under the homestead laws, competent to enter government land, and, being competent, he entered a "homestead" and "timber claim" adjoining his father's. Then came the "tug of war" to provide for his young family. Two sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox before either of them was twenty-one years of age. Their eldest son, Louie, died at the age of five years; their second son, Earl, is still living, a bright boy of eleven years. After six years of hard work, many privations, some sorrow and considerable happiness, they concluded to sell their farm and move to town. During the six years on the homestead, Mr. Wilcox had farmed what he could, had worked on the construction work of the Republican railroad, broke prairie for his neighbors and did his best to accumulate property and provide for his family, but it was a hard struggle; he succeeded as well as most of his neighbors, and probably enjoyed life better than most, as his married life was a continual "honey-moon," and his family's health was perfect (except the illness of his deceased son, Louie)—\$20 would cover all his doctor's bills during that time. But he did not like farming, and in 1882 he

sold his farm of three hundred and twenty acres for \$1,500 (worth now, 1890, \$5,000). It took \$600 of this to pay his debts, and with his wife, boy and \$900 in money, he moved to Alma, the county seat of Harlan county, loaned his money at three per cent. to four per cent. a month, the current rate at that time, and, living on the income of that, he entered the law office of John Dawson and studied law for two years, and was admitted to practice in 1884. During this time, however, he had invested some money for Eastern parties and made a little money for himself, and about this time he formed a partnership with an old school-mate from Iowa Falls, Iowa, named Richard Wilde, under the firm name of Wilcox & Wilde. Mr. Wilde had considerable means, and the new firm went into the loaning business quite extensively—Mr. Wilcox also practicing law to a limited extent. But his natural aptitude seemed to run to banking and money loaning more than to law, and before long his loaning business took all his time and attention. He built a brick residence in Alma, and was interested in its first brick business block. In 1886, the firm of Wilcox & Wilde dissolved by mutual consent, and Mr. Wilcox immediately formed a partnership with W. R. Sapp, of Falls City, Nebr., under the firm name of "Bank of Wilcox," and bought the town site of two hundred and forty acres, on which his name sake, the village of Wilcox, Kearney county, Nebr., now stands. The bank of Wilcox, the first building in the new town, was opened with a capital of \$10,000, in June, 1886. The firm deeded a half interest in their town site to the Lincoln Land Company, and the B. & M. R. R. built their depot on their line

from Blue Hill to Holdrege, in the centre of their two-hundred-and-forty-acre tract, which was platted about the same time. The town built up rapidly, and with their banking and town-site business, Messrs. Sapp & Wilcox, of course, made money rapidly. In 1888, the bank of Wilcox was incorporated, with a capital of \$50,000, which was increased to \$75,000 in 1889. Sapp & Wilcox sold their remaining interest in the town site to the new bank for \$15,000, taking stock in the bank with the proceeds.

Mr. Wilcox was chosen cashier of the new bank, which position he still holds, with his faithful wife as his assistant. She has been a helper in his office almost constantly since they left the farm, and merits her full share of praise for her valuable assistance, advice and counsel. She has been his "right hand" on the farm, in the office and bank. They are rapidly acquiring a fortune now, and before age streaks their heads with gray they will probably be living at ease on an income from a fortune made in sight of their old "sod house on the claim."

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**E**UGENE L. LINDSAY was born January 27, 1859, in Frederick county, Maryland. He is a splendid example of that much-abused individual, the "self-made man." Deprived of the guardianship and tender care of his parents at an early age, he grew up under the roof of his paternal grandparents and received only such attention as could be bestowed upon him as a member of a large household. At the age of fourteen he

was hired out to learn the milling trade, to make his own way in the world. His term of service covered four years, and he received \$6.00 a month for the first three years and \$10.00 per month for the last year. He had the privilege of attending the district schools during the winter months, and in this way secured the rudiments of a common English education. In 1877 he started West in pursuit of his fortune, and made his first stop in McDonough county, Ill. But he had only been there about two years when he was forced to leave that locality on account of its unhealthfulness. Returning to Maryland he remained there a short time, and then, going back to McDonough county, Ill., in 1882, he married a lady whom he had previously met there, Miss Mary Wilcox, and that same year moved to Nebraska, settling in Harlan county. A year and a half later he moved to Kearney county, purchasing a farm in the southwest part of the county, where he settled and has since resided. His beginning, in accordance with his means, was modest. He started with the proverbial sod-house, and the first few years witnessed something of a struggle; but for this Mr. Lindsay was prepared, his whole life having been more or less a struggle and he having been inured to hardships and privations from childhood up. He has begun to reap the reward of his patient toil and self-sacrifice. He has become one of the most prosperous and highly esteemed citizens of the locality where he lives, and is in a fair way to carve his fortunes in after life with greater ease and more marked success than have attended his efforts heretofore. He has filled such offices of a local nature as have been as-

signed to him and he has discharged their duties with zeal and fidelity. He affiliates with the democratic party, but is not a politician even in the mildest sense of the word. His own personal affairs absorb his time and attention, and around his own fireside cling his chief hopes and ambitions. In that home abides for him a wellspring of joy in the person of an affectionate wife and two promising little daughters, Jessie Lee and Mabel E., aged respectively seven and three.

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**G**EORGE INGLIS, M. D., physician and surgeon, of Wilcox, Kearney county, is a native of that historic isle which has furnished to the world some of its most learned historians, profoundest philosophers, most charming novelists and sweetest poets, not to mention other sons, distinguished for valor in war, statesmanship in peace and for genius in both—Scotland, the cementing member of that invincible and inimitable triangular territorial coalition, the British Kingdom. He comes of Scotch stock from time immemorial. His father, Robert Inglis, was born in Scotland in 1825, and at the age of twenty-five married a neighbor girl, Jane Porter, and nine years after immigrated to America and settled in Jones county, Iowa, where he still resides. He and his excellent wife have been lifelong members of the Presbyterian church, having led quiet, industrious, useful lives and reared to maturity a number of children, most of whom are now married and are themselves heads of families. They have been the parents of ten children, as

follows—John, George, James, Daniel, William, Robert, Alexander, Margeret, Jennett and David.

The second of these and the subject of this sketch, George Inglis, was born in 1856. He was only three years old when his parents immigrated to America. He was therefore mainly reared in Jones county, Iowa, being brought up on the farm. He received a good common and high school education and began teaching at the age of twenty-one, having determined to perfect himself in the books and adopt one of the liberal professions. By energetic application and hard school-room work he was enabled in a year or two to enter the Eastern Iowa Normal School at Grand View, Iowa, from which he graduated in 1881. He had already begun to read medicine, and in the fall of 1882 he entered Rush Medical College at Chicago, Ill., from which he graduated two years later. He came at once to Nebraska and located for the practice of his profession at Walker's Ranch, in Kearney county, from which he moved after the expiration of two years to Wilcox, in Kearney county, where he has since resided. In 1887 Dr. Inglis married Miss Minnie Light, then of Franklin county, Nebr., Mrs. Inglis being a native of Michigan, born in 1869 and reared mainly in Nebraska, having come to Franklin county with her parents in 1875.

Dr. Inglis is devoted exclusively to the practice of medicine, having set out on his professional career with the determination of making of himself a physician worthy of the name. He is a hard student, a painstaking investigator and a close observer. He is strictly attentive to the needs of his patients and he studies their

cases with that thoughtful solicitude becoming the responsibility of his position. He is a clever, genial gentleman, and a welcome guest in the sick-room, prescribing liberally of the "physic of mirth" along with the countless remedies of *materia medica*. He is actively identified with the best interests of his community, material, social and religious, he and his excellent wife both being members of the Congregational church and active workers in all church matters as well as liberal contributors to all charitable purposes.

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**W**ILLIAM LAYTON was born in England in 1840. He is one of six children born to John and Ann (Helemsley) Layton, both natives also of England. His father was born in 1815 and died in 1887, and his mother was born in 1813. They were married in 1835, and have had the following children—Thomas, William, Ann, Margaret, John and Hannah.

The subject of this notice was reared in his native place, receiving an ordinary common school training. At the age of fifteen he was apprenticed to the blacksmith's trade and brought up to that trade in accordance with the English idea of bringing children up to callings of usefulness. He worked at his trade in his native place till 1872 when, having married some years previous and seeing a family of children coming up around him, for whom he was desirous of providing, he decided to try his fortunes in America, and accordingly came to this country at that date. He made his first

stop at Copper Harbor, Mich., residing there and across the line in Canada till 1874, when he came to Nebraska and settled in Kearney county, near the southwest corner of the county, taking a homestead in section 28, township 5, range 16 west. He began in a humble way at that date to make a home on the prairie, having but \$150 in money and but little property with which to begin the unequal contest. He underwent the hardships and privations common to the lot of the pioneer, passing through the grasshopper season, the dry years, the hail and all the hard times which these brought, and though his courage was often sorely tried he never weakened in his determination to remain by the home of his choice and build out of the rude and inhospitable elements of the West a place where he might ultimately enjoy peace and plenty, and leave to his little ones something with which to begin the race of life more advantageously than he did. He continues to reside on his old home place, and from the raw prairie covered, when he first saw it, with waving grass and tenanted by howling wolves and roaming bands of antelope, have come well tilled fields that produce an abundance of the fruit of civilization, while his rude and somber sod-house has given way to a handsome frame dwelling, surrounded by all needful out-buildings. He has a pleasant home and has growing up around him a family of children who engage much of his thought and attention, loving his home and his family as only an Englishman cradled in that isle and trained in the domestic virtues of the fireside can love these. Mr. Layton married in his native place in 1865, the lady whom he selected to share his life's for-

tunes being Miss Eleanor Henderson, who was born in Durham county, England, in 1841. This union has been blessed with eight children, only three of whom are now living—Florence, Mary and Carrie.

In politics Mr. Layton is independent, as he is in all other things, reserving the right to pass on all questions according to their merits.

**R**M. COPE. The subject of this sketch is a native of Canada, but comes of American ancestry. His father, David Cope, was born in Canada in 1803 and still lives there, being a resident of the village of St. George, Brant county, Ont. He owns a farm in the vicinity, which has been in the family for sixty-five years. He is now well advanced in years, but well preserved in mind and body, having led an active, industrious, and useful life, and is highly esteemed as a citizen in the community where he resides. He served as magistrate for upwards of thirty years and has been a member of the Methodist church for over half a century, serving as steward and class leader the greater part of the time.

Mr. Cope's mother, who bore the maiden name of Amanda Patrick, was born in Massachusetts, in 1805. She was reared, however, in Canada, having been taken there by her parents when a child.

Mr. Cope's paternal grandfather, Thomas Cope, was a native of New Jersey, and served in the war of 1812, his father having moved to Canada shortly after the close of the Revolution. There were five sons, one of whom was killed in the War

of 1812, the others being proverbially long-lived—all attaining to about ninety years of age. The maternal grandmother, whose maiden name was Fannie Culp, was also a native of New Jersey.

David Cope and Amanda Patrick were married in 1826, and had born to them six children, as follows—Malinda, Francis, Charlotte, R. M., Jonas and Lewis. The subject of this notice was born in Ontario, Canada, in 1829. He was reared in his native place and in accordance with the custom of the place and times, received the rudiments of an ordinary English education. He remained on his father's farm till he reached the age of sixteen, at which time he began the race of life for himself. He learned the blacksmith's trade in his youth and followed it for some years after reaching his majority. He came to the States in 1859, making his first stop in St. Lawrence county, N. Y. There he engaged at his trade till 1864. That year he enlisted in the Union army, going into company F, First New York light artillery. His command was mostly on garrison duty about Washington. He served till after the surrender, being discharged on the fifteenth day of June, 1865, at Elmira, N. Y. Returning thence to St. Lawrence county, he lived there till 1876, when he went back to his old home in Canada. He remained in Canada only two years, coming again to the United States and settling, in 1878, in Kearney county, Nebr., taking a homestead in section 10, township 5, range 16 west. That was an early date for that part of the state, and Mr. Cope was one of the first settlers of that locality. There were only three houses in sight of his homestead and he underwent all the hardships

and privation incident to the opening of the country. With the appearance of good crops his affairs assumed a prosperous condition and they have steadily improved from year to year. Mr. Cope is comparatively well fixed. In addition to his farming interests he owns considerable stock.

R. M. Cope and Isabell McIntyre were married in Paris, Canada, in 1850, Mrs. Cope being a native of Scotland, born in 1829, and brought in 1834 to Canada by her parents. To this union have been born five children—Charlotte, now wife of George W. Clemons, residing in Canada; Mary, wife of Alexander Cummings, residing in Dakota; Bessie, still with her parents; John, who died in 1862, at the age of five, and a daughter, who died in infancy.

lows—Carrie, Louisa, Sophie, Mary, Isaac (deceased), John (deceased), Peter (deceased) and J. B.

J. B. Peterson, our subject, remained in his native country until twenty-one years of age; coming then to America, he located in Jefferson county, Iowa, and remained there two years engaged in farming. From Iowa he went to Henry county, Ill., where he was engaged in agricultural pursuits for five years, when he moved to Kearney, Nebr., and was in the livery business two years. In 1879 he settled in Kearney county, Nebr., and located a homestead on section 35, township 5, range 16. When he came to the state he had \$1,000 in money. By economy and careful management he now has one of the best farms in the county, well improved and well stocked, and has three hundred and twenty acres under cultivation. His success is due to his steady industry, his sterling honesty and uprightiness, which gained for him the confidence of those with whom he was brought in contact. To-day he is one of the best known and highly respected citizens of the county. He has borne his full share in building up the county and causing the wilderness to "blossom as the rose," and he has his reward in being well-to-do and in possessing the esteem of all who know him.

In 1881 Mr. Peterson was united in marriage with Miss Sophie Carlson, a native of Sweden, who immigrated to America in 1880. She was born in 1859.

Mr. and Mrs. Peterson have had born to them five children, three girls and two boys, as follows—Carrie, Stella, Tilda, Eleanor and Andrew. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson are both members of the Lutheran

**J** B. PETERSON, the subject of this sketch, is a native of Sweden, and was born in 1846. He is a son of Peter and Ingborg (Isacks) Johnson, natives of Sweden. His father was born in 1798, and spent all his life in the place of his birth and gave his entire attention to farming. He was a man of fine business principles, a member of the Lutheran church, and was honored by all who knew him for his uprightiness of character and strict adherence to his convictions of right. He died in 1859.

His mother was born in 1813, was a member of the Lutheran church, and a conscientious christian woman. She died in 1890. These were the parents of eight children, four girls and four boys, as fol-

church, in which they are highly esteemed for their earnestness and active participation in all church work.

In politics, Mr. Peterson is a staunch and true republican, and takes an active interest in the party.

**W** F. TRAVIS is one of the twin sons of John and Eliza Travis, and was born in Maple Grove, then Lodi, Kane county, Ill., April 9, 1856. His father, John Travis, was born in the State of New York in 1820. At the age of twenty-two he moved to Illinois and remained there forty years, coming in 1882 to Kearney county, Nebr., and settling on section 26, township 5, range 15. He is a prosperous farmer, and an active member of the Baptist church.

The mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Eliza Haines. She is a native of New York and was born in 1818. These are the parents of eight children, as follows—Anna Eliza (deceased), James E., enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Fifteenth Illinois infantry, in 1862, and died of lung fever at Franklin, Tennessee, in 1863; Charles M. (deceased); Ella B., now Mrs. Whitesel, is a graduate of the Decatur High school, also took a course in the Illinois State Normal, and taught for about twelve years and was very successful; Samuel H. is a farmer in Franklin county, Nebr.; Willis F. (deceased); George T. (deceased).

W. F. Travis, the subject of this brief biographical sketch, moved with his parents to Christian county, Ill., when

only four years of age, and remained there seventeen years. When sixteen years of age he attended the Illinois State Normal, after which time he was engaged in teaching. In 1877 he moved to Iowa and taught there till 1880, when he returned to his native state. In 1882 he went to Kearney county, Nebr., taught there two years, when he returned to Iowa and read law with Fremont Benjamin two years and served as deputy county clerk of Pottawattamie county, at Avoca, and town recorder of the village of Avoca for some time. He opened a law office in Oakland, Iowa, in 1886 and there remained till the fall of the same year. He then attended the State University at Iowa City, graduating in June, 1887. That year he moved to Wilcox, Nebr., and began the practice of his profession. He has continued there since and has met with a fair degree of success.

In 1884 he married, taking for a life partner Miss Eva Pardee, a native of Iowa. She was born in 1861. Mrs. Travis is a lady of education and refinement, and she has given much of her time to educational and newspaper work. She was engaged in teaching for five years before her marriage and she is now the editor of the *Wilcox Beacon*, one of the potent factors in developing the town of Wilcox and vicinity. The *Beacon* was established in 1886 and has done a prosperous business since.

Mr. and Mrs. Travis are the parents of three children—E. Vera G., born April 27, 1885; J. Clyde P., born June 15, 1887, and an infant daughter, born August 15, 1889.

In politics Mr. Travis is a republican. He is a staunch supporter of the principles of his party, and, when occasion demands,



their able champion on the stump. He is thoroughly in sympathy with the great-hearted West and enters actively into all measures for the good of his locality.

On July 25, 1890, the final issue of the *Beacon* was made and the plant removed to Avoca, Iowa, and on August 29, the first issue of the *Pottawattamie Chief* was issued by its former proprietors. The change of location was made on account of Mrs. Travis' health, and the family are now happy in the beautiful city of Avoca, in the famous Nishnelotene valley, where health and prosperity attend them.

**J**AMES R. SECKMAN is one of the best known and most highly respected farmers of Kearney county, Nebr. He was born in Scott county, Ill., January 14, 1842. His father, Jonathan Seckman, was born April 14, 1812, while his parents were moving from Pennsylvania to Ohio. His mother having died when he was but four years old, he was reared by his maternal grandfather, Wright, in Perry county, Ohio. In August, 1828, he emigrated to Illinois, locating in Scott county. In March, 1841, he was united in marriage to Nancy P. Taylor, sister of Judge W. L. Taylor, to which union were given seven children, viz.—James R., our subject; Kate J., Charles, John F., George D., Josephus and Archibald. He was one of the pioneer settlers of Scott county, and a man much beloved by all who knew him. He died August 8, 1884. Nancy (Taylor) Seckman, mother of our subject, was born in

Kentucky in the year 1813, and is still living. The paternal grandfather, William Seckman, was a native of Pennsylvania, a United Brethren preacher, and lived to the ripe age of four-score and four years. He was noted for his extreme vigor in his unusually old age, and is said to have walked fifty miles the week before he died. Of the paternal grandmother, Susan (Wright) Seckman, little is known, she having died in 1816, while in the prime of life. The maternal grandfather, James Taylor, was a native of Kentucky, born September 7, 1791. He was a farmer by occupation, and emigrated in 1833 to Illinois, locating on a farm in Scott county three miles southwest of Bethel, where he resided until his death, December 2, 1880. He was one of the early pioneers of Scott county, and during his long residence there was a useful and exemplary citizen.

James R. Seckman, the subject proper of this memoir, attended the neighboring school and helped his father on the farm until he reached maturity, when he began farming on his own account in Brown county, Ill., having moved thither with his parents when two years old. During his residence there he was elected to the offices of tax collector, constable, and school trustee of his township and school district. In the spring of 1863, he accompanied a train across the Western plains; coming via Omaha and following the Platte river westward, he passed through this section of Nebraska, where the face of a white man was rarely seen, and the broad plains, which have since yielded so bountifully to the unwearyng tiller, served only to satisfy the hunger of the teeming buffalo. His journey took him by the way of Salt Lake City and Virginia City, Nev., at which lat-

ter place he left the train and engaged employment at fifty dollars per month. He continued working there until August, 1864, when he returned, reaching home September 22. He emigrated West in March, 1879, and entered a homestead of eighty acres in section 18, township 5, range 15, on which he still resides. He built a sod house twenty by thirty-six feet, and was soon quartered after the fashion of early pioneers. There were few settlers in his immediate neighborhood at the time of his arrival, although the country was rapidly settled soon thereafter. Antelope and smaller wild game common to this region were abundant, but soon disappeared with the continued appearance of the settlers. He had but little to start with, but has since succeeded admirably, and in place of the old sod house of the pioneer period, there now stands a neat frame dwelling. Mr. Seckman was married March 5, 1865, to Sarah L. Davis, who was born in Brown county, Ill., September 14, 1843. Their union has been blessed with the birth of six children, viz.—Laura B., Mary C. (deceased), Damie E., William E. (deceased), Nancy E., and Willis J. R.

Mr. Seckman, like all his ancestors, adheres to the Democratic party. He has held the office of school trustee in his district ever since the school was organized. In 1882 he served as county commissioner. He has served six years as supervisor of his township, and has been and is at present, chairman of the county board of supervisors. In 1886 he ran for county representative in the State legislature, and although his party was in a minority of some four hundred votes, he was defeated

by only thirty-two votes. He likewise was nominated in 1887 for county treasurer, and again defeated by the large majority on the republican side.

CHRISTIAN LYDEN, the subject of this biographical sketch, is one of the oldest settlers now living in Sherman township, Kearney county, Nebr. He was born in Denmark, November 10, 1855, and is the son of Claus and Christena Lyden, both of whom were natives of Denmark; the former, a farmer by occupation, was born in the year 1806; the latter in 1808; of the grandparents of Mr. Lyden little or nothing is known. Christian Lyden, our subject, spent the early part of his life in Denmark, his native country, attending school, helping his father about the farm, and serving an apprenticeship at the cooper's trade. In 1876, when twenty-one years of age, he decided to seek his fortune in the western world, and, accordingly, in the fall of that year, embarked for America. Landing in New York city, he soon found employment in a brick yard at remunerative wages. He continued at this work for four months, and, having accumulated a considerable sum of money and desiring to see more of the continent, he came west to Chicago, where, after a stay of several weeks, he engaged work at an employment agency, on the Union Pacific railroad, which was then being constructed through Wyoming. He was furnished with a railway pass to Dossilad, where he began work on the grade. The mountain country in that region teemed with In-

dians and wild animals, and every man employed on the road was furnished with a rifle, which he kept close by his side as a means of protection, and guards were on duty during the night patrolling the camp, for it was not known at what moment the Indians might swoop down upon them. In this manner he continued working on the grade section and stone quarries through Wyoming for nearly three years, after which he returned to Omaha and lay sick for nearly six months. He then went to St. Paul, and worked during the summer on the Northern Pacific through Minnesota and Dakota. In the fall of that year he took passage on a steamboat down the Mississippi river, spending a few weeks at St. Louis and finally reaching Memphis. He engaged work on the Memphis & Little Rock railroad, at which he continued for several months, and then went on down to New Orleans. Reaching the latter place, he engaged work on the levee, at which he continued for two months. He afterward worked on plantations, at sugar making, for three months. In April of 1871, on account of the yellow fever, he came North and for four years, was engaged at the cooper trade, working for T. E. Boyds, the first packing establishment in Omaha.

In April, 1875, he came to Kearney county and settled on a quarter section in section 8, township 5, range 15, on which he had filed claim under the homestead laws of the year previous. There were at that time but three settlers within many miles of his claim. The country teemed with antelope and other wild game common to that period. An occasional deer would stray across his claim, but

they were seldom seen that far from the river. He hastily constructed a small frame dwelling and broke twenty acres of raw prairie, on which he raised a scanty crop. He used to haul firewood, a distance of thirty miles, from along the Republican river and Spring creek. For the first year he had to haul water from three to six miles. In 1876 he put out a crop of corn and oats, but had all of the latter and part of the former destroyed by grasshoppers, which were so numerous that year. He bought eighty acres of railroad land, across from his claim, in 1874, and afterwards took a timber claim, making in all four hundred acres of as fine land as can be found in Sherman township—all of which is finely improved with thrifty growing trees, spacious barns, and a fine new palatial residence.

Mr. Lyden was married September 25, 1878, to Anna M. Hanson, who was born in Denmark, March 28, 1857, and came to America May 16, 1878. Their union has been blessed with five children, viz.—Carrie, Albert, Maggie, Mary and Martie. Mr. and Mrs. Lyden are both members of the Free Lutheran church at Keene. In politics he is a republican.

**M**ICHAEL DRISCOLL is one of the rising young men of Sherman township. He was born in Canada, November 13, 1854, and is the son of John and Anna (McCullough) Driscoll, both of whom were natives of Ireland. The former was born in County Cork, was a tanner by occupation, and died at the age of sixty years; the latter

was born in County Armaugh, and died aged forty-five years.

Both parents came to Canada when quite young and were married there. There were seven children born to them. They were active and efficient members of the Catholic church.

Michael Driscoll, our subject, resided in Canada until eighteen years of age, attending school and receiving a somewhat liberal education and serving an apprenticeship in a carriage manufactory. In 1872 he came to the United States, locating at Albion, N. Y., and engaging employment in the carriage shops of that place. He continued working there for three years and then went to Rochester, where he worked at the same business for about eighteen months. He afterward worked at his trade in Batavia, Leroy, Clarkson Corners and Dunkirk. He emigrated West in the spring of 1878, and entered a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in section 8, township 5, range 15, on which he still resides. At the time of his coming there were comparatively few settlers in that section of the county, although it was rapidly settled up that same year. There were plenty of antelope in the country when he came, but they soon disappeared with the appearance of the settlers. He constructed a sod house, 16 by 20 feet, in which he lived alone for four years. He broke out fifty acres of land the first year and raised a fair crop of broom corn. He earned considerable money during the first few years at his trade and used to draw work from fifteen to twenty miles south of his claim. The second year, he raised a fine crop of wheat, but the third year proved a total failure on account of extreme drought,

and was quite a set-back to him. He had to do all his marketing at Kearney, a distance of thirty miles, for the first few years. In 1884, he built his present neat frame dwelling, and he has his farm otherwise well improved. He was married July 5, 1882, to Mary Collins, daughter of Lewis B. and Christena (McVay) Collins, who are both old settlers of Kearney county. The former, a farmer by occupation, was born in Washington county, Ind., June 13, 1818, and the latter in Fayette county, Ohio, August 21, 1833. Her paternal grandfather, John Collins, a farmer, was born in Bath county, Va., in 1791. Her paternal grandmother, Christena (Soleday) Collins, was a native of Kentucky, born in 1792. Her great-grandfather, John Collins, was born and lived and died in Virginia.

The union of Mr. and Mrs. Driscoll, resulted in the birth of four children, as follows—Arthur, born May 18, 1883; Agnes, born October 30, 1884; Emma, born September 17, 1888; John, born February 27, 1890.

Politically, Mr. Driscoll is a democrat, and is well versed in the history of his party as well as other current topics of the day.

**E**DWARD WALLEAN (deceased) was one of the most honest, industrious and intelligent citizens of Sherman township, a man noted for his exemplary habits and much loved by all who knew him. He was born in Sweden, June 22, 1840. In his early life he attended the neighboring school, and obtained a good practical education. He resided

in Sweden until thirty-two years of age and was engaged in the bakery business. In the spring of 1872 he embarked for America, and, after spending some time in traveling about, located at Ishpeming, Mich., and found employment in the iron mines of that region. He followed mining there for seven years, during which time he had, through his industrious habits, and the practice of the most rigid economy, accumulated a considerable sum of money. He finally determined to seek his fortune in the far West, and accordingly, in the spring of 1879, he moved his family to Sherman township, Kearney county, where he purchased the southeast quarter of section 21 of the Union Pacific Railroad Company. He constructed, upon arrival, a small frame dwelling and broke thirty-six acres of land, which he put in corn. His crop was entirely destroyed that year by hail. The following year he redoubled his efforts and put out a large amount of acreage in crops, but to no avail; the drought of that season destroyed everything, and so straitened were his circumstances that fall, that he was compelled to go to the mountains, leaving his family on the farm, and work in the mines to provide a living. In the meantime, the family lived on the scantiest kind of food and burned corn-stalks and twisted hay and straw for fuel. Times finally changed and an era of prosperity dawned upon the destitute settlers, during which he was able to develop his farm, build a fine frame dwelling and barn, and otherwise improve his farm, until it is at present one of the best in the county. He was married September 21, 1869, to Christena Jacobson, who was born in Sweden, December 18, 1849, and came to

America in 1874, her husband having preceded her two years before. Their union has been blessed with seven children, as follows—Oscar T., born October 22, 1870; Newton P., born March 14, 1872; Tacklo, born January 5, 1875; Bennie, born November 19, 1878; Earnest, born December 19, 1880; Frederick, born April 16, 1885; Emela, born December 1, 1887.

Mr. Wallean was taken sick in the fall of 1889 with dropsy, and; after an illness of some months, died in November. Politically, he was a republican.

**G**EORGE WITTERS, a frugal and industrious farmer in Sherman township, was born in Blair county, Pennsylvania, April 16, 1845. His father, Samuel Witters, a tailor by occupation, was born in Blair county, Pennsylvania, in the year 1816, and died in 1857. His mother, Sophia (Glass) Witters, was a native of Pennsylvania. There were six children in the family. The paternal grandfather, John Witters, also a native of Pennsylvania, was a miller by occupation and lived to be eighty years old. His grandmother died when quite young, and of her little is known beyond the fact that she was a native of Pennsylvania. His maternal grandfather, George Glass, a school-teacher by profession, was born in 1776, and lived to be eighty-four years old. His grandmother Glass was a native of Maryland and lived to be eighty-two years old. Both great-grandfathers served in the Revolutionary war and were farmers by occupation. Beyond this fact nothing is known.

George Witters, our subject, attended school and helped his father on the farm in his boyhood days. He enlisted September 14, 1864, for one year, in Company H, Two Hundred and Eighth Pennsylvania volunteer infantry, 3d division, 9th army corps, took part in three battles, and was discharged June 3, 1865. He resided in Pennsylvania until something over twenty years old, and then came West, locating in Whiteside county, Ill., where he worked at masonry and farmed a place of seventy acres which he had bought. He resided there until the spring of 1878, when he again emigrated West and entered as a homestead in northwest quarter of section 28, township 5, range 15, Kearney county, Nebr., on which he still resides. There were but two houses within a radius of three miles of his place when he came. He built a sod house twelve by twenty feet, in which he resided nine years and then replaced it with the present fine frame dwelling. He had but little to start with when he came—having only three horses and but few implements. The first year he planted forty acres of sod corn, but got little in return for his labor. The second year his crops were destroyed by hail, and thus one evil followed another until he was reduced to such straightened circumstances that it was, indeed, difficult to provide a living for his family. He was compelled to burn buffalo chips and corn stalks, and when he had any wood he was obliged to haul it from Center creek and the Republican river—a distance of eighteen miles. He had to market his produce at Kearney—a distance of thirty miles—and to go to Juniata to mill—about the same distance. In 1880 he lived three months on seven dol-

lars and had nothing to eat but “cotton wood” gravy and bread. He now has his farm under a high state of cultivation and his buildings rank among the best in the township. He was married, in 1864, to Susan A. McPhern, and has been blessed with the birth of six children, as follows—Laura J., born September 28, 1866; Sanford W., born April 4, 1868; Rolla J., born April 11, 1870; Bert, born January 25, 1874; Frederick, born August 21, 1875, and Dora M., born August 21, 1877. Both he and Mrs. Witters are members of the “Garden Plain” United Brethren church, he having been one of the prime movers in its organization and instrumental in having the old sod church built in 1879, which was replaced in 1887 by the present neat frame structure. Politically he is a republican and has held the office of justice of the peace ever since the organization of the township.

CHRISTIAN JENSEN, the subject of this sketch, was born in Denmark September 13, 1836, and is the son of Jens and Anna (Rasmusdotter) Hanson, both of whom were also natives of Denmark. Christian, our subject, lived in Denmark until thirty-one years of age. During the first fourteen years of his life he attended school some, and afterwards hired out to a farmer, for whom he worked until twenty-two years of age. He then entered the regular army, with which he continued for six years. He was engaged in active service during 1863 and 1864 in the war with Prussia and Austria. He

came to America in 1866, first locating in Illinois, where for a short time he found employment as a farm laborer. Going thence to Chicago, he remained there a short time variously engaged. His next move was to Nebraska, coming to this state in 1867, and making his first stop at Omaha. He followed different pursuits, but was mainly employed by the Union Pacific Railroad Company, with which he remained up to 1874. In the spring of that year he took a timber claim in Phelps county. At that time there were no actual settlers within many miles of his claim, and antelope, rattlesnakes and prairie wolves were his companions. The first year he spent most of his time in Kearney. He broke out fourteen acres and put it in crops, which were totally destroyed by the grasshoppers. He had about \$500, one cow and a team to start with when he came. He erected a twelve by fourteen frame house, in which he lived. The following year he broke out twenty acres more land and put it in crops, most of which were destroyed again by the grasshoppers. So hard were the times, and so difficult was it to get money, that he had to take his team and wagon and drive over the prairie and pick up old buffalo bones, which he marketed at Kearney for \$5 per ton. He had to haul wood from Center creek, the Little Blue and Republican rivers, a distance of twenty-five miles. The nearest flouring mills was distant thirty-six miles, and it took several days to make the journey to and from. After the grasshopper raids of 1874-6 he raised good crops and flourished in a manner beyond his expectations. He now owns considerable property in Minden, and has his farm nicely and conveniently

improved. Mr. Jensen was married, November 15, 1869, to Treua Hanson, who was born in Denmark September 13, 1837, and came to America in 1869. Six children have been born as a result of their union, all of whom are dead. Politically, Mr. Jensen is democratic.

**N**ELS OLINE, the subject of this biographical sketch, is an early settler of Kearney county, and the owner of one of the best improved farms in Sherman township. He was born in Sweden, near Christianstad, October 19, 1846. His father, Olof Oline, was a farmer by occupation and born in Sweden in the year 1818. He came to America in 1880 and died in 1886. His mother, Susie Oline, was likewise a native of Sweden, born in 1812. The paternal family was a large one and consisted of eleven children, (seven boys and four girls) eight of whom are now living.

Nels lived in his native country until twenty-two years of age. He attended the district school until fifteen years of age and received a good common-school education, after which his time was occupied on the farm. In 1869, he, in company with a sister, came to America, locating first in Henry county, Ill., where for five years he worked as a common laborer on a farm and for two years thereafter farmed on his own account. He spent the summer of 1871 working on the Chicago, Dubuque & Minnesota railway. In the spring of 1876 he came to Kearney county, Nebr., and settled on an eighty-acre homestead claim, on which he had filed August

2, 1875. At that early date the country was new and barren, there being no settlement between his claim and the sand hills except James' Ranch. The country teemed with antelope, and deer was plentiful along the Platte river. He built a sixteen by sixteen dwelling, and having brought out a car load of stock and farming implements he was soon busily engaged at breaking up his land. He broke out fifty acres and planted corn, wheat and oats. His crops flourished and gave evidence of an abundant yield, but August 10th the grasshoppers came and totally destroyed his corn. The hoppers were so thick on the ground that a team could not go on account of them flying in their faces. They sat on his board fence and ate holes into boards an inch thick. The failure of crops the first year was discouraging indeed, and most of the settlers that had come that year left. Mr. Oline, although somewhat discouraged, redoubled his efforts and the following year raised and harvested an abundant crop. Prosperity has attended his sturdy industry and he is to-day the owner of by far the finest and best improved farm, consisting of four hundred and eighty acres in Sherman township, and one that will compare favorable with any in Kearney county. He built his large barn in 1882 and last year completed his magnificent residence.

Mr. Oline married January 20, 1875, taking for a life companion Miss Nellie Clauson. This union has been blessed with seven children, six of whom are living—Oscar, Edward, Victor, Ethel, Arthur and Emma. Mr. and Mrs. Oline are both members of the Lutheran church at Fredericksborg. In politics Mr. Oline is a republican and a strong believer in the principles of

his party. He was township treasurer for five years and school director for a number of years, being one of the first chosen at the organization of the district. He has also acted in the capacity of administrator in the settlement of two estates.

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**S**AMUEL R. GLENN was born in Johnson county, Ind., June 5, 1826. His father, Henry Glenn, was a native of Kentucky, born in 1789, and was a farmer by occupation. He moved to Indiana in 1822 where he resided until 1828, and then moved to Vermilion county, Ill. In 1831 he moved to Schuyler county, Ill., where he died in 1832. He was a soldier in the War of 1812, participating in the battle of the Thames as a volunteer in a Kentucky regiment. The paternal grandfather, Robert Glenn, a farmer by occupation and a native of Pennsylvania, was born near Philadelphia. He afterwards moved to Kentucky, where he died. The paternal great-great-grandfather was also named Robert and was a native of Ireland. He immigrated to America and settled in Philadelphia in the year 1702, being by occupation a linen draper. The mother of our subject, Ruth (Rhodes) Glenn, was a native of Kentucky, born in 1791. She was the mother of nine children—five boys and four girls, namely—Robert A. (deceased), was born in 1810 and served in the Black Hawk war; Fielding T., born in 1812, a farmer now living in Brown county Ill., was a soldier in the Black Hawk war and in the war of the Rebellion, being promoted to first lieutenant in the latter; Matilda, a native



of Kentucky, born in 1814, was married to Simon P. O. Neal, and in 1874 departed this life; Amanda, born in Kentucky in 1816, and married, in 1835, to W. C. Hardin; Archibald A., a native of Kentucky, born in 1819 and married to Lavinia Cooper; he held the office of lieutenant-governor of Illinois in 1874 and filled nearly every other state office of importance at intervals; he now lives at Wichita, Kans.; Elizabeth, born in Kentucky in 1821, married to William Taylor, who resides in Brown county, Ill., died in December 1872; William H., born in Indiana in 1824, and still living in Brown county, Ill.; Samuel R. (subject); Sarah Jane, born in Indiana, in 1828, married Clark Lindsay, lived in Brown county, Ill., and died in March, 1884.

When Samuel R. Glenn was two years old, his parents moved to a farm near Danville, Ill., and remained there three years, and, in 1831, moved to Schuyler county, Ill. Young Glenn attended school in one of the old log houses, in the early days when schools were conducted by popular subscription and the teacher "boarded 'round." He had to travel a distance of five miles to the school-house. He resided at home until 1840, when he left home on account of an unpleasantness which arose between himself and a step-father, on account of his attending log-cabin celebrations during the Harrison campaign. He went to Ripley, Ill., where he worked and attended school for two years, receiving a good education. He served an apprenticeship to the cooper's trade and followed that as a business, with the exception of the two years' service in the Mexican war, until 1854. In May, 1846, he enlisted in Company D, Fifth

Illinois infantry, and served two years as a private in the Mexican war. While in the service he crossed the continent and was in California when gold was first discovered. He was mustered out at Alton, Ill., October 23, 1848. He followed the cooper's trade until 1854, when he embarked in the general merchandising business, which, with the exception of the time spent in the War of the Rebellion, he followed until 1874. At the breaking out of the Rebellion, he entered the service, August 30, 1861. He recruited a company, which subsequently became Company H, Fiftieth Illinois infantry, and was unanimously elected its captain. He was in command at the battles of Fort Henry, Donelson, Shiloh and siege of Corinth, during which his company was under fire forty-five days. At the battle of Corinth, which was fought October 3 and 4, 1862, he was wounded by a piece of shell striking him on the left breast and breaking three ribs. Following the advice of the surgeon, he resigned October 9, 1862. He returned home and continued merchandising until 1874, when he disposed of his interests, and, after settling up his business, in 1878, came to Kearney county, Nebr. He took, as a claim, two eighty-acre tracts in section 30, township 5, range 15 west, and erected a sod house fourteen by twenty-eight feet in dimensions. The country was sparsely settled at that time, and, at the first election, only one hundred and seventy-five votes were cast. His nearest trading point was at Kearney, twenty-five miles distant, and he had to go to Riverton, thirty miles, to have his milling done, and to the Platte river for fire-wood. His school district was eighteen miles long and six miles wide.

Mr. Glenn was married, January 11, 1849, to Elizabeth J. Dalton, who was born February 15, 1831, in Madison county, Ky. This happy union has resulted in the birth of twelve children, seven of whom are now living, viz.—John H., born in 1849; Chas. O., born in 1855; Mary A., born in 1857; Nina J., born in 1860; Ruth A., born in 1867; Omie M., born in 1869; Chester D., born in 1873. Mrs. Glenn departed this life January 7, 1890. She was a kind, christian woman and to know

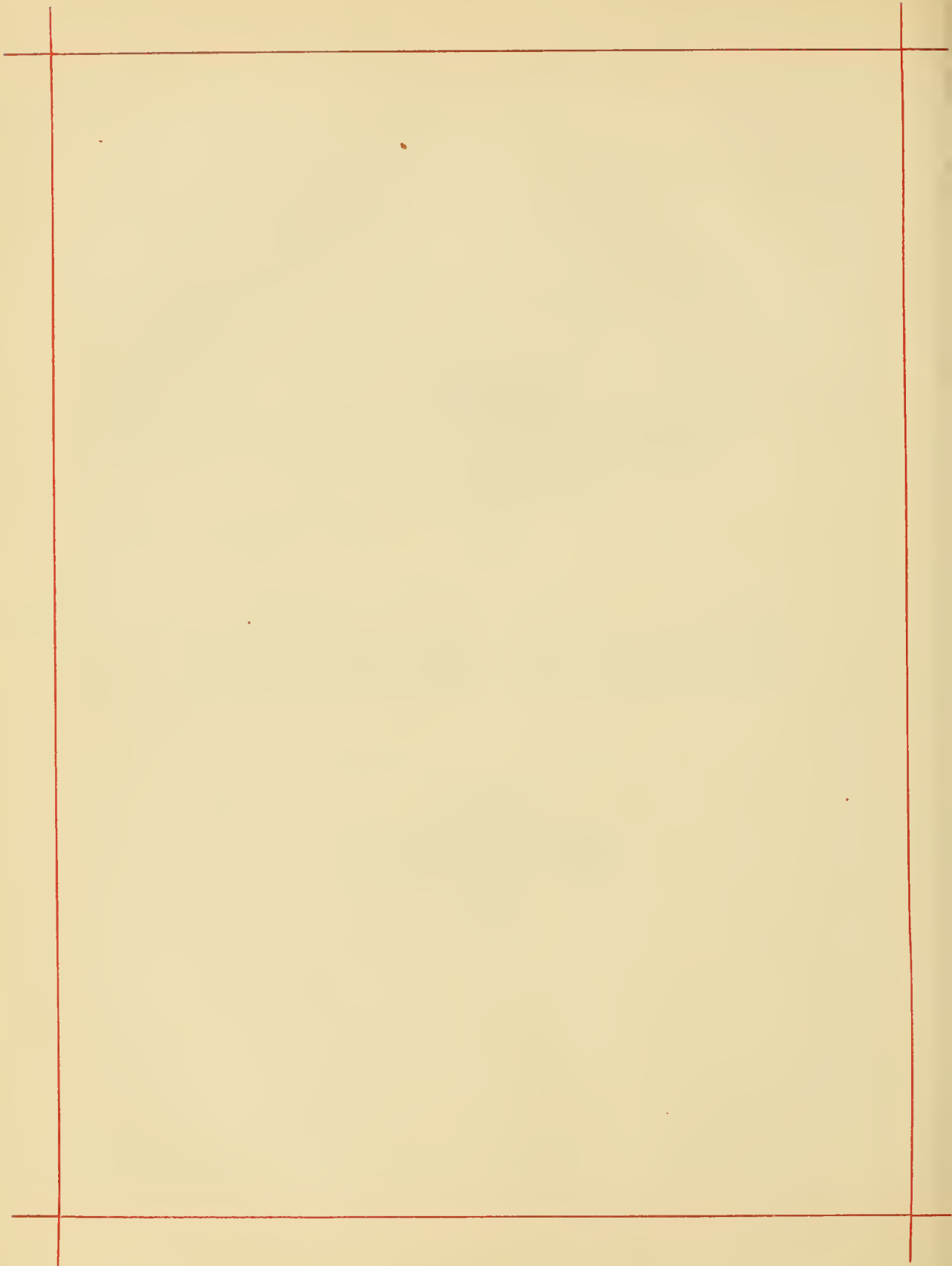
her was to love her. Her funeral was largely attended, Elder Truman preaching the funeral sermon.

In politics, Mr. Glenn is a strong republican. He was nominated for county treasurer in 1881, but was defeated by a small majority. He has held various minor offices in his township, and was postmaster at Ripley, Ill., for nearly twenty years, serving under the administrations of Presidents Pierce, Buchanan, Lincoln, Johnson and Grant.



# PHELPS COUNTY.





## BIOGRAPHICAL.

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**J**OHN P. SWANSON, one of the largest and most successful farmers of Center township, came to Nebraska in the spring of 1883 and two years later located a homestead on the southwest quarter of section 10, township 7, range 18, Phelps county. His first care was to find shelter for himself, to which end he built a sod house and soon after built the frame house in which he now resides. Of his farm he has one hundred and thirty acres under cultivation, raising mixed crops, and has his farm also well supplied with fine grades of live stock. For five years his average wheat crop has been fifteen bushels, but has had some years as high as twenty-two bushels per acre, and has invariably had good crops which, having been judiciously managed, have placed him in very comfortable circumstances. When he came to the state he had \$200, and what he now has he has made since.

Mr. Swanson was born in Sweden, November 4, 1863, raised on a farm, and received the usual education common to the children of his native country. After leaving the common school he entered the high school, where he had instilled into his youthful mind principles which, besides giving him a good education, have enabled him to fight the battles of life. At the age of eleven he left home and went to

sea, shipping as a sailor, and served on the ocean for five years; then came to America, landing at New Orleans. He secured a position on a steam-boat and followed the Mississippi for two years; then spent six months with a United States surveying party in Mississippi, and then came to Nebraska, as above stated.

His father, S. P. Gustason, of Sweden, a shoemaker by trade, was also a farmer and horse-trader. In 1880 he emigrated and settled in Nebraska, locating a farm in Phelps county, but has since moved to Loomis and is engaged in the butcher business. He married Miss Matilda Buildings, also of Sweden, and by this marriage became the father of three children, all of whom are now living in this country. The father and mother of our subject are still living and are in good health, although past the meridian of life.

In March, 1889, Mr. Swanson married Miss Agnes Mary Elizabeth Olson, a daughter of Olaus Olson, a native of Sweden, who came to America in 1877, and three years later located in Nebraska and is now residing in this county. During his younger days Mr. Olson followed the sea, but left it and is now engaged in farming. To Mr. and Mrs. Swanson has been born one child—John Otto Swanson.

As a man, Mr. Swanson is industrious and enterprising and is ever ready to do

anything for the bettering of his community. Politically, he is Independent and is a member of the Farmers' Alliance. Besides cultivating the one hundred and thirty acres of his own farm, Mr. Swanson rents land and does farming on a large scale; he also runs a thresher, is something of a trader and is full of business.

**O**LOF M. HOOG, an enterprising and successful farmer of Phelps county, is a native of Sweden, and was born December 27, 1854. He is the fifth of a family of six children born to Mons and Karin Oleson, natives also of Sweden. His parents never came to this country but died in the place of their birth, the father passing away in 1875, at the age of sixty-six, and the mother in 1867, at the age of forty-three.

The subject of this notice was born near Karlstad, Sweden, and reared on his father's farm, receiving a good common-school education and being trained to the habits of usefulness and industry common to farm life. He came to America in April, 1876, and made his first stop at Red Wing, Minn., and found his first employment in this country as a farm hand. He came to Nebraska the following year and settled in Phelps county, where, after working one year as a farm hand, he took a homestead, filing on the north-east quarter of section 34, township 7, range 18 west, and began farming for himself. He started in with very limited means, having only \$29 when he came to the state, and, being unmarried, his first years were spent in "baching" and were marked by their great industry and hardships. He had the usual bad luck of

the early settlers, losing his crops the first four seasons by the droughts, hail and other elements, but since that time has had reasonably fair success. He has most of his farm under cultivation and has it well supplied with all needful buildings, stock and implements. What he has, represents the fruit of his own industry and good management.

In February, 1886, he married Miss Louisa Backman, a daughter of S. P. Backman, she and her parents both being natives of Sweden. To this union have been born two children—Elsie Christina and Laura Alma.

Mr. Hoog is now serving his second term as assessor of his township. He is a member of the Farmers' Alliance, a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company and otherwise prominently identified with the agricultural interests of his community. In politics he is a republican, being a zealous supporter of the teachings of his party.

**J**OHN E. SWANSON was born near Hudikswall, Sweden, in December, 1847. He is the second of a family of five children born to Swan and wife. His mother was a native of Sweden, a woman of great industry, and possessed many of the virtues belonging to her sex. She died in 1885, aged sixty-six years. His father is now a resident of Phelps county, Nebr., where he located a homestead about thirteen years ago. He is now in his seventy-fifth year.

John E. Swanson, our subject, was reared in his native place, and received an ordinary common-school training. He

came to America with his parents in 1867, being then about twenty years of age. He made his first stop in Minnesota, and remained there ten years. Coming to Nebraska in the fall of 1877, he settled in Phelps county, and located a homestead on the southwest quarter of section 34, township 7, range 18, Center township. He began life in the West in the usual way, by building a sod house, and the first few years witnessed something of a struggle, the hail and drouth playing havoc with his crops. Although he was discouraged he never gave up, but determined to remain by the home of his choice. He worked hard and managed well, and has begun to reap the reward of his patient toil and self-sacrifice.

Mr. Swanson married, taking to share his life's fortune Miss Cristina Swanson, a daughter of Swan Swanson, a native of Sweden, but now a resident of Furnas county, Nebr. After his marriage he began the struggle of life in earnest, and by perseverance, good judgment and industry he has won a marked success. He has accumulated considerable property, and is recognized as one of Phelps county's prominent farmers. He now owns one of the best farms in the county, having eighty-five acres under cultivation, raises mixed crops, and has given much time and attention to stock. His sod house has given way to a comfortable frame, surrounded by all necessary out-buildings.

To Mr. and Mrs. Swanson have been born two children, as follows—Albert T. and Hester T. In politics Mr. Swanson is a republican, and takes an active interest in his party. He has been school treasurer of his district, and is highly esteemed by the people of his township and county.

ASA LEWELLING, the clerk of the district court of Phelps county, is a native of Henry county, Iowa, and was born February 3, 1845. His father, William Lewelling, is a native of Pennsylvania, and was married in Indiana to Cyrena Wilson, a native of Virginia. In 1838 they removed to Henry county, Iowa, being among the first settlers in that section of the state. The senior Lewelling was a minister of the Quaker faith, with strong anti-slavery views, and preached for several years in Indiana and Iowa, and was an able and useful man.

Asa Lewelling was reared on a farm and attended the common district school when opportunity afforded. When he was thirteen years old he started out to do for himself, obtaining employment on a farm in Henry county. He worked steadily until the war broke out, when he enlisted in the Seventh Missouri infantry, and served two years. He was captured at the battle of Mark's Mills and taken to Camp Ford, Tyler, Tex., whence he escaped, however, but was recaptured and held for several months. After he returned from the service he attended Howe's High School at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, for one year, and in 1874 secured a position as teacher in the Illinois State Reform School, continued in this capacity for five years, and proved himself to be a most satisfactory instructor in every respect.

Mr. Lewelling was married, April 1, 1868, to Amanda V. Hord, who was born in Van Buren county, Iowa, May 11, 1850. Her father, Frank Hord, was a native of Kentucky, and was a wagon-maker by trade. He was one of the California

gold hunters in 1852, crossing the plains in that year. He died in 1856. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Lewelling has resulted in the birth of four children, viz.—Etta, born April 13, 1869, wife of O. C. Frank; Claude, born January 23, 1875; Guy, born September 8, 1882; Fredrica, born February 25, 1884.

Mr. Lewelling came to Phelps county, Nebr., in the spring of 1879, took a homestead in Cottonwood township and was among the first to settle in that locality. He was elected a member of the county board of supervisors and was chairman four years, and was elected clerk of the district court of Phelps county on the republican ticket in the fall of 1887. He has been a member of the Masonic fraternity since 1868, and is also a member of the A. O. U. W., Grange and Alliance.

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**W**ILLIAM H. FRANK, SR., was born in Knox county, Ohio, December 20, 1817. His father, John Frank, was a native of Petersburg, Va., and served under Gen. W. H. Harrison in the War of 1812. He was a participant in the famous battle of Tippecanoe, and rendered honorable service throughout the entire war. He settled at Mount Vernon, Ohio, in an early day, where he took to wife Miss Sarah Hickman, a native of Pennsylvania. She was a modest, unassuming christian woman, and lived to the ripe old age of eighty-nine years. John Frank died in 1824, at the age of thirty-three years. The paternal family were left poor and almost helpless after the death of the father. There were four children, of

whom the subject of this sketch was the eldest. The mother was a seamstress, and an industrious, cheerful-hearted woman. When William H. Frank, Sr., was only seven years old, he exhibited signs of industry. He would secure odd jobs of piling wood from such men as the Hozomerses and Curtisses, famous in their day in Ohio. At the age of nine years he secured employment of good old Philip Plummer, who kept a hotel at Mount Vernon. Here young Frank did chores, waited on the table, and blacked the travelers' boots, receiving sometimes a sixpence or a few coppers. At the age of ten he sought and obtained of Dr. John P. Brookins a position in a drug store at Mount Vernon. Here he continued his remarkable habits of industry by studying chemistry and learning to prepare extracts. In the course of a year, Dr. Brookins disposed of the drug store, and, together with Philip Plummer, laid out the town of Richmond, in Union county, Ohio. They were accompanied to this place by young Frank, who carried the chain while the survey was being made. He also helped Dr. Brookins build the first house in this place, which is now one of the most prosperous and wealthy little cities in Ohio. In the spring of 1833, this industrious youth was apprenticed to a cabinet maker at Marysville, the county seat of Union county. His apprenticeship extended over a period of three years and eight months, during which time he would often get up at three and four o'clock in the morning and work in order that he might earn a little extra money.

In 1836 he was sent by his employer to Missouri to aid in the completion of a



large order of furniture for the female department of Marion College. He spent six months in Missouri during the most exciting times of the anti-slavery agitation. While there he walked seven miles one Sunday to hear Dr. Nelson, president of Marion College, preach against slavery, in consequence of which there were present a great concourse of people to hear him. It was a well known fact that the professors of Marion College were bitter opponents of slavery, and were recognized leaders of the anti-slavery movement. There were also present, on this occasion, a large number of prominent slaveholders, who were determined to prevent Dr. Nelson from preaching on the anti-slavery question. The Doctor, however, judiciously refrained from even alluding to the subject in his excellent sermon that day. At the close of the services, Col. Muldrow, president of the female department of Marion College, arose to call the attention of the people to a petition which related to the anti-slavery movement, and was interrupted by Dr. Bosley, a prominent slaveholder, who drew his cudgel and was about to strike Col. Muldrow, when the latter drew his knife and stabbed him. The affair created the wildest excitement throughout the state on account of the prominence of both parties, and resulted in driving the anti-slavery advocates from Marion College. Mention is made of this incident merely to show the deep interest manifested on the great questions of the day by the young cabinet-maker. Deprived of school privileges during his early life, he dug his knowledge from such books as he could obtain with his limited means.

Mr. Frank was married, April 17, 1837, to Miss Rachael Wolford, who is still his faithful and loving companion. She is a native of Ohio, and was born April 13, 1817. This union has been blessed by the birth of eight children, as follows—John E., born in Union county, Ohio, January 8, 1836; Joseph W., born in Union county, Ohio, December 12, 1840; William H., born in Union county, Ohio, November 29, 1843; Leonidas F., born in Union county, Ohio, February 15, 1846; Mary L., born in Union county, Ohio, April 12, 1848 (deceased); Charles L., born in Union county, Ohio, May 11, 1850; George S., born in Henry county, Iowa, May 28, 1853; and Otway C., born in Henry county, Iowa, August 28, 1860.

In 1837, Mr. Frank located at Marysville, Ohio, and was appointed postmaster under President Taylor's administration. He served during Taylor's administration and nine months under Pierce's administration. He was also justice of the peace as long as he would accept the office. In 1840, he was elected coroner of Union county, Ohio, and was elected mayor of Marysville about the same time. He was at the head of the city government for four years, acquitting himself in a most praise-worthy manner.

In 1856, Mr. Frank moved his family to Mt. Pleasant, Henry county, Iowa, where he followed contracting and building for several years. The country was new, and as he was an efficient workman he found plenty of employment. In 1859, he went to Marshall and continued his vocation successfully until he moved to Red Oak a few years later. While at Marshall, he was postmaster for three years and justice of the peace several

years. He remained in Red Oak about ten years, after which, in January, 1882, he removed with his family to Phelps county, Nebr. He immediately purchased a section of land in Cottonwood township, in the Platte River valley, where he has since resided. He has since sold a portion of land to four of his sons, who are among the wide-awake young men of Phelps county.

Mr. Frank organized the Frank post-office in 1882, and has since been postmaster. The name of the office, however, has been changed to Romeyne, on account of a similarity of names of other offices in the state. He has been the efficient clerk of the township since its organization, and, in 1885, was appointed to take the census of Cottonwood township. Mr. Frank has been identified with the republican party since its organization up to within recent years. He now is a third party prohibitionist. He is a strong advocate of temperance, and in favor of wiping the traffic in intoxicating liquors out of existence as soon as possible. He is an able writer, and has corresponded considerably for various papers and periodicals. He has never tasted a drop of liquor, and never has used tobacco in any form. He and his estimable wife have been members of the Methodist Episcopal church nearly all their lives, and although they are each past three-score years and ten, their faith in the Master is as firm as the Rock of Ages.

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**D**R. J. W. FRANK, one of the well known and successful physicians of Phelps county, Nebr., is a native of Ohio, and was born on the twelfth day of December, 1841. The

boyhood days of Dr. Frank were mainly spent in Marysville, the county seat of Union county, Ohio, where he lived with his parents and attended school until he was fifteen years of age. In 1855 he accompanied his parents to Henry county, Iowa, and the same year entered the Wesleyan University at Mt. Pleasant, that state. He pursued his studies diligently in that institution for three years, preparing himself for whatever profession he might choose to enter upon.

When the war of the rebellion broke out and the very life of the nation was in peril, young Frank was among the first to offer his services in defense of the stars and stripes. He enlisted November 9, 1861, Company D, Fourth regiment Iowa cavalry. The first real opposition encountered by this regiment was at Prairie Grove, Ark., where, after a lively skirmish, the boys in blue triumphed over the rebel opponents. The Fourth Iowa cavalry also supported General Price in his famous raid in Missouri, and, in fact, participated in nearly all the principal cavalry engagements in the West.

Dr. Frank was one of the ill-fated crew aboard the steamer Maria on the Mississippi about nine miles below St. Louis at the time of the terrible explosion which occurred on that boat. His right leg was broken in three and his left in two places below the knee, and his escape from a terrible death was indeed a miraculous one. He lay in Jefferson barracks in an almost helpless condition for six months and is to this day a constant sufferer from the effects of the injuries received on that awful wreck. He was discharged on the twenty-sixth of May, 1865, after four and a half years of faithful service.

In 1866, Mr. Frank began reading medicine with Dr. S. B. Cook, of Marshall, Iowa, and four years later entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Keokuk, Iowa, from which he graduated in March, 1870. He immediately entered upon the practice of his profession at Indianapolis, Mahaska county, Iowa, where he enjoyed the confidence and esteem of the entire community for thirteen years.

Dr. Frank came to Phelps county, Nebr., in the fall of 1883, locating in the Platte valley in the north part of the county. Five years later he moved across the river into Elm Creek, where he continued the practice of medicine until the spring of 1890, when he returned to his farm.

Dr. Frank was united in marriage with Miss Martha F. Johnson, March 13, 1873. She is a native of Ohio and was born July 26, 1853. Her parents were also natives of the Buckeye state and were of Irish-German extraction. This union has resulted in the birth of five children, as follows—Lena, born February 13, 1874; Myrtle, born August 8, 1878; Josie, born March 16, 1881; Mina, born November 11, 1883, and Jessie, born August 21, 1887. Dr. Frank owns eighty acres of improved land in the fertile valley of the Platte, is an honored member of the G. A. R. organization and in politics is a republican, first, last and at all times.

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**J**OHAN A. HORN is one of the earliest settlers in central Nebraska and a deservedly popular young man of Divide township, Phelps county. He was born in Sweden, March 10, 1861,

and is one of seven children, four boys and three girls, born to T. O. and Louisa Horn, both of whom are natives also of Sweden. His father, a carpenter and mill-wright by occupation, was born in 1827, the mother in 1830.

John A. resided in his native country until he was six years old, when, in company with his parents, he came to America. Notwithstanding his extreme youth, he still has some recollection of his native land and the long and tedious voyage to this country. His parents located in Henry county, Ill., where he attended school and worked, during his leisure time, in the shop. In 1874 he went to Moline, Ill., where he soon found employment in the large plow factories of that place. He remained there two years, and in September, 1876, came West, locating at Kearney, where he worked on the brick yard one year, and then went north into Custer county and herded cattle on the range for two years. At that time Custer county was alive with deer, antelope, elk, and many are the interesting tales told by Mr. Horn in connection with his early experience in that country. He came down south of the Platte river, in 1878, and herded sheep on the Divide for three years. At that early date there were few residents on the Divide, and the monotony of the vast stretching prairie was only broken, now and then, by the sod house of a venturesome settler, or a cattle ranch of the herdsman. He purchased the present quarter section in 1885, and has erected thereon a neat frame dwelling, and broken the entire one hundred and sixty acres. In the fall of 1889 he purchased a half section of land, three hundred and twenty acres, in section 10, town-

ship 6, range 17, of which ninety acres are broken. He is a typical hustler, and is well deserving of the great success that has attended his industrious life. He has not yet married. Mr. Horn is a member of the Lutheran church and an ardent supporter of the prohibition party.

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**M**ANLIUS LUCAS is a native of Kentucky and was born January 20, 1849, a son of Thomas and Minerva Lucas. His parents located in Woodford county, Ill., in 1852, and removed to Phelps county, Nebr., in 1879.

Maulius Lucas came to Phelps county, Nebr., in the fall of 1872, when there were perhaps not to exceed a half-dozen actual settlers in the entire county. He filed on a homestead and a tree claim in the Platte bottom and remained by them. Buffalo, elk, deer and antelope were plenty then and Indians lined the banks and islands of the historic stream. The old California trail, along which many a weary traveler had passed, runs across his land. A lonely grave, occupied by the bones of some poor fellow who fell by the way-side while crossing the "Great American Desert," is situated on his homestead.

Mr. Lucas was a victim of the famous grasshopper raid in 1875, and has not forgotten how his promising crop of corn disappeared before the ravenous insects. Indeed, those were discouraging times, when the crop which the pioneer depended on for his own, as well as his stock's food, was wiped out.

Mr. Lucas did not believe at first that this country would ever be adapted to farming. His idea in coming here was to

raise stock, to which he has since largely devoted himself, but he has also farmed quite extensively. He set out a large number of forest trees, which are now quite large and serve as a splendid protection to his stock.

Mr. Lucas has been assessor of Cottonwood township for four years and is now the treasurer. He has always been identified with the democratic party, although he is no politician.

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**J**OHN FRASER, the subject of this sketch, is one of the early settlers of Phelps county, who came in the fall of 1878 and located in the Platte valley, on the northern border of the county, when there were only eight families within a radius of as many miles.

Mr. Fraser's pockets were not lined with "greenbacks" when he came to this new and untried country, but on the other hand he was without means, and consequently had to endure many of the privations incident to the settlement of a new country.

There was plenty of wild game and many a deer has he shot to supply his family and friends with venison.

Mr. Fraser was born in Scotland, June 7, 1856, and came to America in 1873. He is a machinist by trade, and upon arriving in this country went to Newark, N. J., where he worked several years, prior to coming to Nebraska.

His father, Andrew Fraser, came to America at the same time. He was a

carpenter by trade and worked in New-ark, on his first arrival. He came to Phelps county, Nebr., in the fall of 1878, where he has since lived. He built a sod house, and, although he had no experience in farming in a new country like this, he has succeeded well and now owns a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres. The senior Fraser was married October 15, 1852, to Jane Stewart, who was born in 1826. To this union were born four children, viz.—John, Jessie, Jemima and Elizabeth.

He has held the office of justice of the peace, and is an active member of the Farmers' Alliance. He and his wife are both members of the Presbyterian church.

John Fraser, concerning whom this sketch is written, was married April 8, 1878, to Eliza Cowans, who is also a native of Scotland. To this union have been born five children, viz.—Jane, John, Eliza, Margaret and Willie.

Mr. Fraser now resides in Cottonwood township, where he owns a farm of eighty acres under a good state of cultivation. He has been assessor for his township three years, has also been justice of the peace for the same length of time, is now a member of the county board of supervisors, and he also organized the Fraser postoffice and was appointed postmaster in 1884.

He is a prominent and influential man in Phelps county, especially among the members of the Farmers' Alliance.

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**N**ELS P. PETERSON, the subject of this biographical memoir, is one of the earliest settlers on the Divide in Phelps county, and a prosperous

and very popular young man. He was born in Sweden, April 11, 1858.

His father, Anton Peterson, was born in Sweden, came to America in 1868, and followed the occupation of a farmer. His mother, Sarah (Oleson) Peterson, was also born in Sweden. There were eight children in the family to which he belonged, six boys, and two girls.

Mr. Peterson lived in Sweden until he was ten years of age, spending his early life, while there, in attending school and working on his father's farm. In 1868, he embarked with his parents for America. Landing in this country, they located in Knox county, Ill., where for ten years he was engaged at farming and working in the timber. He moved from there to Phelps county in March, 1878, and homesteaded the quarter section on which he now lives. The country at that time presented a wild and barren appearance and was anything but inviting to a new-comer. Antelope roamed over the prairie in droves of twenty and thirty and deer occasionally strolled down on the Divide from the Platte river, twenty miles to the north. The settlers were few and far between and the loneliness of life on the wild, unbroken prairie can better be imagined than described. Mr. Peterson constructed a small ten by twelve sod house in which to live, and began farm life. He had practically nothing to start with, and the first few years of his residence in Phelps county witnessed many hardships and privations. He, being possessed with an invincible determination, stuck to his claim, trusting to the future for better days. He had to haul brush from the Platte river twenty miles to the north,

and also use corn-stalks for fuel. He kept "bach" the first three years, and this, together with the scarcity of the settlers, added much to the melancholy of his life. The first year he broke ten acres and raised a small crop of sod-corn. His crops have compared favorably with those of his neighbors. He has succeeded admirably of late years, and does not regret coming to Nebraska.

In politics he is a republican.

**P**HILIP C. FUNK, the subject of this biographical memoir, is an early settler and a much honored and respected citizen of Phelps county. He was born in Germany, August 19, 1847, and is the only child of Philip and Elizabeth (Springer) Funk, both natives of Germany. His parents embarked for America when he was but five years old, and he, in consequence, has but a faint recollection of his native country and the voyage which cast his lot in a foreign land. His parents located on a farm in Wood county, Ohio, which was at that time one vast swale known as Black Swamp. Philip's mother died three years after their arrival and his father one year later, leaving him an orphan in a strange land at the youthful age of nine years. Kind Providence, ever mindful of the orphan, found for him a home in a good family where he was taken and reared, receiving a good education and moral training. When the war came on, Mr. Funk enlisted in Company A, Third Ohio cavalry, joining the regiment at Columbia, Tenn. He took part in the Atlanta campaign and later followed up Gen. Hood's retreat-

ing army from Nashville, Tenn., to Gravel Springs, Ala. He was also with the Wilson raiders and participated in the taking of Selma and Montgomery, Ala.; Columbus and Macon, Ga. He was with the expedition sent out in search of Jefferson Davis, during which time he did the hardest marching in his whole experience. August, 1865, he was mustered out at Nashville, Tenn., after which he returned to Wood county, Ohio, where he continued his residence for one year, then emigrated West, locating in Benton county, Iowa, and engaged in farming till 1878. In the spring of that year he came to Phelps county, Nebr., and purchased a quarter section of railroad land in section 9, township 6, range 17. When Mr. Funk landed in Phelps county he had a team, some stock and a few farm implements to begin with. He erected a small frame house and began farming with the vigor that has characterized his entire life. He has been very successful, never having had an entire failure of crops, and has, from time to time, as his means would allow, purchased more land until he now owns over 400 acres of fine land, 260 of which are under cultivation. He also owns an interest in the town site of Funk, which bears his name, he having been instrumental in getting the officials of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad to place a station there. Mr. Funk was married July 2, 1874, the lady whom he selected for a life partner being Miss Almeda Hesseltine, who is a native of New York. She was born July 13, 1848. This union has been blessed with three children, as follows—Alice, born July 11, 1875; Harry, born April 1, 1877; and Nettie, born February 24, 1883. Politic-

ally, Mr. Funk is a strong believer in the principles of the republican party. He held the office of supervisor of his township in 1886-7. Considering the loss of Mr. Funk's parents at such an early period in the history of his eventful life, and the fact of his being left practically upon his own resources and that, too, in a foreign land, he is deserving of much credit; and the confidence and esteem in which he is held by his neighbors and acquaintances speaks more fully of the success of his life-struggle than the pen of the historian is able to record.

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**J**OHAN S. JOHNSON, the subject of this sketch, is one of the rising young men of Phelps county. He was born in Sweden, September 9, 1855. His father, Swan Johnson, was a native of Sweden, and was born in the village Fröderyd, in 1825. During his life he was engaged in farming, milling and railroading. He died near Ophiem, Ill., in 1875. Mr. Johnson's mother, Anna S. (Hanson) Johnson, was born in Sweden in the year 1835. There were seven children in the family. John S. resided in Sweden until twelve years of age, attended the public school and helped his father in the mill. He came with his parents to America in 1869, locating in Woodhull, Henry county, Ill., where he remained five years and then moved on a farm near Ophiem, Henry county, and lived there until he came to Phelps county, Nebr., in February, 1887. He brought several car loads of cows, horses and farm implements with him. He bought one hun-

dred and sixty acres of fineland in section 9, township 6, range 17, on which he has spent over \$1,000 in improvements. Mr. Johnson makes a business of raising stock and has good success in that line. In 1888 he bought eighty acres of land in section 15, township 6, range 17, and has since purchased an interest in sixty acres in the town of Funk, and in 1890, three hundred and twenty acres in section 1 township 7, range 17. He has had remarkable success for a young man and has a bright future before him. He was married March 9, 1880, the lady whom he chose for a life partner being Miss Alice C. Johnson, who was born in Henry county, Ill., October 6, 1861. Five children have been born to them, as follows—Alice W., born December 19, 1880; Minnie O., born January 22, 1882; Ebenezer D., born February 18, 1884; Violet N., born August 27, 1886; Frances A., born January 8, 1889.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are both members of the Fridhem Lutheran church in Phelps county.

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**N**ELS ANDERSON is one of the very first settlers on the Divide, and the first one to settle in Anderson township, which bears his name. He was born in Sweden, January 13, 1848. His father, Anderson Nelson, a very extensive farmer and stock-raiser, was born in Sweden and is still living. His mother, Eleanor Nelson, was also a native of Sweden and died in 1867. There were seven children, three boys and four girls, in the family.

Mr. Anderson lived in his native country until he was twenty years of age, and spent his early days in attending school and helping his father on the farm. In May, 1869, he emigrated to America, being twenty days on the water. Arriving in this country, he located at Stillwater, Minn., where he found employment on a farm. He was afterwards employed in a machine shop, making engines for steamboats, and continued at this business for five years, becoming so proficient that he was made foreman of the shop the first year, and served in this capacity for four years. On account of failing health he was compelled to leave the shop and in consequence of which he came to Phelps county, Nebr., March 1, 1877. He had come out in June of the year previous, and purchased a half section of railroad land and taken a timber claim. He also pre-empted another quarter, making in all six hundred and forty acres. He was the first settler in Anderson township, since named after him, and the old Kearney trail used to run directly by his place. He built a sixteen by twenty-two frame house, bought a wagon and team and began farming, raising a little wheat the first few years. He burned corn-stalks and wood, which he hauled from Spring creek thirty miles away, and one winter when the snow was too deep to get either stalks or wood he had to twist and burn hay. Antelope and other wild game was abundant. During an Indian scare one year all the settlers left except himself and one other. He now has a finely improved farm and has prospered far beyond his early expectations.

He was married, February 28, 1878, taking for a life companion Miss Anna

Almen. She is a native of Sweden and was born March 28, 1848. This union has been blessed with two children, as follows—Hannah V., born January 14, 1880, and Larens M., born April 21, 1888.

He and his wife are members of the Lutheran church. Politically, he is a republican.

**W**ILLIAM E. HYMER, cashier of the Holdrege National Bank of Holdrege, Phelps county, was born near Rushville, Schuyler county, Ill., November 11, 1853. He is a son of John B. and Mary A. (Newberry) Hymer, both now residents of Holdrege, this state. Mr. Hymer was reared in his native county and grew up on his father's farm, passing his earlier years like most country lads in the alternate pursuits of his duties as a farm hand and attending the district schools. He followed farming in Schuyler county till 1878, when, having married and seeing a young family start up around him, he decided to move to the more fruitful prairies beyond the Mississippi. He came to Nebraska that year and settled at Sacramento, Phelps county, embarking in the mercantile business at that place. It is needless to say that even as late as 1878 was an early day for Phelps county. There was at that time only two postoffices in the county, and they were kept at farm houses; one of these was 18 miles from where Mr. Hymer settled, and the other 24 miles away. In 1880 he put up a hardware store at Phelps Center, that place having started in the meantime, conducting his Sacramento and Phelps Center stores till the fall of 1883. He then moved his building





WM. E. HYMER.



at Phelps Center to where Holdrege now stands, that town having been projected on the line of the Burlington and Missouri railroad upon its completion into Phelps county. At this time, however, there was no town there. Mr. Hymer was the first merchant in the place. He saw the town staked off, attended the first sale of lots and witnessed the beginning of what has since become the proud and prosperous little city of Holdrege. He continued in the mercantile business till 1886, when he closed out all his interests of this nature and began to handle real estate. From the brokerage business he glided easily into the loaning business and a year later opened in Holdrege a private bank, called the Bank of Holdrege, which he conducted a year, organizing at that date the Holdrege National Bank, with which he has been actively connected since. There have been some changes in the working force of the bank since its organization, but it has remained under the same general management. A. Yeazel is its president, F. Hallgren, vice-president, and Wm. E. Hymer, cashier. It has a paid up capital of fifty thousand dollars, and a surplus of six thousand dollars. It has added 4 per cent. to its surplus every six months since its organization and has declared a dividend of 5 per cent. every six months. Its stock sells at one dollar and thirty three cents. It is recognized as one of the solid financial institutions of the town of Holdrege and Phelps county, established upon a firm financial basis and doing a safe conservative, banking business. Its board of directors is composed of men of established reputations as financiers and men of unimpeachable integrity. With its affairs Mr. Hymer has been actively identified

since its organization and it owes much of its success to his wise and judicious management. In addition to his banking interest, Mr. Hymer is also largely interested in real estate in and around Holdrege and has taken a leading part in the building up and improvement of the town. He has erected a number of business and residence buildings, and is continually buying, building and selling. His present place of business occupies one of the handsomest brick blocks in the town of Holdrege and stands in striking contrast with the primitive one-story frame building in which he entered on his business career in Phelps county twelve years ago, his old store building still standing in Holdrege not far from its more pretentious successor, being kept by Mr. Hymer as a souvenir of his earlier years. Mr. Hymer has never aspired to public life. He has found his chief employment and his chief pleasures in the pursuit of his own affairs, yet he has never been honored with public trusts having been a delegate from his county to every state convention for the last 10 years. He is a republican in politics, an able exponent of the principles of his party and an efficient worker at the polls. He is a man who is warm in his nature and steadfast in his friendships. He is highly regarded as a man of business and respected and esteemed as a citizen. He married April 1, 1875, the lady whom he selected to share his fortunes being Miss Mary E. Dunlavy, of Schuyler county, Ill. This union has been blessed with five children—Otis, Katie, Clarence, Alpha and Bertie. Mr. Hymer and his wife are both zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal church and generous contributors to all charitable purposes.

**A**NDREAS OLESON is next to the oldest settler now living on "the divide" in Phelps county. He was born in Sweden, June 24, 1842, and his parents, Ole and Anna Oleson, were both natives also of that country, the former being born in the year 1814, and the latter a year later. These were the parents of eleven children, five boys and six girls. Andreas was reared in his native place and lived there to the age of twenty-eight. He received a good common-school education and spent his youth working on his father's farm, and during the winter months in the copper mines near by. He came to America in June, 1870, and lived successively in Houston county, Minn.; Trumbull county, Wis., and Delta county, Mich., working on a farm, in the pineries and along Lake Superior in the copper furnaces. He came to Nebraska in June, 1876, and settled in Phelps county, taking a homestead in section 4, township 6, and range 14 west, where he still lives. The country was wild and unsettled and bore but little resemblance to what it is now. Mr. Oleson began active operations as a Nebraska farmer by erecting a sod house, 14 by 22, breaking out some land and making other improvements. He had the usual amount of hardships, but has succeeded through all and is now recognized as one of the most prosperous farmers of his locality. He married, April 14, 1870, Miss Sarah Erickson, who is a native of Sweden, and was born in 1842. To this union have been born nine children, only two of whom are now living. These are Emily, born February 10, 1883, and Willie, born March 16, 1885. Mr. and Mrs. Oleson are both members of the Lutheran church.

**J**OHNS SINGLETERRY. Among those who settled on the Divide in an early day with little or nothing to begin with, is John Singletery; and certainly no one who started with as little has made a more marked success. He was born in Cambridgeshire England, on the twenty-eighth day of January, 1853.

His father, John Singletery, a farmer by occupation, was born in England in the year 1819 and lived to the ripe old age of three-score and eleven years.

His mother, Jane (Lee) Singletery, was also a native of England, born in the year 1826. These were the parents of nine children, five boys and four girls, three of whom live in America. Of the ancestral history of this family little or nothing is known.

John Singletery, the subject of this sketch, lived in England until he reached his seventeenth year. His boyhood days were spent in school and helping his father on the farm. Arriving at the age of seventeen and realizing that he must take upon himself the responsibilities of life and desiring, as all ambitious young men do, to make the most of his opportunities, he cast about him to ascertain, if possible, in what field his activities were likely to meet with the greatest success. America, at that time in the midst of one of the greatest eras of prosperity ever enjoyed by any nation, was the most fitting field, for the activities of this ambitious youth, and it is not to be wondered at that he chose to leave his native land and seek in a strange country to carve for himself that future bright destiny which his own ambition craved. Having resolved upon America as his future home, he accordingly

in, November, 1872, took passage by steamer for this country. Arriving without money or friends, he soon found employment at remunerative wages on the farm and in the stone quarries of Cook county, Ill. He continued to labor there for nearly eight years, when he decided to emigrate to the Western frontier in Nebraska. He accordingly, in October, 1880, came to Phelps county, having up to that time made but little advancement in the material world. He found employment on the farm of August Anderson, and for three years worked for this gentleman, accumulating in the meantime a sufficient sum of money to enable him to purchase the northeast quarter of section 34, township 6, range 17. This land had but little broken out and no improvements whatever at the time he made the purchase. He also bought a team, erected buildings and began to cultivate and improve his farm, which for richness of soil compared favorably with any in Phelps county. By industry and economy he has placed himself in comfortable circumstances, and with the competency already gained will be able to crown his youth of labor with an age of ease.

Mr. Singleterry married September, 1874, taking for a life companion Miss Anna Anderson, a most estimable lady who was born in Sweden September 15, 1850 and came to America in 1872. This union has been blessed with seven children, viz.—Elizabeth, John W., Freddie, Salma, Ester, Jennie and Henry W.

Mr. and Mrs. Singleterry are christian people of the Lutheran faith, although they have not yet handed their names to the church.

Politically, Mr. Singleterry is a strong

believer in the principles of the republican party. As an evidence of the faith and trust the people of this community place in him, they have placed in his keeping the funds of his school district for the past three years. Certainly no young man surrounded by similar circumstances in early life, is worthy of more praise for the manner in which he has overcome all obstacles, and, as it were, risen above the surrounding circumstances of his life to a higher and nobler plane of living. He has an invincible determination, backed by industry and ambition equal to Hannibal, who crossed the hitherto unsurmountable Alps and thundered at the gates of Rome. And it is just such men as this that form the front rank of American citizenship.

**A**NDREW BERKMAN is one of the early settlers on the Divide in Phelps county, and a highly respected and representative citizen. He was born in Sweden, December 23, 1835. His father, Andrew Anderson, a miner by occupation, was born in Sweden in 1806 and met his death at the age of forty-two, while engaged in mining. His mother, Anna Anderson, was also a native of Sweden, and was born in 1809. There were five children, three boys and two girls, born to these parents.

Andrew lived in Sweden until thirty-five years of age. On account of his father being poor he never had the advantage of an education, and while living in his native country he was principally engaged in working in saw-mills. He embarked for America in 1869, being two

months on the way. He located at Galesburg, Ill., and soon found employment at remunerative wages on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad. He continued at this for six months and then rented a farm and followed farming for seven years. Mr Berkman came to Phelps county, Nebr., in February, 1878, and preempted a quarter in section 2, township 6, range 17. When he landed at Kearney he had but \$3 in his pocket and was one hundred dollars in debt. He soon constructed a sod house, in which he lived for eleven years, and then built his present frame dwelling. The antelope at that time were abundant and would come around the house in large droves. He used corn-stalks for fuel, the timber being a distance of thirty miles away. The first three years his crops were almost total failures, and had it not been for odd jobs at blacksmithing which he did, he could not have lived. He lost his crops in 1879 and 1884 by hail, and altogether has seen pretty hard times since coming to Nebraska, but now has 120 acres broken out on his farm, and the place well improved.

Mr. Berkman was married May 20, 1862, to Miss Breta Oleson, who was born in Sweden in 1840, and this union has been blessed with fourteen children. Mr. and Mrs. Berkman were formerly members of the Lutheran church, but since coming to Nebraska have joined the Methodists. In politics Mr. Berkman is a republican.

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**P**ETER ERICKSON, the subject of this biographical sketch, is one of the earliest settlers and most prosperous farmers on the Divide, east of Holdrege. He was born in Sweden, June 25,

1852, and is one of a family of two children born to Erick and Mary Peterson, natives of Sweden. The father was born in 1821 and the mother in 1815.

Peter, our subject, remained in Sweden until nineteen years of age. His boyhood days were spent in attending school and working on his father's farm. Having arrived at an age when the responsibilities of life began to devolve upon him, and knowing that his future success depended upon his own exertions, he cast about him to ascertain, if possible, in what field his activities were likely to meet with the greatest reward. Great numbers of his countrymen having emigrated to America a few years previous and sent back favorable reports, he determined to bid farewell to his native land and seek his future prosperity in this land of promise. He accordingly embarked, September 21, 1871, for America, and after an ocean voyage lasting twenty-one days, he landed in New York city. November 6th, he came West to Stillwater, Minn. He soon found steady employment at remunerative wages in the pineries, and worked there during the winter months, rafting logs down the river in the summer. He continued to labor there until the spring of 1878, when, having made up his mind to move West and under the homestead act procure a home and grow up with the country, he accordingly came to Nebraska. Landing in Phelps county, April 12, 1878, he at once took a homestead and timber claim in the north half of section 24, township 6, range 17. He began the erection of a sod house fourteen by sixteen feet, which, when the walls were up, was nearly destroyed by a wind storm. He managed, however, to patch it up and

lived in it for upwards of two years, when he replaced it with another and better one. The country, on his arrival, presented a truly Western frontier appearance, there being but four or five settlers in his vicinity and but little land broken out. Antelope roamed over the prairie in large droves and were frequently seen grazing with his oxen in herds of as high as thirty-six in number. There being a scarcity of fuel, Mr. Erickson was obliged to haul wood with his oxen from Spring creek, a distance of thirty miles. In making these long and tedious trips, night frequently overtook him, when he would lariat his oxen and camp on the open prairie with nothing but the dome of heaven for his shelter and the radiance of the stars for his light. Imagine, if you can, a dark and lonely night thus spent on the open prairie, with no sound to greet the ear, save the munching of the oxen and an occasional yelp from a passing coyote, and conjecture, if you can, the feelings of our subject on an occasion like this.

Mr. Erickson had \$1,000 in money when he landed in Phelps county, but a failure of crops for the first few years drained his purse of its last dollar. The fourth year, after having put out a large crop of wheat and being greatly discouraged with the outlook, he borrowed enough money of his sister to pay his way back to Stillwater, Minn., where he hoped to get employment and thus earn money to pay his living expenses. He spent three months there working and earned enough to pay for the harvesting of his crop and returned to find that prosperity had dawned upon the apparently forsaken country and that he had as fine fields of waving grain as he had ever seen in Nebraska,

and his wheat when harvested and threshed yielded five hundred bushels.

Mr. Erickson kept "bach" and cooked for himself and for the help during the harvest time, for four years.

March 6, 1882, he married, taking for a life companion Miss Christena Louisa Jorganson, a most estimable lady who was born in Sweden, November 7, 1859, and came to America in 1878. Their union has been blessed with five children, viz.—Robert T., Ralph W., Mary E. and Carl J. The second child died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Erickson are both active members of the Lutheran church, and liberal contributors to all charitable purposes.

Politically, he is a republican and takes an active interest in that party. Taking into consideration the hardships and vicissitudes of Mr. Erickson's early pioneer experiences, the determination with which he has labored and the success he has achieved, he is certainly worthy of mention in a work of this kind.

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**J**AMES J. MELIN, an early settler and prominent farmer of Divide township, Phelps county, is a native of Sweden and was born October 29, 1843. His father, John Monson, an extensive farmer, and his mother, whose maiden name was Ella Gebson, were both natives also of Sweden.

The subject of this notice is one of a family of thirteen children. He was reared in his native place, growing up on his father's farm and receiving a good common and high school education. He finished his school training at a farmers'

institute, taking a thorough course in book-keeping and other business branches. He came to America in June, 1868, and stopping at Red Wing, Minn., found his first employment as a farm hand. In the fall of that year he came south and located at Burlington, Iowa, where he spent the winter and the following spring. He then went to Monmouth, Ill., and there engaged as a farm hand and later as a helper in the plow works at that place. Returning to Burlington, he worked there for two years in a hotel and for three years in a wholesale and retail dry goods store. He came to Nebraska in 1878, settling May 1, that year, in Phelps county. He took a homestead on one hundred and sixty acres and a tree claim of eighty acres in section 18, township 6, range 17 west, two hundred and forty acres in all. He sat about at once to make his improvements. He had some money which he had saved from his earnings and he had good need for all of it. It was two and a half years before he raised a crop, the grasshoppers and the drouth sweeping away everything he planted the first two seasons. The third year, however, he raised one thousand and two hundred bushels of wheat, which he sold for 75 cents to \$1 per bushel, and this gave him hope. He forged ahead and each succeeding year witnessed an improvement in his condition, until now he is justly regarded as one of the most prosperous and best fixed farmers in his township. He has his farm in a fine state of cultivation, furnished with splendid buildings, ornamented with groves and supplied with all needful conveniences. Mr. Melin is a level-headed man of the world, thoroughly competent to transact any sort

of business. He filled the office of assessor of his township for two years, that of treasurer for two years and is now filling that of collector. In politics he is independent, reserving the right to pass on men and measures according to their merits.

Mr. Melin married April 22, 1875, the lady whom he selected for a life companion being Miss Anna Bragg, a native of Sweden, who came to this country in 1868. Their union has resulted in the birth of five children—Ella A., Amanda, Edward A., Mabel E. and Oscar.

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**J**OHN V. ARMSTRONG is a native of West Virginia, and was born February 16, 1835. He is the eldest of seven children born to James and Nellie (Goodall) Armstrong, both natives also of West Virginia, where they always lived, and where they died—the father in 1863, and the mother in 1882. The subject of this notice was reared in his native state, being brought up on the farm and receiving such educational advantages as were afforded by the district schools when he was a lad. He selected farming as the business of his life, and, in 1859, married and settled down to agricultural pursuits, following these in his native state till 1868, when he decided to try his fortunes in the West, and came that year to Nebraska. He made his first stop in this state near Plattsmouth, in Cass county, and engaged in farming there for four years, and moved at the end of that time, in 1872, to Furnas county, taking a homestead and timber claim in the



Republican valley, four miles and a half east of the present town of Arrapaho City. There he lived for fourteen years, engaged in farming and stock-raising. In 1886 he moved to Phelps county, locating in the town of Bertrand, where he engaged in the livery business, and where he has since resided, following this business. He still owns his farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Furnas county, which he now has in a good state of cultivation, and having, also, in recent years built up a good livery trade where he now lives.

The above facts show Mr. Armstrong to be an old Nebraskan, and it is hardly necessary to add that he has been through the "flint mills" since coming to this state. When he reached Plattsmouth in 1868, he had his family, a small amount of household goods and \$600 in money. After a residence there of four years he he left the greater part of what he had and took up the line of travel further West in the hope of regaining what he had lost and bettering his condition further. He found in the Republican valley a beautiful country, and the prospects at the outset were very encouraging; but like most of the old settlers, he was destined to pass through a series of hardships and disappointments that sorely tried his patience and courage. He had his first few years' crops destroyed by the grasshoppers; then came the dry years, followed by the hail and other troubles, so that it was not until 1880 that his continued residence became an assurance. After that date, however, times got better, and his affairs, in common with those of others, improved from year to year. During the hard years Mr. Armstrong had frequently to leave his family on his claim

and go back East and work by the day to get something to live on, sometimes remaining away from home as long as six months at a time. There were no towns near his place, and his trading point was Kearney, in Buffalo county, sixty miles away. There were no roads, no mills—nothing but the open prairie over which roamed buffalo, antelope and coyotes, and occasionally bands of Cheyenne, Sioux and Pawnee Indians. The settlements were confined to the Republican valley, and they were by no means numerous. That he remained amid all these trials and disappointments is to be wondered at, and the fact that he did is probably the highest tribute that can be paid to his fortitude, endurance and persevering industry.

Mr. Armstrong married, as above noted, in 1859, the lady whom he took to wed being Miss Malinda Phillips, daughter of Lilburn and Senna Phillips, of West Virginia, descendants of old Virginia stock, of honored and respected families. Mr. Armstrong had the great misfortune to lose his excellent wife in March, 1889, she leaving surviving her, two grown sons—H. C. and Samuel P., beside her husband, to mourn her loss.

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**W**ILLIAM A. SMYTH was born in New York City in October, 1833. He is the second of a family of nine children born to John B. and Rebecca (Armstrong) Smyth, his father having been a native of Scotland and his mother coming of Scotch parentage. His father came to the United States when a comparatively young man

and settled in New York city, leaving there in 1843 and moving West to Wisconsin, where he settled and subsequently lived and died. He was a stone and marble cutter and followed his trade exclusively in his earlier year, first in the old country and afterwards in New York. In Wisconsin he was engaged in the marble business and in farming. He was an industrious, enterprising man and succeeded well. He died in 1869. His wife, mother of the subject of this notice, survived him a few years, dying in 1874.

William A. Smyth was reared mainly in Wisconsin, his parents moving to that state when he was ten years of age. He grew up on the farm, receiving an ordinary common-school education and being trained to the habits of industry and usefulness common to farm life. He began life for himself on a farm in Wisconsin, and followed farming there till the spring of 1879, when he came to Nebraska and settled in Phelps county, locating at that date on the southeast quarter of section 20, township 7, range 20 west, taking that as a homestead. Being unmarried he began his career as a Nebraska farmer with the bachelor life common at that date, putting up a sod house and erecting a temporary sod barn. For a while he hauled water ten miles and "hustled" fuel where it was to be had. He "broke" only twenty acres the first year, which he seeded to sod corn, and then added to this each succeeding year. He has also added to his original homestead other tracts by purchase, until now he owns in Phelps county nine hundred and sixty acres, four hundred and fifty acres of which he has under cultivation. His sod buildings have been succeeded by others of a more sub-

stantial and slightly nature, he having now as well improved and handsomely ornamented place as there is in his vicinity, has been steadily engaged in farming and stock-raising and has been one of the most successful farmers in the county. He is a man of clear head and sound judgment, and these, coupled with industry, application and a strong determination to succeed have made him what he is. He still owns his old farm in Wisconsin, where he started in the world, and he may be set down as a well-to-do man. He is also a stockholder and director in the First State Bank of Bertrand, Nebr. He has never married, preferring to pursue the even tenor of his way in single blessedness. He has two excellent house-keepers in the persons of his sisters, who look after his domestic affairs and make his home pleasant for him and a cheerful retreat for friends and strangers who visit him.

Mr. Smyth votes the republican ticket and takes great interest in a general way in political matters, but he has never sought office for himself. He has no false ambition in that direction.

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**J**OEL KEOPPEL. One of the oldest settlers of Union township, Phelps county, and a man who has profited as well by reason of his long residence there as any man in the township, is Joel Keoppel, the subject of this brief biographical notice. He came to Nebraska in the fall of 1878 and located a homestead in Gosper county and a tree claim in Phelps county, the latter being the northwest quarter of section 6, township 6, range 20 west. After improving his

homestead he sold it and subsequently moved on to his tree claim, where he has since resided. This lies in the western part of Phelps county, adjoining and partly covered by the town of Bertrand. What is not occupied by the town site, Mr. Keoppel has in a splendid state of cultivation, he having growing on it a large and thrifty grove and furnished with commodious and substantial buildings. He laid out several acres of it as an addition to the town of Bertrand a few years ago. This is now covered with handsome residences, making homes for a number of families. Mr. Keoppel has been identified with the best interests of his community, and has been especially active in promoting the interests of Bertrand. He has given liberally of his means and has worked with untiring industry in behalf of his adopted town. As a return for his liberality and as a monument to his energy and foresight, he sees growing up around him a town which will be the center of business and afford many happy and peaceful homes to the people of his locality for years to come.

Joel Keoppel was born in Mercer county, Ohio, November 16, 1848. He is the fifth of a family of twelve children born to George C. and Catherine (Deal) Keoppel, the former a native of Germany the latter a native of Ohio, of German descent. His father came to this country when a young man and settled in Ohio, where he married and passed all his subsequent life, dying in 1888. His widow survives him, being still a resident in her native state. The subject of this notice grew to maturity in his native county, being brought up on his father's farm. He received a good common-school educa-

tion and passed his earlier years in farming pursuits and at the carpenter's trade. At the age of eighteen he went to Iowa and there in the year 1871 married Miss Louisa Hildebrand, a daughter of Lenoard and Mary Hildebrand, natives of Germany. To this union have been born nine children—Mary, Omar, Jake, Annie, Rosa, Allen, Emma, Phillip and William. Mr. Keoppel has a pleasant home and having been fortunate in his worldly affairs he has been enabled to raise his family under favorable circumstances, giving them the benefit of good educational training and will be enabled to give them a fair start in life.

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GEORGE D. ROWLAND, the subject of this sketch, is one of Phelps county's oldest settlers, as he has been one of her most successful citizens. He has been a resident of the state for nineteen years, over twelve of which have been spent in the county where he now resides. He is a native of Wisconsin, and the fifth of a family of eight children born to John H. and Catherine (Farris) Rowland. His father, now a resident of Franklin county, this state, is a native of Virginia, and was reared mainly in his native state and Kentucky. He went to Wisconsin when a young man, where he afterwards married and lived for some years, engaged in the lead mines of that state. Coming to Nebraska in the fall of 1871, he settled in Franklin county, where he has since resided, having reached his seventy-ninth year. Mr. Rowland's mother is a native of Ohio, being a daughter of Garrett

Farris, who moved from Ohio and settled in Wisconsin at a comparatively early date. Of the eight children born to John H. and Catherine Rowland, all reached maturity, and are now living, being scattered all over the West from the great lakes to the Pacific coast. They are all married and settled down in life, and are succeeding reasonably well.

The subject of this sketch was reared mainly in Wisconsin, coming in the spring of 1871 to this state and settling in Franklin county, where he resided for seven years. In 1878 he moved to Phelps county and took a pre-emption and timber claim in section 11, township 5, range 19 west, and there located and has since lived. He began on limited means, and has had the usual hard experience which fell to the lot of all old settlers. He passed through the grasshopper scourge, the dry years, the hail storms and all the hard times incident to these. He lost several crops, but by industry and economy he came out of all his difficulties with energy unimpaired and courage undiminished, and he has succeeded, in a great measure, in realizing the one great hope of his life, namely, to make for himself a home where he can spend his declining years in the secure enjoyment of peace and plenty. He owns six hundred and forty acres of as fine land as there is in Phelps county, over four hundred acres of which he has in a splendid state of cultivation; the home farm of three hundred and twenty acres being furnished with a large and commodious farm residence and all necessary outbuildings, and being ornamented with trees and shrubbery and stocked with the best grades of horses, cattle and hogs.

When Mr. Rowland came to the state he was a single man and he had the magnanimity and good sense not to ask any woman to share his fortunes until he got his affairs in shape where they would at least partially justify him in taking this step. He married, in Franklin county, May 1, 1874, taking as a companion Miss Ella Reed, a school teacher, then of Franklin county, and a daughter of Orsamus and Henrietta Reed (who were born, brought up and married in New York), old settlers of that county. Mrs. Rowland is a native of Wisconsin, but was reared mainly in Wisconsin and Iowa, whither her parents moved when she was young. To Mr. and Mrs. Rowland have been born a family of four children — Ardell, Mand, Claude Leroy and Hazel E. They had the great misfortune to lose two of these — Ardell and Maud, from diphtheria, in July, 1880, the former at the age of four, the latter at fourteen months.

In politics, Mr. Rowland evinces the good sense that has always characterized him by remaining aloof from all party associations, acting independently and according to his own judgment on the merits of all men and measures.

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OSCAR F. ROBERTS, merchant of Atlanta, Phelps county, is a native of New York, the third of a family of six children born to Samuel and Ermina (Lee) Roberts. His parents were both natives of New York, originally of Scotch extraction. They were plain, substantial people and always lived in their native state.

The subject of this notice was born in November, 1832, and reared on his father's farm, receiving a good common-school education. In 1855 he married Julia Pratt, daughter of Stillman Pratt, of New York, and, selecting the carpenter's trade as a pursuit, he settled down in his native state and began the solution of the problem of life. Just as he was getting fairly started the clouds of civil war burst over the country and he, like thousands of other patriotic men responded to the call for volunteers to defend the Union, enlisting in 1863, in Company G, One Hundred and Thirty-eighth New York infantry, entering for three years. He served with the Army of the Potomac, and was in all the engagements fought by that army from the date of his enlistment till the surrender, and had the good fortune never to be captured, wounded or sent to hospital. He was mustered out in Virginia and returned to New York, where he took up his calling as carpenter, which he followed there for a time, moving thence to Wisconsin and still later to Kansas, settling in 1871 in Jewell county, that state. There he took a homestead and lived for four years. Leaving the farm in 1875 he moved into the town of Burr Oak, Jewell county, and engaged in the drug and jewelry business. He moved thence to Alma, Harlan county, this state, and shortly afterwards to Atlanta, Phelps county, where he has since resided. He was the first merchant who opened a stock of goods in Atlanta and he has done a steady, successful business since locating there, now owning a combined drug and grocery house. He has filled a number of local offices since coming West, the duties of which he has discharged with credit to

himself and satisfaction to all his fellow-citizens. He was county commissioner of Jewell county, Kans., for four years; he has been town clerk of Atlanta for seven years, ever since he has been a resident of the place, and he has been postmaster there for three years.

Mr. Roberts had the misfortune to lose his first wife in October, 1867, a daughter and son, Lida and Frederick, offsprings of his marriage, are both now residents of New York, where they were born and reared. He married again in December, 1889, taking to wife Miss Mary Harvey, a daughter of Edward Harvey, of Ohio.

Mr. Roberts is a member of the Masonic fraternity and a zealous advocate of the cause of temperance. In former years he affiliated with the republican party and still votes that ticket on National issues, but on state and local issues he stands with the prohibitionists.

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**S**ILAS LATTA was born in Seneca county, Ohio, April 16, 1844. He is the youngest of three children, all sons, born to David and Arteles (Burnett) Latta, both natives of Ohio. He was reared mainly in La Grange county, Ind., whither his parents moved when he was two years of age. He grew up on his father's farm and led the active and industrious life common to that calling. He enlisted in the Union army in February, 1862, entering company G, Thirtieth Indiana volunteer infantry. He enlisted for three years and served with the army of the Cumberland. He saw his first battle at Shiloh and following that was in the engagements at Stone river, Ten-

nessee; Chickamauga, Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, Dallas, Kenesaw mountain, Atlanta, Lovejoy's Station, Franklin, Nashville and others, and the term of his enlistment expiring while he was at Huntsville, Ala. After the dispersion of Hood's forces at Nashville, he was mustered out there and returned to Indianapolis, where he received his discharge. He was wounded at Stone river and captured while in the hospital there and transported to Andersonville, where he was held for over two months and then taken to Libby and held there for thirty-four days, being exchanged at the end of that time. He got a taste of prison life during this time and knows from experience something of its horrors. When he came out of Libby he weighed only eighty-six pounds. Besides himself, Mr. Latta had two brothers in the Union army, one of whom was killed in the service.

Returning to Indiana he remained there awhile and went then to Michigan where, January 1, 1870, he married Miss Lorinda Busk, a daughter of George Busk, a native of New York. Mr. Latta came to Nebraska and settled in Industry township, Phelps county. He took a homestead and timber claim in section 20, township 5, range 19 west. These he improved and resided on for three years, when he moved into Rock Falls township and took a pre-emption. Leaving there in 1883 he moved to Holdrege, where he has since resided, engaged at first in the livery and afterwards in the general stock business. He still owns his farms, having one hundred and sixty acres in Phelps county, six hundred and forty acres in Harlan county and three hundred and twenty acres in Perkins county. He has been actively

engaged in handling live stock, especially horses, for several years, being a great fancier of horse flesh and remarkably successful with them. When Mr. Latta came to Nebraska he had his family and household goods and \$29 in money. He began almost on the bottom round of the ladder. What he has now, he has made in the intervening years. He has eaten no idle bread as the foregoing facts show. He is a shrewd trader, and his knowledge coupled with his industry and sound sense have made him the bulk of what he has. Mr. Latta has some very fine stock, graded and thorough-breds, and he is making strenuous efforts to raise the standard of horses in his county. He is devoted strictly to the pursuit of his own affairs, never having had any public career.

Could he have been as fortunate in his domestic affairs as he has been prosperous in business, he would have much less to regret in connection with his residence in Phelps county. He and his excellent wife have had four children born to them, all of whom they have lost, three dying within thirteen days of each other in 1882. His life like that of most others has been checkered with sunshine and shadow.

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VAN B. BEEM. Any record of the early settlers of southwestern Nebraska, however long, would be incomplete without prominent mention of Van B. Beem, of the town of Atlanta, Phelps county. His residence in this part of the state dates back to the early seventies, and, as the saying goes, he has been "through the flint mills," having seen the country when it was all wild

and having gone through all the trials of the grasshopper seasons and other hardships and privations incident to the first settlement of the country. Mr. Beem comes of pioneer ancestry and gets by inheritance many of the qualities which so well fit him for a pioneer settler. His father, Benjamin Beem, who was a native of Ohio, grew up on the frontier and lived nearly all his life on the outskirts of civilization. He was a resident, successively, of Ohio, Iowa, Colorado and Nebraska, and was a man of great personal energy and fond of the free and unfettered life of the West. He followed farming and mining mostly, but also gave some attention to the ministry. He was a conspicuous member of the Christian church and gave the best part of a long life to the task of illustrating in everyday practice the truth of those doctrines on which that church is founded. He died in Iowa in 1880. Mr. Beem's mother survived her husband some years, dying in 1888, and was making her home with her son, the subject of this sketch, at the time of her death. He took her remains back to Iowa and laid them to rest beside the father's.

There were seven children in the family to which the subject hereof belonged, of whom he was the second in point of age. He was born in Licking county, Ohio, September 14, 1838, grew up on the farm, and was trained to the habits of industry and usefulness common to farm life. He moved to Iowa with his parents when a young man, and there married in 1858, taking to share his life's fortunes Miss Lucinda Golden, she being a daughter of John Golden. He started out for himself on marrying, beginning farming,

which he has steadily followed since. He resided in Iowa till 1872. At that date he made up his mind to go further West, and that year moved to Nebraska, settling on the Republican river, in Harlan county. He took a homestead in that county at that time, which he improved, and bought other land in addition thereto, until he owned at one time in that county four hundred acres. Most of this he had under a good state of cultivation. He lived in Harlan county for sixteen years, at the end of which time he sold out and moved to Phelps county, where he purchased three hundred and thirty acres, on which he settled and which he began to improve. This tract of land comprised the present town site of Atlanta, and it has risen steadily in value since Mr. Beem bought it. In recent years he has built a livery stable in Atlanta, and is now engaged in running his farm and his livery business. His investments having proved profitable, and his labors having been crowned with success, he is now in a fair way to become a man of wealth. This is no more than he deserves, for he has been largely instrumental in making the country what it is. When he settled in Harlan county the whole country was practically unsettled, there being only a family here and there. He had to go to Gibbon to mill, and what little trading he did he had to go a distance to do it. He has worked hard, and has always stood up stoutly for Nebraska. He began on nothing, and all he has now he has made since he came to the state. While he has given his time and attention mostly to his own business, he has borne his full share in the development of the country, having served his county as commissioner, his

township as supervisor, and his school district in every capacity, official and otherwise. He is a public-spirited citizen, a man of sound intelligence and clear judgment. In politics he is a republican, and a staunch supporter of the principles and methods of his party.

Mr. Beem has reared a family of six children, these being Ingubu, now deceased; William, Myer, John, Emma and Benjamin.

**G**EORGE W. KENNEDY, one of the largest and most successful farmers of Phelps county, is a native of Ohio, and was born March 16, 1832. He comes of New England parentage, his father and mother both having been natives of Massachusetts. His father's christian name was David and his mother's maiden name was Abigail Sprague. They were married in their native state and moved West at an early day, settling in Ohio, where they both died. They had five children, of whom the subject of this notice is the eldest. He grew up in his native state, receiving a common-school education and being trained to the habits of industry and usefulness common to farm life, being his own guardian and making his own way in the world since early childhood, losing his parents when he was young. He left Ohio at the age of eighteen and went to Lafayette, Ind., where he engaged as a farm hand and where in 1858 he married, moving two years afterwards to Illinois and then after one year's renting, bought a farm of 120 acres on which he settled. In February, 1865, he entered the Union army,

enlisting in Company F, One Hundred and Fifty-fifth Illinois volunteer infantry, and going South at once, was in the service, till the following September, being on guard duty, mostly along the line of rail ways running out from Nashville, Tenn. Returning home in the fall of 1865, he resumed farming and continued successfully at it in Illinois, till the spring of 1880, when he decided to try his fortunes in the West, and accordingly came that year to Nebraska, settling in Phelps county, buying half of section 3, township 5, range 19 west, where he has since resided. Unlike many of those who sought homes in Nebraska at a comparatively early date, Mr. Kennedy had some means to start on, not however a great deal. The farm he bought was practically unimproved and all it is he has made it. He now owns the entire section on which he lives, besides a quarter section in Harlan county, making him 780 acres, all fine land and about half of which he has under cultivation. He has his home place in splendid condition, being furnished with a superior class of buildings and all needful conveniences. He is a systematic, thorough-going man of business, and has made the bulk of what he has in the last ten years. He has never failed to raise a crop since he has been in the state and he thinks, taking it one year with another, he has had the best success at farming since living in Nebraska, that he ever had in his life. Mr. Kennedy has had a great deal of experience in the ways of the world and has acquired a large fund of practical information, having had to think and act for himself, from youth up. He is a man of sound intelligence and clear and comprehensive judgment, plain in manner, blunt in speech,



and direct in his business methods. He has a kindly disposition and his neighbors say that when one comes to know him there is no better man to live by in the world. He has a pleasant home and a family of seven children growing up around him. He married, as above noted in Lafayette, Ind., in 1858; the lady whom he chose for a life companion was Miss Caroline Sandell, a daughter of Anares Sandell, a native of Stutterstrip, Sweden. His children, some of whom are now grown up, are—Elizabeth, Clara, John, Warren, Bugg, Alvin and David.

In politics Mr. Kennedy affiliates with the republicans, but is not a politician and has never sought office for himself in his life.

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**H**ERMAN L. BRANDT. Phelps county boasts of many well-to-do farmers, but she probably has none who, measured by their age and opportunities, have met with better success or who are more worthy of the success they have met with, than the subject of this sketch. Born in Hanover, Germany, March 27, 1857, the eldest child of Lutjin I. and Gratje (Debuhr) Brandt, he came to America with his parents in 1865 and settled in Freeport, Ill., where, and in Will and Iroquois counties, that state, he was reared. He came to Nebraska in 1877 as a member of his father's family, settling in Clay county, and the following year moved into Phelps county, where he took a homestead and timber claim in section 26, township 5, range 19 west, located and has since resided. He has purchased another quarter of the same

section, owning now nine hundred and sixty acres, a large part of which he has under cultivation, furnished with orchards, groves and other needed improvements. He has been steadily engaged in farming since coming to Phelps county and is justly regarded as one of that county's most successful farmers, as he is one of its shrewdest and most intelligent business men. He deals largely in grain and stock and has been as successful in the handling of these as in his agricultural pursuits. Mr. Brandt was a poor boy when he came to the county and what he has made since that time. He has been thoroughly identified with the best interests of his community and has taken an active part in the development of its resources and in the administration of its local affairs. He has served as supervisor of Industry township and discharged his duties with zeal and fidelity. In politics he affiliates with the republican party, but he is a man of strong temperance views and on an issue between his party and the advocates of prohibition he would throw his influence with the latter. He is an active and consistent member of the Baptist church and a generous contributor to all charitable purposes.

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**W**ILLIAM I. HAZLETT, the fourth of a family of ten children born to William P. and Zerelda (Haggard) Hazlett, is a native of Christian county, Ill., and was born March 14, 1853. His father was born in Virginia, but moved to Illinois when a young man and there married. His

mother was born in Kentucky and was a daughter of Harman and Sarah Haggard, who emigrated to Illinois at a comparatively early day.

The subject of this notice was reared in Christian and Sangamon counties, Ill. He grew up on his father's farm, receiving a good common-school education and being trained to habits of industry and usefulness common to his calling. He resided on the farm with his parents till 1874, when, having married, he started to farming for himself, which occupation he followed until the year 1879, then moved into the city of Springfield and engaged in the mercantile business, clerking for one Mr. John M. Forden for three years. Then he worked in the watch factory at that place for another year, then rented a farm near Springfield for one year, after which he decided to seek a home in the West and came in 1884 to Nebraska and settled in Saline county. The following year he moved to Phelps county, securing as a homestead the northeast quarter of section 32, township 5, range 19 west, which he filed on as a homestead. He has improved this, now having one hundred and twenty-five acres under cultivation and comfortable buildings. Since proving up on his homestead, has bought another farm of eighty acres joining him on the west. He started in with a span of horses and a wagon and what he now has, he has made. He owns a considerable bunch of cattle and has plenty of personal property. He is an industrious, wide-awake man and knows how to improve his time and opportunities.

He has a pleasant home and in his labors of building up his fortunes in the West he has been ably assisted by the

intelligent and hearty co-operation of an affectionate wife. He married, as above noted, in Sangamon county, Ill., the lady whom he selected to share his fortunes being Miss Harriet M. McKinnie, a daughter of William P. McKinnie, formerly of Kentucky. This union has been blessed with five children, as follows—Fannie (who died October 19, 1888, age thirteen), Charles, Pearl, Ralph and Luna.

Mr. Hazlett takes considerable interest in the educational, social and religious affairs of his community, and lends a helping hand to everything tending to promote these interests. He has been moderator of his school district and is a zealous member of the Baptist church. In politics he is a democrat, but never allows himself to be drawn into the questionable entanglements of political squabbles. He discharges his duties as a citizen by voting and keeping himself posted on current events; and this is the extent of his political aspirations and public career.

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**D**AVID F. FRY is a native of Pennsylvania and was born September 22, 1836. He is the second of a family of eleven children born to John C. and Sarah (Berkabile) Fry. His parents were also natives of Pennsylvania and were of German and English descent. Mr. Fry was reared in his native state, growing up on his father's farm and receiving in his youth an ordinary common-school education. He married in Pennsylvania, February 23, 1860, and there settled down to agricultural pursuits. He was so engaged when he was called two years later as a volun-

teer to defend the Union against the attacks of secession. He entered the Union army in February, 1862, enlisting in Company E, Eleventh Pennsylvania infantry. His regiment served with the Army of the Potomac and took part in fifteen of the hardest fought battles of the late war. Beginning with Manassas, its heaviest engagements were Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Cold Harbor, Spottsylvania, siege of Petersburg and Hatcher's run. Its service is well shown by its death-roll. Out of a total enlistment of two thousand and fifty-two, it lost, in killed and wounded, eight hundred and sixty-nine men. Its heaviest losses were sustained at Manassas and the Wilderness, in the latter of which engagements Mr. Fry was wounded by a shot-gun through the right leg below the knee, disabling him from duty from May until the following September. With the exception of that time he was actively in the service from the date of his enlistment till the surrender, being mustered out at Ball's Cross-roads, Virginia, receiving pay and final discharged at Harrisburg, Pa. Resuming farming he resided in Pennsylvania till the fall of 1877, when he moved to Nebraska and located in Phelps county, taking a homestead and timber claim in section 18, township 5, range 19 west, where he settled and has since lived. His claim had no improvements on it when he took it. He has one hundred and sixty acres of it now under cultivation, eleven acres in timber, an orchard and other conveniences. He has been steadily engaged in farming and with the exception of the first three seasons he has always had tolerably good crops. He has met with good success since coming to the state and is

regarded as one of the most prosperous farmers of his community.

As stated above, Mr. Fry was married February, 1860. The lady whom he took to wed was Miss Magdelene Nicodemus, a daughter of Herbert Nicodemus, of Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Fry have had born to them a family of ten children, all but two of whom are now dead, the surviving ones being a son and daughter—George and Susan E. George is married and is living on his own farm one mile away from his father's home.

Mr. Fry has taken an active interest in the affairs of his township, particularly in matters relating to the educational and agricultural interests of his community. He has been moderator of his school board and is an active member of the Alliance. He is a zealous member of the United Brethren church and a generous supporter of all church work. In politics he is a republican with a strong leaning towards the prohibition cause, being an enthusiastic temperance man.

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**R**ICHARD S. BLACK, a thoroughly practical farmer of Lake township, Phelps county, Nebr., was born in 1849 in Schuyler county, Ill. When quite a lad he enlisted in Company G, Sixty-second Illinois infantry, took part in a number of engagements, and was mustered out at Fort Smith, Ark., in 1865. He then returned to his native county, where he worked on a farm until 1879, when he came to Nebraska, where he first located on section 33, township 5,

range 17, in Phelps county; but subsequently moved to his present place on section 31, township 5, range 17. His sole possessions on coming here comprised a wagon and a team of horses; he now owns a quarter section of land, one hundred and forty acres of which are under cultivation and are well stocked and improved in every respect. In 1876 Mr. Black married Miss H. A. Demlavny, who was born in Illinois in 1858. Six children have resulted from this union, as follows—Howard, Claude, Atwell, Clara, Nancy and Katie. In politics Mr. Black is a democrat and is now serving as county supervisor, giving universal satisfaction in the performance of the duties of the office.

John L. Black, the father of Richard S., was the first white child born in Woodstock township, Schuyler county, Ill., his birth having occurred in 1830. In 1848 he married Miss Nancy Pickenpaugh, who was born in Illinois in 1832, became the mother of two children—the subject of this sketch and Mrs. Mary Bates of Butler county, Nebr.—and died in 1857. John L. Black was reared to farming, but he was a patriot and enlisted in Company E, One hundred and nineteenth Illinois infantry, and was mustered out in 1863. In politics he was a democrat.

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**E**DWARD SANDSTED is a native of Sweden and was born in the year 1852. He is a son of Andrew Sandsted, who was also a native of Sweden, born in 1807 and died in 1889, a farmer by occupation, an industrious, useful citizen and a pious christian father. There

were ten children in the family to which the subject of this sketch belonged, eight of whom reached maturity and six of whom are now living, the full list being—Mary, who was married to August Anderson and is now dead; Jane, who was also married to August Anderson, she becoming his second wife, and is also deceased; Charles, Magdalene, now wife of John Broman, and Frank; the last three being in Sweden; Alfred in Phelps county, Nebr., and Maurice in Harlan county, Nebr., and two that died in infancy.

The subject of this notice was reared in his native country to the age of sixteen, coming thence to America and settling in Knox county, Ill. After a residence there of four years, three years of which he worked as a farm hand, being engaged the last year as a clerk in a mercantile establishment, he came in 1872 to Nebraska and made his first stop in Adams county. In the fall of 1873 he went to Harlan county and took a homestead in Antelope township, and being then unmarried settled down to the bachelor life of the West, spending most of his time, however, with his brother who had preceded him to that county by one year. Becoming impatient at the slowness with which the country settled up, he decided to return East after a short time spent there, and did go back to the East; but soon struck for the West again, going to the Black Hills country of Dakota. Not liking it there he returned to Nebraska, settling on his claim in Harlan county. At the date he made his second settlement he had just 90 dollars with which to begin the arduous struggle of making a home on the raw prairie. He invested this in a yoke of oxen and a wagon and went to work with a will. He

lived in Harlan county till 1883, gradually improving his fortunes, and then moved to Phelps county, where he purchased a farm in section 30, township 5, range 17 west, where he located and has since resided. He owns half of the above section, besides a quarter section in Thomas county, Kans., all of which he has well improved, most of it being under cultivation and well stocked, and all of which he has made within the last sixteen years. He is regarded as one of the most prosperous farmers of the locality where he lives, as well as one of the most intelligent and shrewdest business men. He has spent his entire time since coming West in farming and stock-raising and has been devoted strictly to his own personal affairs. He has had more than the usual hard experiences of the old settlers, having gone through every phase of frontier life, from a Black Hills miner to a prairie homesteader, and knows what it is to subsist on hope and fresh air. He went through the dry years, the grasshopper scourge, and he has had his crops destroyed by hail and his property by prairie fires. He has lived in a dug-out and a sod-house and has had for his only companions coyotes, antelope buffalo and Indians. He has hauled water and wood for miles and has gone to bed many times supperless.

In 1883, Mr. Sandsted, having got sufficiently far along in a worldly way to ask a lady to share his fortunes with him, married Mrs. Hanha Amelia Sophia Anderson, a widow who had one child by her first marriage, and who, like himself, came on to the prairies at a comparatively early day and saw some of the hardships and privations of pioneer life. This union has been blessed with five children—Lillie,

born in 1884; Rosie, born in 1885; Earnest, born in 1886; Arthur, born in 1888; and Alfred, born in 1890. Mr. Sandsted wears the dog-collar of no political faction, being independent in politics as in all other things.

CHARLES S. BRADLEY, a well-known citizen of Phelps county and a native of Vermont, was born in Williston, October 1, 1833, and is the fifth of a family of ten children born to Eli J. and Sarah Bradley. His father was a farmer, followed farming throughout life, and was an intelligent, upright citizen. He accomplished much good during his life, and died in his eighty-third year, regretted by a large circle of friends, who loved and revered him as an upright, and very earnest christian man.

The mother of C. S. Bradley bore the maiden name of Sarah Cooley, and is now living in Nebraska with her son, our subject, and is in her ninetieth year.

Charles S. Bradley was reared in the place of his birth, being brought up on his father's farm, and was early trained to habits of industry and usefulness common to farm life. He attended the common schools, and received a good common-school education. He then began to study for the ministry and to teach, and was first licensed in 1854 by the quarterly conference of the Methodist church. He went to Ohio, taught school there one year, and then returned to Vermont. From Vermont he went to Missouri, and there he was engaged in teaching and preaching. While there he married, tak-

ing for a life companion Miss Matha Williamson, a daughter of Thomas Williamson, of Cooper county, Mo.

After a residence of five years in Missouri, Mr. Bradley returned to Ohio, and remained there till coming to Nebraska in 1876. When he came to Nebraska he settled in Seward county, bought railroad land and began to make improvements. Being disabled by the "grasshopper raid," from fully meeting his annual obligations, the railroad company sold him out for a small amount of unpaid money, although he had paid them as much as \$1,200. In 1878 he came to Phelps county, and located a homestead on the southwest quarter of section 18, township 5, range 19, and a timber claim on the northwest quarter of section 19, township 5, range 19. He has also added, by purchase, another quarter section, now owning four hundred and eighty acres of good land. He has one hundred and sixty acres under cultivation, and raises mixed crops, mainly corn. His chief line of business is raising corn, cattle and hogs. He now owns one of the finest farms in Phelps county, with good building improvements, groves, and a fine orchard. The success he has met with is the result of good management, and has been obtained by a life of unremitting industry and perseverance, united with frugal habits, and to his estimable wife who has so long aided and counseled him in all his praise-worthy efforts, much of his success is due. He is a man of truly religious principles, and lives up to all his professions; is scrupulously honest in all his dealings, cautious in his conversation, never speaking aught to the detriment of his neighbors, and is much respected by all who know him.

Mr. Bradley has been twice married. He lost his first wife by death, July 27, 1864. August 24, 1865, he married Miss Rosanna Creamer, a daughter of C. C. Creamer, of Fayette county, Ohio. Mr. Bradley is the father of eight children, two by his first marriage and six by his last. The children by the first marriage are—Eli W., and Charles H. (deceased). By his second—Henry C., Minor (deceased), Abblex, Charles A. (deceased), Ancel M. and Myron W.

Mr. Bradley's work being mission work, he has traveled almost constantly since 1862, but now has a short vacation.

In politics he affiliates with the prohibition party, and is specially interested in all reform movements.

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**O** J. GAMEL was born in Ohio in 1846, and is a son of Henry and Susanna (Davis) Gamel. Henry Gamel, also a native of Ohio, was born in 1819, and served under Gen. Fremont from 1861 to 1864, his death occurring in the year last named. Mrs. Susanna (Davis) Gamel was born in Ohio in 1823, was married in 1843, and died in 1863, the mother of seven children, namely—Orin (deceased), Malinda (deceased), O. J., Henry H., Amanda (deceased), Melvina, Thomas Jefferson and Cyrus R.

O. J. Gamel remained in his native state of Ohio until 1861, when he drove a flock of sheep through to Illinois, occupying fifty-two days on the way. In the latter state he lived with his maternal grandfather, Henry Davis, from 1861 until 1863, at which time his mother died

and he returned to his home in Ohio, where he remained until 1867, when he again went to Illinois, where for eleven years he engaged in farming, and for six years in the mercantile business at Mahomet. In 1885 he came to Nebraska and for two years he lived on a rented farm in Fillmore county, from there he came to his present home in Phelps county, on section 33, township 5, range 17. Mr. Gamel began life with a horse, saddle and bridle, and came to Nebraska with a capital of \$10,000; he now has four hundred and eighty acres of land, well stocked and unincumbered.

In February, 1868, Mr. Gamel married Miss Sarah A. Ehrlich, a native of Ohio, born in 1848. Three children now brighten his hearthstone and are named—William E., Cora Anna and Clarence Carl. In politics Mr. Gamel is a republican.

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**T** W. BONSER, of Lake township, Phelps county, Nebr., was born in Illinois in 1849. His father, W. T. Bonser, was born in England in 1800. He was a farmer by vocation, and on coming to America settled in Schuyler county, Ill., where he passed the remainder of his days. He was an active member of the Union Baptist church, and in politics was a democrat. In 1834 he married Emeline Stephens, a native of Indiana, born in 1813, and also a member of the Union Baptist church. Thirteen children were born to this marriage, namely—Mrs. Keziah Rawson, in Illinois; William, in Phelps county, Nebr.; Mrs. Eliza Sugget, in Wyoming Territory; John, in Illinois;

Nancy Jane; James (deceased); T. W. Milborne; Henry; an infant that died unnamed; Edward; another infant that died unnamed, and Marion.

T. W. Bonser was reared a farmer and was educated in his native county, which he left at the age of twenty-eight, in 1878, and came to Nebraska, settling in Phelps county, on section 25, township 5, range 17 west. When he began his business life, at the age of twenty-one, he had nothing in the way of wealth; when he came to Nebraska he had a team of mules, a wagon and two hundred dollars in cash; at present he is the owner of two hundred and seventy-five acres of good farming land, well stocked and improved and clear of all incumbrance, all earned by hard work and good management.

In 1878 Mr. Bonser married Miss Nancy E. Strong, a native of Illinois and born in 1859. She has borne two children, Everett, in 1884, and Cora, in 1888. Mr. Bonser is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics is a democrat.

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**A** NDREW HOLLENBECK, a farmer of Lake township, Phelps county, Nebr., was born in New York in 1843, where he remained until about 1878. Jacob B. Hollenbeck, his father, also a native of New York, was born in 1820 and was a prosperous farmer and an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He was of Holland descent and of the second generation born in this country. In 1840 he married Maria Van Ness, who was born in New York in

1822, and who bore him six children, namely—Mary (Mrs. John M. Deroe), Andrew, Archibald, Catherine M. (Mrs. Mortimer), Maggie and Sidney (deceased). The paternal grandfather of our subject was Battus Hollenbeck, a native of Fulton county, N. Y. His paternal grandmother was Mary (Aigersinger) Hollenbeck, of New York. His maternal grandfather was Andrew Van Ness, and his maternal grandmother was Catherine (Vosberg) Van Ness.

Andrew Hollenbeck passed his early summers on the home farm and his early winters in getting out timbers. For a number of years after reaching manhood he lived on a rented farm in his native state, and on coming to Nebraska, in 1878, and settling in Phelps county, had a capital of only \$75 in cash and a team. He was, moreover, incumbered with quite a large family. He went manfully to work, however, and is now the owner of a half section of land, of which two hundred acres are under cultivation and improved with all necessary buildings, etc. He is a democrat, has served several years as justice of the peace, and is a popular man generally. In 1867 he married Miss Sarah E. Cowles, who was born in Fulton county, N. Y., in 1849, and this union has resulted in the birth of ten children, namely—Laura (Mrs. Whitney), Elijah, Jacob, William (deceased), George, Elmer, Herbert and Herman (twins), Sidney and Earl.

**L**ARS OSCAR OLSON is a native of Gothenborg, Sweden, and was born August 16, 1841. He was reared in his native place and in his earlier days was apprenticed to the carpenter's

trade, which he mastered and followed for some time. After reaching maturity he was engaged a few years as a sailor on the North sea, the vessel he was on plying between England, Sweden, Belgium and France. Coming to America, he made a short stop at Hinsdale, Mass. From Hinsdale he went to Chicago, where he found his first employment in an implement factory. For twenty years he made Chicago his headquarters, living there a large part of the time, his main occupation being bridge-building and mill-wrighting, the former of which he followed nine years and was employed in building, among others, the principal bridges on the Union Pacific railroad, between Omaha and Ogden, Utah, in the years 1867-8-9. He also worked in Dunlap's National and Indiana elevators a large part of the time while in Chicago. He has worked in sixteen states in the Union, being as far east as Massachusetts, west as Utah, north as North Dakota and south as Florida.

In 1880 he bought a quarter section of land where the town of Holdrege now stands for \$640. Six years afterward he sold forty acres of it for \$3,200 and within a year afterwards he sold eighty acres more for \$8,800. He then moved to Phelps county, purchasing a half section in Laird township for \$4,400, and still another quarter for \$2,500, and built on the former place a house and barn that cost \$7,500, and has since resided there and is now largely engaged in farming and stock-raising.

He married, May 25, 1872, the lady whom he selected for a companion being Miss Albertina C. Magnusson, also of Gothenborg, Sweden. Six children have been born to this union, namely—Axel B,



born March 27, 1873; Annie C., born December 13, 1874; Oscar, born September 15, 1876; Oscar Alfred, born August 1, 1881; Clara M., born January 31, 1888, and Hedwig, born November 25, 1889. Of these, Oscar died the thirteenth of June, 1881, and Oscar Alfred, May 19, 1884.

Mr. Olson evinces the good sense that characterized him through all his business career by remaining independent in politics and keeping aloof from all political squabbles and connections.

**A**NDREW J. NELSON was born in Elsburg, lower Sweden, March 18, 1854. He was reared on a farm and attended the common district schools, till he was seventeen years old, coming then to America, reaching New York the twenty-sixth of May, 1871, without a penny. He borrowed money enough to pay his passage to this country, his mother going his security. Going at once to Hartford, Mich., where he had acquaintances, he obtained employment on a railroad, and remained there about three months; then went to Iroquois county, Ill., and worked on a farm. By fall, he had earned enough money to pay back what he had borrowed to bring him to America. He worked in Iroquois county three years, and at the end of that time, with the money so earned, bought eighty acres of land. He disposed of this, however, four years afterwards and in the spring of 1879 came to Phelps county, Nebr. This he found to be a wild prairie country, then very sparsely settled, but he determined to locate and go to work

to secure a home. After prospecting about for some time he selected a homestead in Prairie township and set about to erect a sod house. He never discovered that the future county seat would be located on land adjoining his claim. He had only about two hundred dollars when he came to Nebraska, and after he had secured his claim and purchased feed for a team he had brought with him he had but little left. He remained on this homestead about nine years. In the meantime, the Burlington & Missouri River railroad was built through Phelps county and the county seat located at Holdrege, which place seemed to spring up out of a corn field after the railroad was built. The officials of the road concluded to locate their extensive shops at Holdrege and made Mr. Nelson an offer of eight thousand dollars for his farm, which lay about one mile from the new town. He accepted this offer and immediately invested the money in land in Laird township, where he now owns six hundred and forty acres.

Mr. Nelson was married December 25, 1876, to Miss Gusta Lindgreen. She was born in Elsburg, lower Sweden, September, 19, 1823, coming to America with her parents when quite small. To this union have been born five children—Minnie S. born October 23, 1877; George W., born February 19, 1879; Lewis H., born November 1, 1883; Call E., born January 11, 1886; Hattie E., born July 12, 1888.

Mr. Nelson is an ardent advocate of temperance and votes the prohibition ticket. His farm where he now lives comprises three hundred and twenty acres, on which he has recently erected a handsome residence. Every thing indi-

icates thrift and prosperity, and shows Mr. Nelson to be a shrewd and careful manager. He deals extensively in stock and does his own shipping. He ranks among the most successful farmers of Phelps county.

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**E**ZRA READ, an enterprising young hardware merchant of Loomis, Phelps county, was born in Iowa, September 29, 1850. He is a son of John and Ann (Sturmm) Read, both natives of England. They emigrated to America in 1850, and came west as far as Madison county, Iowa. The senior Read was a carpenter by trade but followed farming largely. He was born February 8, 1813, and died August 23, 1888. His wife was born December 25, 1812, and died October 31, 1888.

Ezra Read, the subject of this sketch, worked with his father in the milling business till he became of age, when he started out for himself, continuing in the milling and lumber business till September, 1878, when he came to Nebraska. He was one of the first settlers in Industry township, Phelps county. Taking a homestead there, he made a hole in the ground and lived in it all winter. He had to haul water over two miles. The prairie had been burnt and there was no grass or feed to be had. When he got settled on his claim he had only \$2.80 left to live on during the long winter. He lost his team after he had been there about two months, and had to go in debt for another in the spring. There were times when he did not know where his next meal was to

come from, but he managed some way to get along.

Mr. Read was married June 29, 1872, to Barbara Lukecart. She is of German descent and was born in Iowa August 14, 1855. Four children grace their happy home—Annie, born May 14, 1873; William O., born December 19, 1874 (deceased); Lester, born August 17, 1876, and Benjamin F., born November 15, 1888.

Mr. Read sold his homestead November, 1889, and moved to Loomis, where he opened a hardware store December 1st, that year. He carries a splendid stock, comprising a general line of hardware, including a stock of harness. Mr. Read is a careful business man and enjoys the confidence of his community, and although he has only been in business a few months he is succeeding beyond his most sanguine expectations.

Both himself and wife are zealous members of the United Brethren church, and are always found at their post when any religious duty is to be performed.

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**J**AMES LUKECART was born in Ross county, Ohio, August 14, 1827. His parents were Jacob and Rebecca (Chambers) Lukecart, the former being a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of New Jersey. They were married in Ohio, and moved to Illinois in 1849, locating in Coles county, where they remained till 1860, whence they moved to Marshall county, Iowa, where they remained for seven years. Both died in 1869. He was a miller, and fol-

lowed his favorite vocation nearly all his life.

James Lukecart was married October 15, 1848, to Miss Nancy C. White, who was a native of Illinois. Soon after marriage they settled in Marshall county, Ill., where he was employed in a packing house. In 1858 he emigrated to Powshiek county, Iowa, and was among the early settlers. The nearest trading point was Iowa city, fifty miles distant. He killed wagon-loads of deer and took them to Iowa city, where he exchanged them for provisions. After four years of pioneer life in this wild country he removed to Strong county, where he remained about eleven years.

Mr. Lukecart enlisted, October 27, 1862, in the Ninth Iowa infantry, and his first experience in battle was at Nashville, Tenn. He was a participant in the engagements at Tunnell hill, Lookout mountain, Courtland, Ala.; Kingston, N. C.; Goldsborough and Raleigh, and was mustered out at Louisville, Ky., and received his discharge July 27, 1865, at Clinton, Iowa.

Mr. Lukecart came to Phelps county, Nebr., in the fall of 1878, and located on a homestead in Laird township, and built a sod house when there was not another in sight. He had some live stock, but only \$2.40 in money, but, nevertheless, has been a successful farmer from the first, always having good crops.

There have been born eleven children to Mr. and Mrs. Lukecart, viz.—John W. (deceased), Annie, Mary Jane, Barbara, Lavina, James (deceased), Sarah, Stephen D., Jacob (deceased), Sherman (deceased), and William C. Mr. Lukecart has eighty acres of well improved land, the soil of

which is adapted to raising almost anything grown in this climate. He is a member of Glover Post, No. 111, G. A. R., of Holdrege, and has always affiliated with the democratic party.

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F. W. KIPLINGER, an enterprising young banker at Loomis, Phelps county, is a native of Plainfield, Ill., and was born December 3, 1865. His father, Elias Kiplinger, is a native of Ohio and was born in 1835. He was an Evangelical minister of considerable note for several years, but has retired from active work and is residing in Holdrege, Nebr. He has preached in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Nebraska, and was presiding elder in Indiana for twelve years. He came to Holdrege in 1885 and preached there three years.

The mother of the subject of this sketch bore the maiden name of Elizabeth R. Ruth and is a native of Germany. She was brought to America when seven years old by her parents, who located at South Bend, Ind.

Mr. F. W. Kiplinger entered the Northwestern College at Naperville, Ill., in the fall of 1882, having completed his preparatory work in the common and graded schools. He left college while in his junior year, but completed a course in the commercial department, which laid the foundation for a successful business career. After his return from college he taught school near Holdrege, and in the fall of 1885 was called to the principalship of the Bertrand schools.

In June, 1887, Mr. Kiplinger purchased

an interest in the bank at Loomis, his partners being his father, E. L. Kiplinger, and his brother, Earnest Kiplinger. The bank was established in 1886 with a capital of \$5,000, but was reorganized in 1888 as a state bank, and the capital stock increased to \$20,000, and is now known as the Loomis State Bank. The officers are: E. L. Kiplinger, president; F. W. Kiplinger, cashier, and Earnest Kiplinger, assistant cashier. At the close of business February 10, 1887, the resources of the bank were shown to be \$7,429.35, and on the same date, in 1890, \$38,162.57. The volume of business for 1889 amounted to over \$1,500,000, with collections amounting to \$52,130. This is an excellent showing, considering that the town was only started in 1886, and speaks well for the careful management of the officers.

Mr. Kiplinger was married October 19, 1888, to Miss Ida M. Morgan, daughter of Mr. M. S. Morgan of Holdrege. This union has been blessed with the birth of one child, Aline Marie, born July 13, 1889.

Mr. Kiplinger is a stock holder and treasurer of the Loomis Milling Company, capital stock, \$25,000. He and his estimable wife are members of the Evangelical church.

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**E**DWIN BARNUM is a native of Illinois and was born August 5, 1839. He is a son of Albert and Abigail (Truesdell) Barnum, both of whom are natives of New York. The senior Barnum was a cabinet-maker and came

West, locating in Illinois in 1839. He died in 1880.

Edwin Barnum was the second of a family of four children and remained with his parents until 1861, when he turned his attention to farming for himself. He continued this favorite vocation for seven years, and then engaged in the grocery business at Hopedale, Tazewell county, Ill. He returned to farming, however, after a few years. His next move was to Hartsburg, in Logan county, where he bought and shipped grain for several years. He was justice of the peace and did considerable business of an official character.

Mr. Barnum came to Nebraska in the spring of 1883 and settled in Hall county. He only remained there one year, however, when he located at Phelps Center, then the county seat of Phelps county, and conducted a hotel as landlord. Mr. Barnum is a success and during his stay in Phelps Center he did a thriving business. When the county seat was removed to Holdrege, Mr. Barnum purchased a farm in Union township and farmed for six years.

He married, October 18, 1860, Miss Mary J. Smalley. She is a native of Michigan and was born February 28, 1842. This union has resulted in the birth of eight children—Nellie I., born April 1, 1862 (now deceased); Henry, born April 8, 1864; Ada J., born July 2, 1866; Mary E., born August 26, 1868; Lavanche, born August 1, 1871; Abigail, born August 1, 1874; Albert, born January 10, 1877; Ross, born August 25, 1884 (deceased).

Mr. Barnum moved to Loomis and began the erection of a commodious hotel about the first of November, 1889, and had it

completed ready for the public by the first of April, 1890. He was appointed postmaster at Loomis in December, 1889, and received his commission in January following. He is quite well known throughout the county, and he wields considerable influence in local and political affairs.

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**H**ENRY P. BANNING is a native of Ohio, and was born at Chillicothe September 28, 1835. His father was a native of Ohio, while his mother was born in Pennsylvania. The former died in 1889, and the latter in 1846. Mr. Banning was seventeen years of age when he went from Ohio to Indiana, where he engaged in farming for about five years. He then emigrated to Des Moines, Iowa, and was married in Polk county, October 27, 1855, removing immediately to Story county.

In the fall of 1879 Mr. Banning came to Nebraska, settling in Phelps county. He took a homestead and built a sod house, but about the time he got moved into his new house a terrible prairie fire swept over the county and destroyed everything he had. Being thus entirely burnt out he was obliged to spend the winter in Harlan county.

Twelve children have been born to Mr. Banning, viz.—Sarah J. (deceased), John H. (deceased), Vince, George and Lizzie (twins), Emma, Charles, Thomas, Alfred, Ada, Nettie and Mattie. Mr. Banning has moved to Loomis, where he has just erected a neat frame dwelling, but he still owns one hundred and sixty acres of good

land south of the town. He has a splendid war record, having enlisted, July 28, 1862, in the Twenty-third Iowa infantry, Company A. The first engagement he participated in was at Magnolia church, near Vicksburg. He was also present at the terrible siege of Vicksburg, at the storming of the old Spanish fort, Port Gibson, Champion Hills, Black River bridge and Milliken's Bend. At the battle of Vicksburg he was placed on picket guard, but got over the lines; the rebs opened fire and the pickets were ordered to fall back; they lodged in a ditch, but a comrade jumped on him, seriously injuring him. He was discharged July 26, 1865.

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**S**AMUEL REED is one of the early settlers of Laird township, Phelps county, having homesteaded the southwest quarter of section twenty-six in the spring of 1879. The country was then new and plenty of wild game such as antelope and deer could be found. Although the country presented a wild and desolate appearance, Mr. Reed came with a determination to make a home for himself and family. He at once erected a comfortable house from sod and in this rude structure he spent his pioneer days. Mr. Reed is a native of Indiana county, Pa., and was born July 9, 1824. He was reared on a farm, and upon arriving at the age of maturity, he concluded to adopt the pursuit of an agriculturist. He enjoyed no special school advantages, other than the common district school of the early days. He has made his own way through life and has kept himself as well

informed as his time and means would permit.

Mr. Reed was married December 27, 1849, to Miss Sarah Stake, a native of Indiana county, Pa. She was born January 10, 1825. To this union have been born nine children, of whom the following are still living—Lydia C., John, Martha, William, Elizabeth, Susan and Joseph. In the spring of 1858, Mr. Reed removed with his family from his native county in Pennsylvania to Des Moines county, Iowa. He, five years after, purchased a farm on which he continued to live till he came to Phelps county, Nebr., in the spring of 1879.

On August 22, 1862, when the war of the rebellion was raging, Samuel Reed joined the Thirty-ninth regiment Iowa volunteers and marched to the field of action. His service covered a period of nearly three years, during which he participated in sixteen noted battles and skirmishes, among which were the battles of Lookout mountain, Parker's Cross-roads, and Altoona pass. He was mustered out June 5, 1865, and participated in the grand review at Washington. Mr. Reed has never taken much interest in political affairs, but nevertheless he has been called upon to fill various local offices. He has, up to recent years, always affiliated with the republican party, but that party having diverged from the firm views which he has always entertained, he has decided to act independently hereafter. He is a member of the Alliance and a firm believer in the principles it advocates, and at present county chaplain for the same. He and his estimable wife each hold strong religious convictions and have been members of the United Brethren church for many years.

The one hundred and sixty acres comprising his homestead are now under a good state of cultivation, the soil being as rich as that of any section of the county, and in point of production having never been surpassed. He expects to remain there during life with the exception of an occasional visit to his friends in other parts.

**G**EORGE F. RACINE, the subject of this sketch, is one of the progressive young men of Phelps county. He was born in Williams county, Ohio, May 2, 1847. His father, Charles Racine, was a native of New York. He was a farmer and died in 1853. His mother, whose maiden name was Catherine Racine, is a native of France and is now living.

Mr. Racine has always cultivated habits of industry and economy. At the age of fifteen he began to learn the shoemaker's trade, and after serving an apprenticeship of two years, continued to work at his trade till he was twenty-seven years old. In 1869 he came to Missouri and kept a shoe store at Gallatin, Davies county. He did a thriving business for about two years.

Mr. Racine was married April 14, 1870, at Stryker, Ohio, to Miss Adeline Kitzmiller, a native of Richland county, Ohio. She was born August 17, 1851. To this union have been born five children—Fred, born in Davies county, Mo., February 14, 1871; William, born in Carroll county, Mo., May 8, 1874; Albert born in Harrison county, Mo., August 8, 1878; Francis O., born in Phelps county,

Nebr., December 27, 1883, and Josie born in Phelps county, Nebr., February 2, 1885.

Mr. Racine resided in various localities in Missouri until in the spring of 1879 he removed with his family to Phelps county, Nebr. He took a homestead on the northeast quarter of section 26, where he has since resided. He built a sod house and broke fifty-five acres of sod the first season. He is a careful, judicious farmer and has always raised good crops, his average yield being fully as high as any reported in the county. His homestead, which comprises one hundred and sixty acres, is now under a good state of cultivation and lies on a high elevation overlooking the surrounding country. Mr. Racine already has an established reputation as a breeder of fine Poland China hogs and he has now about seventy-five registered. He is also interesting himself in Short-horned cattle. He believes that the best is the cheapest, and thus far he has made it a point to secure the best.

**J**AMES M. SKILES is a native of Schuyler county, Ill., and was born on Christmas day, 1839. His father, Moses Skiles, was a native of Missouri, and emigrated to Illinois at an early day. He was a soldier in the Black Hawk war, and was a man of prominence and influence in the community where he resided. He was justice of the peace for many years, and was elected to various other local offices. He was a farmer by occupation, a hard-working, industrious

man. He died in 1877. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Mary Luttrell, died in 1842. Both were members of the United Brethren church.

James M. Skiles, the subject of this sketch, was one of a family of eleven children and started out to "hoe his own row" at the age of seventeen. His opportunities for obtaining an education were very limited and he had to confine himself to the advantages offered in the district schools. He worked on a farm until March 22, 1862, when he enlisted in the Third Missouri cavalry. His service was rendered mainly within the borders of Missouri, where many of the most noted skirmishes of the war took place. He was a participant in the famous skirmish at Hartsville, Mo., where great efforts were exerted on both sides. He served as corporal for sometime previous to being mustered out, and followed after such distinguished leaders as Generals Warren, Steele and Merrill. He was mustered out at Little Rock, Ark., in March, 1865, making his term of actual service three years. Soon after his return from the war, Mr. Skiles purchased a stock of general merchandise and kept a store at Ray Station, Schuyler county, Ill. He was actively engaged in the mercantile business at this point for about seven years, when he disposed of his store and decided to seek a home in the West. Mr. Skiles was among the first homesteaders in Laird township, Phelps county, Nebr. It was early in the spring of 1879 when he first began prospecting for a claim, and, as might be expected, his countenance wore a doubtful but earnest expression. He found himself out on a boundless prairie almost uninhabited, and where the

antelope and deer roamed at will. There yet existed a doubt concerning the future of this particular portion, which was once known as the "Great American Desert." In appearance the country was a rolling prairie, beautiful to behold, but difficult to understand. This township is located on the Divide between the Platte and Republican rivers, and consequently it is from two hundred to two hundred and fifty feet to water. This fact discouraged many who preferred to locate near the streams. This, however, did not prevent Mr. Skiles from selecting a choice quarter section and locating on it. He had faith in the country, and set about immediately to kindle the fire of civilization. He built a sod house, and began breaking the sod preparatory to planting his crop. He came with the determination to endure the many hardships and privations incident to the life of the early settler, in order that he might have a home for himself and family in years to come.

Mr. Skiles married April 20, 1865, the lady whom he selected for a partner being Miss Cynthia Tracy, a native of Schuyler county, Ill. She was born April 10, 1848. Her parents were Lyman and Annie (Carlock) Tracy, the former a native of New York, and the latter of Tennessee. Her father died in 1853, and her mother in 1882. There were ten children in the Tracy family, of whom Mrs. Skiles was the youngest.

To Mr. and Mrs. Skiles have been born nine children, as follows—Mary Ann, born February 23, 1867; Thomas Logan, born October 2, 1868; Augustus, born December 15, 1870; Rose, born January 31, 1873; Dora, born May 19, 1875; Frederick, born October 11, 1877; Luther B., born

February 15, 1880; Arcadia, born March 11, 1882, and James, born December 9, 1885.

Politically, Mr. Skiles is a republican, but he is not a professional politician. He has, however, filled various offices with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of his constituents. He served one term on the county board of supervisors, and has been justice of the peace for several years. He is a member of the Farmers' Alliance and one of its most ardent advocates. His once barren homestead is now under a good state of cultivation and yields an abundant harvest each year.

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**H**ON. ERIC JOHNSON was born in Sweden July 15, 1838. In 1846 he moved with his parents to America, settling in Henry county, Ill. September 14, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Company D, Fifty-seventh Illinois regiment volunteers. At the organization of the company a month later in Camp Bureau, near Princeton, Ill., he was elected first lieutenant. The first battle engaged in was in the capture of Fort Donelson and after the battle of Shiloh he was promoted to captain. He resigned in September, 1862, upon the recommendation of regimental surgeon, on account of sickness.

Captain Johnson married December 31, 1863, taking for a life companion Miss Mary O. Troil, who died April 23, 1890. This union was blessed with eight children, five of whom are now living, viz.—Axel T., Sadie O., Julia C., Eric Sixtus and Earnest



G., aged respectively twenty-one, nineteen, sixteen, thirteen, and ten.

Captain Johnson entered the journalistic field in 1864 as editor and proprietor of the *Galva Illinois Union*, launching upon the sea of journalism in 1869. *The Illinois Swede*, at Galva, Illinois, which was afterwards changed to *Nya Verlden*, and moved to Chicago in 1871, and is today the leading Swedish paper in America, being now published under the name of *Svenska Tribunen*.

Captain Johnson never had the advantage of any higher grade of education than a few winters in the pioneer district schools of Illinois from 1849 to 1854. He cast his first presidential vote in 1860, for Abraham Lincoln and voted for him again in 1864. In 1868 he voted for U. S. Grant; in 1872, he voted for Horace Greeley; in 1876, he lost his vote for president by a short residence in Kansas; in 1880, he voted for Garfield, renewing his allegiance to the republican party, but he has never been a strong party man since 1872.

In 1871 he was journal clerk of the Illinois House of Representatives.

In July, 1885, he became a resident of Nebraska, and for one year edited the *Stromsburg Republican*. Moving to Holdrege in July, 1886, he started the *Holdrege Citizen*, remaining on that paper until December, 1887. In April, 1888, he took charge of the *Holdrege Progress*, of which he has been the editor and business manager up to date. The *Progress* has for several years been the official paper of the county, and has an actual circulation of one thousand and one hundred. It is now published by Eric Johnson & Son. This same firm commenced, April 16, 1890, the publication of *Nylsterhetsbasunen*, a paper

printed in the Swedish language devoted to prohibition, and has a circulation of five thousand.

In the fall of 1888, Captain Johnson was elected to the legislature from Phelps county, as an independent candidate, by a plurality of one hundred and forty-seven. T. M. Hopwood was the regular republican nominee and James J. Rhea the democratic nominee, the county giving Harrison a majority over all of six hundred and twenty-five votes. Johnson's career in the legislature was so acceptable to the people of Phelps county, irrespective of party, that upon his return he was given a surprise at his residence by a large number of his constituents, many of whom had worked and voted against him when a candidate, and presented him with a purse of money and an elegant gold watch, bearing the following inscription: "From the people of Phelps county to Captain Eric Johnson for honest and faithful work as legislator in 1889."

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**M**C. BRADLEY, editor of the *Holdrege Citizen*, Holdrege, Phelps county, Nebr., is a native of Waterbury, Vt. He was reared in his native place and in Reading, Mich., whither his parents moved when he was small. He learned the printer's trade in Reading and began his career as a journeyman in the office where he learned his trade. He came to Nebraska in 1875 and located in Seward county, taking a place as a compositor on the *Reporter*, published at Seward, soon afterwards becoming foreman. In the fall of 1878 he came to

Phelps county, which was then beginning to settle up, and took a claim in Industry township in the southwestern part of the county. In 1884 he returned to Seward county and worked on the *Reporter* till the spring of 1887, when he came back to Phelps county, located at Holdrege and was one of a number of the leading business men of that place interested in buying out the *Holdrege Republican* and the *Citizen*, consolidated the plants, formed a joint stock company and began the publication of the new *Citizen*. Mr. Bradley later became editor and business manager, and as such has had practical control of the paper and all its affairs. The *Citizen* is a seven-column quarto weekly, devoted to the best interests of the town of Holdrege, Phelps county and southwestern Nebraska. It is republican in politics, but stands fearless for the right in all things. It was formerly published semi-weekly and also ran an edition in the Swedish language, but these features have been abandoned, the patronage not being sufficient to warrant the additional expenditure in keeping them up. In addition to its newspaper patronage the *Citizen* office has one of the largest job-work departments in the southwestern part of the state and turns out a very superior quality of work in that line. Its plant will invoice between \$6,000 and \$8,000, and it does a thriving business all round. In the building up of the *Citizen* establishment, while ably assisted by his associates in business, the bulk of the work has necessarily fallen to Mr. Bradley, who has had the general management of the paper and its business and who is the practical man of the concern. For this labor Mr. Bradley is well qualified by nature and training, being a

steady, sober, industrious young man, of good business habits, possessing a special taste for his work and having come, as all successful newspaper men have, from the position of "devil" up to editor.

**W**T. LINDSAY. There are probably few old settlers in southwestern Nebraska who have been more prominently connected with the newspaper interests of this section, or who have been more active in local politics than Mr. Lindsay, now of the *Holdrege Nugget*. Mr. Lindsay came to Nebraska in March, 1873, and settled at that date in Harlan county, since which time he has resided in Harlan, Furnas and Phelps counties and is well and favorably known, not only for his personal character, but for his public labors. His chief labors of a public nature have been in the newspaper field, and in that field he is known as a hustler.

Mr. Lindsay came from Iowa to Nebraska. His native state, however, is Ohio. He was born in Guernsey county, that state, in 1847, and was reared in that county and in Rock Island county, Ill., whither his parents moved when he was young. Going to Warren county, Iowa, in 1860, as a member of his father's family, he there began the race of life. Having been reared on the farm, his first pursuits were of an agricultural nature. He worked on his father's farm for some years, and then in the fall of 1868 he married Miss Jennie Adams, of Osceola, Iowa, and settled down in earnest to the solution of the bread and butter problem.

He followed farming in Warren county, Iowa, till the spring of 1873, when he came to Nebraska and took a homestead six miles north of the present town of Orleans, in Harlan county. There he passed seven years in the toilsome pursuit of his fortunes amid the grasshopper scourges, the drouths, hot winds, blizzards and other discouragements, until, wearying of the struggle, he gave it up and in 1880 moved into the town of Orleans, where he engaged in clerking for a year or so. In 1882 he moved to Oxford and in the fall of that year founded the *Register*, a live, seven-column folio, republican, weekly newspaper, which he conducted about two years, then sold out. Not long afterward he started the *Standard*, a publication similar to the *Register*, and consolidated the two papers, running his new paper under the title of the *Standard*. This he conducted till the fall of 1888, giving to the people of Harlan and Furnas counties a sheet eminently worthy of them as well as of the wide-awake, progressive little town where it was published. In December, 1889, Mr. Lindsay leased the *Holdrege Nugget* of Mr. J. M. Hopwood, the veteran newspaper man of Phelps county, which he at once took charge of and which he is now running. The *Nugget* is not only the oldest newspaper in Phelps county, but it is one that has shown itself equal to the demands of the enterprising and public-spirited citizens for whom it is published, and it is needless to say that it has not fallen off in interest or public favor since it went into the hands of its present manager. Mr. Lindsay is a newspaper man possessing many of the best qualities for his calling. He has the nat-

ural acumen for the business, sometimes called the "newspaper nose"; he is an industrious worker, a man of sound sense and good taste and a good writer. And above all he is devoted to his calling and pursues it with enthusiasm. He has a host of friends and of course is not without enemies. No honest, earnest laborer in the wide field of politics and newspaper life ever was without enemies.

**W** P. HALL, attorney at law, Holdrege, Phelps county, Neb., is a native of Illinois, and was born February 6, 1850. He received his education at the poor boy's university, the common-schools of his native state. At the early age of thirteen he began life for himself as a farm laborer. Having a natural taste for books, he spent his leisure hours reading such works as came in his way, and in this manner accumulated a considerable store of knowledge of a general kind. He began reading law with Judge M. T. Layman, Jacksonville, Ill., in 1871. He was admitted to the bar at Springfield, and started at once to the West in search of a location. He settled at Holdrege, in 1884, just as that place was starting on its career of prosperity. At that time, however, there was not a brick house, school house or side-walk in the town. He is a public-spirited citizen and labors assiduously in building up his city and developing the surrounding county. In April, 1889, he was elected mayor of his adopted city. His sterling integrity, mental and moral worth brought him this honor without solicitation on his part.

He is a member of the firm of Hall & Patrick, leading attorneys of Holdrege. In 1872, he was married to Miss Sarah, daughter of William McIntyre, a native of Kentucky. Four children—Walter E., Ruel Glen, Mabel and Della, shed the sunlight of happiness in their elegant home. Mr. Hall, by dint of industry, enjoys a large and growing practice. Republican in politics, yet he is very popular with all parties.

**F**RANK HALLGREN was born December 1, 1852, in Ostergotland, Sweden. He is a son of Hampus V. Hallgren. Having heard of the Eldorados in America, it stimulated a desire in him to seek his fortune in the land of promise; so, at the age of thirteen, he kissed the loved ones of home good-bye, and, bidding a long farewell to his native land, single-handed and alone he set sail for Columbia, a land of freedom and equality. He made the long voyage of the Atlantic alone, not a familiar face nor a welcoming smile to greet the brave-hearted boy when he stepped ashore at Castle Garden, New York city. He lingered not a day in the great American metropolis, but set his face westward, stopping in Henry county, Ill., where he had a brother and other relatives, and began life in the new world as a farm lad. He came with his brother, Leander Hallgren, who was traveling agent for the Union Pacific Railroad Company, to Nebraska in 1876, and located in Phelps county. Here they were appointed land agents for the Union Pacific Railroad Com-

pany, and the subject of this notice was employed to look after the interests of the company in Phelps and Kearney counties. The railroad company would solicit excursion parties from the older settled states, and Mr. Hallgren would show them the advantages of Nebraska lands for agricultural purposes. He delighted to tell the homeseeker of the wonderful fertility and depth of soil, and through his efforts he was instrumental in attracting attention to that portion of Nebraska, and thus developing and advancing the growth of Phelps and Kearney counties. In the meantime he located a timber claim and homestead for his own benefit, in the center of Phelps county, which he has made final proof on and still owns.

In 1879 he married Miss Hulda Sampson, an old school-mate of his in the old country. In 1885 he moved to Holdrege, Nebr., and in 1886, without solicitation or effort on his part, he was elected treasurer of Phelps county. He has been a successful man in every department of life. A handsome fortune now ministers to his wants, for which he deserves great credit, coming to this country when a small boy, with no capital save an abundance of energy and thrift. He stands high in financial and political circles. He is vice-president of the Holdrege National Bank, in which he is a stockholder and a member of its board of directors.

His handsome residence in the northern part of the prosperous little city of Holdrege is a monument to the enterprise and thrift of its popular owner. Its luxurious appointments and furnishings, combined with the geniality of its host and the domestic harmony of his interesting family, render it a model home, and one

whose portals are always open to his legion of friends.

There is a lesson in the life of Frank Hallgren for the emulative youth. His life is a model for his children to follow. He is a striking example of the self-made man. He deserves the success that has attended him.

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**D**R. SAMUEL F. SANDERS. J. T. Sanders, the father of Doctor Sanders, was a native of England, who came to America and settled in Pennsylvania. He was a lawyer of eminence, and, embracing christianity while the "warm and liquid dews of youth were full upon him," he became an expounder of the common law, devoting a great deal of his time in the advocacy of his Master's cause. His hospitable home was the resort of the ministers of his acquaintance and was justly termed the "Shepherds' Rest." He was an exemplary christian gentleman and his dutiful son is following in the footsteps of his pious father. In 1878 he was called to that rest, the preparation for which he had devoted a long and useful life.

The mother of Doctor Sanders is a sister of Judge J. M. Beck, Iowa's most eminent jurist, and is still living at Bushell, Ill. She is a member of the Primitive Baptist church, an organization noted for the pure, sweet devotion of its members to the teachings of the Bible. At a ripe age she is waiting for the summons to come when she shall join her devoted husband in the enjoyment of the fruition of hope in the great beyond.

The subject of this sketch was born April 16, 1845, and received his literary training at Abingdon, Ill. He studied medicine with Dr. W. T. Wright, of Bushell, Ill., attending the College of Physicians and Surgeons, at Keokuk, Iowa, and graduated in the spring of 1868; afterwards he graduated at the Missouri Medical College at St Louis in 1872. His desire to avail himself of later discoveries in the science of medicine and surgery prompted him to take a course of instruction at the renowned Rush Medical College, Chicago, from which institution he was graduated in the spring of 1881. He began the practice at the town of Goodhope, McDonough county, Ill., where he continued to enjoy the fruits of a liberal patronage till 1888. He decided to move West at that date and accordingly came to this state, settling in Holdrege, Phelps county. He at once took a high stand in his profession where he located and he has enjoyed a constantly increasing practice. So rapidly has his business grown that he has of late confined himself to the practice in Holdrege and to office work.

On May 8, 1871, Dr. Sanders married Miss Matilda A. Morris, daughter of Thomas Morris, of McDonough county, Ill. Three children have been born to this union, Ula M., Frederick M., and Roy A.

Dr. Sanders and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church, in the affairs of which they take an active and conspicuous part, contributing to its support and otherwise aiding in the promotion of its work. Dr. Sanders is an elder in this church, a Knight Templar Mason, and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Not only does he stand high in his profession, but he occupies a front

rank as a citizen and moves in the highest circles of society, culture and refinement. Dr. Sanders has a pleasing address, refined manners, and is a constant student. When not engaged in business connected with his profession, he can always be found among the books of his well selected library. Generous, without being extravagant, he is always ready to aid any legitimate enterprise, and responds to all calls for charity. Holdrege is fortunate in being able to number such a man among her thriving and enterprising citizens.

**J**OHIN P. NELSON was born March 3, 1855, in Jönköpings Lön, Sweden, and is a son of Nels and Karrie Johnson. He came to America in 1868 and located in Cannon River Falls, Goodhue county, Minn., where he followed farming. In 1877 he immigrated to Nebraska, settling at Phelps Center, Phelps county, where he took a timber claim. He accepted a position in a mercantile establishment and moved to Kearney, Nebr., in 1878. While there a fire broke out in the business portion of the city, which he helped to subdue, and by his heroic efforts was instrumental in preventing a destructive conflagration. The exposure he underwent at this fire so impaired his health that he was not able to do any thing for more than a year. After regaining his health he entered the employ of Mr. G. Kramer, at Kearney. Mr. Kramer did an extensive mercantile business, owning establishments in various parts of the country. He established himself at once in the confidence of his employer, which

was demonstrated in 1884 when Mr. Kramer put Mr. Nelson in charge of a branch house at Holdrege. His employer in the meantime having retired from business, our subject, Ledlie and Rea began business in the same line. His fair dealing and integrity made him very popular among his customers. Business men looked upon him as a man of more than average business ability, and, looking over the field for an available man for county clerk, he was chosen by his party to fill that position in 1887, and began the discharge of his official duties January 5, 1888. He is a painstaking, accommodating and thoroughly efficient officer, as the neatness and accuracy of the county records and his popularity will bear witness. His official career was endorsed in 1889 by a re-election to the same position, and he will no doubt continue to meet the confidence of his constituents as long as he is retained in office. He is the right man in the right place. He was married November 13, 1880, to Miss Hilda, daughter of Johan Johnson and a native of Sweden. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are members of the Free Lutheran church, in the affairs of which they take an active part. Mr. Nelson affiliates with the republican party and is capable, honest and progressive, and, being a thorough business man and public-spirited citizen, he has a bright future before him.

**F**D. TRAVIS was born in Indiana county, Pa., April 12, 1836, and is a son of William and Jane Travis, both natives, also, of Pennsylvania. His father engaged in agricultural pur-

suits all his life. The maiden name of her mother was Jane McPherson. They moved to Illinois, where they passed a great part of their lives and where they died, having been life-long members of the Presbyterian church.

The subject of this biographical notice is the fourth of seven children. He received his education at the Glade Run Academy, Armstrong county, Pa., and afterward located at Paxton, Ill., where he engaged in the mercantile and grain business. He subsequently opened a branch house at Pelleville, Ill. In 1884 he immigrated to Nebraska and located in Holdrege and engaged in the real estate business, dividing his time between Holdrege and Kearney. When Cleveland was elected President, Mr. Travers was appointed postmaster at Holdrege, serving the people faithfully till the close of that administration. His sterling integrity and executive ability were at once recognized by his fellow-citizens by his election in 1889 as treasurer of Phelps county. Being a democrat and his party being largely in the minority, his election indicates the appreciation of the man by the people of his adopted county. As the political sentiments of his constituents is largely opposed to his own, he has the satisfaction of knowing that his selection to fill this important position was made from purely personal qualifications and the unqualified confidence in his ability as a man and character as a citizen. His administration of the county's finances has not only been satisfactory to his supporters, but pre-eminently so to those opposed to him politically.

On September 18, 1887, he married Mrs. L. J. Evans, a lady eminently qualified to

bear him the companionship he sought with her hand.

Mr. Travis is personally very popular and is one of Holdrege's representative citizens and a polished gentleman. He takes an active interest in all the affairs of his adopted home and that place is justly proud of him.

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**C** A. BOEHL. The parents of this gentleman, Carl and Mary Boehl are natives of Germany and came to America in 1856, locating in Iowa. They moved to Nebraska in 1858, settling in Hall county, where they acquired large property interests. They subsequently located at Holdrege, where the senior Mr. Boehl ranks high socially and financially, being one of the earliest pioneers of central Nebraska.

The subject of this notice was born in Grand Island, this state, March 6, 1859, and was the first child born in that prosperous little city. The Land Association, in honor of the event, deeded a lot in that city to the pioneer baby, which has been improved by the erection thereon of a substantial brick block, the rentals from which bring in a handsome income.

He was married in 1887 to Miss Carrie Hugland, daughter of M. Hugland of Phelps county. He is one of Holdrege's substantial business men, being a member of the firm of Boehl & Son, who are the proprietors of the Empire Roller Mills, the products of which have gained an extensive sale until they have nearly monopolized the trade of that section. They also own the Sappa Valley Mills, located at

Orleans, this state. Besides their large milling interests, the firm has large investments in Holdrege real estate. Holdrege is destined to become a city of no mean proportions and then this property will be the means of adding to the already increasing fortune of this firm. For financial ability the firm of Boehl & Son rank high. The junior member is a hard worker, possessing fine executive ability. No citizen of this bustling little city has done more for the development and improvement of Holdrege and Phelps county than he. He is liberally inclined to all public enterprises, giving freely of his means and freely exercising his superior judgment. He possesses to a remarkable degree the energy and snap that have been such wonderful elements in the subjugation and development of the West. Guided by the more mature experience of his father, he is quick to heed his advice. Father and son are potent factors in the unparalleled growth of their adopted city. In financial business and social circles no one stands higher than C. A. Boehl.

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**G**USTAVUS NORBERG. The father of Gustavus Norberg, E. U. Norberg, is a native of Sweden, who emigrated to the new world in 1842. He settled in Michigan, but is now a resident of Toulon, Ill.

The subject of this sketch was born December 6, 1853. He was educated at Urbana University, Urbana, Ohio, and began the study of law under the supervision of Hon. T. E. Milebrist, of Galva, Ill., for several years United States district attorney. He also pursued his

studies under the tuition of Martin Sheltenberger, of Toulon, Ill. After having acquired a thorough knowledge of the elementary principles of the law, he was admitted to the bar in the supreme court of that state. He came to Nebraska in 1883 and began the practice of his chosen profession at Phelps Center, Phelps county, whence he removed to Holdrege, in December, 1883, continuing the practice of the law at that place. His legal ability and moral worth as a citizen were soon recognized. He forged his way steadily to the front, and was elected county attorney in 1886. He gave almost universal satisfaction as an officer and was re-elected in 1888. He married Miss Carrie E. Burnett, a native of New York and a daughter of C. H. Burnett, Esq., now a citizen of Holdrege. Mr. Norberg is very popular among his agricultural friends, in whose affairs he takes great interest, and is an earnest advocate of the diversification of farm products. Possessing an ample store of snap and energy, he is a recognized leader in matters of public import. Endowed with a keen appreciation of the busy scenes of active life, he nevertheless loves the peaceful quiet of his cheerful home life. The cares and responsibilities of his professional career he banishes from his mind the moment he crosses the threshold of his delightful home.

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**A**J. CARLSON is one of the early settlers of Phelps county, having located there in 1877. He is a native of Sweden, and immigrated to America in 1870. By economy and



industry he has accumulated enough of this world's goods to satisfy the wants of life. Pleasantly located on a beautiful farm, he is spending his days in the happy quiet of farm life. Although thoroughly in sympathy with the progressive, big-hearted West, and identified with the substantial development of his adopted country, yet native ties, the duty of the religion of the soil, turns his heart to the home of his childhood and the associates of his youth across the water. He desires to go back and look again upon the familiar haunts where rustic joys gilded the monotony of peasant life in years long ago — happy years, halcyon days — the pleasures of which crystallize the frost-work of sweet day dreams of the present, called recollections of other days.

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**P**ETER J. MOON. The ancestors of the subject of this sketch figured conspicuously in the wars that antedated and that out of which was born the Republic which has been and is the wonder of political organizations in the world's history. His paternal grandfather served with distinction in the French and Indian wars; the grandfather, William Moon, a native of New York, was a Revolutionary patriot, and died at the age of seventy-seven, from a wound received in the war of independence. The father, Philip Moon, was a farmer, removing to Michigan in 1828, being one of the pioneers of that state, where he died at the ripe age of eighty.

Peter J. Moon was born in New York,

May 7, 1818. His mother, whose maiden name was Charlotte Johnson, was a native of Vermont and died in Michigan. He began his career as a farmer in the Lake State. In 1880, he came to Nebraska, settling in Phelps county. Was married June 9, 1839, to Miss Harriet Tomlinson. She died April 4, 1881, and was buried in Harlan county, this state, leaving surviving her venerable husband and six children to mourn her loss. Mr. Moon is one of Phelps county's respected citizens. He is justly proud of the glorious achievements of his ancestors. In politics he is a democrat of the Jackson school. He is now in his seventy-third year, having lived out the time allotted to man—three score and ten years. Although healthy and vigorous for one of his age, yet in the nature of things he will not long survive the inevitable decree that awaits us all. Three quarters of a century, happy, peaceful years, lie behind him, and ere long he most emigrate to that unknown country to meet again the beloved wife of his youth and the solace of his declining years.

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**H**S. MOON was born in 1840, in Van Buren county, Mich., and is a son of Peter J. and Harriet Moon. A sketch of his father appears in this work.

The subject of this notice moved to Nebraska in 1879 and settled in Adams county, where he resided a year and then moved to Phelps county and has since lived there. He took a homestead on settling in Phelps and has been engaged in farming since that date. He

was reared on a farm and has been identified with farming interests all his life, and now owns one of the best farms in Phelps county and a fine one also in Harlan county.

In 1866 he married Miss Susan, daughter of Thomas Ensign, of Ohio. Three children have been born to this union—Leroy, Arthur and Eugene.

Mr. Moon is an old soldier, having enlisted in the Union army in 1862, entering the Eighty-Ninth Illinois infantry. His first service was in Kentucky, under Gen. Buell. He was in the engagements at Perryville, Stone river, Liberty gap, Tullahoma, Chickamunga and Missionary ridge. He was wounded in the latter engagement by a gunshot in the left arm and hand, and was sent to the hospital, but as soon as he recovered sufficiently to get about he ran away from the hospital and rejoined his command at Kennesaw, Ga., and participated in the battles around Atlanta. He was also with Gen. Thomas at the engagements at Franklin and Nashville, in the former of which he saw the distinguished Confederate General, Pat Cleburne, fall mortally wounded. He was in the memorable retreat from Pulaski to Nashville, where Thomas made his stubborn resistance to Hood, winning the battle of Nashville. Mr. Moon was mustered out of the service soon after this, the term of his enlistment having expired. He carries with him, as mementoes of his services in behalf of the Union, two scars made by the enemy's guns. In the quiet, peaceful battle for existence he has been equally as successful as in those for the honor of his country's flag.

GUY CRANDALL, the well-known horseman of Holdrege, Phelps county, is a native of Fulton county, Ill., and was born October 20, 1857. He was reared in his native county, and in Schuyler county, whither his parents moved when he was but twelve years of age. Most of the education he obtained was got in contact with the practical affairs of life. His father was a breeder and dealer in fine horses, and young Guy, inheriting much of his father's love for horse flesh, began handling stock when a lad, going on the road as a buyer and shipper at the age of fifteen. He accumulated but little book lore; but he was a deep student of the markets and a close observer of stock. While other lads were pouring over history, locating the geographical positions of the remote places of earth, digging out cube roots and constructing philosophical essays on the duties and responsibilities of youth, Guy was hunting up the pedigrees of famous horses, running down the different strains, studying the strong and weak points of an animal and speeding his favorites around the track to test their mettle and see what there was in them. Increasing years and observation brought increased knowledge, and young Crandall came to be a splendid judge of horse flesh, an expert buyer and seller, long before he reached his majority. It is hard to say when he began business as a man of his own affairs. He grew into business as naturally as he grew into manhood, and there has never been a time since he was old enough to sit on a horse, that he has not had an interest of some sort in horses. He is now one of the largest dealers in horses in southwest Nebraska,

and his reputation as a fancier of horse flesh is not confined to his own section either. He is known abroad. His splendid stables at Holdrege now contain some of the finest strains of blood to be found in the West. Mr. Crandall's judgment of a horse is unerring, and many people buy stock of him solely on his knowledge and recommendation. As the success he has attained would indicate, he is also a shrewd business man, capable of succeeding at anything else to which he might turn his attention as assiduously as he has to horses. He stands high in the community where he lives and is universally popular. He is a practical, matter-of-fact, jolly, good-natured fellow, with a hearty taking manner, a broad smile and a helping hand for all. Mr. Crandall has resided in Holdrege since 1884, and there is no man who has become better known, or who has made more friends in that time among the citizens of Phelps county, than he has. He has a pleasant home and an interesting family, having married in 1883, the lady whom he took to share his fortunes being Miss Lulie McCreary, of Schuyler county, Ill.

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**A** E. WHITCOMB, born in the town of Windsor, Vt., April 29, 1854, is a son of Daniel and Arvilla (Adams) Whitecomb, natives also of the "Green Mountain State," and descendants of old New England stock. His parents immigrated to the West when the subject of this sketch was a child, settling in Rock county, Wis. There his earlier years were spent and there he

began the race of life. He was brought up on his father's farm and his first pursuits were those of agriculture. Taking a position with the Eclipse Wind Mill Company of Wisconsin, in 1871 at the age of seventeen, he remained in their employ for a period of seven years, engaged in selling wind-mills and pumps, mastering all the arts of the craft during this time and getting a world of experience and valuable business training, as any shrewd, wide-awake young fellow might be expected to do. He came to Nebraska in 1878 and located in Phelps county, where he opened an establishment of his own and began selling wind-mills, pumps, tubular wells, etc. Moving to Holdrege when that place started, he enlarged his stock with his growing trade and has since done a thriving business. He owns a large store and carries a full line of supplies in his line. Mr. Whitcomb has built up a very desirable business in his adopted town and county and is a man of recognized business talent and integrity. He has considerable real estate interests in Phelps county and is actively identified with the general growth and development of his community. He is a progressive, enterprising public-spirited citizen and has abundant confidence in the future of Holdrege and Phelps county. He has never aspired to any public position, being a man of quiet tastes and strict business habits. Like all good citizens he keeps up with local, state and national questions and the progress of general events. He has his opinions and when occasion demands he does not hesitate to express them. He is a staunch republican and usually votes that ticket.

Mr. Whitcomb has been twice married;

his first wife Miss Rosa Farnham, his second Mrs. Mary Lepper, both of Davis county, Iowa. He has an interesting family and a pleasant home.

**R**T. McGREW, president of the First National Bank of Holdrege, Phelps county, is a native of Illinois and was born October 25, 1848. He was reared in Shelby county, Ill., whither his parents moved when he was small, and he received his education in the common schools of that county, finishing at Farmersburg Academy, at Farmersburg, Ind. He was brought up on a farm and his earlier years were spent in agricultural pursuits. He came to Nebraska in 1878, located at Hastings, Adams county, and went into the wind-mill, sewing machine and pump business, at which he continued till January, 1882. He then went to Phelps Center, Phelps county, Nebr., and organized the Farmers and Merchants Bank, which he conducted till July, 1884, organizing at that date the First National Bank of Holdrege, in which he placed the bulk of his funds and with which he has been prominently connected since. The First National Bank started with a capital of \$50,000. A. L. Clark was the first president and R. T. McGrew first cashier. There have been several changes in the working force of the bank since its organization, but Mr. McGrew has been a heavy stock-holder in it at all times, and has been its president since the fall of 1887, and a member of its board of directors, and in whatever official capacity he has served he has had the practical

management of the bank's affairs. The capital has been increased to \$60,000 and there has accumulated a surplus of \$30,000. The following figures taken from the last published statement show the bank's condition:

RESOURCES.		LIABILITIES.	
Loans .....	\$138,703.15	Capital stock....	\$60,000.00
Over-drafts .....	240.99	Surplus .....	30,000.00
U. S. Bonds .....	15,000.00	Undivided pfts....	3,278.21
Bkng. House .....	16,378.35	Circulation .....	13,500.00
Prms. Paid .....	2,013.90	Deposits .....	80,488.82
Redpt. Fund.....	675.00	Re-discounts.....	17,059.10
Cash & sght.....	30,833.59		
	<u>\$204,926.13</u>		<u>\$204,926.13</u>

The subject of this sketch is now president of the bank, P. O. Hedlund is vice-president and S. E. McNaull is cashier. The First National is one of the solid financial institutions of Phelps county, established upon a firm basis and recognized as doing a safe, conservative banking business. The prominence it has attained, as a business factor in the community where it is, has been the result of the untiring energy and splendid executive ability of its able chief executive. Mr. McGrew is a trained man of affairs, he has devoted himself strictly to business all his life, and, knowing himself as not many men do, he has set the proper limits to his aspirations. He has grown along the line of his natural tastes and gifts, and has industriously used his talent. So living, his career has of necessity been one of success, and he has escaped many of the disappointments and heart-aches which come to those who strive for what is the unattainable for them in this life.

Mr. McGrew married in December, 1884, Miss Carrie L. Anderson, daughter of Olaf Anderson, of Chicago, Ill. He has a pleasant home and an amiable family.

In personal appearance Mr. McGrew is striking, in manner captivating, hearty

and full of that indefinable force sometimes called magnetism, by which the stronger draw the weaker natures around them. His acquaintance wears well, his friendships are of the warmest nature.

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**A**P. ERICKSON, one of the representative business men of the town of Holdrege, Phelps county, was born near Linkoping, Sweden, November 20, 1846. He came to America in 1866, and stopped among some of his countrymen at Galesburg, Ill., where he lived for a year and a half, going thence to Iowa and locating in Burlington. He lived in Burlington for thirteen years and was engaged there in the mercantile business, first as clerk, and afterwards as proprietor. He then moved to Nebraska and lived for awhile in Kearney, Buffalo county, settling, in 1883, in Holdrege, Phelps county, where he now resides. During the first two years of his residence in Holdrege, he was engaged in the mercantile business, but quitting this he was appointed deputy county treasurer in 1885, which position he held one year, going then into the Commercial State Bank as assistant cashier and remaining there for more than two years. January 1, 1890, he opened an office in Holdrege and began lending money on personal and chattel security at which he is now engaged.

Mr. Erickson is one of the successful men of Holdrege. He is a clear, level-headed financier, a man of intelligence and discriminating judgment, well posted in commercial and banking matters, a competent accountant, attentive to busi-

ness and a polite and accommodating gentleman. He is popular among his fellow-citizens, as is evidenced by the positions of trust he has held, and is a liberal-minded, progressive, public-spirited man.

Mr. Erickson married in 1874, his wife before marriage being Miss Bettie Anderson, of Burlington, Iowa. Two daughters gladden his household, Melia and Olivia.

In politics Mr. Erickson has always affiliated with the republicans, being a staunch believer in republican principles and methods in dealing both with state and national questions. He is a zealous Mason, having taken all the degrees up to and including the Knight Templar and Shrine, and he and his estimable wife are both members of the Evangelical church and liberal contributors to all charitable purposes.

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**E**DWARD W. ROBERTS. In writing of the men who have been actively identified with the settling of Phelps county and the founding, growth and development of the town of Holdrege, mention must be made of Edward W. Roberts, who, as contractor and builder, has done more towards building up the town of his adoption than any other man in it. Mr. Roberts, although a comparatively young man, has led an active, not to say laborious, life, and nowhere are the fruits of his labor to be seen in greater abundance or to better advantage than in the proud and prosperous little town of Holdrege, where he has resided for the last few years.

Edward W. Roberts was born in the town of Union, Rock county, Wis., Octo-

ber 6, 1848. He is next to the youngest of a family of seven children born to Edward and Ann (Thomas) Roberts, the others being three sons and three daughters—Elizabeth, William, John, Sarah, Kate and Albert. His parents were both natives of Wales, came to this country, were married in Ohio, and settled in Wisconsin, where the father died in 1852; the mother resides in Duluth, Minn., with her daughter Kate.

The subject of this sketch was reared on a farm and followed different occupations till he was twenty-three years old, at which time he went to work at the carpenter's trade, mastering the craft and afterwards working for some years as a journeyman. In 1879 he came to Nebraska and located at Minden, in Kearney county, soon after that town was started and while Phelps county was still but sparsely settled and the present town of Holdrege was a bare, unbroken prairie. At Minden he worked some at his trade and was also for awhile postmaster. Moving to Holdrege when that town started on its career of prosperity about 1884, Mr. Roberts began contracting and building, and he has followed that successfully up to the present time. No man ever visited the town of Holdrege without being struck at once not only with its clean, neat, thrifty, prosperous appearance, but also with the splendid structures, residences and business blocks that line its principal streets and adorn its expansive suburbs. These structures are not the common cheap buildings made of ship-lap, putty and paint, usual in the new Western towns; they are large, commodious, well constructed, tastily designed buildings, made of the best material, lum-

ber, brick and stone. Most of these represent the industry, ingenuity and skilled labor of Edward W. Roberts and they are no greater credits to the enterprise and public-spirit of their owners than they are monuments to Mr. Roberts' skill as a workman and his ability as a man of business. But in building up a town and community Mr. Roberts is the right man in the right place; for he is not only a skilled mechanic, with a thorough knowledge of his calling, but he is an intelligent man of business, a live, progressive, public-spirited citizen. He takes an active interest in all local matters of public concern, and, being a man of strong personal energy, accustomed to pushing ahead in his own affairs, he naturally adopts the same methods in dealing with public matters, and like all men of that kind he frequently finds himself placed at the fore-front in public enterprises and not unfrequently pushed into positions where energy and executive ability are in demand. He is now chairman of the board of supervisors of Phelps county, member of the board of education of the city schools of Holdrege, and one of the city aldermen. Being a man who does not stand back when work is to be done and a good man to lay out work for others, he finds plenty to do.

Mr. Roberts is a man of family and finds not the least of the pleasures of this life in his home, surrounded by his wife and children. He married April 2, 1871, Miss Mary E. Child, who is a native of the town of Barford, Stanstead county, Province of Quebec. The fruits of this union have been eight children, and as a result of the care with which Mr. Roberts has looked after those matters of family history concerning which his descendants will be

most interested in years to come, the names and exact dates of the births of his children and of the deaths of those whom he has lost can here be given. These are—Loova May, born January 28, 1873, at Union, Rock county, Wis., 1:15 p. m.; Eddie Carlton, born September 14, 1874, at Union, Rock county, Wis., 12:30 p. m., and died September 18, 1875, at 1:15 p. m.; Emery Raniville, born December 5, 1875, at 1:15 a. m.; Arthur Samuel, born November 22, 1878, at Union, Rock county, Wis., 12:20 p. m.; Ray Ellsworth, born August 15, 1881, at Minden, Kearney county, Nebr., 10:20 p. m.; Clara Maud, born June 19, 1883, at 3:20 a. m., and died August 14, 1883, and Minnie Ulissa, born July 30, 1884, at 4:35 a. m., and died August 25, 1884, and baby daughter who died at Holdrege September 9, 1887, at 3 p. m., just after birth.

Having led an exceptionally active life, Mr. Roberts has had but little time to devote to fraternity work and the cultivation of the social amenities within these orders. He, however, is a zealous member of the Ancient order of United Workmen and takes an active interest in its matters. He has always voted the straight republican ticket in politics.

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**P** O. HEDLUND. One of the best known young men in southwestern Nebraska, a prominent member of the Phelps county bar and a man of solid business interests of the town of Holdrege, is P. O. Hedlund, the subject of this sketch. He is a son of Olof Hedlund, whose biography appears in this volume as one of the first settlers in Phelps

county, and whatever facts may be deemed of interest in reference to the ancestral history of the subject of this notice will be found in his father's history.

P. O. Hedlund was born in Gelleborg's Lön, Sweden, September 14, 1856. A year later his parents immigrated to America and settled in Knox county, Ill., where he was reared. He came in 1876 with his father to Nebraska, settling in Phelps county. In 1877 he was elected surveyor of Phelps county, served two years, and was re-elected in 1879. His father having in the meantime been elected treasurer of the county, young Hedlund resigned his position as surveyor to accept a deputyship under his father. At the same time he received the appointment of deputy county clerk and filled these two offices for a term of two years. In 1881 he was elected county clerk and held that office by successive re-elections till January, 1888. He began reading law in 1884 and was admitted to the bar in 1887. On quitting the county clerks' office he embarked at once in the law, loan, real estate and abstract business, continuing at this since, being now the senior member of the firm of Hedlund & Roth. In November, 1889, he bought an interest in the mercantile firm of Fredricks & Engstrom, the firm becoming Fredricks & Hedlund, which interest he still retains. He is also vice-president of the First National Bank of Holdrege, a stockholder in the Citizens' Publishing Company and interested in various other enterprises in and around Holdrege. Mr. Hedlund has taken an active part in politics and is one of the most popular and influential men in the county. He is public-spirited and progressive in his views, a hard worker and

an enthusiastic believer in the future of his adopted town and county. From his well known personal energy and discriminating judgment his name has come to be an unfailing guarantee of success in any enterprise with which it is associated. Thoroughly honest and correct in his business relations and methods he enjoys the absolute confidence not only of his countrymen by whom the town of Holdrege and the county of Phelps are largely settled, but by all, regardless of nationality, who know him and have had dealings with him.

Mr. Hedlund married, in 1880, Miss Ellen Anderson, then of Knox county, Ill., a lady well fitted to bear him the companionship which he sought with her hand. In his pleasant home in Holdrege, made so by the untiring industry of his amiable wife, he finds rest and relaxation from the worry and anxieties which, as a busy man of the world, he can not find elsewhere.

**J** R. PATRICK, attorney-at-law of Holdrege, Phelps county, is a native of Armstrong county, Pa., and was born March 4, 1855. He comes of old Pennsylvania stock, his father, A. C. Patrick, being a native of Armstrong county; his mother, Catherine (Hill) Patrick, was born in Westmoreland county. His mother is dead, but his father still lives in Armstrong county and is well advanced in years.

J. R. Patrick was reared in his native county and received an academic education. He began teaching while yet in his

teens, and, conceiving a great liking for books, he decided to devote his life to the pursuit of one of the liberal professions, and in 1880 began reading law. Mr. Patrick was a poor boy, and his first steps towards acquiring a knowledge of his profession were attended with many difficulties. But he adopted the methods pursued by ambitious young men of limited means who aspire to the higher walks of life. He made the earnings from his school-room work pay his way through the preparatory stages of his career, and what advantages he had not money to procure he abundantly made up for by his assiduous application at home by private study. He started West in 1880, and stopped first at Paxton, Ill., where, after reading awhile in the law office of Kinnear & Maffett, he was admitted to the bar in the fall of 1882, and at once began practice. Not long after, he was elected prosecuting attorney of his district, and held the office for a year, when he resigned to move further west. He came to Nebraska and located at Holdrege in October, 1884, and immediately formed a partnership with John Smith, of that place, and entered on the practice. This partnership lasted only a short time. He then formed another with W. P. Hall, the firm becoming Hall & Patrick, and so continuing until the present time. It is no flattery to these gentlemen nor any injustice to their many deserving brothers of the bar, to say that the firm of Hall & Patrick do the bulk of the legal business of the town of Holdrege and Phelps county. It is recognized as one of the strongest law firms in southwestern Nebraska. No small amount of the success it has attained has been due to the junior member.



For his chosen profession, Mr. Patrick possesses a special aptitude, having a remarkably strong and vigorous mind, a clear and discriminating judgment and a knowledge of men and their many devious ways far beyond the average of his years. He is a close student, especially in the facts of his cases, and he has the happy faculty of getting at the true inwardness of a complicated statement of facts and presenting the merits of an issue in a clear and intelligent manner to court and jury. He has achieved much of his reputation as a trial lawyer. He is a strong, forcible speaker, rising to the "height of the argument" on all occasions, his speech frequently reaching the dignity of true eloquence.

Mr. Patrick married April 13, 1887, the lady whom he took to share with him the pleasures and sorrows of this life being Miss Lulu Ballard, daughter of D. H. Ballard, of Hastings, Nebr. Mr. Patrick and his worthy lady have a pleasant home in Holdrege and they are deservedly popular in the best society of their place.

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**R**EV. LEWIS EINSEL was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, October 22, 1813, to which place his parents, Henry and Barbara (Seitz) Einsel, emigrated from York county, Pa., in the year 1805. Lewis was reared on a farm, growing up as a country lad. At the age of twenty-three, having embraced the faith of the Evangelical church, he began preaching its doctrines and spent eight years in different localities in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois, actively engaged

in the ministry. His health failing from his arduous labors, he was compelled to retire from active service in the church, and in 1844 he settled in Pickaway county, Ohio, and began farming and stock-raising and was also engaged a part of the time in merchandise. He lived there for twenty years, devoting himself mainly to the prosecution of his own affairs and rendering to his church as a local preacher such service as he could without endangering his already shattered health. He moved in 1862 to Tippecanoe county, Ind., continuing in the peaceful pursuits of agriculture, but more largely in stock-raising, serving as minister to local churches and doing evangelical work. In 1884 he moved to Holdrege, Phelps county, Nebr., where two of his sons and their families had previously settled, mention of whom is made in this volume. Mr. Einsel married in 1842—the lady whom he selected to share his life's fortunes being Catherine Dreisbach, a daughter of the Rev. John and Fannie (Eyer) Dreisbach. Mrs. Einsel was born in Union county, Pa., August 17, 1820. Her parents settled in Ohio in 1831, her father being a pioneer preacher of the Evangelical church, the fourth minister who was ordained to declare the doctrine of that denomination.

Mr. Einsel has devoted his life to the pursuit of his own affairs and to the ministry of his church. In each of these departments of endeavor he has met with the success which his earnest efforts have merited. He has lived an active life and has devoted his best energies to the good of his kind. He is a man of large experience and a wide range of knowledge, particularly on religious subjects, and when his tongue has been silenced from

disease contracted in the cause of his Master his pen has still been busy expounding the great truths of christianity to his fellow-men. To his church and the doctrines upon which it is founded he has ever rendered the loyalty of an earnest and faithful nature; and now, having almost finished the race and kept the faith, he still finds the chief source of his pleasures and the solace of his declining years in the study and contemplation of those same great truths which he spent the vigor of his manhood in declaring to the world.

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**D**R. E. H. MABERLY. The subject of this sketch is a native of Berkshire, England. He was born April 28, 1853. He comes of English parentage from time immemorial. His father, Thomas M. Maberly, and his mother, Mary (Steele) Maberly, were both born, reared and passed their lives in Berkshire.

E. H. Maberly was reared in his native place and educated in the public schools, growing up as most lads do, variously engaged, till he reached his seventeenth year. He then set out to try his fortunes in the new world. He came to America in 1870 and settled in Carroll county, Ill., where he lived for eight years. He followed different pursuits during this time and traveled around learning the American ways of doing things, and, as a shrewd, intelligent young fellow would, contrasting them with the ways of the old country and gathering therefrom valuable lessons of experience. In 1878, when his ideas had matured and he had settled on his plans for the future, he came

West, located at Ellsworth, Kans., and took up the study of dentistry under Dr. C. D. Day, of that place, pursuing it for some time. He returned to Illinois and began the practice in Savannah, that state, and remained there till 1883, when he came West again and settled at Holdrege, Phelps county, this state. There he has resided since and has devoted himself exclusively to the practice of his profession. He is the only dentist in the town of Holdrege and the only one that has ever been there. He is a competent workman and well read in the literature of his profession. He is popular among his fellow-townsmen and does a prosperous business. He is a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, having taken the Knight Templar degree. He is also a zealous member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and has represented his lodge in the Grand Lodge for two years past. He belongs to the Evangelical church and gives freely to charity.

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**L**BANTA, the subject of this sketch, now in his forty-fifth year, was born and reared in the West. He is a Westerner by instinct and education. He is moulded after the broad and generous plans of all Western products. He practices the free and liberal methods characteristic of the people of the boundless prairies. He is a typical rustler of the better sort. He possesses in an eminent degree the happy genius of the typical Westerner for getting on in the world. His career has been that of the successful man of the world, beginning in the humble

walks of life. His record is of value because it is helpful.

L. Banta was born in Des Moines county, Iowa, April 25, 1846. He is a son of Abraham and Rachel (Van Arsdale) Banta, his father being a native of Kentucky.

He was reared in his native county, learned the blacksmith's trade when a lad, following it when he grew up as a journeyman. He resided in Iowa till 1878, when he came to Nebraska and took a homestead in Harlan county, near the present town of Oxford. He lived there four years and moved then to Holdrege, which has since been his home. He married, in 1872, Miss Roxie Van Nuys, daughter of Albert Van Nuys, of Des Moines county, Iowa. His wife died September 5, 1889, leaving six children, who, with their father, mourn her loss. These are—Grace L., Albert A., Minnie M., Nellie B. and Aurel M. Mr. Banta married again March 2, 1890, Mrs. M. F. Wilkins.

Mr. Banta stands high in a number of the benevolent orders, being a zealous member of the Masonic fraternity, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Grand Army of the Republic. He is also an enthusiastic prohibitionist and an active and consistent member of the Methodist church.

is a son of the Rev. Lewis Einsel, a sketch of whom appears in this work, and in that sketch will be found the facts relating to the ancestral history of the subject of this notice.

E. D. Einsel was reared in his native place and in Tippecanoe county, Ind., whither his parents moved when he was twelve years of age. He was educated in the common schools of the communities where he resided and finished at the Northwestern College at Naperville, Ill., taking a three-years course in this institution. He selected the ministry as his profession, began preaching in the Evangelical church at the age of twenty-two and was engaged actively in church work for seven years. In 1872 he married Miss Emma S. Miller, daughter of J. G. Miller, of Madison, Wis. This estimable lady shared the fortunes of her husband during all the years of his ministry, accompanying him from one field of endeavor to another and rendering him the efficient aid which every man seeks in the selection of a life companion. But her health, never too vigorous, gave way, and in the hope that a change of locality and calling would benefit her, Mr. Einsel gave up the ministry in 1879 and moved to Nebraska, settling in York county, where he engaged in farming. After three years spent on the farm he moved into the town of York and filled the office of deputy county treasurer of York county for a short time. He then, in connection with others organized the York Exchange Bank and took the position of cashier of that institution, which position he held for one year. In the meantime he organized the Commercial State Bank of Holdrege, Phelps county, and closing out his interests at

**E** D. EINSEL, president of the South Platte Loan and Trust Company and president of the United States National Bank, both of Holdrege, Phelps county, is a native of the town of Circleville, Pickaway county, Ohio, and was born March 17, 1850. He

York he moved, in 1883, to Holdrege to assume control of the bank there. He occupied the same position in this institution that he did at the date of its organization, that of cashier, for seven years, to July, 1890, when the bank changed to the United States National Bank and he was elected president. He has had the practical management of the bank's concerns, and what success it has attained has been reached mainly through his efforts. The bank was organized with a capital of \$30,000, which has since been increased to \$75,000. With a few changes in its working force its organization remains about the same as when started. E. A. Washburn is now cashier; J. H. Einsel, vice-president; E. D. Einsel, president, and J. R. Shreek, assistant cashier. The United States National Bank is manned by competent officers and backed by men of unquestioned ability and integrity. Besides his banking interests Mr. Einsel has large land and stock interests, owning in connection with his brother, J. H. Einsel, over twenty thousand acres of land in Nebraska and Colorado, having one ranch in Phelps county of three thousand acres over which are running five hundred head of fine Galloway cattle.

It would hardly be possible for a man possessing the business qualifications which Mr. Einsel does and who has achieved the marked success which he has, to escape being pushed into some positions of public trust, however distastful the wranglings of political life might be to him. Mr. Einsel was elected to the state senate from the twenty-ninth senatorial district, in 1884, and served one term. He was not present at the convention when he was nominated and made no special effort in

the canvass, but was nevertheless elected by a flattering vote. He took to the discharge of his duties as a public official the same zeal, energy and discriminating judgment, the same fidelity to principle and faithful regard for the rights of others, that he had always displayed and yet continues to display in the management of his own affairs. And he left his office bearing with him the approval of the best citizens of his district on his conduct as a public official, as well as their highest esteem and praise as a courteous christian gentleman. In addition to the part he took in the general legislation before the senate, he served as a member of the committees on engrossed and enrolling bills, railroads, banks, public printing and immigration. Mr. Einsel was a delegate to the National Republican convention which met at Chicago in June, 1888, and took an active part in the deliberation of his delegation. But his best work, like that of all true laborers, has been outside the arena of politics. It has been done as a private citizen. When Mr. Einsel relinquished his calling as a minister he did not lay aside his zeal in behalf of his church nor his interest in the welfare of his fellow-men. If anything, he redoubled his energy and enthusiasm in the cause of christianity and in the upbuilding of the church's interests, and he has made a wise and effective use towards this end of the means which have come into his hands. He has given liberally to the church and to every charitable purpose. He assisted in organizing the Young Men's Christian Association in Holdrege, and has been its able and efficient president since. He is a member of a number of benevolent orders, among them the

Masonic, Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias, and his charitable impulses have also taken in a large measure the practical turn inculcated by these fraternities.

Fortunate by circumstances, he has been singularly happy in the prosperity of his affairs. Yet his life has not been all sunshine. Across his pathway have fallen some shadows. He lost his estimable wife in 1884 after more than twelve years of a most cherished companionship, she sinking to rest in the same faith in which she had zealously labored so many years with her husband. Mr. Einsel subsequently married her sister, Miss Sara Miller, a lady who draws from the same source his former companion did, many of the amiable christian graces that adorn her character and render pleasant their quiet, peaceful home.

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**F**RANK JOHNSON. This gentleman is one of the leading merchants of Holdrege, Phelps county. He is a splendid representative of that intelligent and enterprising class of citizens by whom the town of Holdrege and the county of Phelps are mainly settled, namely, Swedish-Americans. Mr. Johnson was born in Smoland, Sweden, January 23, 1853. He came to America at the age of sixteen, unaccompanied by friend or relative. He stopped in Henry county, Ill., among some of his countrymen whom he had formerly known, and went to work to repay his friends who had advanced his ship fare to this country. He found his first employment as a farm hand, working by

the month. He afterwards went on the railroad, and after knocking around for some time and acquiring some knowledge of the English language, he engaged in clerking for A. P. Johnson & Co., at Altona, Ill., remaining as clerk with this firm for ten years, when he was taken in as a partner. He retained his partnership interest there for four years and then decided to move West. He came to Nebraska in 1884, and settled at Holdrege, in Phelps county. Holdrege at that time was just starting, and Mr. Johnson was one of the first merchants in the place, his store being built from the first load of lumber shipped into the town by rail. He at once opened out a general line of merchandise and began supplying the local trade. As the town and surrounding country settled up his business grew, keeping pace with the general progress of the community, and in a few years he found his quarters too small for his growing trade. He then erected the elegant double-front two-story brick building which he now occupies, and which is a credit to his town and a monument to his industry, liberality and public spirit. He deals now in dry goods, clothing, hats, caps, boots, shoes and carpets. He has handled thousands of dollars' worth of goods, and is widely and favorably known by the buying public where he lives. Mr. Johnson's success has been reached by the exercise of great industry, economy, strict attention to business and fair dealing by all.

He married, in 1878, the lady being Anna Anderson. To this union have been born three children, two girls and one boy—Mabel, Lutennis and Luella.

While looking assiduously after his own interests Mr. Johnson has given due atten-

tion to the claims of the public on him as a citizen. He is progressive in his views, liberal with his means and willing to lend a helping hand to any deserving enterprise, and the needy never leave his door empty-handed.

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**G**EORGE STENNETT, a prominent and influential farmer of Phelps county, was born in Edwards county, Ill., March 5, 1839, and is a son of John and Mary (Fowler) Stennett.

Mr. Stennett's parents moved to Logan county, Ill., when he was a lad about fourteen years of age, and in that county he was reared and began the race of life. He was brought up on the farm and selected farming as his life work. He married in Logan county on reaching his majority, the lady whom he selected for a wife being Elizabeth, a native of that county and a daughter of John Houston, one of its earliest settlers. Mr. Stennett moved to Nebraska in 1885 and settled in Phelps county, where he has since resided. He owns 320 acres of fine land two miles north of the town of Holdrege, most of which he has under cultivation. He has his farm well improved, having bestowed upon it much labor and thoughtful attention. He is recognized as one of the best farmers of his community, being thoroughly alive to the responsibilities as well as the possibilities of his calling. He is more than a mere tiller of the soil; he is a reading and thinking man. He is well respected and regarded as a man of intel-

ligence and sound judgment. He has a pleasant home and a family of interesting children, whom he is rearing to lives of industry and usefulness. These are John H., Charles H., Louetta H., Frank H., Hattie H., Florence H. and Albert H. Stennett.

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**O**LOF HEDLUND, one of Phelps county's best known and most successful farmers, like many of the representative citizens of his community, is a native of Sweden and was born January 13, 1827. He was reared in his native country, being brought up to the blacksmith's trade, which he followed in his earlier years and at which he was a competent and successful workman. He married in July, 1854, being then in his twenty-seventh year—the lady whom he married being Miss Brita Holmstrand, born June 3, 1836, at his native place, and two years later, in August, 1857, he immigrated to the United States and settled in Knox county, Ill. He was a resident of Knox county till 1876, when he moved to Nebraska and settled in Phelps county. In Illinois he was engaged partly in farming and partly at his trade as blacksmith, but since coming to Nebraska he has been engaged in farming exclusively. He owns a splendid farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Sheridan township, which he has in a fine state of cultivation and on which he has bestowed much labor, care and thoughtful attention. His place is noted for its clean, neat, thrifty, prosperous appearance, and, like all Nebraska farms,

for the abundance of its productions. Mr. Hedlund is a practical farmer, yet he is a reading and thinking one as well. He is probably as well posted on agricultural matters as any man in the county, and is identified with every interest affecting the community. He has never aspired to any public position and yet he has been honored with public office. He was elected treasurer of Phelps county in 1879 and held the office two years, administering its affairs with credit to himself and fidelity to his county, and left the office taking with him the gratitude and esteem of all of his fellow-citizens.

Mr. Hedlund is a man of large heart and generous impulses. He is now and has been for many years a prominent member of the Lutheran church and not the least of the good he has done has been accomplished through the means of his church. He takes an active interest in all church work and gives liberally of his means to all church and charitable purposes. No man would go further than he to help a friend or accommodate a neighbor, or render assistance to the needy or afflicted. He has lived to a good old age in the practice of those great virtues which were first announced by him "who spake as never man spake," and in the study and practice of those virtues he still finds the comfort of his declining years. He has an interesting family of children, most of whom are now grown, and some of them settled off in life and doing for themselves. He has reared five children, two boys and three girls—P. O. Hedlund, a prominent lawyer and business man of Holdrege, a sketch of whom appears in this work; Anna E., Emma A., Mary A., and Charles L.

**T**HOMAS M. HOPWOOD, editor and proprietor of the *Nebraska Nugget*, is the oldest editor and newspaper publisher in Phelps county. The *Nugget* was first established under the name of *Phelps County Pioneer*, and published at the original Sacramento, Phelps county, and the first issue was March 22, 1879. It was a small sheet containing eight pages, two columns to the page. May 3, 1879, the paper was enlarged to a four-page journal, four columns to the page, and continued so until July, 1879, when it became a five-column four-paged paper.

In the spring of 1880, the paper was removed to Phelps Center, the new county seat, which had been removed that year from Williamsburg, on the Platte river, to Phelps Center. In June of the same year (1880), Mr. Hopwood purchased this paper and became proprietor and editor, changing the name to the *Nebraska Nugget*. In politics the paper continued the same, which was republican, and in the salutatory we find the following: "Our politics first, last and all times are in perfect harmony with the principles of the republican party; we are encouraged to look forward into the years to come, believing there is a place of power in the march of Nebraska for Phelps county. The enterprise and talent of states East will find place with us; the element that conquers obstacles, that is equal to emergencies and glorious in accomplishments, will send us booming on in the path of progress. All that is broad, useful and kindly shall have our consideration." Mr. Hopwood had continued editor and proprietor until December, 1879, and has since been its editor and owner.

When Mr. Hopwood took charge of the paper he enlarged it from a five-column four-page, to a five-column eight-page, and in December, 1882, enlarged the paper to an eight-column and then, in the following year, again enlarged it to its present size. Mr. Hopwood was born in Fayette county, Pa., August 20, 1847, moved with his parents to Iowa county, Iowa, in 1861, settling on a farm, and remaining there until he reached his majority, when he entered Western College, Iowa, where he remained four years. His health having failed through too close attention to his studies, he traveled some years in the interest of several fire insurance companies, and in 1887 he was united in marriage to Miss Mina Wooldridge of Fillmore county, Minn., who had graduated at Western College, Iowa, in the class of 1887. She is a daughter of Edward and Mary (Smith) Wooldridge, both of Clearfield county, Pa. Mr. and Mrs. Hopwood have two sons, viz.—James E. and Chester L., aged eleven and nine years. Mr. Hopwood is a member of the I. O. O. F. and A. O. U. W. He first settled on a claim ten miles east of Phelps Center, where he remained nearly three years. He was nominated by acclamation four months after his arrival in the county, and two months later was elected county commissioner and was re-elected twice after, serving in all five years on the county board. In 1878 he was nominated for representative to the state legislature on the republican ticket. In the convention which nominated him, however, Eric Johnson was the choice of the Swedish element, which, being in the ascendancy in the county, bolted the convention and nominated Johnson on an

independent ticket. The democratic party nominated James I. Rhea as a candidate, and in the three-cornered contest Mr. Johnson was elected on a small plurality vote, Mr. Hopwood coming out second best.

Mr. Hopwood is one of the enterprising citizens of Holdrege and is highly esteemed by all who know him. He built and owns the Arlington hotel and is one of the founders and a director in the Holdrege National Bank, a stockholder in the Holdrege Manufacturing Company and is liberal in all church and school enterprises which tend to build up a permanent moral and business community.

Mrs. Hopwood, now thirty-five years of age, is one of the most popular educators in the West and is to-day holding the office of county superintendent for the fifth consecutive term. She attends nearly all the educational conventions in the state and was a member of the National Teachers' Association held at St. Paul, Minn., last summer.

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**A**LFRED JOHNSON, a large and influential farmer of Phelps county, is a native of Sweden and was born June 15, 1844. He was reared in his native country and lived there till the age of twenty-five, coming to the United States in 1869. He settled in Minnesota and began life in the new world with \$3 in his pocket. He found his first employment as a common laborer. He applied himself industriously to whatever he could find to do and saved his wages as they were earned. Coming to



Nebraska in 1878, he settled in Phelps county where he took a homestead, the northeast quarter, section 22, township 6, range 18, and began farming. The first few years of his residence in the county were not noted for any astonishing amount of progress. He began in an humble way, but his progress was steady and his success assured from the beginning. He bought other land as he accumulated the means, all of which he improved, giving to the details of the business his undivided attention, to which fact much of his success is due. Mr. Johnson is justly regarded as one of the most intelligent and successful farmers of his community. What he has is the result of his own industry and perseverance, he being in the truest and best sense a self-made man. He owns a half section of as fine land as there is in Phelps county, lying four miles northeast of the county seat, Holdrege, nearly all of which he has under cultivation, in some shape. Mr. Johnson is a wide-awake man, an enterprising, public-spirited citizen. He is a member of the Farmers' Alliance of Phelps county and identified with the best interest of the farming community. He is an active member of the Lutheran church and a man of benevolent impulses. His home gives evidence of the system and good management that prevail on his place, and at it all are alike welcome. Mr. Johnson, careful and deliberate in all things, was unusually so in the selection of a life companion. He did not marry until July 25, 1889, taking to share his life's fortunes with him at that date Miss Josephine Larson, who is also a native of the Fatherland—the snowy kingdom amid the icy seas.

**J**OHAN DANIELSON, farmer of Phelps county, was born in Sweden, April 6, 1849. He is a son of John S. and Martha (Anderson) Danielson, both natives also of Sweden. His parents immigrated to America in 1854 when the subject of this notice was in his fifth year, and settled in Moline, Ill. They resided there only two years, moving thence to Altona, Ill. There our subject was mainly reared. He followed various pursuits, agricultural, mercantile; stock and others till 1880. He then moved to Nebraska and settled in Phelps county, where he has since resided. Since he has lived in Phelps county he has been engaged exclusively in farming, and measured by his means and opportunities he has made a fair success. He owns one hundred and sixty acres of fine land lying within two miles of the corporate limit of Holdrege, the county seat of Phelps county, all of which he has in a splendid state of cultivation and which yields an abundance of Nebraska's great product, corn. He owns considerable stock, being engaged in mixed farming. He takes an active interest in all agricultural matters, being a diligent reader of the best periodicals and a close student of his own surroundings. He has served his township in several local official capacities and has made a careful and faithful official.

Mr. Danielson has a family, having married on February 13, 1882, the lady whom he married being Miss Tilda Olson. To this union have been born four children, as follows—Walter J., born April 13, 1883; Alfred W., born September 1, 1884; Gertrude B., born May 3, 1886; Elmer G., born December 17, 1887.

**J**OHN LINDBLOM. In a state like Nebraska, where the chief interests are agricultural, the farming communities oftentimes absorb some of the best business talent of a country, and they furnish in return some of the most signal instances of success to be found in a county. An instance of this is to be found in the subject of this sketch. John Lindblom is one of the most prominent and successful farmers of Phelps county. He is not an old man, either, and what renders his case the more marked is that he is a foreigner by birth and has been a resident of this country but little more than twenty-five years. He began, as most immigrants to this country do, on the bottom round of the ladder. He is deserving of prominent mention in connection with the history of his adopted county.

John Lindblom was born in Sweden, February 11, 1842. He was reared in his native country to the age of eighteen, coming thence in 1864 to America and stopping first in De Kalb county, Ill. He went at once into the government employ, becoming a member of the supply corps for the United States army, gathering commissary stores for Illinois regiments then on the front. He held this position till the war was over. Being then a young man, unmarried, and his fortunes yet to make, he started out like a stout-hearted fellow to carve his way alone. He found his first employment as a common laborer on the railroad. This he followed between three and four years, mostly in Minnesota. Afterwards he farmed some in Minnesota, having saved enough from his earnings to buy a small place in that state. In 1878 he decided

to move to a new country where land was more plentiful and opportunities for acquiring wealth were better. He came to Nebraska that year and settled in Phelps county, taking a homestead and beginning on the raw prairie. Mr. Lindblom had the usual experiences of the early settler; saw all the hardships and privations which fall to the lot of the pioneer, but he never allowed his courage to weaken nor his faith in the country to be shaken. Like a prudent man, he bought up cheap land as he accumulated the means, improved these lands and held them for the advance in prices. He began handling stock as soon as he located, and he has increased his flock and herds from time to time since. He is now regarded as one of the largest and most successful farmers in his county, as well as one of the shrewdest, most intelligent business men. He is a live, progressive citizen, a reading and thinking farmer, and not a mere tiller of the soil.

Mr. Lindblom has a splendid farm, furnished with large and commodious buildings with comfortable appointments and conveniences, and an interesting family to share its pleasures with him. He married in 1868, while a resident of Minnesota, the lady whom he selected for his life companion being Miss Maggie Swanson one of his own fair countrywomen, who, like himself, left the friends of her youth and the scenes of her childhood to seek her fortunes in this country. This union has been blessed with a family of seven—Tillie, Albert, Lottie, Frank, Hilea, Otto and Nina. The rearing and training of these afford Mr. Lindblom not the least of the pleasures of his life.

**G**EORGE W. HILL is a native of Putnam county, W. Va., and was born October 9, 1854. His father, Charles Hill, was a native of New York, and went to Pennsylvania at an early day and from there to West Virginia, where he died in 1858. His mother, whose maiden name was Susannah R. Tremble, is a native of Pennsylvania, and now resides with her son.

George W. Hill left his native state when twenty years of age to come West in search of employment. His first stop was at Fort Wayne, Ind., where he remained for about one year. In 1875, he came West as far as Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he established himself on a farm. In April, 1879, Mr. Hill came to Phelps county, Nebr. He took a homestead in Union township, being one of the first settlers in that section. He erected a sod house and had only nine cents after securing his homestead. The country was sparsely settled, and a man without money and a stranger in a strange land, as can well be imagined, had a hard time to get along. People of this time have but a faint idea of the trials and privations endured by the early settlers of Nebraska.

Mr. Hill was married, March 31, 1887, to Miss Virginia Morehead, who is a native of Quincy, Ill. She was born November 24, 1860. Her parents were Thomas M. and Carolina Morehead, both of whom are natives of Kentucky. They came to Illinois in the spring of 1860, and were among the early settlers of Adams county. Her father has been deputy recorder of Adams county for several years, and has filled various important offices during his life.

Mr. and Mrs. Hill have two children—

Edith A., born May 24, 1888, and Edward T., born December 8, 1889.

Mr. Hill was elected county supervisor in the fall of 1888 and re-elected in 1889, for a term of two years. He belongs to the Alliance and is a wide-awake and progressive young man. He has one hundred and sixty acres of excellent land, a good frame house surrounded by a grove of splendid trees. He has a fine lot of fruit trees, and is confident fruit will flourish in Nebraska.

**C**HARLES L. HARPSTER was one of the early pioneers of Hamilton county, Nebr., having come from Ohio early in the seventies. He is a native of Ross county, Ohio, and was born February 10, 1846. His parents were both natives of Ohio. His father, Rudolph Harpster, was a farmer and died in 1853. His mother's maiden name was Lydia M. Cartright. She was a devoted member of the United Brethren church, and lived a life consistent with her profession, dying in 1863.

Charles L. Harpster, the subject of this sketch, was obliged to go out and work to support his widowed mother when he was only nine years old. He learned a valuable lesson of self-dependence early in life, and although he was denied the privilege of special school advantages, he has managed to gain a large fund of practical information.

Mr. Harpster was only eighteen years of age when he enlisted, February 15, 1864, in Company M, First Ohio calvary, and served with credit to himself till the

close of the great civil conflict. He went through the Atlanta campaign, belonged to the famous Wilson raiders and was in many exciting skirmishes. He participated in the engagement at Montgomery, Selma and Plantersville, Ala., and also at Columbus and Macon, Ga. He was an active participant in the Kilpatrick raid about Atlanta. During the fight at Lovejoy station he had a mule shot from under him, and a bullet hole put through his hat. He was mustered out at Hilton Head, S. C., September 13, 1865, and received his discharge at Columbus, Ohio, on the twenty-seventh of the month. Although suffering from illness incurred during his service in the army, he has never drawn a pension.

October 20, 1872, Mr. Harpster took up a homestead claim in Hamilton county, Nebr., and next came to Phelps county, February 5, 1883, and purchased a farm in Union township where he now lives. He belongs to the G. A. R., and is an efficient member of the Farmers' Alliance and Patrons of Husbandry. He organized Union township in 1886 and named it. He also organized the school district in which he lives. He has always taken an active part in every progressive movement, and generally makes a success of what he undertakes. He has one hundred and sixty acres of splendid land which he is improving as rapidly as his means will allow. In politics he is strictly independent, for he seldom takes sides with either of the old parties, but is generally found advocating reform measures. In all local matters he supports good men regardless of their politics. He has been assessor of his township, but has never aspired to any office.

Mr. Harpster was married December 27, 1873, to Miss Minerva Harpster, who is a native of Ross county, Ohio. To this union have been born seven children—Lesley L., Cora F., Cecil W., Effie M., Flossie B., Annabel R. and Merle I.

**J** A. MASTERS is one of the early settlers and representative men of Union township, Phelps county. He is a native of Kentucky and was born September 23, 1846. His father, Wesley Masters, was a native of Kentucky, and lived the quiet and uneventful life of a farmer. He died in 1887. His mother, who bore the maiden name of Marthena Masters, was also of Kentucky birth, and came from Virginia stock. She died in 1882.

J. A. Masters left home before he was sixteen years old and engaged to drive a supply wagon for the Army of the Cumberland. He continued in this capacity for two years, when, in March, 1863, he enlisted in the Seventh Kentucky cavalry. He participated in many a lively skirmish, especially at Hopkinsville, Ky.; Franklin and Columbus, Tenn.; Resaca, Ga.; Selma and Montgomery, Ala. He was with the Wilson raiders from East Port, Miss., to Macon, Ga. He saw plenty of hard fighting and endured many hardships. He was mustered out in September at Louisville, Ky. At the close of the war he farmed one year and then emigrated to McClellan county, Ill., where he remained one year. His next move was into Brown county, that state, where he remained from 1867 to 1879. Mr. Masters came to Phelps

county, Nebr., in the fall of 1879. After prospecting about for some time he selected a homestead in the western part of the county, in what has since been called Union township. Being one of the first settlers in this section his neighbors were few and far between. He built a sod house, but had to go six miles to find a well of water. One team and \$3.50 was all he had when he settled, but he has been an industrious and hard-working man, and is now one of the well-to-do citizens of the township.

Mr. Masters was married November 24, 1870, the lady whom he chose to share his fortunes being Miss Addie Minium. To this union have been born eleven children—Julia (deceased), Estella, Martin, Florida M., Marida, Lena, Klida E., John W., Riley S., Elsie P. and Jennie B.

Mr. Masters has been town treasurer and collector for several years, and is a member of the Farmers' Alliance. He has two hundred and forty acres of splendid land and is a prosperous farmer. He has always affiliated with the republican party.

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**A**UGUST J. VAUGHAN, a successful farmer and stock-raiser of Williamsburg township, Phelps county, was born in Sweden, February 8, 1854. He was reared on a farm and attended school for about seven years. He landed in New York City, after a somewhat stormy voyage, on August 3, 1868, and came west as far as Oneida, Knox county, Ill., where he remained for ten years, working out by the month on a farm.

Mr. Vaughan came to Phelps county, Nebr., in July, 1878, homesteading the

southeast quarter of section 32. There was plenty of antelope and other wild game, but very few actual settlers in that locality then. Mr. Vaughan was a young man and came here with very limited means, having only three horses and about \$50 in money. He built a sod house and at once set about laying the foundation for his future home. He underwent all the hardships of frontier life, was compelled to haul water three miles for his stock, being unable to have a well dug, and was subjected to many other inconveniences. He has worked hard, early and late, however, until the once wild and desolate prairie homestead has been transformed into a productive and beautiful farm.

Mr. Vaughan was married to Miss Matilda S. Peterson on December 31, 1877. She was born in Sweden in 1856, and came to America in 1868. This union has resulted in the birth of five children, namely—Oscar, Ira (deceased), Alice, Eddie, and Carroll. Mr. Vaughan has three hundred and twenty acres of improved land, all fenced and under a good state of cultivation. He is a progressive man and believes in keeping well-bred stock of all kinds. He has some as fine standard-bred Hambletonian horses as any one would wish to see, and his Short-horn cattle and Poland-china hogs are among the best to be found in Phelps county. He is regarded as one of the most successful stock-raisers in the county, and his example is well worthy of emulation.

Both Mr. Vaughan and his estimable wife are members of the Christian Mission church. In politics he is a republican, and a man who stands high in the estimation of his fellow-men.

**R**ICHARD RICHARDS, the subject of this sketch, was born in County Wexford, Ireland, January 27, 1834. He enjoyed only such educational advantages as the common schools of Ireland afforded in that day, and, at the age of seventeen enlisted, at the city of Dublin, September, 1852, in the Thirty-fourth regiment infantry of the British army, its depot then being at Aberdeen, Scotland, but was afterwards transferred to the Thirty-ninth regiment, then in Cork, Ireland, and at that time preparing for the Crimean war, and it was his unstinted loyalty to the British flag that prompted young Richards to enlist. Some time was spent in drilling, then the Thirty-fourth depot was sent to Fort George, in the Highlands of Scotland. From this point the depot proceeded to Manchester to meet the troops of the Thirti-fourth regiment from India. After considerable preliminary maneuvering, the Thirty-ninth regiment proceeded to Gibraltar, where, after nine months' delay, the army sailed for the seat of war. Mr. Richards is familiar with every detail of the siege of Sebastopol, having been an active participant in that famous battle. He received an honorable discharge in Canada, April, 1857, and was also presented with a silver medal, which he now has, for his services rendered at the seige of Sebastopol. His term of service extended from September, 1852, to April, 1857.

After his discharge from the army, Mr. Richards located near Brockville, in upper Canada, and engaged in farming until the year 1880, in the spring of which year he came to York county, Nebr., and farmed there two years. His next move was to

Phelps county, where he arrived in the spring of 1882. He purchased one-hundred and sixty acres of railroad land in Williamsburg township, where he has since lived. At that time the country thereabout was new and sparsely settled, consequently the first settlers were subjected to all the inconveniences incident to the first settlement of any new country.

Mr. Richards has twice married. His first wife was Sarah M. Edwards, whom he married March 4, 1859, and by whom he had eight children, namely—Charles F., born July 13, 1860; Edward T., born September 24, 1861; Harriet, born December 30, 1862; William C., born February 5, 1864; Margaret, born December 13, 1867; Joseph, born April 25, 1871; Richard, born March 4, 1873, and Sarah L., born October 16, 1874. His wife died in 1875. His second marriage was with Jane E. Ross, on August 24, 1875. She is a native of Canada, born October 9, 1838, and is of Irish descent. To this union has been born one child, John Albert, December 18, 1876.

Mr. Richards has seen some military service since coming to Nebraska. He joined the state militia soon after coming to the state, and, as a member of that body, was called to Omaha to put down the great Burlington strike, and thus knows what it is to do military service under the stars and stripes. Mr. Richards has one hundred and sixty acres of improved land and he is numbered among the enterprising farmers of his vicinity. While a resident of Canada he belonged to the conservative party, and since his residence in the United States has always remained strictly independent, so far as politics is concerned. He believes in ele-

vating none but good, capable men to, public trusts, and he supports only such no matter from what political party they may come. He is a well-posted man, and can talk intelligently upon all the leading issues of the day. He and his wife are both zealous Presbyterians.

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**H**ON. THOMAS H. MARSHALL, one of the representative men of Phelps county, was born in the Province of Ontario, Canada, April 28, 1838.

He is a son of John and Sarah (Bresee) Marshall, the father having been born in Connecticut in 1794, and the mother in Vermont in 1801.

John Marshall went with his father to Canada when a lad. He grew to manhood and was married there. He was a blacksmith by trade, and a hard-working industrious man. He was noted for his enterprising spirit and was one of the best known and most popular men in the section of country where he lived. He took an active part in politics and was always identified with the great reform party. He was an elder in the Presbyterian church for forty years and always lived an upright life. He died in 1865, his wife following in 1883.

Hon. Thomas H. Marshall, the subject of this sketch, was one of a family of ten children and was the last one to leave the old homestead. His father being one of the pioneers of the Ottawa valley, in Upper Canada, where schools had not been organized, he employed private tutors to instruct his children. But Thomas being one of the youngest members of his family,

he was too small to receive much benefit from the school privileges provided by his father. Young Marshall conducted the homestead farm until 1880. He was also an extensive dealer in lumber for a period of fifteen years. He has engineered many a raft of logs down the Ottawa and St. Lawrence rivers to Quebec, and has traded extensively with the Indians in these northern regions.

Mr. Marshall was married July 19, 1870, the lady whom he selected to share his fortunes being Miss Marcia Kedey, a native of Canada. She was born in 1835. To this union have been born seven children—John, Jesse, Lizzie, Addie, Lillie, Thomas and Ralph.

Mr. Marshall is held in high esteem by his neighbors, as is evidenced by the fact that he was elected annually for seven years as a member of the county board. He resigned his position when he decided to emigrate to the United States. He was regarded as a prominent and influential citizen and always took an active part in local, state and national politics.

On the twenty-ninth day of March, 1880, Mr. Marshall purchased twenty-nine tickets for Nebraska points, many being for his neighbors, who decided to accompany him to the "States." The little colony settled in the valley of the Platte, in the northern part of Phelps county, some purchasing railroad land and others settling on homesteads. They found the country new and very much unlike the one they had left. There were no railroads, no churches, in fact nothing. Mr. Marshall immediately set about to organize a Sabbath-school, and his efforts were successful. There has always been a Sabbath-school in that community since. In 1884 Mr.

Marshall circulated a petition to have the county adopt the township representation system. He secured the requisite number of signatures, and succeeded in getting the matter submitted to a vote of the people. The people cast their votes for a change of the election and since that time Phelps county has enjoyed the privilege of more equal representation. Mr. Marshall was appointed the first supervisor for Williamsburg township, and has been elected to fill the position every year since, except one, when he was called upon to represent the people of Phelps and Harlan counties in the legislature. He served in the state legislature in 1887, and took an active part in the work of the session. He was chairman of the committee on labor and a member of the committees on library and privileges and elections. The railroad commission bill was passed that session and several others of almost equal importance. Mr. Marshall introduced a bill to prevent the negotiation of bonds held by the state as a permanent school fund in case of loss or theft or otherwise. The measure passed without opposition in either house.

Mr. Marshall has 320 acres of good land on which he has made valuable improvements from time to time. He is a member of the Masonic Fraternity, United Workmen, Alliance and Grange.

Both he and his estimable wife are members of the Presbyterian church. He is a republican in politics and a man of considerable force and influence in local affairs in the county. He has always discharged every public duty with the utmost regard for the interests of his constituents and he is one of the best known and most highly esteemed men in the county.

**O**RLANDO B. BALYEAT, one of the most enterprising young farmers of Williamsburg township, Phelps county, Nebr., was born in Van Wert county, Ohio, November 9, 1853.

His father, Aaron Balyeat, also a native of Ohio, was born March 15, 1827, and is a farmer by occupation. He has been deacon in the Baptist church for many years, and has always lived an honest, upright life. The mother of the subject of this sketch bore the maiden name of Martha La Rue, and she, too, was a native of Ohio, having been born in 1828. She was a member of the Baptist church and died in 1864 in full confidence of the faith she professed.

The paternal grandfather, Jonas Balyeat, was a Pennsylvanian by birth, and emigrated to Ohio in an early day, settling in Richland county. He removed to Van Wert county, Ohio, where he died in 1886, aged ninety-one years. His wife lived to the age of eighty-four, and was the mother of eighteen children, fifteen of whom were reared to manhood and womanhood. The Balyeat family are of German extraction and are a very hardy race of people.

Mr. Balyeat remained with his parents until he became of age. He attended the common district school during the winter months and became quite proficient in the common branches. In 1878 he attended the Lebanon (Ohio) Normal School for one year, and then taught four terms in Van Wert county.

Mr. Balyeat came to York county, Nebr., in July, 1881, remaining in the town of York for some time; he then engaged in farming for about two years. In 1883 he came to Phelps county, Nebr.,



and purchased a farm in Williamsburg township. The first county seat was located near where he settled, but had been moved to Phelps Center a short time before.

Mr. Balyeat was married, July 10, 1880, to Miss Nancy Webber, a native of Van Wert county, Ohio, who was born April 26, 1853. Her parents are both natives of Ohio. To Mr. and Mrs. Balyeat have been born three children—Leola, born August 29, 1882; Mary, born February 2, 1884 (deceased); May, born February 28, 1890.

Mr. Balyeat has a farm of one hundred and sixty acres well improved, which yields an abundant crop each year.

He is an active member of Mount Pleasant Grange, No. 27, and is a firm believer in a close union among farmers. He has served as assessor of his township four years in succession, which is a good evidence that he is the right man in the right place. He was appointed postmaster April 25, 1887, and is yet performing the duties of that office.

**LUCIUS D. MULLEN** was born in Noble county, Ind., February 3, 1844. His parents, David and Mary (Wolfe) Mullen, came from Pennsylvania and located in northeastern Indiana in 1843. The senior Mullen was a blacksmith by trade, and an honest, industrious man. He died in 1851, and was followed by his wife in 1882. Both were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and were earnest christian people.

Lucius D. Mullen, the subject of this

sketch, was left an orphan when a small boy, and has made his own way through life unaided since he was nine years old. Though young he was honest and industrious, and always found employment. In 1866 he went to Gratiot county, Mich., where he was employed for three years in a woolen mill, and in 1869 came to Cass county, Nebr., and took a homestead. The country was quite new, and he was among the first to settle in the western part of the county. He remained there eight years, and then concluded that he could better his condition by going to York county, where he accordingly located, and purchased a piece of land, but worked on the B. & M. R. R. most of the time during the seven years he was there.

The time of Mr. Mullen's arrival in Phelps county was in the spring of 1884; consequently, he is not regarded an early settler, although the country has been developed wonderfully since he located here. He purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which he is improving rapidly, and from which he has harvested good crops since he began to cultivate it.

Mr. Mullen was married, August 22, 1872, to Miss Mary E. Logan, who is a native of Ohio, born June 24, 1851. To this union have been born six children, viz.—Lafayette, born June 17, 1873; John, born March 22, 1877; Orphia, born January 18, 1881; Thomas, born March 15, 1883 (deceased), and Jesse, born May 22, 1885.

As Mr. Mullen was a soldier in the late Civil war it would not be out of place to call the reader's attention to some of the main features of his military experience. He enlisted October 14, 1862, in the First

Indiana cavalry, and his first experience in battle was at Vicksburg, and later he was in an engagement at Fort Cotton, on the Yazoo river, in Mississippi. On the fourth of July, 1863, he was in a hot skirmish at Helena, Ark., and was also present at the capture of Little Rock, Ark. Some of the principal encounters following this were Duvall's bluffs, Clarrington, Columbia, Tenn.; Franklin, and the two days at Nashville. He was mustered out at Nashville, Tenn., in June, 1864.

**W**ILLIAM S. WOLFE is a native of Ashland county, Ohio, and was born March 26, 1843. His parents, Martin and Elizabeth (Clause) Wolfe, were both natives of Pennsylvania, were married in Ohio, and moved to Michigan, and subsequently to Indiana, where they lived for some time. In 1871 they emigrated to Cass county, Nebr., where they lived till the senior Wolfe's death, which occurred in 1875. He was a carpenter by trade, was justice of the peace for some time in Ohio, and was a member of the German Reform church.

William S. Wolfe began life as a farmer in Steuben county, Ind., where he remained one year. He removed to Lenawee county, Mich., and worked at the carpenters' trade for some time. He emigrated to Cass county, Nebr., in the spring of 1871, where he took a homestead. He was one of the pioneer settlers of that county, and remained there for eleven years. He next located in the thriving little city of York, and kept a

livery stable for some years, coming to Phelps county in the spring of 1884, and purchasing land on which he has since lived.

Mr. Wolfe was married October 1, 1872, to Miss Rebecca Logan, who bore him four children, as follows—Martin (deceased), Viola, Sherman and Horley. His wife died June, 1883. He married again November 15, 1886, Miss Mary McCutchen, who is a native of South Carolina. To this union has been born one child—Vira G.

Mr. Wolfe has a good record as a soldier in the war of the rebellion, and it is proper that mention should be made of some of the main features of his military career in connection with this brief biographical memoir. He enlisted August 2, 1862, in the Seventy-fourth regiment, Indiana volunteer infantry, and participated in the Atlanta campaign, and was also at Chickamauga. He was seriously injured a day or so before his engagement at Resaca, which rendered him incapable of performing duty for some time. His brigade was detailed to guard a supply train, and while in discharge of his duty a comrade fell on him striking him in the small of the back with his knee. He was sent to the hospital at Chattanooga, and subsequently to a convalescent camp, where he was detailed to guard prisoners. He was soon after detailed to drive cattle, but jumped the train and joined his regiment at Atlanta. The Seventy-fourth regiment, along with others, were ordered to follow General Hood back to Nashville. It was at this time that Mr. Wolfe was captured by a band of rebel guerrillas while out foraging. He was taken to the prison at Millen, Ga., and while en route

to that place they marched one hundred and twenty miles in four days. He was only there a short time when he was removed to Savannah, and hence to Thomasville and from there to Andersonville, where he was compelled to suffer the indescribable horrors of that rebel hole from the twenty-fourth day of December, 1864, till the seventeenth day of April, 1865. He was mustered out at Columbus, Ohio, in June, 1865. While he was in prison he went entirely blind during the night and has had trouble with his eyes since.

Mr. Wolfe has a pleasant home and one hundred and sixty acres of good land. He is highly esteemed by all who know him.

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**O**TIS A. RICHARDSON, one of the pioneers of Phelps county, was born in Fulton county, Ill., July 7, 1846.

His father, Charles Richardson, is a native of Virginia; he came North, however, in an early day and is now a resident of Nebraska. He is a carpenter by trade and a quiet and industrious man. The mother of the subject of this sketch is a native of Illinois and a woman beloved by all for her many admirable traits of character.

Otis A. Richardson was one of a family of eight children and received only such educational advantages as were afforded in the common district schools of Illinois. He enlisted November 1, 1862, at the age of eighteen, in the Thirty-third Illinois volunteer infantry, but was discharged, however, on account of physical disability

June 18, 1862. He was afflicted with chronic rheumatism and was sent to the hospital at Keokuk, Iowa. The only important engagement he was in during his service was the battle of Shiloh, one of the most famous battles of the rebellion.

After the war he was an employee on the steamer "Belle of Peoria," on the Illinois river for about one year. On July 13, 1865, he came to Saunders county, Nebr., and was the first man to take a homestead in township 15, range 9 east. After he had selected his claim he freighted for several months between Plattsburgh and Fort Laramie. The country was wild and he had an interesting and varied experience on his trip across the "great plains." He spent two years on the Otoe reservation near Beatrice, where he mingled occasionally with the "Red men."

Mr. Richardson came to Phelps county in September, 1880, and filed on a timber claim in Williamsburg township. There were comparatively few settlers then at that time and it was not an uncommon thing to see a herd of antelope grazing on the Platte bottom. He has seen and experienced some of the hardships of the pioneers of Nebraska, and knows what it is to go hungry, as well as to encounter a band of hostile Indians. Mr. Richardson was married October 30, 1866, to Keziah Tarpening, who is a native of Indiana and was born February 3, 1850. Her parents, Perry and Elizabeth (Russell) Tarpening, are natives of Ohio and both live in Saunders county, Nebr.

The happy union of Mr. and Mrs. Richardson has been blessed with six children, viz.—Charles, born December 3, 1868; Olive, born January 10, 1870; Estella E., born September 16, 1871; Willie V.,

born June 9, 1875; Earl E., born February 23, 1885; Delta V., born March 13, 1888.

Mr. R. has one hundred and sixty acres of improved land which lies in the fertile Platte valley, and yields an abundant crop each year. He is a member of the G. A. R. and of the Grange and enjoys the high esteem of all who know him.

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**J**OHN W. GREENAMYER is one of the rising young men of Phelps county. He is a native of Ohio, and was born January 8, 1856.

His father, Eli Greenamyer, is also a native of Ohio, and is a shoemaker by trade. He served three years in the war of the rebellion, and received an honorable discharge.

John Greenamyer, the subject of this sketch, is one of a family of eight children, and enjoyed no educational privileges other than those afforded in the common district school. He began working out at the age of twelve and has "hoed his own row" ever since.

Mr. Greenamyer was married, December 25, 1879, to Mary Balyeat, daughter of Aaron and Martha Balyeat. She was born in Van Wert county, Ohio, April 20, 1859. They have five children—Lala, born September 20, 1880; Minnie, born March 12, 1882; Charles, born August 31, 1884; Lotta, born July 12, 1886 (deceased), and Flossie, born July 12, 1888.

Mr. Greenamyer removed with his family to York county, Nebr., in the fall of 1882 and remained there one year. He came to Phelps county in the fall of 1883 and purchased land in Williamsburg

township, where he now lives. He now owns one hundred and sixty acres of splendid land in one of the best localities in the township. He is an extensive raiser of cattle and has almost three hundred head. He is a breeder of Short-horn cattle and is the owner of several fine specimens of this popular family. He is also a breeder of the famous Ohio Imported Chester hogs, and is the only man in the township who is making a specialty of this choice breed of swine. He has been treasurer of his township, and was also a member of the county board of supervisors at one time. He is a member of Mt. Pleasant Grange and is a staunch republican in politics.

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**J**OHN JOHNSON, one of the earliest settlers of Phelps county, Nebr., was born in Sweden, in 1831, and is a son of John Christenson, who was a native of the same country, born in 1794, was a prosperous farmer, and in 1824 married Nellie Christianson, who bore him five children, as follows—Betsey, who died in 1890; Mrs. Ellen Hawkinson (now deceased); John, our subject; Hannah and Olof.

John Johnson came to America in 1854, and first took up his residence in Chicago, Ill., where he remained twelve years, part of the time driving an express wagon and part of the time working in car-shops; thence he went to Altona, and for four years was employed in a flouring mill; from Altona he came to Nebraska in 1872, and settled in Phelps county, on section 24, township 7, range 19. On his

settling at this point there was not a neighbor to be found within miles of his place, and his nearest trading place was Kearney. He put up one of the first sod houses in this county and for many years suffered all the inconveniences and privations incident to the life of the pioneer. Among the other incidents of the early days through which Mr. Johnson and his family passed was that of seeking refuge during the Eastern storm of 1873, in the cellar of Mr. Dahlstrom's house with a number of others, the whole party comprising eighteen persons, but has happily withstood all privations and is now one of the most prosperous farmers of the county.

The marriage of Mr. Johnson took place in 1854, and Carrie, his wife, has born him seven children, as follows—Ralph, a book-keeper in Gothenburgh, Dawson county, Nebr., and married to Ellen Brunsburg; Nels Emile, clerk in Norris' drug store, in Holdrege; Hilda Mrs. Davidson); Justice, George W., in Cheyenne; Ida and Robert. The parents are consistent members of the Lutheran church and stand very high in the esteem of their neighbors.

Mr. Johnson has held a number of public offices, among them those of justice of the peace, county supervisor and assessor.

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**J**OHN M. DAHLSTROM, one of the earliest settlers of Phelps county, Nebr., is a native of Sweden and was born in 1844. His father, Carl Carlson, was born in the same country in 1798, was a well-to-do carpenter and died in 1878, universally recognized as a good

christian. The mother of our subject, Anna Carlson, was married in 1843 and bore her husband two children—John M., our subject, and Alexander, who died at the age of four years.

John M. Dahlstrom came to America in 1868, and for two years worked on a farm in Henry county, Ill., after which he rented a place, which he farmed for five years, coming next to Nebraska and locating on section 12, township 5, range 15, Kearney county, and thence coming to Phelps county, where he now resides, on section 23, township 7, range 19 west, he being the first settler on the divide.

When Mr. Dahlstrom came to Nebraska he had cash and personal property valued at \$2,000, having been induced to come by land agents of Illinois who were sending out a colony of ten families. This colony, of course, encountered all the perils and unpleasant circumstances attendant upon the settlement of a new country, besides the extra infliction of the grasshopper plague and hail and drought. During the noted Eastern storm of 1873, two families, comprising eighteen persons, were sheltered in Mr. Dahlstrom's cellar for a number of days; devastation prevailed all over the surrounding country. Corn had to be hauled from Riverton, sixty-five miles away, as well, also, from Kansas; there were no broken roads across the prairie, and on one occasion our subject traveled twenty-six miles, guided by the wind; seed, wheat and corn, as well as eatables, had all to be brought from a distance, and this condition of things lasted for six years. Many of the colonists became disheartened and left, but Mr. Dahlstrom had faith in the future of the county and stood fast, and it was owing to his

steadfastness that the settlement finally succeeded.

The marriage of Mr. Dahlstrom took place in 1870, and by his wife, Mary, he is the father of ten children, viz.—Charles; Almeda (deceased); Elmer; Almeda; Freddie, Melvin, Harry and Freddie (all four deceased); Hannah and Josie.

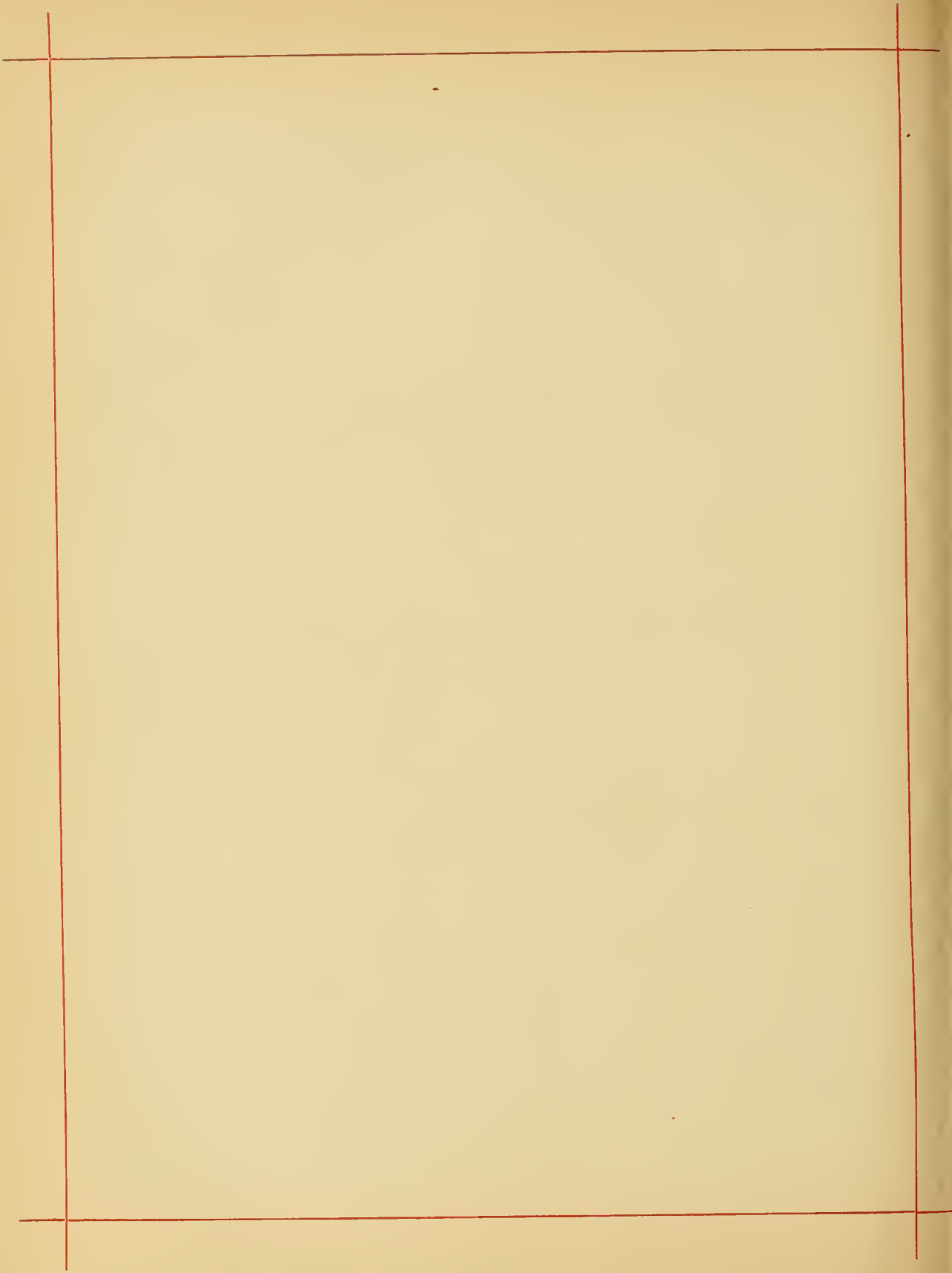
Mr. Dahlstrom is a self-made man, having begun for himself at the age of four-

teen years. He is now the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of choice land well improved and stocked with thoroughbred cattle and horses. In politics he is a republican, and in religious matters he, with his wife, affiliates with the Free church. He has served as an assessor for a number years, school treasurer, and for two years justice of the peace. His standing in the community is in the front rank.



# HARLAN COUNTY.







## BIOGRAPHICAL.

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**P**ETER BERGQUIST is a native of Sweden, and was born November 8, 1856. He accompanied his parents to America in 1865. They located first in Henry county, Ill., and after a few years removed to Webster county, Iowa, where he remained for about ten years engaged in farming along the Des Moines river. In the spring of 1875 the senior Bergquist removed to Harlan county, Nebr., where he spent the remainder of his life. Shortly after settling in Harlan county, Peter Bergquist took a timber claim in Albany township, and in 1879 homesteaded a quarter section. When the Bergquist family landed in Harlan county, the country was new and wild; no settlement had yet been effected. The prairie was fairly alive with antelope and buffalo, and many a one has Mr. Bergquist chased as well as captured. Houses then were few and far between and many inconveniences had to be endured. He passed through a portion of the grasshopper raid and knows what it means to be almost eaten out of house and home.

On June 23, 1880, Mr. Bergquist was married, the lady of his choice being Miss Annie Nordblom, a native of Sweden, who came to the United States in 1861. Her parents located first in Henry county, Ill., and subsequently in Iowa.

The congenial union of this couple has resulted in the birth of three bright and intelligent children, as follows—Emily, Madora and Wesley. Mr. Bergquist owns an estate of four hundred and eighty acres of good land and engages in raising nearly all kinds of stock. He is a member of the Farmers' Alliance, and has held various local offices in his township.

He is an ardent temperance man and both he and his wife are devoted members of the Swedish church. Mr. Bergquist is quite extensively engaged in the manufacture of brick on his farm. The quality of clay to be found there being especially well adapted for that purpose.

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**G**EORGE F. SHELburn is one of the rising young men of Harlan county. He is at present a prosperous farmer in Albany township, where he owns three hundred and twenty acres of good land, one hundred and eighty of which are broken and under a good state of cultivation. The subject of this notice was born in Warren county, Iowa, November 8, 1858. He is a son of William T. and Sarah A. (Spurgin) Shelburn, the former a native of Indiana and the latter

of Kentucky. They came to Harlan county, Nebr., in 1879, where they still reside. The country between the Republican and Platte rivers, known as the great "divide," was just being settled, when Geo. F. Shelburn put in an appearance. The country presented a somewhat wild and desolate appearance, but he had faith in its ultimate development and made up his mind to stay by it. He took a homestead on section 17, and a timber claim of a quarter section on section 18. His first house consisted of a dug-out and he began farming on a small scale. He worked for a neighbor a day in exchange for the use of his team for a day, to break with. In this manner he managed to get along until he was able to purchase a team for himself.

Mr. Shelburn was married April 17, 1882, to Ambrosia Whittacer, a native of Iowa and born March 24, 1858. She is a daughter of Josiah and Margaret Whittacer, who lived in Iowa several years previous to 1877, the date of their settlement in Nebraska. In politics Mr. Shelburn is a firm believer in the principles of the democratic party, and is well posted in the doctrine of that organization. He was elected assessor of his township in 1889, and performed the duties of that office to the entire satisfaction of all interested.

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**C**ARL BLOOM was born in Germany, February 11, 1844. His father, John Bloom, was a common laborer. His mother died when he was quite small and he has little recollection of her.

He came to America in the fall of 1865 and located in Marathon county, Wis., where he hired out and for seven years was engaged in the saw-mills and woods of the neighboring country. He came from there to Harlan county, Nebr., in March, 1871, and was one of the first to locate in the Republican valley. He homesteaded his present place, in section 32 township 2, range 18 west, on which he built a log cabin, 18x24 feet, and in which he lived for fourteen years. The country at the time of his coming was alive with buffalo, elk, deer and antelope, though he, not being a hunter, killed but one buffalo. The first few years, with the exception of the second, his crops, on account of drought and grasshoppers, were almost total failures and in consequence thereof he had a hard time, like many other early settlers, to make a living for himself and family. He occasionally got a job of hauling freight from Kearney, and with this money thus earned and the practice of the most rigid economy, he managed to get along and keep soul and body together. In 1876, on account of his brother's death, he fell heir to 160 acres of land in the same section as that of his own and has since prospered and purchased additional land until he owns nearly 400 acres, which is finely improved. He has raised and dealt in cattle and horses considerably, and notwithstanding the hardships of his early pioneer life, has amassed considerable of a fortune.

He was married in September, 1870, to Anna Bartell, who is of German descent and was born in Wisconsin in June, 1855. Their happy union has been blessed with the birth of five children as follows—Aurora, born April 29, 1871; Wm., March

4, 1874; Otto, November 20, 1877; Mary, January 16, 1883 and Carl, November 25, 1883. The entire family are members of the Lutheran church. Politically, he is independent.

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**M**R. MARY R. MORGAN is the editor and manager of the *Valley Beacon*, published at Alma, Harlan county, Nebr. The paper was organized in 1888 and its first issue was April 6, that year. It is now in its third volume. It is published in the interest of prohibition and has done much in the furtherance of that cause. The financial standing of the paper is A No. 1. Mrs. Morgan is the wife of J. F. Morgan, an old soldier and most estimable citizen, who owns and manages a large stock farm in the southwest part of the county. He and his wife came to Nebraska in 1878, settling in Alma, Harlan county, where they have since resided.

Mr. Morgan entered the Union army, November 14, 1861, enlisting in Company A, Sixty-sixth Ohio. He was in the following battles, in addition to many less important engagements—Port Republic, Va., June 9, 1862; Cedar mountain, August 9, 1862; Antietam, September 17, 1862; Chancellorsville, May 1, 2 and 3, 1863; Gettysburg, July 1, 2 and 3, 1863; Lookout mountain, November 25, 1863; Missionary ridge, November 26, 1863; Ringgold, November 28, 1863; Resaca, May 2, 1864; and all the fighting around Atlanta. He was severely wounded at Antietam, being shot through the neck and the right shoulder. After he recovered sufficiently to take his place in the field,

he was promoted to first duty sergeant and later to first-lieutenant of his company. He was honorably discharged at Louisville, Ky., July 20, 1865. Mr. and Mrs. Morgan were married November 14, 1865.

Mrs. Morgan was superintendent of the public schools of Harlan county, from 1881 to the close of 1887. She is now serving her second term as president of the Woman's Relief Corps, G. A. R., of Nebraska. Mr. Morgan is a member and past commander of Van Meter Post, G. A. R., No. 94, at Alma. Both are active and efficient workers in their respective organizations.

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**W**ILLIAM O. SHIPMAN was born January 4, 1840, in Northumberland county, Pa., and is a son of James and Susanna (Thomas) Shipman, who were also natives of Pennsylvania, the father being of German extraction and the mother of French. Mr. Shipman's parents moved to Ogle county, Ill., in 1861, where the mother died in 1873, and the father in 1880. They were pious christian people, and their lives blossomed with the best fruits of the faith they possessed. The subject of this sketch was reared on the farm, leaving home, however, when a young lad and living out as a common laborer, turning his wages over to his father in order to enable him to support the large family of which he was the head. The son preceded the parents to Illinois, settling there in 1859. He was there when the great war of the rebellion broke out, and, with an alacrity born of the patriotism within his breast, he offered

his services to the Union soon after the first call was made for volunteers. He enlisted in August, 1861, entering the Fourth Illinois cavalry. He was first under fire at Fort Henry, participating in the capture of that place, and also in the taking of Fort Donelson. He was in the battle of Shiloh, and then at Corinth, after which his regiment was assigned to duty as a body-guard to General Sherman, on his march to Memphis. Later he was in the battle of Pea Ridge, Ark., and Holly Springs, Miss. His regiment was then ordered to Trenton, Tenn., where he was engaged for some time in hunting guerrillas. He was in an engagement at Coffeyville, Tenn., about that time, but was shortly ordered back, and joined Grant's army; was in the advance guard in the Vicksburg campaign, and after the surrender of the city did scouting duty in that locality during the spring and summer of 1863. Having enlisted for three years, his time was out in November, 1864, and he was mustered out of the service the third of that month at Springfield, Ill. Returning to Ogle county, he remained with his father a short time and then went to St. Louis, Mo., where he secured work as a common laborer and followed it for a few months. He next turned his face towards the East, returning to his native State of Pennsylvania, stopping successively at Pittsburgh and Northumberland county, and in the pine regions of Center and Clearfield counties. In January, 1867, he went again to the State of Illinois and engaged in farming until the spring of 1872, when he came to Nebraska and settled in Harlan county. He thus became one of the pioneer settlers of that county, and as such he underwent all the hard-

ships and privations common to the lot of the pioneer, passing through the grasshopper seasons, the dry years and all the times of trial incident to those years. But by industry and courageous self-denial he pulled through the periods of distress into which he was so frequently thrown, and he has been rewarded by becoming one of the solid, substantial men of his community. His affairs are in a prosperous condition, and he is one of the most highly esteemed men of his community. He owns four hundred and eighty acres of land, all of which is well improved, furnished with all needful buildings for man and beast, ornamented with groves, stocked with good strains of cattle, horses and hogs, and in every respect is a most desirable place.

Mr. Shipman married on the twenty second day of January, 1867, taking to share his fortunes Miss Laville Snyder, a daughter of Adam and Martha Snyder, the father of Mrs. Shipman being a native of Pennsylvania, and the mother a native of New Jersey. Mrs. Shipman herself was born on January 22, 1841. Mr. and Mrs. Shipman have had born to them three children, as follows—Martha Bella, born October 18, 1867 (now deceased); James B., born March 23, 1870, and Dolly M., born May 19, 1876. Mr. Shipman is a member of the Farmers' Alliance, and in politics is a republican. He also belongs to the local post of the G. A. R.

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**W**ILL DOWNS was born September 28, 1834. He is a son of David and Mary Downs, being one of a family of six children. His brothers and sisters are David, Charles,

Rosanna, now the wife of A. Sands, of Wisconsin; Melissa, wife of W. Sheppard, of Indiana, and Julia, now Mrs. Hartman of Iowa. The subject of this sketch was left an orphan at the age of six years and at the age of eleven he started out in the world for himself. His early educational advantages were necessarily very limited. He was too much absorbed in the bread and butter problem to give much time to acquiring knowledge. He however got the rudiments of an ordinary English education and what he lacked in early advantages he made up by his zealous study in private. On casting about for some pursuit, his mind turned to railroading and he learned the business of an engineer and followed it successfully for some years. He was so engaged when the Civil war came on. When the first call was made for soldiers to defend the Union, like thousands of other patriotic men, he quit his post of duty, for that which he deemed higher, and entered the Union Army, enlisting in the Seventh Indiana volunteer infantry. His regiment was organized in September, 1861, and immediately went to the front. He bore a conspicuous part in the war, being engaged in some of the bloodiest battles of the war, in all of which Mr. Downs acquitted himself with credit. Mr. Downs followed the fortunes of the Seventh Indiana all through its service and helped to make for it the gallant record which stands opposite its name on the rolls. The principal engagements in which it took part were Winchester, Va.; Port Republic, Va.; Cedar mountain, Md.; Thoroughfare Gap, Va.; second Bull Run, Va.; South mountain, Md.; Antietam, Md.; Fredericksburgh, Va.; Chancellorsville, Va.; Gettysburg, Pa.; Rappahan-

nock, Va.; Mine Run, Va.; the Wilderness, Spottsylvania court-house, North Anna, Cold Harbor, Petersburg and the Weldon railroad. The Seventh lost, in killed and wounded on the battle-field, one hundred and sixteen men, and from disease, accidents and in prisons two hundred and twenty-nine, making a total of three hundred and forty-five men. Mr. Downs enlisted for three years and he served his time exactly to an hour, entering the army at 2 P. M., on September 13, 1861, and being mustered out at 2 P. M., September 13, 1864. After the expiration of his term of service he returned to North Salem, Ind., where he remained till 1868, at which time he decided to seek a home in the boundless West. He came to Nebraska that year and made his first stop in Plattsmouth; in 1870 moved to Lincoln, Nebr. Two years later he moved to Harlan county and took a homestead fourteen miles northeast of Alma. He lived on his homestead, engaged in a desultory warfare with the grasshoppers, droughts and hard times, till the fall of 1875, at which time he was appointed county clerk of Harlan county, and in order to assume the duties of his office moved into Alma, the county seat. He held the office of county clerk and gave his attention to the duties of that office till 1881. Going out of that office at that time he engaged in the mercantile business in Alma and followed this till 1887. He was then elected clerk of the district court, a position he has since held.

In 1859 Mr. Downs was married, taking as a life companion Miss M. J. Caywood, a daughter of Thomas Caywood, of Kentucky. The wife of his youth abides with him still, having borne him

the companionship he sought with her hand nearly a third of a century. This union has been blessed with three children, all daughters, the two eldest being now married. These are Lillie, wife of J. E. Schrack; Hallie, wife of C. R. Fuller of Kansas and Jessie E., still with her parents.

Harlan county has no better citizens nor has she ever had a better public servant than Will Downs. "Honest," as the saying goes, "as the days are long," diligent in his labors, kind and accommodating, a man of thorough business methods, whom it is a pleasure to meet, a greater pleasure to do business with, and the citizens of Harlan county honor themselves in honoring him as they do.

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**E**DWARD R. TILLOTSON, one of the first settlers of Harlan county, is a pioneer in the fullest sense of the word. He came to the county before the buffalo left, while the antelope were yet plentiful and the noble red man roamed the country in great force, and he knows what it is to endure the hardships of frontier life, its privations and many vicissitudes. He has lived in a sod shanty, has subsisted on short rations, has gone miles to market and miles further to mill. He has grappled with the famous Nebraska blizzard; has seen his fondest hopes, in the shape of a crop, disappear before the ravenous grasshopper, and has endured the scorching blasts of the hot wind. He has seen the country grow from a barren prairie, marked only by the hoof of the buffalo, into a never-ending stretch of farms and dotted all over with peaceful, happy homes. He

has seen prosperous little villages spring up on every hand, furnished with all the necessaries and conveniences of modern metropolitan life, and each the center of a trade that would be the envy of many older places of twice the size in the East. Out of the chaos of frontier life he has seen come the order that marks Nebraska as one of the most law-abiding commonwealths of all the grand sisterhood of states. In the labor of bringing about these many changes, Mr. Tillotson has borne his full share as a humble citizen, and he is therefore deserving of the recognition which he receives in this volume.

Edward R. Tillotson was born in Medina county, Ohio, November 15, 1824, and was reared in his native county, growing up on the farm and being trained to the habits of industry and usefulness common to farm life. He resided in Medina county, engaged in farming till 1847, when he moved to Dane, Dane county, Wis., continuing in agricultural pursuits there till 1873. Coming to Nebraska at that date he settled in Harlan county, taking a homestead, on which he located, and began the life of the pioneer. It is not necessary to go over in detail the many experiences through which Mr. Tillotson passed during the earlier years of his residence in the county. These have been given to print as often as the life of an old settler has been written, and it will be sufficient to say in this connection that all that others saw and endured, he saw and endured, "even unto the uttermost," and whatever praise is to be given the old settler for his fortitude and heroic bearing under the trials to which he was sub-

jected may justly be bestowed upon the subject of this sketch individually. He is now one of the most prosperous farmers of his community, as he has always been one of its most highly esteemed citizens. He owns three hundred and twenty acres, all of which is susceptible of cultivation, and yields well.

Mr. Tillotson married October 2, 1846, taking to wife Miss Betsie Sandeson, who was born July 30, 1824, in Grand Isle county, Vt. Her parents were natives of Massachusetts and descendants of old Bay State stock. Mr. and Mrs. Tillotson have had born to them a family of seven children, as follows—Caroline, Erie, Amy, Marcia, Harriet, Zadock (now deceased) and Alonzo. Mr. and Mrs. Tillotson are members of the Seventh Day Adventists' Society.

In politics, Mr. Tillotson is a republican, although he does not dabble in politics to the extent of allowing political pursuits to interfere with his own affairs.

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**J**OSEPH H. WILEY was born November 2, 1857. He is a son of David and Catherine (Morris) Wiley, the father being a native of Pennsylvania and the mother a native of Ohio. The parents were married in Ohio in 1836 and moved afterwards to Iowa, in 1856. The father went to Nebraska in 1879. There were eleven children in the family to which the subject of this sketch belonged—eight of whom are now living. Our subject received an ordinary common-school education and also attended normal school at Chariton, Iowa. He resided on a farm and remained with his father till

he became of age. He was engaged mainly in buying and shipping cattle and hogs, at which he was fairly successful. In the fall of 1876 he came to Nebraska and settled in Alma township, Harlan county, where he took a homestead, built a sod house and, being unmarried, began the bachelor life of the West. The country was new and very sparsely settled and Mr. Wiley experienced "life on the plains" in all its varying phases. He had many ups and downs, but, being alone and unincumbered with no thought for the future, he willingly cast his fortunes with those of the county, stuck to his home, improved it and began to prosper.

On November 7, 1886, he married Miss Lizzie Richards, who was born in Macon county, Mo., September 28, 1869, being a daughter of Morgan and Sarah Richards, who are natives of Wales and now residents of Nebraska. This union has been blessed with two children—Elmer born October 4, 1887; and Edna, born May 5, 1889.

Mr. Wiley is recognized as one of the most intelligent and progressive farmers of Harlan county, being thoroughly alive to the best interests of his calling and in sympathy with every movement for the improvement of the condition of the farmer. He owns a large farm of four hundred and eighty acres, which he has in a good state of cultivation, and deals largely in stock, cattle and hogs. He is a member of the Farmers' Alliance and a zealous supporter of that organization. In politics he is a republican, a staunch believer in the principles of his party; but he has never dabbled in politics and beyond a few local offices has never held any public position.

**J**OHN L. EVERSON was born in Louisville, Ky., November 10, 1838, and was reared in Cincinnati, Ohio. When a youth he learned the trade of a harness maker and followed his trade some time after growing up. He was also engaged, when a young man, in boating on the Ohio river. In 1870 he moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and in 1873 to Harlan county, Nebr. He took a homestead at that date in Harlan county, where he settled, building a sod house and launching on the life of a pioneer. He went through all the vicissitudes incident to the opening of the country for settlement, and saw as much of the hardships and privations as any of the old settlers. By hard work and good management his affairs have prospered, until to-day he is one of the best fixed farmers in the county, owning five hundred and sixty acres of land, three hundred acres of which he has in a fine state of cultivation, and on which he raises an abundance of farm products. In 1889 he raised seven thousand two hundred bushels of corn, one thousand two hundred bushels of wheat and two hundred and forty-eight bushels of barley. He has his barn well stocked with a superior grade of stock. His farm is furnished with comfortable buildings for man and beast, and ornamented with beautiful groves, all the result of his own patient labor and commendable foresight. He is credited with being one of the most intelligent and enterprising farmers of Harlan county, thoroughly in sympathy with all movements looking to the improvement of the condition of the farmer, and exceedingly popular, not only among his fellow-farmers, but all citizens of his county. He is a member of the Alliance

of Harlan county, is its treasurer, and is assessor of Alma township.

In August, 1860, Mr. Everson married, taking to wife Miss Elizabeth Mitzger. This excellent lady died December 13, 1882, after bearing her husband, for more than twenty-two years, the companionship he sought with her hand. She left surviving her, besides her husband, a family of nine children—Lotta, Edwin, John, Melissa, Annie, Philip, Susie, William and Lizzie. Mrs. Everson was a devoted christian and died in the full faith of her religion. She was a member of the Lutheran church. She was of German descent, having come from Bavaria to New York when only five years old, and from there to Cincinnati when thirteen. In the grasshopper years of 1874-5-6, in Harlan county—the starving years, as they were called by most of the old settlers—she never murmured at the hard times, but for the sake of a home bore everything patiently and died at the age of forty, when pioneering in Nebraska was a thing of the past.

**J**OSEPH SNYDER, the present treasurer of Harlan county, although a comparatively young man, is nevertheless an old Nebraskan, and one of the first settlers of Harlan county, being a son of John Snyder, an old citizen of Mulally township.

Joseph Snyder is a native of Indiana. He was born in Wells county, that state, in 1852, and was reared there to the age of fourteen. His parents then moved to Nebraska and settled in Nemaha county.



He lived there till 1872, when he came to Harlan county, stopping in Republican City. He took a homestead in Mulally township and lived on it and in Republican City till 1878, when he decided to go further west and moved that year to Hitchcock county, this state. He engaged in mercantile pursuits in the town of Culbertson, Hitchcock county, for two years. Quitting this he went into stock-raising, remaining in the county till 1883. He then returned to Harlan county and settled on his farm. He has been a farmer and stock-raiser almost all his life. While in Hitchcock county he was elected superintendent of public instruction for the county and served in that capacity for four years, from 1879 to 1883. In November, 1887, he was elected treasurer of Harlan county, served one term and was re-elected in November, 1889, in which election he was opposed by the labor union and prohibition candidates, but was elected by over eight hundred majority over both. He is a staunch republican and has always been elected on the republican ticket. The warmest political contest he has had was at his first election. He had two competitors, a democrat and a prohibitionist. The latter took a good many votes he otherwise would have got, as the prohibitionists are between three hundred and four hundred strong in the county and are drawn largely from the republican ranks. He was elected, however, by a safe majority.

Mr. Snyder was quite a lad when he came to the state. He has grown up on Nebraska soil. He married in Harlan county, May 27, 1883, the lady on whom his choice fell being Miss Mary L. Zumro, a native of Huntington county, Ind.,

whose parents came to Nebraska in 1878 and settled at Republican City, where they now live. To this union have been born four children, viz.—Victor, Earnest Joseph, Lois and Addie.

Nebraska and Nebraska people, particularly that part of it lying along the Republican valley, Mr. Snyder knows well. There is probably no man in Harlan county who can take more men by the hand and call them by name than he can. Having come to the county in 1872, he is himself one of the original old settlers, and when the county was not so thickly settled as now, he had a good opportunity to know all of the old-timers. Having traveled about a good deal, he has kept up his acquaintance with these and has formed new ones. He never forgets his friends and, fortunately, has not many enemies. His hold, therefore, upon the people of his county is secure. He is a diligent worker, a painstaking, faithful public official. He occupies the most responsible office in the county and he fully realizes the fact. His official bond is \$80,000. To execute such a bond would alone put to its last test one's friendship and personal popularity. But his fellow-citizens have known him long and well and have every reason to be satisfied with his integrity as well as with his business ability. In the administration of the affairs of his office Mr. Snyder has been fearlessly honest and faithfully exact. His books are open to the inspection of the public at all times and he is ever ready to make any explanations or render any assistance. Friend and stranger alike are treated with the utmost courtesy and their wants attended to with promptness and dispatch. Honest, courteous, neat and careful with his work

and attentive to his duties, he is a capable and trustworthy public official, and in honoring him with office the voters of Harlan county honor themselves, for in so doing they display the wisdom, discrimination and sound policy that should characterize an intelligent and upright people.

**L** E. ALLEN, the present sheriff of Harlan county, located in the county in 1877, and, with possibly one exception, there is not another man in the county who has been more frequently honored with office than he has. He was elected to a township office the same year he settled, and he has had something to do with the administration of township or county affairs in one official capacity or another almost continuously since. To complete the record of Harlan county's list of public officials, we give an outline of his career.

L. E. Allen was born in Elmira, N. Y., and reared there to the age of four teen, when he went into the Union army, enlisting in the Seventy-sixth New York infantry; but, being too young to bear arms, was assigned to duty in the quartermaster's department, where he served during the entire war. His regiment made a splendid record for gallant conduct, and it will not be out of place to mention here a few general facts connected with its history as showing amid what scenes and experiences the subject of this sketch spent some of the earlier years of his life. The Seventy-sixth was recruited from Cortland and Otsego counties in 1861 and arrived at Washington in Feb-

ruary, 1862. It was assigned to Doubleday's brigade, Hatch's division, and saw its first service at the first Manassas. Beginning with that engagement it participated in fifteen of the bloodiest battles fought in Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland, losing in killed, and wounded six hundred and fifty-four, out of an enlistment of one thousand four hundred and ninety-one men. It sustained its greatest casualties at Gettysburg, where it lost thirty-two killed, one hundred and thirty-two wounded and seventy missing, out of twenty-seven officers and three hundred and forty-eight men, whom it took into the fight. Its losses at the Wilderness were also heavy, as well as at Spottsylvania and Petersburg. It served out its full term of enlistment, being mustered out in January, 1865. Those who re-enlisted and the recruits were then placed in the One Hundred and Seventy-sixth New York and served till the surrender.

At the close of the war Mr. Allen returned for a short time to Elmira, N. Y., but, having been reared in the family of a stranger, his parents having died when he was young, he had no connections or associations to hold him there, and in the fall of 1866 he started West to see what there was in store for him in the land of plenty and promise. He stopped at Indianapolis, Ind., for something over two years, during which time he was variously engaged, and then, in the spring of 1869, he took up the line of travel again towards the West and pulled up in Wyoming Territory, that year, where he remained for some time. He came, in May, 1875, to the Republican valley counties of Nebraska and spent

two or three years along the valley and across the line in Kansas, and finally returned, in 1877, and located permanently in Harlan county, since which time he has continued to live there. He took a homestead on Sappa creek in the southwest part of the county, a beautiful piece of land which he improved and where he lived till he sold it two years later, buying other land in the same vicinity, on which he moved. Mr. Allen was engaged in farming and sheep and cattle raising for some years. He was unfortunate in his ventures with sheep and lost heavily, but at farming he was successful and continued at that till 1887, when he moved into Alma to assume the duties of the office of sheriff, to which he was that year elected.

Mr. Allen's first public office in the county was justice of the peace of Sappa township. In the fall of 1883 he was nominated, by his neighbors and friends in Sappa township, for county commissioner and township supervisor—the former if the commissioner's system continued and the latter if the supervisor system was adopted by the vote at that election. He was elected as both, but, the latter system being adopted, he qualified as supervisor. He served one year as supervisor of Sappa township, was then elected chairman of the board, and served as such for the three following years. He was elected sheriff of the county at the November election in 1887, served out his term, and was re-elected in November, 1889. He is a stanch republican and has always been elected on the republican ticket. In each of his races for the sheriff's office he had opposition, the race being hotly contested the first time. In this race were three other candidates besides Mr.

Allen, who was the regular republican nominee. These were Patriek Gibbon, the democratic nominee, W. F. Dale, prohibitionist; and Charles H. Brown, who ran on an independent ticket. Mr. Allen was elected by thirty-seven votes. In the election of 1889 he was opposed by J. W. Edwards, the prohibitionist candidate, and W. H. Kellogg, the democratic nominee. He was elected over them by about one thousand one hundred votes, having something of a walk over.

Mr. Allen is a popular man and deservedly so, for he is a competent business man, an honest and faithful officer, and a kind and accommodating gentleman. He gives to the duties of his office his undivided attention, and it is but stating the simple truth to say that his office is administered with wisdom, discretion and with faithful exactitude. The majority given him at his last election may be taken as some evidence of the satisfaction with which his official conduct has been received by the citizens of the county. Could he have been as fortunate in the management of his own personal affairs as he has been in the management of those of the public which have been entrusted to him, he would have been able to retire long before this from the public service and from active affairs generally. It may be, however, that in the management of the public's interests he has been more circumspect than in the management of his own, for his official conduct has been marked not only by the greatest diligence but by the most scrupulous care and caution.

Mr. Allen married in February, 1877, just prior to taking up his residence in Harlan county, so that his wife is also

one of the early settlers of the county, shared with him his labors in the earlier years, and is therefore deserving of this mention as one of the women who braved the hardships and privations incident to those times. At time of her marriage she was a resident of Rock Island county, Ill., her parents having moved there from western Pennsylvania some years previous. She was born in Westmoreland county, Pa., and was reared there to young womanhood. She bore the maiden name of Anna Brady, and was a daughter of James Brady, a descendant of an old Pennsylvania pioneer family, distinguished in the early annals of the country as frontiersmen and Indian fighters.

Mr. Allen is devoted to his home and family, being of a quiet turn of mind and decidedly domestic tastes. He has a large circle of friends, and finds, also, not the least of his enjoyments in mingling with them. He probably knows as many men in Harlan county as any other man in it, and has for them all and for the stranger who comes his way a pleasant greeting and a hearty grasp of the hand.

**E**D. L. WILLITS. Two of the first settlers in the town of Alma, Harlan county, two of its most active business men and two who have been as largely interested in its general growth and prosperity as any other two men of the place, are Wells and Ed. L. Willits, father and son. Their business relations and interests have been so intimate that it is impossible to write of them

separately, and we shall therefore embody in this sketch the facts concerning both, premising what we shall say of their settlement in the town and their business interest there by some general facts of their early history, which will be in keeping with the purpose of this volume as a memorial record. And to make the writing as well as the understanding of the narrative as easy as possible, we shall begin at the beginning.

The name Willits is of German origin—"Pennsylvania Dutch" is the designation given it in the traditions of the family. The man who brought the name from Pennsylvania to the West was Jesse Willits, grandfather of Wells and great-grandfather of Ed. L. Willits. He moved to central Ohio at an early date and settled on the Hocking river, where he lived some years; thence, in 1812, he moved into what is now Wayne county, Ind., and thence, in 1833, to western Illinois, settling within about four miles of the Mississippi river. There he died, well advanced in years. As these facts show, he was of a restless disposition, inclined to ramble and kept well on the frontier all his life. Like thousands of others who started with the great tide of immigration that poured through the mountain gorges of western Pennsylvania and Virginia and spread out about the beginning of this century over the rich bottoms of Ohio and the fertile prairies of Indiana and Illinois, he found it hard to take up his permanent residence in one place and tie himself down to the uneventful business of farming, once having tasted the pleasures of pioneer life and been fascinated with its dangers. He was a typical American pioneer, such as has passed into our

literature and fiction. His son, however, Eli Willits, father of Wells Willits, and grandfather of Ed. L. Willits, was a man of different disposition, although he knew much of pioneer life and it may be presumed had some taste for it. He was born on the Hocking river, in Ohio, but in exactly what locality can not be told, and was reared there to the age of eleven or twelve, when, as already stated, his father moved to Wayne county, Ind. There the younger Willits grew to manhood, married and settled down and spent his life. The lady whom he married was a native of Ohio, being a daughter of one of the first settlers of the central part of the state and of Welsh extraction. These pursued the peaceful paths of agriculture, living the life common to their calling, being plain, industrious, useful citizens and succeeding in a worldly way reasonable well, in accordance with their means and opportunities. The father died in 1856, having reached the fifty-sixth year of his age, and the mother died some years later. Among their children was Wells Willits one of the subjects of this sketch.

Wells Willits was born in Wayne county, Ind., in 1827, and was reared on his father's farm to the age of twenty-one, when he moved to Mercer county, Ill., took an academic course in Knox College at Galesburg, and then began clerking in a store. He clerked till 1854, when, with what he had saved during this time, he was enabled to go into business for himself, and accordingly opened a store at New Boston, Mercer county, that year. He was engaged in the mercantile business at that place for twenty-one years, during eighteen years of which time he

carried on a pork-packing establishment which he started, and for more than twelve years a milling business, which he also started during the time. He closed out his interests there in 1878 and came West with a view of investing and locating. Going to Alma in July, 1878, when the town consisted of only a house or two, he traded for all the vacant lots which had not been given away, these being about 275 in number, and decided to locate and make that his home. He took up his permanent residence in Alma in December of that year and about the same time bought forty acres of land lying on the north side of the town, which he platted in the spring of 1879 and began selling off along with those previously purchased in the original town site. The town, it will be remembered, took its start to grow in the spring of 1879, and during that and the following year, Mr. Willits sold a large part of the real estate he had purchased. He took a homestead in Harlan county about that time and began trading considerably in lands, continuing even to the present time. In 1881 he took an interest with his son in the mercantile business in Alma, becoming a member of the firm of Willits & Co., which interest he still retains. He has considerable farming and stock interests in Harlan county, and although past his sixtieth year still leads an active life, personally superintending all his own affairs.

Mr. Willits was married while still a resident of Wayne county, Ind., his wife before marriage being Miss Rachel C. Lair, a native of Fayette county, Ind.; her parents, being Kentuckians by birth, moved into Indiana soon after the War of

1812, leaving the south on account of the institution of slavery, which they were unwilling to help perpetuate. Of this union only one child now survives—Ed. the L., pioneer merchant of Alma.

Ed. L. Willits was born in New Boston, Mercer county, Ill., in 1854, was reared in his native place, and after finishing his primary education went into his father's store at the age of eleven. Leaving there when his father did, he went to Iowa and came from there to Nebraska in 1879, locating in Alma in March of that year, and embarked at once in the mercantile business. At first he was alone, but shortly afterwards he sold an interest in his business to L. B. McManus, now president of the First National Bank, which interest, after about two years, he bought back and then sold to his father. The firm is now, and has been for some years, Willits & Co., the general supervision and practical management of the house and its business being entirely in the hands of Ed. L. Willits. Willits & Co. are the proprietors of the "People's Store," one of the old landmarks of the town of Alma, and headquarters for everything in the line of general merchandise. They have sold from this establishment and from the one it succeeded, thousands and thousands of dollars worth of goods in years gone by, and the full stock of bright new goods which now line their shelves, is evidence that there is no falling off in their trade—no abatement in the confidence of the buying public in their square dealing. Willits & Co. are also proprietors of the Alma creamery, a home industry started by them in 1887 and which has been running successfully since.

Ed. L. Willits was a young man when

he came to Nebraska. He is not an old man now, but he was then unmarried, having just passed his twenty-fourth year. He married in May, 1882, the lady whom he took to wed being Miss Blanche Conklin, daughter of T. J. Conklin, one of the first settlers of Harlan county, coming from Illinois, near Chicago, where Mrs. Willits was born.

The foregoing facts will serve to show what the gentlemen mentioned in this sketch have done as men of business. It remains only to be said that they have borne as active a part in the general development of their adopted town and county as could reasonably be asked at their hands, giving up their means and lending their own efforts to every enterprise or interest of a commendable sort, which has sought favor at their hands.

**G**EORGE McCLELLAN BROWN, editor of the *Alma Tribune*, is a native of Panora, Iowa, was born June 25, 1864, was reared in his native place, and received an ordinary common-school training and entered upon the active duties of life as a teacher at the age of eighteen. In 1855 he was deputy postmaster under his father, Daniel Brown, at Panora, and in 1887, in partnership with his father, he leased the *Guthrie Vidette* at Panora, Iowa, and began his newspaper career. In March, 1889, he came to Nebraska and the following month bought the *Alma Tribune*, of Alma, Harlan county; in August, 1889, he sold a half-interest in the paper to J. H. Moore, the firm becoming Brown & Moore, but

subsequently bought back Mr. Moore's interest. Mr. Brown is a practical newspaper man, familiar with all the ins and outs of the business, a good scholar, ready writer and fluent conversationalist. He possesses good taste and discriminating judgment, and realizes the responsibilities as well as the possibilities of his calling, and he uses the power of his position with discretion and sound intelligence. Mr. Brown has a family, having married in his native place and the lady whom he selected for his life's companion being one whose tastes are in harmony with his own and who is admirably fitted to bear him the companionship he sought with her hand. Mr. Brown also has with him as members of his household his aged father and mother, each now past their three score and ten, to whom he is devotedly attached and whose declining years he is watching over with the tender care and solicitude of an affectionate son.

Mr. Brown is giving to the people of Alma and Harlan county a paper worthy of their patronage and earnest assistance, and it is gratifying to learn that the *Tribune* is meeting with the encouragement it deserves. It is the official organ of Harlan county, has a large and constantly increasing circulation; it has built up a job department which receives a liberal patronage and turns out work of superior quality.

**E**D. J. MOCK was born in Fort Wayne, Ind., March 26, 1870, and is therefore twenty years of age. His life has been marked by being allowed well-to-do advantages. Early in life he evinced a liking for literature and

his school learning showed rapid progression. His valedictorian address was delivered April 4, 1888, at the high school in Leesburg, Ind., and was afterwards published in several local papers.

His first venture in amateur journalism was a small 2½x3-inch four-page paper, known as the *Monitor*. After this quaint little local paper had been adrift half a year an exchange of a similar size and nature opened a new desire, a fondness and a knowledge of other instincts than his own in miniature journals. The information in this exchange presented a fact hitherto unknown—that other papers of similar character were in existence. A direct correspondence enlightened him to a correct understanding of amateur journalism. The person most concerned in disclosing this fact was Harry F. Thompson, formerly of Indianapolis. From the exchange list of Mr. Thompson, Mock soon introduced his *Monitor* to the members of the different associations and to amateur journalists in general. Rapid advancement and improvement soon placed his paper among those of a general classification. From the first insight Mr. Mock desired to become a printer of these miniature journals, and when opportunity at last gave him the pleasure, he equipped a medium sized office and hied himself unto the far West. From this standpoint he published the *Monitor* in eight-page *Century*-size form, and it was at once recognized as a capable paper.

He located in Alma, Nebr., then the most influential amateur center in the West. Since then he has become amateurdom's most pretentious publisher. The *Monitor* has been abandoned on account of so much work brought about by the

amount of job printing. He does printing for many prominent amateurs, besides placing *Our Knight Errant* before us as a model amateur paper.

As a professional newspaper man, he is proving a success. He is the leading opinion moulder in his county. Authority gives him the distinction of being the youngest editor in the great state of Nebraska, and his Harlan county *Times* compares favorably with the best country weeklies of the state.

Harry C. Mock is a junior partner of the firm known as Mock Bros., and as a firm in its infancy they are to be congratulated on their success.

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**J**OHAN T. PETTEYS is a prominent and influential farmer of Antelope township, Harlan county, and is a native of New York, his father, Valentine Petteys, and his mother, Eliza (Young) Petteys, being both natives of the Empire State. His parents were married in their native state and moved to Illinois in 1857, where the father lived three years, when he returned on a visit to York State and died, the mother still surviving and being a resident of that state. The father was a farmer and passed all his years in the peaceful pursuit of agriculture. He was an industrious, useful citizen, highly respected by all who knew him, and a man who discharged his duty to his neighbors in an earnest and faithful manner. The mother is a daughter of Phillip Young, who was a native of New York State, a lawyer by profession and a man of extensive interests and some public note. To

Valentine and Eliza (Young) Petteys were born a family of five children, the subject being the eldest, the others being—James, Saloma J., Stephen P. and Nancy.

John T. Petteys was born in Oneida county, N. Y., May 3, 1833, and was reared on the farm and received a good common-school education. In 1858 he married Miss Lurana E. Field, a daughter of Elihu and Elvira Field, natives of New Hampshire, and in 1861 moved to Illinois and located in Henry county. There he purchased a farm and was engaged in farming for twenty-four years, coming in 1885 to Nebraska and locating in Harlan county. Here he bought a right to a homestead and homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 23, township 4, range 17. When he purchased his homestead there had been some breaking done on it, but there was no building; yet by industry and careful management he has made it one of the best farms in the county. He now has a fine house, good barn and granaries, implement sheds, groves and a splendid orchard. He raises mixed crops and has one hundred and twenty acres under cultivation. In addition to his extensive farming he has made stock-raising a very prominent branch of business, giving his attention to horses, graded cattle and hogs. To Mr. and Mrs. Petteys have been born six children, as follows—Frank A., Willard A., Isabel, Jennie, Hattie and Mina.

Mr. Petteys is a thorough business man and prominent in his community. He has filled a number of local offices, the duties of which he has discharged with credit to himself and entire satisfaction to his neighbors. He has been justice of the peace of his township for one term, assessor



one term, and is now serving his third term as supervisor. In politics he is a republican, being a warm supporter of the principles and methods of his party, is of influence in the councils of his party, and when occasion demands an efficient worker at the polls. He is a member of the Farmers' Alliance of Harlan county and a staunch advocate of all measures looking to the relief of the farming community. Mr. Petteys and his excellent wife are both members of the Methodist church and zealous workers for the cause of christianity.

**J**OSEPH H. HERNDON, farmer, was born in Mahaska county, Iowa, November 14, 1844. He is the third of a family of six children born to George W. and Rhoda (Jones) Herndon, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter a native of North Carolina. His parents moved from Kentucky to Indiana and thence to Iowa; remaining there a short time, they went back to Indiana. In 1855 they moved to Missouri, settling in Daviess county, where they still live, engaged in agricultural pursuits.

Joseph H., the subject of this sketch, moved with his parents to Missouri, there grew to manhood, and spent his boyhood days attending school and laboring on the farm. Upon reaching his majority he was married to Miss Amanda E. Palmer, a native of Owen county, Ind., daughter of William and Charlette Palmer, who moved to Missouri in 1855. Mr. Palmer died while serving in the Union army in 1865.

In 1883 Joseph H., our subject, sold his farm in Missouri and came to Nebraska,

locating in Antelope township, Harlan county. He homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 26, township 4, range 17, and with steady energy and pluck proceeded to make of it a farm. He has also added to his original homestead another quarter section by purchase, making a half section of good land, and now has two hundred and fifty acres under cultivation and raises mixed crops. In addition to general farming he has quite engaged extensively in dealing in stock, and has on his farm at present a number of Clydesdale horses, graded cattle and hogs, and has a large frame residence, two good barns and a fine orchard. Mr. Herndon is a successful farmer, a thorough-going business man, and everything on his place gives evidence of the good management that prevails there. He has served his township as road supervisor for five years and as school director three years. He is a member of the Farmers' Alliance of Harlan county. In politics he is a republican, and takes an active interest in the party.

Mr. and Mrs. Herndon have had born to them eleven children, eight of whom are now living—Rhoda F., George W., Clara A., Estella E., Hattie L., Gracie Jane, Edward E. and Roy P.

Mr. Herndon and his estimable wife are both members of the Baptist church and liberal contributors to all charitable purposes.

**E**LIIU FIELD, one of the most prominent farmers and pioneers of Harlan county, Nebr., was born in New Hampshire March 9, 1816. His father, Prentice Field, also a native

of that state, married Mary A. Mitchell, of Haverhill, Mass., and moved to York State, where both died in 1865. Their family consisted of eight children, only three of whom are now living, viz.—Elihu, Frederick M. and Mary N.

Elihu Field, whose name heads this sketch, was reared on the farm and received a good common-school education. After reaching his majority he learned the blacksmith's trade and followed it to some extent. He was united in marriage to Miss Elvira, a daughter of Lemuel and Rachel Scott, of Richmond, N. H. Her paternal grandparents were natives of New Hampshire and of Scotch descent. From New Hampshire Mr. Field removed to New York State, where he resided about eighteen years, engaged in the lumber business. He went from York State to Henry county, Ill., at which place he remained about seven years, coming thence, in 1874, to Nebraska, and settled in Harlan county, Antelope township, and locating a homestead and timber claim on the west half of section 24, township 4, range 17 west. He afterwards sold the timber claim, yet retaining the homestead. He at first built a dug-out, then a sod house, and lived here about four years before bringing his family, all the time improving and making preparations for their coming. He, of course, endured all the hardships and privations of pioneer life. For about six months he had to haul all the water he used a distance of ten miles, and all his trading had to be done at Kearney, a distance of over thirty miles. After four years of toil and patient waiting his family joined him in his new home. When Mr. Field settled here there were only a few families in the township, and

all had come poor and were unable to assist one another, consequently each man had to depend on his own exertions, but settlers kept coming until the entire government land was claimed. Nature had done its part in making this one of the most beautiful places in the state, and now Mr. Field is surrounded with good neighbors, with well improved farms, all in the enjoyment of home and comfort. He lived in his sod house until 1885, when he built and moved into the comfortable frame where he now lives. He has his place well improved, having all the necessary outhouses, a good stable, granary and groves, has one hundred and twenty acres under cultivation and raises mixed crops, and in addition to general farming has engaged quite extensively in dealing in stock. For the first few years he had his crops destroyed by grasshoppers, but he did not let this discourage him; having two willing hands and a stout heart he toiled on and has succeeded well, mostly raising good crops since. He has now reached the ripe old age of seventy-four, and is yet hearty and full of push and does good work on his farm. Mr. Field attends strictly to his own business, is industrious and economical, and everything on his place gives evidence of good management. No citizen of the county commands in a higher degree the confidence and esteem of his fellow-men. He is ever straightforward and honorable, and is known as one having the interest of the county at heart, and willing to do his share in forwarding all projects tending to its material or moral advancement. In politics he has always been a staunch democrat.

To Mr. and Mrs. Field have been born

two children—Lurana, now wife of J. T. Pettis, and Lucretia, who died in New Hampshire December 12, 1843. Mr. Field is a member of the Masonic fraternity and also of the Farmers' Alliance of Harlan county.

**R**OSS T. WALKER, farmer, was born at Terre Haute, Ind., July 22, 1845. His father was a native of Ohio, moved to Indiana and resided there several years, engaged in farming and stock-raising. He married Miss Mary Ross, daughter of Thomas and Betsey Ross, both natives of Ohio. His family consisted of eight children, three of whom are now living, the subject being the youngest. The father died at Terre Haute, Ind., when our subject was only eighteen months of age, and the mother returned to Ohio. Thomas Ross, the grandfather, was a farmer, a public-spirited man and very prominent in his community. He served three terms in the legislature of Ohio, dying in Brown county, that state.

The subject of this sketch was reared on a farm and received a common-school education. In 1862, when he was only seventeen years of age, he entered the Union army, enlisting in Company H, Second Ohio heavy artillery. His command served with the armies of the southwest, mainly the armies of the Cumberland. He was in all the battles participated in by his command, and was mustered out at Columbus, Ohio.

At the close of the war he returned to

Clermont, Ohio, and in 1868 went to Vermillion county, Ill., rented a farm and farmed one year. In the fall of 1870 he married Miss Betty, a daughter of John and Easter Norton, of Maine. He then returned to Ohio, rented a farm and was engaged in farming till 1873. That year he came to Nebraska and located in Turkey Creek township, Harlan county, remaining there one year. He then came to Antelope township, located a homestead and lived on it four years, then traded for a farm on the southwest quarter of section 26, township 4, range 17, where he now lives. When he bought his present farm, it had no improvements and only thirty-five acres broken, but he now has a good residence and all necessary outbuildings, and has one hundred and fifteen acres under cultivation, all under fence, and raises mixed crops, never having a total failure. In addition to farming, he has given much time and attention to stock raising. When Mr. Walker came to the state he had only \$300, but by industry and careful management, he now has one of the finest farms in Harlan county.

To Mr. and Mrs. Walker have been born eight children, viz.—Everett, Roy T., John C., Stanley, Zeruah, Betsey, Viola and Clara E.; six of whom are now living and all at home.

Mr. Walker has served as assessor of his township and director of his school district, and is also a zealous member of the local organization of the Farmers' Alliance. In politics, he is a republican and a warm supporter of the principles and measures of his party. He and his excellent wife and one son are members of the Methodist church.

**J**AMES H. CARROLL is of Irish extraction, his parents both being natives of the Emerald Isle. He is the fourth of a family of twelve children born to Richard and Mary (Clark) Carroll. His father came to America in 1854 and settled in Wisconsin, where he continued to live till 1888, coming in that year to Nebraska and locating a homestead in Prairie township, Phelps county, where he and his wife now live. He is known as a thoroughly upright man and a valuable citizen, and both he and his wife are highly esteemed for their many good traits of character. Mr. and Mrs. Carroll are the parents of twelve children, ten of whom are now living.

James H. Carroll, the subject of this brief biographical sketch, is a native of Wisconsin and was born February 12, 1860. He was reared on his father's farm and received an ordinary common-school education, being trained to the habits of industry and usefulness common to farm life. Before he reached his majority he started out to make his way in the world, and came in 1880 to this state and settled in Harlan county, locating at Orleans. He found his first employment as a laborer and resided there five years. In 1885 he went to Holdrege, where he secured employment in the grain business, working in an elevator belonging to H. O. Barber. In 1888 he moved to Ragan in the interest of his employer and continued there in the grain business for little more than a year, when he, in connection with Frank W. Stevens, bought out the plant and franchise of his employer and embarked in business for himself. He has done a prosperous business, and his success and business methods give promise of a pros-

perous career. He is a hard worker, and all that he has represents the labor of his own hands. Of steady habits and strict application to his own personal affairs he has the sure foundation of a successful life. Formerly, Mr. Carroll affiliated with the democratic party, but since the rise of the liquor question he has cast his political fortunes with the prohibitionists, voting and working with them, and is zealous in his support of the men and measures of their party. He believes that in the sobriety of the people and the purity of home lies the success of all good government and the happiness of every people. A straightforward, enterprising and stirring man, Mr. Carroll is an important factor in the growth and prosperity of Ragan, and is rightly held in high esteem by his fellow-citizens.

**G**EORGE C. VAUGHAN, stock-dealer and farmer of Antelope township, Harlan county, Nebr., was born in Washington county, N. Y., September 9, 1855, and is a son of Julius and Sarah (Stevens) Vaughan. Julius, also a native of the State of New York, was in early life a boatman on the Champlain canal, later became a farmer, and died about the year 1863, leaving a very small estate. Leonard Vaughan, father of Julius, was a farmer through life in New York State. To the union of Julius and Sarah Vaughan were born two children—G. C. being the elder and Herman the younger. Mrs. Sarah Vaughan is a daughter of William and Clarissa Stevens, both New Yorkers, and the former somewhat

of a local politician. She is now residing in Nebraska, on a farm adjacent to that of her son, George C., having come in 1884, and homesteading a quarter section of land. Herman Vaughan, subject's brother, drifted first to Rutland, Vt., passed a few years there as clerk in a hardware store, and then went to Boston, and in 1882 was transferred by his employers to New York city and is still in the employ of the firm.

George C. Vaughan was about eight years of age when he lost his father, and since that time has been compelled to take care of himself. He acquired the use of tools and followed carpentering in New York State until 1878, when he came to Nebraska and was first employed by George M. Roberts, then attorney-general of the state and the owner of a ranch near Orleans, and on this ranch our subject remained about six months, when he came to Antelope township and homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 19, township 4, range 17. At that time there were no improvements on the place, and Mr. Vaughan was compelled to haul water for domestic uses four miles, but after awhile wells were dug in his neighborhood, from which he obtained the needful fluid, and in course of time dug a well on his own premises. His first dwelling was of sod, and soon after he commenced farming, in 1880-81, his crops were destroyed by the drouth, so that, in the latter year, he was obliged to seek employment at Kearney, where he was engaged in the post-office about a year, when he returned to his farm and has ever since succeeded in raising bountiful harvests. About this time the Union Pacific Railroad Company built a branch of its road within a mile of his place, and the town of Ragan was also

started, and these facts led to his engaging in stock dealing, which he has successfully pursued in conjunction with farming. He gives especial attention to the improvement of horses, and has now some high-bred fillies, from which he intends to breed better stock. His place is well supplied and adorned with orchards and groves, and his crops are of a mixed character, and he is altogether prosperous.

The marriage of Mr. Vaughan took place to Miss Emma Dailey, daughter of Warren and Sarah Dailey, who came from New York State in 1877 and settled in Franklin county, this state, and to this union has been born one child, Sarah E., a bright little Miss, now aged about nine years. Warren Dailey was a blacksmith by trade, and died in Frontier county, Nebr., in 1889, in good circumstances. Politically, Mr. Vaughan is independent.

**J**AMES TERNAHAN is one of the representative young business men of the town of Ragan, Harlan county, Nebr., and is a native of Iowa, having been born in Jefferson county, that state, July, 1859. He is the second of a family of seven children born to John and Ann (Paisly) Ternahan, natives of Ireland, but now residents of Iowa. His parents came to this country many years ago and settled shortly afterwards where they now live. The father in early life was a stone-mason, but in more recent years has followed farming. He and his excellent wife are industrious, hard-working people and have brought their children up to the

habits of industry and usefulness common to their calling and country.

The subject of this notice was reared on the farm and received only an ordinary common school education, being turned loose on the world at a comparatively early age, to make his way at whatever his hands might find to do. He came to Nebraska in 1878, making his first stop at Hastings, where he soon found employment as a common laborer in an elevator. He went to work with a will, and as an evidence of his determination to build himself up and accomplish something, it may be stated that he held that one place for twelve years, working steadily, saving his earnings and establishing himself in the confidence and good opinion of his employers and the public, generally. In 1889, Mr. Ternahan went to Ragan, and, in connection with others, purchased the grain elevator which he now runs, and does an extensive business in handling grain. He has given his entire time and attention to his business, and this is, in reality, one of the secrets of his success. He is a young man of sound intelligence and good business judgment, steady in habits and thoroughly upright in all his dealings. No man in the community where he lives has made more friends in the same length of time than he has, and no man has demonstrated by his straightforward course that he is better worthy of that friendship than he is.

Mr. Ternahan is a single man, having been, as he says, too busy to think about marrying. He is a man of pleasant address, kind and accommodating, a firm friend and a good fellow in every way. He never dabbles in politics, but is a staunch democrat, believing thoroughly in

the principles of his party, and standing by the men and measures of it with a loyalty that might be expected of a descendant of a patriotic Celt.

**J**OHNS HAWKSBY is a prominent citizen of the town of Ragan, Antelope township, Harlan county, Nebr. His father, George Hawksby, and his mother, Catherine Sharp, were both natives of the Emerald Isle, always lived there, and there also died. The father was a farmer and passed all his years in the peaceful pursuit of agriculture, living the industrious, useful life common to his calling. He died when the subject of this notice was only about three years old, and but little of his early history, therefore, has been preserved. The mother survived her husband some years, dying in 1832 during the great cholera scourge. These were the parents of four children, of whom the subject hereof is the third in point of age. One sister, Mrs. Catherine Elliott, also resides in this county, being now well advanced in years.

Our subject was born November 29, 1817, in the county of Leitrim, Ireland; was reared on a farm until he was about fifteen years of age, when he was bound an apprentice to the boot and shoe making in the town of Manorhamilton, and at that trade he worked until he was twenty-two years of age, when he went to Dublin and joined the Metropolitan police force, and through the influence of his friend, Lord Enniskillen, was taken into the office of the chief superintendent, where he was employed in the statistical

department, and after spending about fifteen years there he resigned and was immediately afterwards appointed station master at Dundalk, which position he held for about eleven years, when he resigned and went to Manchester, England, where he secured a place in a large establishment as book-keeper, which place he held till 1875, when his wife died, and, never having had any family, he felt lonely in the world and struck out for America, and spent two years with friends in the city of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, after which he joined his sister's family (the Elliots) at Freewater, Harlan county, Nebr., and with them he remained until 1887, when he erected the second building that was put up in the new town of Ragan, and was appointed post-master, which position he still holds, and is much respected by the whole community.

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**A**LLEN ELLIOTT. Harlan county has not within its borders a more enterprising, public-spirited or more deserving citizen than the subject of this sketch, who is a son of Patrick and Catherine (Hawksby) Elliott, natives of Ireland. The father came to Nebraska in 1875, where he died the same year at the age of sixty-eight; his wife yet survives him and is living in this state with her son, the subject of this notice, being now in her seventy-fifth year.

Allen Elliott, the subject of this brief sketch, was born in Ireland in June, 1844. He immigrated with his parents to Canada, in 1848, but soon after moved to the State of New York, where he grew to

manhood. He was reared on a farm and has been engaged in agricultural pursuits all his life. While in New York he married Miss Georgianna Hall, a native of that state, and the same year (1873) he moved to Nebraska. Being without means he was compelled to stop and seek employment. He made his first stop in Clay county and remained there one year, coming, in 1874, to Harlan county, where he has since resided. He, being among the first settlers, had his choice of the land, consequently he made a good section, both for soil and location. He located a homestead and timber claim on the west half of section 14, township 4, range 17, and after getting his land located and filed upon he at once began to make improvements. The first thing he did was to build a sod house, in which he lived till 1887, when he erected the present two-story frame in which he now lives. He has since added by purchase another half section to his farm, making him a full section of land, three hundred and fifty acres of which he has under cultivation. In addition to his farming he gives much time and attention to stock-raising, having herds of well-graded cattle and hogs. His first efforts at farming proved a failure, his crops being destroyed by the grasshoppers and drouths, but since that time he has been very successful. His crops have been good and for the past five years his wheat has averaged fully fifteen bushels to the acre. He started in with very limited means, not being able to buy a team with which to begin work on his farm, but by industry and good management he now has one of the best farms and is recognized as one of the most successful farm-

ers in Harlan county. He has most of his farm under cultivation, as stated above, and has it well supplied with all necessary buildings, stock and implements, and what he has represents the labor of his own hands. To Mr. and Mrs. Elliott have been born eight children, as follows—Claude, Hall, Willis, George, Mary, Georgianna, Edna and Harrison.

Mr. Elliott has always been identified with the growth and development of his county. He has filled a number of local offices, serving as school treasurer many years, as county supervisor two terms, and is now a member of the legislature. He is also a member of the Farmers' Alliance and takes much interest in all matters relating to agriculture and stock-growing. In politics he is a republican, being a zealous supporter of the teachings of his party. Mr. Elliott is placed among the most progressive and enlightened men in Antelope township, and is highly esteemed by all who know him.

**M**ARTIN V. WILCOX is a well-known citizen of Harlan county, is a native of New York, was born May 11, 1831, and is a son of Roswell and Naoma (Bassett) Wilcox, the former a native of Connecticut and the latter a native of New York. His maternal grandfather, Bassett, was a native of New York, a Congregational minister of much note, and was devoted to his faith, having established many churches and devoted his life to the cause of christianity.

Our subject, Martin V. Wilcox, moved

with his parents to Michigan when only two years of age, and there grew to manhood. He married there in 1857, taking for a life companion Miss Eliza Osborn, daughter of Rev. W. H. Osborn. Mr. Wilcox continued to live in Michigan till the beginning of the late war, when in August, 1861, he offered his services to his country, enlisting in Company A, Eleventh Michigan infantry, and served two and a half years. He was then promoted to lieutenant in the Fifteenth United States colored regiment, and served in that regiment two and a half years. He participated in a number of battles, among them Stone river, Chikamauga, Missionary ridge, Lookout mountain and others, and his services were mostly in the Army of the Cumberland. He was never taken prisoner and received only one wound. For a number of months he had charge of the Nashville prison. In 1864, his wife and son Henry joined him at Nashville, his wife being employed by the chaplain to instruct the freedmen. Mr. Wilcox was mustered out in April, 1866, having been in the service almost five years.

The war being over, Mr. Wilcox with his family returned to Iowa, where he engaged in the furniture business and remained there till 1874. That year he came to Nebraska and settled in Antelope township, Harlan county. He located a homestead on the southwest quarter of section 27, township 4, range 17, and also a timber claim on the same section, all of which he now owns and has well improved.

To Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox have been born three children, as follows—Della (deceased) Henry and Frank N. Henry was



one of the chief founders of the town of Wilcox, which is situated in Kearney county. He is a banker, progressive and enterprising, and in favor of all good projects for the advancement of the county.

Mr. Wilcox has gone through the turmoils of war, and has suffered the hardships and privations of pioneer life, but has lived through them, has advanced himself to an honorable place among the leading men of Harlan county, and is regarded as one of the best citizens of his township, being honored and respected by all. He affiliates with the prohibition party and is a staunch supporter of its principles. Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox are both consistent members of the Congregational church and liberal contributors to all charitable purposes. They have a pleasant home and a family of interesting children.

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**M**ATTHEW HAWKINSON is a prosperous farmer of Nebraska, is a native of Sweden and was born in 1844. He came to America in 1854 with his parents, with whom he remained until seventeen years of age, when he began farming on his own account. In 1876 he came to Nebraska, settling in Kearney county, on section 24, township 5, range 16 west. His wife Nellie (Lewis) Hawkinson, whom he married in 1866, is also a native of Sweden, was born in 1848, and came to America in 1853, settling in Illinois. To this union have been born eleven children, as follows—Urias (deceased), Edward, a young man now aged about twenty years and a resident of Harlan county, having a good

start in life due to his industry and sound business ideas; Emil U. (deceased), Sarah M., Alfred, Martin E., Hattie C., Rosie E., Lillie E., Tilda Amanda and Nellie Mary.

Hokey Peterson, the father of Matthew Hawkinson, was born in Sweden in 1789, was a farmer by occupation and came to America in 1854, settling in Illinois. He was a good, honest, trustworthy man, an active member of the Lutheran church, and in 1825 married Ena Moteson, who was born in Sweden in 1799. To this union were born nine children, in the following order—Nils, now a farmer in Illinois; Ena, now Mrs. Christeferson; Celia, now Mrs. Peterson; Peter and Christine, twins; Swan, in Kearney, Nebr.; Eric, in Illinois; Hannah, now Mrs. Holm, in Illinois, and Matthew, our subject.

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**A**H. COLE is a well-known citizen, throughout southern Nebraska being among the first settlers of Harlan county, and having gained considerable distinction as a buffalo hunter. He hunted buffalo when they roamed the prairies in herds of many thousands and when it was not an uncommon thing to drop from twenty-five to fifty at a stand. He has watched their numbers grow less from year to year until they have entirely disappeared from the territory once known as the Great American Desert. A few years ago he killed one of a herd found near the head of the Republican river in Colorado, and estimates that he has killed fully one thousand since 1872. Mr. Cole has the distinction of being the only man

in the state, and, with perhaps one or two exceptions, the only one in the United States, who has a herd of tame buffalo. His herd is increasing each year, and he has succeeded in raising three half-breeds, which are indeed a real curiosity.

A. H. Cole is a native of New York and was born in Putnam county, January 28, 1838. He is a son of Horace and Betsey Cole, both natives of New York. They were married in York State and soon afterwards removed to Ohio, but returned to Putnam county, N. Y., where he died in 1842. The mother of our subject came West and died in Wyoming in 1887. The boyhood days of A. H. Cole were passed on a farm in Ashtabula county, Ohio, where he obtained as good a common-school education as the times afforded. He remained at home farming the old homestead till 1864, when he came West, locating in Boone county, Iowa. In 1868 he moved to Wyoming, and after shifting about for a few years finally located in Harlan county, Nebr., in the spring of 1873. He located a homestead on sections 7 and 8 in Emerson township and is now pleasantly located near the thriving little city of Oxford. He built a sod house and prepared to live in true pioneer style, passed safely through the grasshopper time, and has lived and prospered until he has become one of the well-to-do citizens of the county.

Mr. Cole was married November 28, 1872, the lady of his choice being Miss Nancy Dale, a native of Hart county, Ky., and born March 20, 1851. Her parents are Abraham and Martha (Master) Dale, both natives of Kentucky. They settled in Harrison county, Mo., in 1853, where they still live. Three children

grace the household of our subject, namely—Jay, born April 24, 1874; Ray, born September 18, 1878, and May, born May 3, 1880. Mr. Cole has three hundred and twenty acres of fine land bordering on the Republican river, most of which is in a high state of cultivation. He is a republican in politics and a man who stands high in the estimation of all who know him.

**J** D. RENEAU, a resident of Fairfield township, Harlan county, Nebr., was born in Lynn county, Iowa, in 1858. His father, W. T. Reneau, is a native of Indiana, born in 1828, and moved to Lynn county, Iowa, and thence to Nebraska in 1878. In 1856, he married Miss Nancy Harkness, who was born in Ohio in 1833, and who bore five children—J. D., our subject; J. L., at home; Mary E., in Harlan county; L. E., in Chase county, Nebr., and W. A., at home. The father of this family is a Master Mason and is held in high esteem by all who know him.

J. D. Reneau grew to manhood in his native county, and from there went to Kansas, where he resided five and a half years; thence he went to Iowa, and in 1879 came to Nebraska, settling on section 30, township 1, range 20, in Harlan county. He has been dependent on his own exertions since he was twenty-one, and really began his business life with nothing. He now owns a good, well-stocked farm, and enjoys the reputation of being a rising young man of sterling worth. For some years he has been engaged in teaching, and his continuing the

profession in the same district is sufficient evidence of his efficiency. In politics, he is a prohibitionist, and he has been entrusted with several positions of honor by his fellow-townsmen, serving at present as county supervisor.

**J**OSHUA BEEMAN, one of the oldest settlers now living on Spring Brook, Harlan county, Nebr., was born in Erie county, N. Y., April 2, 1849, and is the son of Jesse and Esther (Root) Beeman, the former of whom is a native of New York, was born in 1807, and a farmer by occupation; the latter, also a native of New York, was born in the year 1810. There were ten children in the family—seven boys and three girls, of whom our subject was next to the youngest. Joshua lived at home in Erie county until twenty-one years of age, attending school during the winter and laboring on the farm in the summer. At this age he began doing for himself and moved to Dodge county, Nebr., settling twelve miles northwest of Fremont, where he purchased forty acres of railroad land and constructed a sixteen by twenty foot frame dwelling. Here he continued to live and cultivate his small farm for a period of five and a half years, when, on account of a desire to get more land, he moved in May, 1876, to Harlan county, Nebr., settling on Spring brook and filing claim on the northwest quarter of section 29. He erected a sod house twelve by sixteen feet, in which he lived for two years, after which he made an addition of sod, making it sixteen by twenty-four feet. The country at this early day was sparsely settled, and the few settlers who

had come previous to his time were located south and east of his claim, along the creek and in the bottoms. The country teemed with wild antelope, deer and occasionally an elk would be seen, though by no means plentiful. He had brought with him from Dodge county a flock of three hundred and seven sheep, but as the winter of 1876 was a severe one and he could get no feed, they all starved and froze to death before spring opened. He also lost one of his horses about this time, which left him in rather poor circumstances, with but one horse and a feeble old cow with no teeth. He traded about and finally got another horse, making him a team, with which he freighted, off and on, for five years to and from Kearney, a distance of sixty-five miles, thus making a living for his family. The first year he broke eighteen acres of sod and put in corn and smaller vegetables, but lost all by the grasshoppers, which were so numerous that year. At one time, being out of food, he went to Long Island to mill for flour, and, on account of high water, was compelled to swim the stream, Prairie Dog creek, above the dam, where it was about one hundred feet wide and very deep. The first fall his wife traded a sheep and lamb for ten bushels of potatoes, and a settler living near Republican City gave them three squashes and two pumpkins; these, with a few fish Mr Beeman was able to catch along the creek, furnished the bill of fare for the family that winter. Circumstances like the above show to some extent at least the disadvantages under which the early settlers of Harlan county had to labor in their efforts to settle and develop the country. Better times came, as they always do

after a series of depressing years, crops began to thrive, and the settlers prospered in proportion, until Mr. Beeman has accumulated sufficient competency to enable him to live in comparatively comfortable circumstances the remainder of his life. He has a most romantic place for a residence, with the creek, lined on both sides by large and thrifty trees, wending its crooked way through his yard and between his spacious frame residence on the one side and his barn and stock yards on the other. Another attraction, and one that is rarely found in Nebraska, is a carp pond near his residence, which teems with the finny tribe and is continually supplied with fresh water from running springs on the west side.

Mr. Beeman was married August 9, 1876, to Rhoda Hufton, who was born in Lorain county, Ohio, February 7, 1856. Their union has been blessed with the birth of six children, namely—Esther E. (deceased), Earnest, Walter, Lizzie and Albert, and one that died in infancy. Politically, Mr. Beeman is a democrat, but in later years he has been more or less independent and is inclined to the views adopted by the Farmers' Alliance. He is the present superintendent of Lewisburg township, elected in 1888. He joined the Farmers' Alliance April 5, 1890, and has since been an active member of that body.

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**T**HOMAS RUSSELL is a prosperous farmer and an early settler of Harlan county. He was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, December 21, 1838, and is the second child in a family of fourteen children—seven only of whom

are now living—born to David and Margaret (Gorey) Russell. His father was a native of the State of Ohio and followed farming throughout life, dying at the age of sixty-two years. His mother was born in Washington county, Pa., and is still living and enjoying the fruits of a long and well-spent life.

Thomas, our subject, was reared at home on the farm in Ohio, until twenty-one years of age, when he assumed the responsibilities of life and soon after, in 1860, emigrated West and located on a farm in Montgomery county, Iowa. Here he remained until August 2, 1862, when, the war of the rebellion being under full headway and the demand for reinforcements urgent, he responded nobly to the call of his country for aid, and laying aside his implements of husbandry enlisted in Company F, Twenty-third Iowa regiment, shouldered an army musket and was soon on his way to the scene of the conflict. He served his country faithfully for a period of three years, participating in battles at Champion Hill, Black River, Milliken's Bend, Vicksburgh; Fort Esperanza, Tex., and Forts Spanish and Blakesly. He was mustered out and discharged at Harrisburgh, Tex., July 26, 1865. The war being over, he returned to Iowa, where he lived and farmed until May 10, 1878, when he came to Harlan county, Nebr., and homesteaded a quarter section in section 3, township 1, range 19, on which he at once constructed a log dug-out and began life in the manner of early pioneers. The country in the vicinity of his claim was scarcely settled and wild deer and antelope still abounded in the neighboring hills and draws and along the timber-lined creeks. When Mr. Rus-

sell landed in Harlan county, he had a team, two cows and but \$40 in money, and although he saw some hard times in the pioneer days of the county, he has since prospered and is at present in very comfortable circumstances.

He was married December 24, 1860, to Rebecca Martin, a most estimable lady, who was born in Maryland, July 2, 1842, and is the youngest of seven children born to Philip Martin and wife, the former a native of Germany and a carpenter by trade. One child has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Russell, Charlotta, by name, born October 23, 1861. Politically, Mr. Russell is a republican.

**L**EWIS RIFENBURGH was born in Schoharie county, N. Y., July 1, 1828, and is the son of George and Anna (Talardy) Rifenburg, both of whom were born in New York State; the former, a farmer, lived to be eighty-four years of age and died in 1887; the latter is still living in apparently good health. Lewis lived in New York State until twenty-five years of age and resided at home, attending school and helping about his father's farm until fifteen years of age, after which he lived out on a farm and began life on his own account. In 1856 he moved to Oconto county, Wis., and for four years was engaged in clearing, farming and lumbering. He then moved back to New York State, and October 21, 1861, responded to his country's call and enlisted as a private in the war of the rebellion in the Seventy-sixth New York volunteers. He was mustered into the United States service at Albany, and was

soon afterwards on duty up the Potomac river and participated in the first battle of Petersburg. His regiment was afterwards detailed on duty to lay pontoon bridges, at which they were engaged until July, 1862, when he was taken sick and sent to the hospital at Philadelphia and then transferred to the convalescent camp at Fairfax, Va., and later back to Philadelphia, where he was discharged in 1864. He returned home for a few weeks, and in August, 1864, re-enlisted for another year's service. He was in the second battle of Petersburg and was captured and sent to prison at Salisbury, N. C., where he was confined for five months and ten days, and witnessed the starving to death of hundreds of Union soldiers, and is thankful for the fact that he escaped with life. Food was so scarce that he frequently paid as high as \$1 for a single potato in order to keep from starving. The happiest day of his life was the day he was put aboard the cars and taken to Richmond and exchanged back to the Union army. He was weak and emaciated from want of food and was at once sent to the hospital at Baltimore, Md., where, after two weeks of careful nursing, he was given a furlough and sent home to the Albany hospital, where he remained until September 4, 1865, when he was discharged.

He moved back to Wisconsin and was engaged in farming and lumbering there until he came to Nebraska, Harlan county, in November, 1873, and homesteaded a claim in section 15, township 1, range 19 west. The country was new, settlers were few, and wild game, buffalo, elk, deer and antelope were plentiful. He killed several buffalo the following season

and for several years had plenty of their meat for table use. The first few years the grasshoppers and drought was so disastrous to the crops that he raised but little small grain and comparatively no corn at all, but after 1876 crops flourished and an era of prosperity dawned upon the hitherto despondent settlers. In 1880 he erected a large saw and grist-mill, now standing, at a cost of \$8,000. For several years he was engaged in the mercantile business across the state line at Woodruff, Kans., but he has recently disposed of that and now devotes his time to milling and looking after his land, of which he owns three hundred acres in the creek bottom. Politically, he is a republican and was treasurer of Harlan county in 1875 and 1876.

**H**ON. GEORGE W. BURTON.  
 Hon. George W. Burton, state senator from the Twenty-ninth senatorial district, president of the First National Bank of Orleans, Harlan county, and one of the leading men of central and southwestern Nebraska, is a native of Indiana, having been born near the town of Stinesville, Monroe county, that state. He is a descendant, however, of Southern ancestors, and comes mainly of Scotch-Irish stock. His father's people were Virginians; his mother's, North Carolinians. His paternal grandfather emigrated from Greenbrier county (now West) Virginia, to Kentucky in 1783 and settled in what is now Bath county, and there lived till 1819, when he moved across the Ohio river and settled in Indi-

ana, where he died. Mr. Burton's father, Henry W. Burton, was born near the present town of Bethel, Bath county, Ky., and was taken when a child in 1819 to Indiana. He is still living, being a resident of Bird city, Kans., and well advanced in years. He has been a farmer all his years and has led the plain and uneventful life common to his calling. Mr. Burton's mother, who bore the maiden name of Martha McDaniel, was born in the town of Statesville, Iredell county, N. C., and was taken when a child by her parents to Bellbrook, Ohio, and afterwards to Spencer, Owen county, Ind., where she was mainly reared and where she met and was married to Henry W. Burton. She died in 1850 at Goodenow, Will county, Ill., leaving five children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the youngest. The others were — John McDaniel Burton, now proprietor of the Rawlins County Bank, of Atwood, Kans.; Miss Mary F. Burton, assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Orleans, Harlan county, Nebr., and Reuben Henry Burton, who died in the United States service during the late war as a member of Company D, Forty-second Illinois volunteer infantry; Martha, who died in 1856, at the early age of six years.

George W. Burton was born December 26, 1847, in Monroe county, Ind., and was taken, two years later, to Goodenow, Will county, Ill., and in 1855 to Waldron, Kankakee county, that state, where he was brought up on his father's farm. At the age of sixteen he enlisted in the Union army, first entering Company G, One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Illinois, and afterwards Company A, One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Illinois. He served



GEO. W. BURTON.





in these two regiments till the close of the war, and then returned home, where, after a few years spent on the farm and in local schools, he prepared himself for college, and entering Asbury (now De Pauw) University, of Greencastle, Ind., he graduated in 1871. In April, 1872, he started West, coming to Nebraska. He was for some time United States deputy surveyor, engaged in surveying government land on the frontier in Nebraska and Dakota. He studied law in the law department of the Iowa State University, and located as an attorney in October, 1875, at the town of Wahoo, Saunders county, Nebr., where he was successfully engaged till February, 1880. He then removed to Orleans, Harlan county, and there established the Harlan County Bank, of which he was sole proprietor until May, 1883, when he sold an interest to Mr. A. E. Harvey, who is still associated with him in business. In May, 1885, he organized the First National Bank of Orleans, of which he is president. He resided on his farm adjoining Orleans and is one of the largest farmers in Harlan county. He has been largely engaged in the live stock business, and owns several thousand acres of land in Harlan and adjoining counties. Since locating at Orleans his firm have lent over \$2,500,000 of Eastern funds on approved real estate in southwestern Nebraska and northwestern Kansas.

In 1884 Mr. Burton was a delegate to the Republican National Convention at Chicago. In 1887 he was chairman of the Republican State Central Committee, and in November, 1888, he was elected state senator for the twenty-ninth senatorial district, composed of the counties of Kearney, Phelps and Harlan.

Mr. Burton has traveled extensively in our own country and abroad. He is a student of men as well as of books. He is a man of quiet tastes and the most unobtrusive habits. The public positions which he has held he has been called to because of his recognized fitness for them. He has never sought office to gratify personal ambition. Indeed, he is, and prefers to be known as, a man of business.

Mr. Burton married, November 26, 1885, Miss Alma Holman, of Indianapolis, Ind. His wife is a daughter of William Holman, formerly of Indiana, now of Minneapolis, Minn. She was born and reared in Noblesville, Ind. She is a graduate of De Pauw University, and has spent several years abroad. Her training has fitted her to bear her husband the true companionship which every man seeks in matrimony, entering actively as she does into all his business pursuits and diversions, and rendering him efficient aid in the practical management of all his affairs. Two children have been sent to the care and guardianship of this couple, whom they have named George Wm., Jr., and Martha.

Mr. Burton resides on his farm of nearly two thousand acres, adjoining Orleans, in sight of his bank, half in cultivation, balance in pasture, through which runs Flag creek for nearly two miles. The stream never runs dry. Standing in his observatory on top of his house he can see up and down the Republican valley. The bluffs can be seen beyond Republican city, twelve miles east. Oxford can be seen thirteen miles northwest, and Furnas county can be seen up the Sappa valley, ten miles west. The depth of soil is almost inexhaustible.

**E**LIAS FREAR, one of the early settlers of Mulally township, Harlan county, Nebr., was born in Warren county, Pa., in 1840. His father, Simeon Frear, was a native of New York, born in 1798. Thence he moved to Pennsylvania, where he engaged in lumbering, and through good management and hard work became immensely wealthy. He owned three farms, comprising one thousand one hundred acres in all, and valued at \$50,000; he had also a controlling interest in what was known as the "Pittsburgh & Warren Turnpike." He served through the War of 1812 from beginning to end and was in every sense a true American. He was a very active member of the Presbyterian church, but, nevertheless, was genial, social and jovial, and was highly respected by the people of his neighborhood. His wife, Maria (DeWitt) Frear, was born in New York State in 1797, and was likewise a devoted member of the Presbyterian church. She bore her husband eleven children, as follows—Lear (deceased), DeWitt, Catherine, John, Cornelius, Stephen, Rachel, Baker (deceased), Lawrence, Diana (deceased), and Elias, the subject of this sketch.

Elias Frear was reared a tanner, which trade he followed until 1862, when he enlisted in Company I, Fourteenth Pennsylvania cavalry. He took part in the engagement at Gettysburg, Winchester, Fisher's Hill and Salem, having had his shoulder dislocated while with Sheridan on his ride from Winchester to Fisher's Hill. He was mustered out at Alexandria, Va., in 1865, and returned to Warren county, Pa., where he worked at lumbering until he came to Nebraska in 1874. Here he settled on section 19,

township 2, range 17, Harlan county. He then had about \$1,000, but is now the owner of half a section of land, two hundred acres of which are under cultivation, and he has, besides, money at interest. When he came here he found the people in a rather destitute condition, but many of them are now wealthy. He had to go forty miles to mill, and in 1875 had to go fifty miles for seed potatoes; but Mr. Frear had been dependent on his own resources since eleven years of age, and was equal to the emergency.

In 1862, Mr. Frear married Miss Eliza McKee, a native of Massachusetts, born in 1843. Three children have been born to this union, namely—Charles, George K., and Melvin G., the latter having died in infancy. Mr. Frear is a devout Methodist, was a class leader and superintendent for eight years, and was largely instrumental in erecting the Scott Hill church in Pennsylvania. In politics he is a prohibitionist.

**R**R. PATE. The official position which one occupies, however unimportant, is always some evidence of his character as well as a tribute to his honesty and ability. This is so because a man will not suffer himself to be thrust into a position that is wholly distasteful to him and for which he has not the slightest qualification, nor is one's fellow-citizens at all likely to do such a thing. The men who plod, who are capable of hard work and great endurance, who can do what others plan, who are steady in their habits, prompt at their posts, clean and neat in the mechanical

execution of their work, always fill the clerical positions. Men of clear heads, strong wills, keen insight and great activity are usually to be found in offices where the duties are chiefly executive. And especially are these distinctions observed in this live, progressive Western country, where the prosperity of a town or community depends so largely upon the intelligence and executive ability of the man or men who are placed in executive positions.

R. R. Pate is the official head of the enterprising town of Orleans, Harlan county. He is an Indianian by birth, a descendant of two early settled families of the "Hoosier" State, and was born in Dearborn county. His father, John Pate, was also a native of that county and lived always in that and in the county of Ripley adjoining. He was an extensive stock man and cattle shipper, led an active, useful and successful life, and died where he had spent the most of his maturer years, in Ripley county, in 1874, having passed his forty-eighth year. Mr. Pate's mother, who bore the maiden name of Susannah Jarvis, was born and reared in Ripley county and died there in January, 1884, at the age of fifty-eight. Besides the subject of this sketch, John and Susannah Pate were the parents of six other children, all of whom became grown and are now living and settled off in life. These are Jeremiah M., who is a resident of Ripley county, Ind.; James E., of Harlan county, Nebr.; John R., of Furnas county, Nebr.; Virginia B., wife of John K. Arford, of Furnas county, Nebr.; Marvin L., wife of W. R. Wycoff, of Del Norte, Colo., and Mrs. Mattie McGee, widow of James A. McGee, of Orleans, Harlan county, Nebr.

Randell R., who is the third of the family of children alluded to, and who is the subject of this notice, was born February, 1851, and was reared in his native county. He received an ordinary common-school training, working on his father's farm and going to school during the winter months. Taking kindly to books, he decided to have an education, and as soon as he could conveniently do so he sat about in the usual way to secure it: that is by teaching district schools and with the means so obtained paying his way through college. After completing his education Mr. Pate taught several terms, but finally abandoned school-room work and entered the mercantile business at Center Grove, Jefferson county, Ind. He left that county in the fall of 1878 and came to Nebraska, settling in Spring Grove township, Furnas county, where he took a homestead. Mr. Pate was a resident of Furnas county for five years and a half, moving in the spring of 1884 to Orleans, Harlan county, where he now resides. During the first two years of his residence in Orleans he was engaged in the coal business. Closing this out he went into real estate, loans and insurance, at which he is now engaged. He has served as justice of Orleans precinct for a number of terms, holding that office now; he has been mayor of the town of Orleans for two years past. Mr. Pate is a plain, straightforward, matter-of-fact business man, and is progressive in his views and liberal in his methods. He is for whatever is for the good of his community and lends a helping hand as far as lies in his power.

Mr. Pate was married in Jefferson county, Ind., in October, 1874, the lady

on whom his choice fell being Miss Ellen E. Buchanan, a native of that county.

This union has been blessed with five children, four of whom are living, namely—Nellie, Walter, Merle, Holman. Evie died September, 1886, at three years of age.

Personally, Mr. Pate is a pleasant gentleman. He is deservedly popular with his fellow-citizens.

**D**R. W. H. BANWELL was born in the town of Ashtabula, Ashtabula county, Ohio, September 10, 1832, and is the only child born to Henry and Hannah (Castle) Banwell, natives of North Hamptomshire, England. His parents came of English stock from time immemorial. His father was a silk-stocking weaver and his mother a lace-maker, and belonged to the sturdy, industrious and useful class of their country. They immigrated to America in 1831, not long after their marriage, and settled in Ashtabula county, Ohio, where the father died in 1834 at the age of forty. The mother struggled on as best she could in a new country and reared her son, giving him as good education as her means and opportunities would permit. In 1857 they moved to Clark county, Ohio, and the son that year began reading medicine under Dr. James S. Hazzard, having decided to adopt medicine as his profession. His progress in his studies was impeded by his lack of means, he having to do like most young men who make their way alone in the world: carry their studies along hand-in-hand with their labors. The war put a sudden end to his

reading, for he promptly obeyed the call for volunteers, enlisting on April 23, 1861, at Springfield, Ohio, in Company E, Sixteenth Ohio volunteer infantry. After a service of four months he was discharged, but soon after opened a recruiting office at Springfield, Ohio, and assisted in organizing the Forty-fourth Ohio infantry, commanded by Col. S. A. Gilbert, enlisting himself for three years. He was soon elected second lieutenant of his company, afterwards promoted to first lieutenant, and still subsequently to captain. He served the three years out, and at the end of that time was appointed to a position in the United States detective service, at Nashville, Tenn. He held this position till March 1, 1866, when he quit the public service and returned to Springfield, Ohio, and set about again to finish his education and enter upon the practice of his profession. While in the detective service he was instrumental in the capture of and in bringing to trial the noted guerrilla chief, Champ. Ferguson, who was subsequently sentenced to death by a court-martial for murder, and hanged. It was proved on his trial that Ferguson had killed over one hundred Union men with his own hand.

Dr. Banwell's two half-brothers, George C. and Henry Stevens, were also in the army. George C. was a member of the same company with the Doctor, and Henry was captain in the One Hundred and Tenth Ohio, losing his life in battle April 2, 1865.

November 14, 1867, he married Miss Lucina E. Sprague, daughter of Darius Sprague, a prominent farmer of Clarke county, Ohio. He graduated from the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery in June, 1870, and located at once in Clarke

county, Ohio, to practice his profession. He was actively engaged in the practice there till 1883, when, on account of ill-health he was compelled to relinquish his calling and try a change of location. He moved to Nebraska that year and settled at Orleans, Harlan county, where he soon afterwards opened a furniture store, and has there since resided, continuing in that business. He has built up a good trade in his line, and has an establishment which is a credit to his town and a monument to his industry and attention to business. It was his purpose on embarking in the mercantile business to give up the practice of his profession entirely, but this he has been unable to do. Old friends and those who know of his knowledge and skill as a physician still press him into service. He is also a member of the United States Pension Examining Board, resident surgeon of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company, and is frequently called in consultation with local physicians. He keeps up his interest in the literature of the profession and contributes occasionally to the journals. During his residence in Ohio he was a member of the county and state medical societies, and took part in their meetings and discussions. He is a zealous member of the benevolent orders, and his charitable impulses take the practical turn inculcated by these. Having no taste for politics, he has held but few public offices, yet takes an active interest in public questions, is well posted on matters of general concern, and has affiliated with the republican party since its organization, being a staunch advocate of its principles and methods in dealing with state and national questions. He and his estimable wife are both members of the Methodist

church and liberal contributors to all charitable purposes. They have an interesting family of children, three in number, around whom now cluster the chief hopes and ambitions of their lives. These are two daughters and one son, the youngest in his fourteenth year. The oldest daughter, Miss Jessie Banwell, is assistant principal of the high-school at Alma, Harlan county; the other two—a daughter, Ollie, and a son, Hayes—are still in school. To his family Dr. Banwell is particularly devoted, and the names of his parents he holds in the tenderest remembrance.

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G W. COOK, the subject of this sketch, is a merchant of Orleans, Harlan county, Nebr., and was born in Susquehanna county, Pa., in June, 1846. He is the elder of two sons, now living, born to Leonard and Betsie Cook, both natives of Pennsylvania, the other son being Almond B., now a resident of Carbondale, Pa. The father died in his native county of Susquehanna, Pa., when the subject of this sketch was but ten years of age, and the mother, who bore the maiden name of Gellatt, being a daughter of Collin Gellatt, died also in Susquehanna county in 1860, after which sad events our subject was compelled to depend upon his own efforts for a livelihood. At the early age of fifteen he entered the United States army in the fall of 1861, enlisting in Company A, Fifty sixth Pennsylvania infantry, and after a service of three months was discharged for disabilities. Returning home he remained there

until the summer of 1863, when he again enlisted in the army, entering Company H, One Hundred and Forty-fourth New York infantry. His regiment was placed in Hatch's division, department of South Carolina, and saw the most of its service along the South Carolina coast. It sustained its heaviest losses at John's Island, James Island, siege of Wagner, Deveraux Neck and Honey Hill, its total loss being 217, most of which occurred in the last-named engagement.

When the war was over, Mr. Cook returned to Susquehanna county, Pa., where, in September, 1866, he married Miss Alma L. Steenback, daughter of J. B. Steenback of that county, his wife being a native of Susquehanna county and a neighbor girl whom he had known from childhood. Soon after his marriage, Mr. Cook began farming, which vocation he followed for about a year, when he engaged in the lumbering business as an employé of Bennett & Co., of Susquehanna county, at which he continued for about two years. After this he worked as a stone-mason until coming West. In this section of the country he first located in Shelby county, Ia., where for a year he was again engaged in farming. Thence he came to Adams county, Nebr., but later took up a homestead in Furnas county, this state, and then returned to Adams county, where for another year he engaged in farming. His next move was to Arapahoe, Furnas county, Nebr., where he worked in a livery-stable for six months, at \$20 per month, on which sum he was expected to board himself and wife and two children; but this brave lady, seeing her husband's earnings were not sufficient to make both ends meet, proved herself to be worthy

by taking in washing and sewing and thus assisted in meeting the family expenses. From Arapahoe, Mr. Cook moved to Cambridge, Furnas county, where he conducted the Cambridge House, a hotel which for a year met with popular favor under the management of its genial landlord. From Cambridge he came to Orleans, Harlan county, and for a year was landlord of the Orleans House, now known as the Gardner House; next he returned to Cambridge and resumed the proprietorship of the Cambridge House, but six months later came back to Orleans (in 1887) and engaged in the confectionery business with a capital of \$100, and this business he has raised to its present proportions, carrying a stock that invoices \$4,000, and gaining trade every day. Recently Mr. Cook has taken into partnership Mr. M. T. Stowell, the firm name being Cook & Stowell, and each holds a half-interest in the business. For the successful pursuit of the mercantile business Mr. Cook is well qualified. He is a careful, conservative man, and is attentive to business and watchful of the public wants. As a citizen, he is progressive and public-spirited. He takes hold of local enterprises with a will and helps to push them as vigorously as he does his own affairs. He has never been an aspirant for public honors, but has filled the usual number of town and township offices such as all good citizens are expected to fill when called on.

Mr. Cook is a member of Whitehead Post, No. 114, G. A. R., Orleans, having been a member of the G. A. R. ever since 1867, and has done as much as any man to build up the organization. When the fact is recalled that Mr. Cook began the

battle of life when a mere lad, his industry and tact in business will be appreciated for all it is worth, and when it is further added that, after arriving in Nebraska from Iowa, with only a pony team and \$7 in cash, which latter was taken to file a homestead claim, still more credit will be awarded him.

**H**T. FERGUSON was one of the first men to engage in business in Orleans, Harlan county. He came to Orleans in March, 1879, began business there at that date and has been actively at it since. He came from Osceola, Iowa, but is a native of New York. He was born in the town of Owego, Tioga county, N. Y., January 13, 1845. He comes of New York parentage, his father, Hiram Ferguson, being a native of New York city and his mother, who bore the maiden name of Rachel Stedman, being a native of Tioga county. He is the second of a family of four children who reached maturity, the others being Albert, now a resident of Dixon, Ill.; Amzi M., a resident of Elmwood, Nebr., and Hannah, wife of Clifton Brown, of Freetown Corners, Courtland county, N. Y. Mr. Ferguson's father died in New York State in 1853, in middle life. He was a manufacturer, a man who was reasonably successful in accordance with his means and opportunities. Mr. Ferguson's mother is still living.

The subject of this sketch was reared in his native place to the age of ten, when he was taken to Dixon, Ill., by his parents, and there grew up to manhood. He

received an ordinary common-school training and entered the Union army at the age of eighteen, enlisting in the fall of 1863. He enlisted in Battery F, First Illinois light artillery, and served in the Fifteenth (Logan's) army corps. Entering the Atlanta campaign in the fall of 1863, he was in all the engagements down to Jonesboro, Ga. From that place his, with nine other batteries, was sent back to Nashville to hold that point in anticipation of Hood's raid into Tennessee, and was in the fight at Nashville and remained there for some time after the dispersion of Hood's forces. He was mustered out at Chicago in July, 1865, and returned to his home in Dixon, Ill. He went to Iowa in 1870, settling in Osceola, where, after engaging in other pursuits for some time, he engaged in the drug business, following it successfully for some years. During his residence there he married on May 31, 1876, Miss Sadie Glasser, then a resident of Osceola, but a native of Pennsylvania and reared in Illinois. Coming to Nebraska in March, 1879, and settling in Orleans, he engaged a month later in the hardware business as a member of the firm of H. C. Williams & Co. After a year and a half he sold his interest to A. M. Barker and purchased of Manning Bros. a stock of drugs and embarked in this line. He has conducted a drug and book-store since that date and now has the best equipped establishment of the kind in the town of Orleans. In connection with his drug and book trade, Mr. Ferguson has been conducting a loan and insurance business for some years, operating on his own funds and meeting with marked success. Mr. Ferguson is a trained business man and has made the pursuit of his own per-

sonal concerns the exclusive object of his life. He has never held public office nor dabbled in politics. Being a man of broad views and generous impulses, he has taken considerable interest in the liberal fraternities and his feelings for his kind have taken the practical turn inculcated by these associations.

**J**UDGE LEWIS H. KENT, the subject of this sketch, is a pioneer settler of Harlan county, a leading business man of the town of Orleans, and one of the best known citizens in the Republican valley. Coming to Nebraska when a young man, fresh from his books, ambitious, full of enthusiasm and with a boundless confidence in the future of the country, he threw himself at once into the current of events, and the part he has taken in the development of the state of his adoption is well attested by the manifold interests with which his name is associated as well as by the esteem in which he is held by those who know of him and his labors. Judge Kent's biography can not fail to interest the readers of this volume, and to many young men who are just starting on the road over which he has come thus far so successfully it will afford matter for encouragement.

Judge Kent is a descendant of the New Jersey family of Kents, there being, according to tradition, two branches of the family—one in New York and one in New Jersey, originating from brothers, natives of England, who settled in this country in colonial times. His father, John Kent, was born in New Jersey in 1816, moved West when a young man and

settled in Illinois, where he has since lived, being a resident now of the town of Morrison. He has spent his life in the peaceful pursuit of agriculture, living the steady, sober, industrious, useful life common to his calling.

Judge Kent's mother was a native of New York State. She was born in 1818 and died at Morrison, Ill., in 1876. She bore the maiden name of Mary Jeffries. She was a pious, good woman, who, like all good mothers, centered her love and her affections on her home and family.

Judge Kent is the fifth of a family of six children. He was born in the town of Morrison, Whiteside county, Ill., June 11, 1854. He was reared on his father's farm near that place, and received his preliminary education in the district schools of Whiteside county. He took a collegiate course in Fulton College at Fulton, Ill., graduating in 1871. He read law with Frank Ramsey at Morrison, Ill., and spent some time acquainting himself with the detail of office work and in getting something of a practical knowledge of the preparation and management of cases. Entering the law department of the Michigan University at Ann Arbor, he graduated from there in 1876 and came at once to Nebraska, settling in Nebraska City, Otoe county, for the practice of his profession. A year later he moved to Orleans, Harlan county, which he decided to make his future home and where he has since lived. It is hardly necessary to say that the town of Orleans was a mere trading point at that time. The traditional dug-out with its roof of sod rose here and there over the cheerless prairie, while the more pretentious frame "shack" had not made its appearance



except in the few straggling towns. With a keen appreciation of his advantages and unbounded confidence in the future of the country, he set about to acquire as much land as possible while it was cheap. He also practiced his profession in the local courts and before the United States land office, then at Bloomington, in Franklin county. In 1879 he was elected judge of the Harlan county court, and was re-elected two terms, serving till 1885. In February, 1885, he started the Bank of Orleans, with which he is still connected, and which he practically controls. In June, 1889, he assisted in organizing the Orleans Flour and Oatmeal Milling Company, taking a large share of the stock and becoming secretary and treasurer. He has been a member of the school board of the town of Orleans for years, and has taken an active interest not only in school matters but in all matters of public concern. Judge Kent is a hard worker. He believes in the gospel of labor—the philosophy of things done—and he has brought to the discharge of his duties as a citizen and as a public official the same direct and business-like methods which he has practiced in the management of his own affairs. His support of any enterprise is a guarantee of its success. Besides his other interests he owns several thousand acres of land lying in the Republican valley, and is actively identified with the farming and stock interests of his section. And this has all been made in the last twelve or fourteen years. Hard work and good management are the secret of it all.

Judge Kent married in 1883, the lady whom he selected for a life partner being Miss Eva L. Coats, of Boscobel, Grant

county, Wis. In his pleasant home in Orleans he finds relaxation from his many labors and responsibilities and he is never so happy as when surrounded by his many friends, by whom he is greatly respected and admired.

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**G**EORGE F. GEHLEY, a farmer and early settler of Orleans township, Harlan county, Nebr., was born in Prussia in 1845. His father, Frank Gehley, also a native of Prussia, filled out his allotted time in the army of his native country, and while in the service received a medal for marksmanship. He came to America in 1856, passed two or three years in Mississippi, and in 1859 moved to Lee county, Iowa. In 1871 he came to Nebraska and settled on his present farm on section 25, township 3, range 20. In 1830 he married Elizabeth Harlan, who was born in 1810, and to this marriage were born no less than thirteen children, as follows—Mrs. Mina Lusk, of Hancock county, Ill.; Elizabeth (deceased); John, a resident of Harlan county, with whom the father is living; Casper, in Illinois; Ferdinand, in Bloomington, Iowa; Frank; George F., our subject; Mrs. Kate Dich, residing in Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. Setonia Figart, in Iowa; Mrs. Christena Harold, in Nebraska, and three that died in infancy without names. The parents of these children were steadfast adherents of the Catholic church.

George F. Gehley came to America with his parents in 1856, and with them resided in Mississippi, until they all went to Iowa. From this latter state, at the

breaking out of the late war, he entered the volunteer service as teamster, and at the close of the struggle found himself in New Mexico, whence he returned home in 1867. In a few months he went to St. Clair county, Ill., from which place, in 1871, he came to Nebraska, and settled on section 9, township 2, range 19 west, Harlan county, where he has since lived.

March 17, 1871, Mr. Gehley married Miss Anna Scheppel, who was born in Prussia in 1848, and came to America with her parents in 1868. To this marriage eleven children have been born, as follows—George, a book-keeper in Wyoming; Ferdinand, also in Wyoming; John F.; Matilda; Anna; Albert; Leo; Mary; Joseph (deceased); Clara and Eddie. In politics Mr. Gehley is a democrat, and in religion he and his family are Catholic.

**CAPT. J. M. LEE**, postmaster at the town of Oxford and a prominent citizen of Furnas county, is a native of Bartholomew county, Ind., and was born September 21, 1828. He is a descendant of pioneer stock on both sides of his house, his paternal and maternal grandparents being among the first settlers of Ohio. His father's parents, who were Virginians by birth, emigrated to Ohio at the beginning of this century and settled in what is now Warren county, near the present city of Cincinnati, when that place was a mere boat landing. There his father, David R. Lee, grew up, married and moved into Indiana, settling in Bartholomew county. He moved to Iowa in 1846, settling in Louisa county, where he followed the pursuits of agriculture for ten

years, moving afterwards to Warren county, that state, where he lived till his death, which occurred in the spring of 1872, in his seventy-fifth year. Capt. Lee's mother, whose maiden name was Polly Payne, was a descendant of old Pennsylvania stock, she being born in the Keystone State. Her parents emigrated to Ohio over a half-century ago, settling near Cincinnati, where she was reared. She died in Warren county, Iowa, in 1887, at the age of eighty-one.

The subject of this sketch, who is one of a family of fourteen children born to his parents, was reared in his native county in Indiana to the age of eighteen. He accompanied his father's family to Louisa county, Iowa, in 1846, and there, four years later, on December 31, 1850, he married Miss Sarah J. Wilson, of that county, and entered on the active business of life as a farmer. He enlisted in the Union army, August 13, 1862, in Company D, Thirty-fourth Iowa infantry. His regiment was assigned to duty in the Western department, and saw its principal service in Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas. He was in the Vicksburg campaign, at the engagement at Arkansas Post and on the Red River expedition under Banks. He served a little less than three years, the term of his enlistment, and was mustered out in December, 1864. He entered the service as a private, was soon appointed second lieutenant, promoted to first lieutenant, and soon afterwards to the captaincy of his company, these several promotions occurring within six months after his enlistment. When the war was over, Capt. Lee returned to his home in Warren county, Iowa, and resumed farming. In 1871, he was elected to the legislature from War-

ren county and represented that county one term, discharging his duty with fidelity to his constituents and credit to himself. One fact connected with his legislative career is particularly worthy of mention. His vote and another one which he controlled in the caucus secured the nomination of W. B. Allison for senator and started him on a career in which he has since achieved a national reputation. In May, 1876, Capt. Lee moved to Nebraska and settled in Furnas county, taking a homestead two miles north of the present town of Oxford. He engaged actively in farming and stock-raising, and, barring the accidents and misfortunes necessarily incident to life in a new country, he was fairly successful. Having learned the carpenter's trade when a young man and having followed it some time in Iowa, he engaged also after coming to Nebraska in contracting and building. In 1882, he was elected to the legislature from Furnas county, was re-elected in 1884, and again in 1888. He made a faithful public official, serving up to July, 1889, at which time he resigned his seat in order to take charge of the postoffice at Oxford, to which he had previously received an appointment. Capt. Lee is a deservedly popular man, a public-spirited citizen and a genial, affable gentleman. He has a pleasant home and an interesting family, being the father of eleven children, all of whom are grown and most of whom are settled off in life and doing for themselves. These are—Edward W., Stewart W., Charles F., Emory E., Walter S., John R., Dock, James W., Cora E., Dora and Fannie. Capt. Lee and all his sons are republicans in politics, and he and his seven eldest ones voted for Harrison and Morton at the last

election. Capt. Lee's first presidential vote was cast for Taylor in 1848. He affiliated with the republican party on its organization and has voted the straight republican ticket since. He is a zealous member of the Grand Army of the Republic and takes much interest in all matters relating to old soldiers.

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**M** G. HOOPER, a citizen of Orleans, Harlan county, Nebr., is a native of Prince Edward Island, Dominion of Canada, was born December 8, 1837, and lived with his parents till twenty years of age, when he left for St. John's, New Brunswick, and from there to Portland, Me., and then to Boston, then to New York, and left for San Francisco, Cal., in 1860. He stayed in California and Idaho and Montana till 1868, and after going home to see his parents came to Chariton and married Pocahontas Millan in December, 1870 and in 1872 came to Orleans, where he has resided ever since.

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**J**ACOB WOLF was born in Prussia, October 13, 1846, and came to America with his parents when seven years of age, locating on a farm in Erie county, Pa., where he lived for eight years, laboring on his father's farm and attending school in the neighboring district at odd intervals. At the age of fifteen years he moved with his parents to St. Clair county, Ill., where he spent two more years of his life on a farm, and then moved to Effingham county, Ill., where

he resided and labored on a farm until June, 1872, when, actuated by a desire to come West and grow up with the country, he accordingly came to Harlan county, Nebr., and filed claim under the homestead laws on a quarter section of land in section 19, township 2, range 19 west. The settlers in Harlan county at that early time were indeed few and far between and were only to be found here and there along timber-lined creeks, and in the valley of the Republican river—the broad and grassy plain known as the *Dividè*, which has since yielded its millions of bushels of golden grain and has been dotted over with palatial residences and spacious barn and granaries, being left for the buffalo and antelope to graze over in peaceful quietude. Mr. Wolf had little to begin with when he entered his homestead in Harlan county, and the tales of hardships and privations endured during his early frontier life are, indeed, heart-rendering in the extreme. He first constructed a 14 by 16 ft. dug-out, in which he lived for two and a half years, frequently being compelled to sleep under an umbrella within, during the hard storms of those early times, so fierce and driving were the winds and the rains that the roof of an ordinary dug-out afforded but little shelter. The old dug-out did duty for a period of two and a half years, when it was replaced by a neat log cabin of similar dimensions, which afforded shelter for three years, and was finally replaced by a frame store building which Mr. Wolf bought and moved from Furnas county, and converted into a residence. Wild game, such as buffalo, elk, deer and antelope, roamed over the hills and through the narrow valleys in herds numbering

from a dozen up into the thousands, and afforded meat for the hungry settler who was fortunate enough to possess a rifle and ability to handle it with the necessary skill to bring down the game. Mr. Wolf, though not an experienced hunter, managed to kill buffalo and keep his own table well supplied with meat, and whenever possible divided with his neighbors. Crops for the first eight years were anything but good, and it was a continual struggle with Mr. Wolf for existence. The grasshoppers and drought totally destroyed the crops some years and made farming an uncertain business. Many settlers became discouraged and left the country, but Mr. Wolf, with his characteristic pluck and industry, stuck to the old homestead through thick and thin and has since been richly rewarded for his many years of patient toil. He sold his original claim of Sappa creek in 1884 for \$1,625.00 and purchased his present home in the Republican valley, south and east of Orleans, he has a fine tract of two hundred and sixty acres of well improved land.

He was married April 2, 1868, to Eva Coontz, who was born in Maryland, October 6, 1851. Their happy union has been blessed with three children, only one of whom is now living. The first born, Lizzie by name, was bitten by a rattlesnake when but a few years old, from the effects of which she died; the second, a boy, Henry by name, died when young, and the third, Lena B., is a handsome and intelligent young lady of eighteen. Mr. and Mrs. Wolf are active members of the Presbyterian church, and Lena B. of the Methodist Episcopal church. Politically, Mr. Wolf is a republican and has held several offices in his township.

**E** J. PEASE, proprietor of the "Pioneer Lumber Yard" at Oxford, Furnas county, is a native of the town of Fairfax, Franklin county, Vt., and was born November 8, 1846. He is a descendant of two old New England families, being of English extraction on his father's side and of Scotch-Irish on his mother's. His father's people were among the early settled families of Connecticut, and there are now traced to the first ancestor who came to this country over 6,000 descendants, residents of America. His mother's people were among the first settlers of Vermont. His father, Joel H. Pease, was born in the town of Johnson, Lamoille county, Vt., was reared, always lived and died there. He established the first butcher market in the place and was well known throughout the surrounding country as an energetic business man of extensive interests. He died July 27, 1878, in his sixty-sixth year. His parents came from Stonington, Conn. Mr. Pease's mother bore the maiden name of Lucinda Murphy, and she was a native of the town of Swanton, Franklin county, Vt.

The subject of this sketch was reared in his native place, and, in accordance with the New England idea of training the young, he received a good common-school education in the village schools where he was brought up. He was placed in a drug store when a lad for the purpose of learning the business of an apothecary, and having mastered the arts of the calling he entered on the active duties of life on reaching his majority as a druggist. He followed the business for fifteen years in the towns of Cambridge and Fairfax, Franklin county, applying himself so in-

dustriously and so closely that his health gave way at the end of that time and he was compelled to seek a change of locality and calling. He decided to move West, and, closing out his interests in the fall of 1878, he came to Nebraska, reaching Bloomington, then the terminus of the Burlington and Missouri River railroad, on the sixth day of December, that year. He selected a location further up the valley on the east line of Furnas county, buying a tract of railroad land, part of which is now comprised within the thriving little town of Oxford. Mr. Pease's purchase consisted of two hundred and forty acres, all raw land, but susceptible of cultivation. There he pitched his tent and began the serious and, to him, new and untried duties of farm life. It would make too long a story to tell all of his ups and downs during the first years of his residence in the West. The life of the pioneer, never too easy even to those inured somewhat to its hardships, was peculiarly trying to him. He had had no previous training as a farmer; he was launched at once into a calling, concerning which he had the most limited practical knowledge, and that, too, in a remote community of the West, unsurrounded by any of the helps and conveniences common in the older communities of the East. To say that his eyes turned longingly many times to his old home in "the Green mountains" of Vermont and that he wished himself again amid the scenes of his childhood and surrounded by the friends of his youth, would only be stating what any one might readily guess he did as often as he looked across the lone and cheerless prairies, swept by the howling winds of winter or scorched by the burning rays of

the summer's sun. Yet he never seriously entertained the idea during all that time of returning to the East. He came West to stay and he steadily stood by his resolution. He continued at farming, and as he grew in practical experience of farm life the world, as he says, "seemed to swing around more his way," and he got on better each succeeding year. With the advent of the Burlington & Missouri River railroad, which crossed the Furnas and Harlan county line in February, 1880, the outlook became more hopeful, immigration increased, real estate rose in value and avenues for business pursuits began to open up. The town of Oxford was laid out on a portion of land belonging to E. J. Pease's farm, the balance belonging to the farm of J. G. Struber, and a thriving business place at once sprang into existence. At this time a large portion of the town is on his original purchase, and the land which he was the first to seam with a furrow is dotted over with comfortable homes and spacious grounds tastily arranged and carefully kept. The change has been marked, rapid and, to one accustomed to the staid Eastern ways of doing things, wonderful. Through these changes, however, Mr. Pease has passed, gliding easily through them from year to year, and having assisted in effecting many of them himself. Being engrossed with them in no small degree, he can not realize fully what has taken place, and the time seems, as he says, only a very few years. Retaining his farming interests at all times Mr. Pease has, in addition thereto, been variously engaged for the last ten years. He was with the Burlington & Missouri River Land Company in the capacity of topographical surveyor. Learning tele-

graphy, he subsequently took a position with the Burlington & Missouri Railroad as assistant station agent at Oxford. Then in September, 1882, he became the agent for the Frees & Hocknell Lumber Company and had charge of their interests at Oxford and remained in this capacity till January, 1887. At that date he bought out his employer's stock, fixtures and good will, since which time he has owned and operated the yard himself, being the pioneer lumber merchant of the town of Oxford. Mr. Pease's career has been that of a business man strictly. He has never aspired to any public position. While he is a jolly, good fellow, has a host of friends and might, with considerable show of success, ask public office, he has preferred the quiet pursuits of private life, devoting his time and attention to his own personal affairs. He is largely interested in the town of Oxford and takes an active part in matters of general concern in connection with his town and community, having an encouraging word for any deserving enterprise and giving liberally of his means for any industry looking to the upbuilding of the place.

Mr. Pease has a pleasant home and no man on earth loves his home better than he does. He married in his native county in Vermont on December 23, 1871, the lady whom he selected to share his fortunes through life being a neighbor girl whom he had known many years, Miss Clara P. Danforth, a native of Franklin county, a daughter of Porter Danforth and a descendant of an old and honorable family of the "Green Mountain State." Mrs. Pease is one of a family of nine girls, and, like her husband, the pioneer of her family. Her sisters with but one excep-

tion all live within a few miles of where they were born and reared. If the men who came to this state at an early day and remained heroically through all the hardships and privations of pioneer life are to be remembered with biographical notices in connection with the history of their adopted counties, what place should be assigned to the heroic women who, forsaking the homes of their childhood and the association of their younger years, the peace and comfort to which they were reared, have come to the wild and rugged West, to brave the dangers and disappointments of pioneer life? They should not only be remembered in the history of the localities which they have helped to make blossom as the rose, but they should and will live in the memories of a free, happy and grateful people, for whom they, by their untiring industry, perseverance and courageous self-denial, have made possible what we now see and may still hope to see in this proud and prosperous commonwealth.

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**E** P. REICHARDT, senior member of the firm of Reichardt & Nissen, of Oxford, Furnas county, is a native of the city of Flenburg, Schleswig Holstein, Germany, and was born November 16, 1852. He was reared in his native country and lived there to the age of nineteen, coming to the United States in 1873. He came direct to Nebraska at that date, spent a short time at Fremont and Omaha, and then went to Wyoming. He secured a position with the Union Pacific Railroad Company in

the car service at Green Brier, Wyo., where he learned the business and followed the trade there for five years. He was then transferred to Rock Springs and put in charge of the shops there as foreman, which position he held for a period of six years, making his term of service with the Union Pacific eleven years. As evidence of the faithfulness with which he discharged his duties during this time it may be mentioned that he never, during the entire eleven years, missed a pay day, was never suspended, reprimanded nor criticised, and resigned his position, bearing with him the gratitude and best wishes of his employers and the respect and good will of all of those with whom he had had business relations or with whom he had come in contact. Although young in years and laboring under the disadvantage of having to master a foreign language as well as begin life anew among strangers, and as a common laborer, he, nevertheless, became one of the best known men along the line of the Union Pacific railroad, and was universally popular, not only with the trainmen and traveling public, but with shippers, ranchmen, and the general citizens of the territory. He was on the frontier, and saw the border towns in their palmy days; he knew the boomers and learned of the ups and downs of the "flush times" of "the far West." Quitting the Union Pacific in 1884, he formed a partnership with William Holcomb and entered into the mercantile business, dry goods, clothing, boots and shoes, in Rock Springs, continuing at it some time. He came to Nebraska in 1885, stopping at Oxford, July 10, that year. Soon afterwards he opened a general mercantile

establishment, which he conducted alone till July, 1887, at which time his brother-in-law, J. H. Nissen, joined him, the firm becoming Reichardt & Nissen. This is one of the largest and most successful houses in the Republican valley. They have a large two-story brick building with a basement, and it is lined from bottom to top with goods of every kind in demand in a country town. They carry a large stock and do an immense business. Messrs. Reichardt & Nissen are both young men full of energy and ambition, and possess a special aptitude for their calling. Their store is crowded the live-long day the year round. They are live, wide-awake men, thoroughly posted, and each an accomplished salesman. They employ no help, but with the aid of Mrs. Reichardt, who is in charge of the millinery and dry-goods department, they conduct the entire business of the firm, giving to every detail their own personal attention.

Mr. Reichardt married in November, 1878, the lady whom he selected to share his life's fortunes being Miss Annie Nissen, who was also born and reared in Flensburg, Germany, and a lady whom he had known from early childhood. This union has been blessed with three bright little fellows, two boys and a girl, Charles, Elfy and Annie.

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**B**YRON H. CHRISLER is an early settler of Harlan county, an enterprising and progressive farmer and an old soldier worthy of note. He is a native of New York, and was born in Madison county, that state, in August,

1836. Unfortunately, through the loss of his parents at an early age, nothing has been preserved for him concerning his ancestral history. His father and mother died during the cholera scourge of 1838, and he, being the only child, was reared in the family of an uncle, and received such training as fell to him as a member of a large family, where there were others having better claims on the head of that family than he had. He married, in 1858, taking as a life companion Miss Louisa Fatherlas, a native of Germany. She came with her parents, Christopher and Lena Fatherlas, to America, in 1847, being then only nine years of age.

Mr. Chrisler settled on a farm in Wisconsin and industriously set about to make himself a home. He was so engaged when the clouds of civil war burst upon his unhappy country, and he, like thousands of others, patriotically offered his services for the defense of the Union, entering the army July 16, 1861, enlisting in Company G, Sixth Wisconsin infantry. His regiment served with the Army of the Potomac. He was in twelve battles and as many skirmishes. He was wounded in the battle of the Wilderness by a gunshot through the thigh, and when the ambulance was carrying him from the battle-field the team ran away and broke his arm. He was disabled from active service by reason of his wound for eight months, six of which he spent in the hospital. He was taken prisoner at the time he was wounded, but re-captured the same day. July 14, 1865, he was mustered out at Jeffersonville, Ind., getting his discharge later at Madison, Wis. His wife accompanied him throughout his entire term of service, as a volunteer hospital



nurse. For nine months she was at Fairfax seminary, Virginia, and also served at other hospitals, being thus one of the few women who gave to the cause of the Union four years of the best part of her life, and to the cause of suffering humanity an amount of labor and heroic devotion on which it is not possible to place a value.

The war being over, Mr. and Mrs. Chrisler returned to Wisconsin and settled down to farming, and so continued till coming to Nebraska. He moved to this state in 1871 and settled in Harlan county, Prairie Dog township, and located a homestead on the northeast quarter of section 24, township 1, range 18 west, of which one hundred acres are under cultivation. He has a farm well stocked with high-grade cattle, good horses and improved breeds of hogs. All Mr. Chrisler now has represents the results of his patient industry and economical management; as, when he came to the county he had only a small sum of money, and this was soon used up in getting a start. During the first years of his residence he met with many disappointments and endured many hardships and privations in passing through the well-remembered grasshopper season and the period of drouths and hail-storms, all of which spread havoc right and left and entailed much suffering. Mr. Chrisler was reduced to the extremity of seeking employment away from home in order to earn bread and butter for his family. In recent years, however, he has had good crops and has met with fair success otherwise.

Mr. Chrisler has a pleasant home, his log house having given way to a sod one, and that to a commodious frame. In the labor of building a home for himself on the

Western frontier he has been ably assisted by the good wife who bore him companionship during the four years of his service in the army, she sharing with him his every toil and hardship, and entering actively into all his plans and purposes.

Mr. and Mrs. Chrisler are the parents of seven children, three boys and four girls—Eliza J., who died August 30, 1860, one year old; William A., who died May 24, 1861, in infancy; Belva, died in June, 1882, age sixteen years, six months, eleven days; Ellen, died in 1875, four years; Emily L., Byron C. and Willie B.

Mr. Chrisler takes no particular interest in politics, but votes the republican ticket. He has served as school director of his school district for ten years, and has been zealous in the support of the educational interests in his community. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and also of the Masonic fraternity, to each of which associations he gives his hearty sympathy and encouragement.

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**G**ILBERT R. PARISH, one of the earliest settlers and most prosperous farmers and stock-raisers on Prairie Dog creek, in Harlan county, was born in western Pennsylvania April 10, 1842. His father, William J. Parish, one of the pioneer settlers of Michigan, was born in England March 7, 1816, and was one of the first settlers of northern Michigan and helped saw the lumber to build the first buildings on the site where now stands the city of Grand Rapids. He was for a

number of years engaged in the lumber business, but finally settled down to farming, which business he carried on somewhat extensively until his death, at the age of fifty-seven years, in 1874. The mother of our subject, Johanna (Rose) Parish, was by birth a native of New York State, born August 1, 1812. There were seven children in the paternal family. Gilbert R. Parish was taken by his parents, when one year old, to Trumbull county, Ohio, where they resided for three years and then moved to northern Michigan, which was then a wild, wooded country, inhabited only by Indians, wild animals of the woods and a very few white settlers. Afterwards he settled in Barry county. Here he continued to reside until fourteen years old, taking advantage in the meantime of the meager opportunities offered for schooling and spending much of his leisure time in the lumber camp and among the Indians, which thronged the country at that time. The next move made by the family was to Henry county, Ills., which was then the Western frontier. Here he resided with his parents one year, when, circumstances not favoring their remaining there longer, they emigrated still further west and finally located in Black Hawk county, Iowa, at that time a wild, barren country, very sparsely settled. Here our subject spent the next five years of his eventful life engaged principally in farming, and in 1860 moved to Buchanan county, Iowa. He remained there two years when, the war of the rebellion having broken out and a call made for reinforcements, he enlisted August 13, 1862, in Company C, Twenty-seventh regiment Iowa volunteer infantry. His first service consisted in

guarding an Indian paymaster to a point in Minnesota, for the purpose of paying off the Indians; was then sent South to guard prisoners on exchange. He was taken sick on this journey, but finally joined his regiment at Jackson, Tenn. His regiment started at once for the battle of Corinth, but reached there too late to take an active part in the fight. During the remainder of his service he participated in the battles of Little Rock, Ark., Tupelo and Old Town creek, at which latter fight he was shot in the left breast. His wound, at first reported fatal, proved to be only a flesh wound and kept him off duty only four weeks. He next participated in the Meridian raid and later was in the Red River campaign, during which he did some hard fighting. He was through the Iron mountain campaign and in the skirmishes in western Missouri. He participated in the three days' fight at Nashville, Tenn., after which he went down the river with his regiment to New Orleans, and April 9, 1865, the day after the war practically closed, participated in the battle of Blakely fort. He was mustered out at Clinton, Iowa, August 8, 1865, having served three years, lacking five days. He returned at once to Black Hawk county, Iowa, and rented a farm. He remained here but a short time, however, when he removed to Buchanan county, Iowa, where he again engaged in farming.

In the spring of 1871 he decided to go still further West and grow up with the country. He accordingly came to Nebraska, reaching Harlan county, June 11. He at once pre-empted a quarter section in section 32, township 1, range 18 west, and homesteaded the same two years

later. Prairie Dog creek, which wended its way through his claim and was lined with timber on both sides, furnished the logs for a fourteen by eighteen foot cabin, which he immediately erected and soon had his family quartered and living in true Western style. Prairie Dog valley, as it is commonly known, was a wild looking wilderness at that early day, and the only inhabitants were a few settlers, or rather a few campers, as they were then called, who remained but a short time. Buffalo roamed over the adjacent hills and through the neighboring valleys in herds of thousands, and antelope and deer were not uncommon. The valley along the creek teemed with wild turkey and other small game, and many were the happy hunters who took from the valley their wagon-loads of spoil. Crop-raising proved unprofitable for the first few years, and Mr. Parish not unfrequently killed buffalo, elk, antelope and deer and disposed of the dried meat and hides for flour and other provisions for the family. Indians from Otoe, Pawnee, Sioux and Winnebago tribes roamed through the valley in the summer time on their hunting expeditions and frequently camped on the banks of the creek near his place. Having lived among the Chippewa Indians in upper Michigan when a boy, and having learned their habits thoroughly, he knew well how to deal with them, and in consequence was never molested or made afraid, beyond their begging and stealing trifles at odd times. The first years of his settlement Mr. Parish put out about fifteen acres of crop, including corn, potatoes, squash and melons, and was molested considerably by the Indians pulling off the corn tassels

and sticking them in their horses' bridles for ornament and carrying off the melons and squash through curiosity. Mr. Parish had little or nothing to start with when he came to Harlan county, but by trading around, he managed to get a team, and, having a few cows, he sold milk at ten cents a quart and butter at forty cents a pound to the regular soldiers passing through. In this manner he managed to live. The first year he had to go to Beatrice—a distance of one hundred and seventy-five miles—for his mail, requiring eight days to make the trip. He purchased the first bill of goods ever bought in Republican City, and his son Harlan was the first white boy born in Harlan county, which bears his name. During the grasshopper years of 1874-76, Mr. Parish lost a good share of his crop, but after that disastrous blight prosperity dawned upon him and he is to-day the happy possessor of six hundred and forty acres of as fine land as can be found in the Prairie Dog valley, as well as large herds of cattle and horses.

Mr. Parish was married to Margaret A. Gipe, who was born March 25, 1841, in Adams county, Pa. Their union has been blessed with nine children, namely—Jane, born February 22, 1863; Anson, born July 21, 1867; Byron, born September 6, 1869; Harlan, born October 19, 1871; Verne, born August 22, 1875; Jed, born February 13, 1877; Lee, born August 14, 1881, and two that died in infancy.

Politically, Mr. Parish is a republican. He was instrumental in the early organization of the county, and was its first treasurer. He has also filled the office of justice of the peace for a number of years in his own township.

**A**NSON TEETER. Among those who came to Harlan county in an early day and have been identified with its settlement, growth and development, is this gentleman. He was born in Tompkins county, N. Y., June 12, 1830, and is next to the youngest child in a family of eighteen—seven girls and eleven boys—born to Elias and Rachel (Davenport) Teeter, both of whom were natives of New Jersey. The former, a farmer by occupation, lived to be over sixty years of age, dying in 1849. Anson spent his boyhood at home on his father's farm, attending school and helping about the place until he was twenty years of age, when he came West and located in Michigan. There he remained two years and was engaged in clearing land, including that on which Lansing, the state capital, is now situated. He then returned East to Elmira, N. Y., and for four years was engaged principally in milling. His next move was to Aurora, Ill., where he engaged in milling one year and then went to Shabbona Grove, and engaged in farming. He left there in 1858, returning to Elmira, N. Y., and the following spring came to Jackson county, Mich., where he farmed until 1861, when he again changed his location to near Calumet, Porter county, Ind., where he farmed one year. His next move was to Kane county, Ill., where he resided on a farm until the fall of 1872, when he emigrated West and settled on his present claim in Prairie Dog township, Harlan county, Nebr. He homesteaded a quarter section in section 35, township 1, range 18 west, September 12, 1872, and at once erected a twelve by fourteen foot dug-out and brought the family out the following spring. At that day

there were but few settlers in the Prairie Dog Valley, and the surrounding country looked more like the Arabian desert than a country that only needed to be tickled with a hoe to produce its millions of bushels of golden grain. Buffalo in herds of thousands were roaming over the neighboring hills and through the adjacent valleys, and presented a scene long to be remembered by the few venturesome settlers of that early day. Deer, elk and antelope were frequently to be seen, and wild turkey flocked through the wooded valley of the creek. The atmosphere was then so dry and the air so pure that wild game, when killed, could be hung up in the trees to dry, and would hang for months without spoiling. Mr. Teeter came to Harlan county with but little means, and the hardships he endured for the first few years are simply indescribable. He raised a small crop of corn and potatoes the first year, and was remunerated for his labor by getting \$1.50 per bushel for his potatoes and 85 cents per bushel for his corn at his own door, but this was about all he was able to raise for the next five years, the drought and grasshoppers playing havoc with the crops. The first twelve years of his life in Harlan county he farmed without a team, working three days for a neighbor for one day's work use of a team. With the more rapid settlement of the country, the drought and grasshoppers disappeared, and prosperity finally dawned, so that for the past seven or eight years he has raised good crops and has been generally prosperous.

He was united in marriage June 6, 1861, to Louisa M. Tippets, by whom he has had four children, namely—Hattie, Cora E., Isabell M. and George H. Politically

Mr. Teeter is a strong believer in the principles of the democratic party. Considering the many disadvantages under which Mr. Teeter has had to labor, coming, as he did, to Harlan county in an early day with practically nothing and having to start from the very bottom and build up, he is certainly worthy of great credit for the manner in which he has persistently toiled on and the success he has achieved. His name will long be associated with the history of Harlan county.

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**G**EORGE W. GIPE, one of the very earliest settlers in Harlan county and one of the most prosperous farmers in the Prairie Dog Creek valley, was born in Dark county, Ohio, February 18, 1848, and is the fifth child in a family of thirteen children born to William and Mariah (Miller) Gipe. Both the parents are natives of Pennsylvania, the former being born in the year 1816 and the latter in 1812. The parents of our subject moved from Ohio to Black Hawk county, Iowa, then the Western frontier, when he was but four years old, and he, in consequence thereof, has little or no recollection of his native birthplace. He spent his boyhood days attending school and laboring on his father's farm until eighteen years of age, when his parents moved again, settling in Buchanan county, in the same state. Our subject, having accompanied his parents, engaged in farming in that county and remained there until 1871, when, in June, he emigrated West and settled in Prairie Dog township, Harlan county, Nebr., pre-empting a quarter section in section 32,

which he homesteaded two and a half years afterwards. The country was thronged with buffalo, and herds numbering up in the thousands were commonly seen during the summer months. Deer, antelope and elk, while not as plentiful as buffalo, were quite numerous. Wild game furnished the principal food for the first few years, and many are the buffalo that fell a victim to his deadly aim. He came to Harlan county with a Mr. Parish, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work, and they lived together the first year. When he left Iowa his worldly effects consisted of the clothes on his back and \$1.50 in his pocket. When he reached his destination he had 75 cents capital on which to start business on the wild Western frontier. The first year he broke out six acres, but on account of the drought and molestations by the Indians, who flocked through the country on hunting expeditions, was unable to raise much. In 1874, he had twenty-two acres of crops totally destroyed by the grasshoppers, which were so numerous that year that they swarmed over the country like a thunder cloud, destroying all vegetation that lay in their way. So numerous were they in the valley, that they would settle in the tops of the trees so thick that the limbs would bend over and sometimes break entirely off. Although the hardships of pioneer life were discouraging to Mr. Gipe, he has, through his indomitable courage and invincible determination, worked steadily on until he is to-day in comfortable circumstances and enjoying that prosperity which comes only to the industrious worker. He now owns two hundred and forty acres of as fine land as lays in the valley and has a good portion of it in a

high state of cultivation. Mr. Gipe was married March 30, 1877, to Ella Moore, a most estimable lady, who was born in Schuyler county, Ill., January 10, 1859. Their union has resulted in the birth of six children, namely—Victor, born January 20, 1878; Harry, born April 5, 1880; Essie M., born November 22, 1882; Ray, born March 20, 1884; Leonard, born September 10, 1885; Louisa, born February 27, 1889. Politically, Mr. Gipe is a republican. He has filled the office of constable of his township two terms, that of road supervisor five terms, and that of treasurer four terms, which last named office he now holds. He is also secretary of the Farmers' Alliance.

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**J**ABEZ COBELDICK, an early settler and an honored and much respected citizen of Prairie Dog township, Harlan county, Nebr., was born in England, June 10, 1816, and is the son of Richard Cobeldick, also a native of England and a shipwright in Her Majesty's ship yards. His mother, Betsie (Sloggett) Cobeldick, was born in England and lived and died in her native country. Our subject spent his early life at home, and up to the twenty-first year of his life attended school and served an apprenticeship under his father at the trade of shipwright. Arriving at his majority and being of a somewhat romantic turn of mind, and desiring to see more of the world than his native land, he set sail in 1838, for Australia. Arriving there he soon found employment at his trade and continued working and viewing the country for fifteen months,

when he took passage by steamer, and, after a voyage lasting some days, concluded to land at Van Dieman's Land, where he worked nine months at his trade of shipbuilder. His next exploit was as carpenter on board a whale ship, bound for the China Seas. The voyage was a very successful one and lasted for three years and afforded him a great opportunity, which he took advantage of, to study the customs and manners of foreign nations. He next landed at Swan river, in western Australia, where he built a schooner and repaired a broken ship, spending five years there, and finally returned to England in the ship he had repaired. After a sojourn in his native country of six months' duration, he embarked for America, landing in this country in December of 1848. He first located in Cincinnati, but remained there only a short time, finally settling permanently at Andalusia, Ill., where for nearly twenty years he ran a warehouse and bought and sold grain. Although well up in years at this time, he decided to come West and settle on the frontier and grow up with the country, so to speak. He accordingly did so, landing in Harlan county, Nebr., February 28, 1872. He at once homesteaded a claim of one hundred and sixty acres, lying half in section 25 and half in section 26. He was among the earliest settlers, there being a few further up the creek. The country presented a dreary appearance and looked anything but inviting to one who had almost circumnavigated the globe and lived in some of the most densely populated and most productive districts in the world. Wild buffalo were roaming over the unbroken prairie in herds of thousands, and deer, elk and antelope

were almost daily seen along the creeks and within the draws of the neighboring hills. His success at farming, like that of every other settler in a new country, was somewhat varied, getting fair crops some years and again nothing at all. The drought and grasshoppers proved very destructive to the crops, and farming for the first five or six years was up-hill business, but, after the country became more generally settled, the rains fell oftener and more gently, and his crops gradually increased until complaint on account of failure entirely ceased. Of late years Mr. Cobeldick has been devoting his time and attention to fruit growing and he now has twelve hundred very fine, thrifty apple trees, just beginning to bear.

Mr. Cobeldick was married November 2, 1848, to Mary Ann Mitchel, a native of England, born February 24, 1810. Their happy union has been blessed with the birth of one child—Jabez S., born October 11, 1849, who is married and owns and farms a place adjoining that of his fathers. Mr. and Mrs. Cobeldick are both active members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Republican City. Politically, Mr. Cobeldick is a prohibitionist and a strong believer in the principles of his party.

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**L**EWIS J. POND, one of the early settlers on the Prairie Dog creek, in Harlan county, was born in Hudson, Summit county, Ohio, March 1, 1853. His father, Julius Pond, at one time an extensive farmer, was born in Summit county, Ohio, in 1827, and died

there in 1870. The mother of Lewis J. was Sarah (Scott) Pond, a native of Ohio State, born in 1822. She came West in 1872, after the death of her husband, and settled on a homestead on Prairie Dog creek, where she still lives on a farm adjoining that of her son. The paternal grandfather, Preston Pond, was a native of Connecticut and a pioneer in that state. Lewis J. Pond lived in Summit county, Ohio, till August, 1871, attending school in early life and laboring on his father's farm. The death of his father and the attending circumstances of the family made necessary a change in the management of affairs, and it was thought best that the family seek a new home in the then far West. He accordingly set out, in August of 1871, on a tour of inspection through the West with a view of looking up a location for the family. After looking over different sections of the state, he decided on the present location on Prairie Dog creek, and February of the following year wrote for his mother and the rest of the family. His mother, on arriving, filed claim on the northeast quarter of section 34, township 1, range 18 west. At this early day there were but few actual settlers south of the Republican river in Harlan county, there being a few squatters, who left the following year. Wild game—buffalo, elk, deer and antelope and thousands of wild turkey—swarmed over the country and presented a wild effect indeed. On July 4, of that year, the main herd of buffalo came in sight, and the prairie, as far as the eye could see, was literally black with them. Buffalo frequently strolled through the same fields in which he was at work. The

first house constructed and occupied by the family was a log cabin 14 by 18 feet in dimensions. The first few years the Pawnee, Otoe and Omaha Indians camped for weeks at a time along the creek near their cabin while on hunting expeditions, and on account of their begging and stealing they were a great source of annoyance. The nearest trading point the first year was at Grand Island, and later at Lowell, and he was able to earn some money the first few years freighting goods across the country from these two points. Crops for the first six or seven years were practically a failure on account of the grasshoppers and severe drought, and the family saw some pretty hard times.

Lewis J. Pond pre-empted a quarter section across the state line in Phillips county, Kans., in 1873, and bought his present place, consisting of two hundred and forty acres of fine land, in 1880. There were one hundred and twenty-five acres broken when he bought it, but aside from this there was little improvement. He now has his farm well improved with good frame buildings, and he deals to a considerable extent in cattle and hogs. He was married in November, 1874, to Miss Fannie Snider, a most estimable lady, who was born in Milwaukee county, Wis., in 1857. Five children have blessed this happy union, namely — Winfield C., Raymond R., Lottie, Atwood, and one that died in infancy. Politically, Mr. Pond is a strong adherent to the principles of the republican party, and has held various offices in his township. Considering the extreme youth of Mr. Pond when he settled in Harlan county, and the many disadvantages under which he

was compelled to struggle, he is certainly deserving of great credit for the success he has achieved since coming to Nebraska.

JOHN HOUK is one of the very early settlers of Harlan county, Nebr., and one of the first few who settled in Prairie Dog township. He was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, July 15, 1830. Though born in Hamilton county, the greater part of his early life was spent on a farm in Allen county, where he resided until twenty-two years of age, attending district school and obtaining as good an education as the advantages of the times afforded. In March, 1853, he went via the ocean to California with a company in pursuit of gold, and while there engaged in mining for nine years, when he returned via the ocean and settled again in Allen county, Ohio, his trip not having been much of a success in a financial sense. Four years later, in 1867, he moved to Benton county, Iowa, and farmed one year, and then changed locations to Madison county, of the same state. Here he lived and labored on a farm till May, 1871, when he came to Harlan county, Nebr., driving through in a covered wagon. He homesteaded a quarter section, it being section 33, township 1, range 18 west, on which he still lives. The country presented a wild and barren appearance and was thronged with buffalo in herds numbering up into the thousands. There were also some elk and deer and many antelope. Though not an experienced hunter, he killed a number of buffalo and antelope and always had



plenty of their meat for table use. His first house was a log cabin twelve by fourteen feet, with a dirt roof and ground floor. Indians at that time frequented the creek on hunting expeditions and would come to his cabin door half starved and beg for something to eat. The first few years he was able to raise fair crops, but during the grasshopper times, from 1874 to 1876, lost all his corn and raised but little small grain. Of late years he has raised uniformly good crops and has his farm in a good state of cultivation, with one hundred acres broken. In 1882 he took his family and went to Texas, and remained one year and then returned. In like manner he made a trip to Walla Walla, Wash. Ter., in 1889, but after an experience of four months returned and settled on the original homestead, with the idea that Nebraska was good enough for him.

Mr. Houk was married in Allen county, Ohio, October 8, 1862, to Miss Sarah Ulrey, who was born in Allen county, Ohio, May 9, 1839. Four children bless their home, namely—Catherine J., Silas M., Sylvia M. and Mina E. Politically, Mr. Houk is a democrat

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**J**OHAN C. MITCHELL is one of the early pioneer settlers of Harlan county, and is therefore entitled to a place in this history. He was born in Piscataquis county, Maine, March 29, 1850, and is one of the eleven children born to John and Charlotta (Littlefield) Mitchell, the former of whom, a farmer by occupation, was a native of Maine, born in the year 1800, and died after a

long and useful life at the age of seventy-three. The latter was also a native of Maine and was born in 1803, and died at the age of seventy-two.

John C. spent his boyhood days in Maine, working about on his father's farm in the summer and attending the neighboring district schools in the winter. When about eighteen years of age he went to Upton, Worcester county, Mass., and for three years was engaged in farming. He emigrated to Nebraska in March, 1872, stopping for a short time in Johnson county, and finally, April 6, landed in Harlan county, where he homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 27, township 2, range 18 west. The first settlement made in the county had been the year previous, and the country naturally presented rather a barren appearance. Buffalo, deer, elk, antelope and wild turkey were plentiful while actual settlers were few and hard to find. In the immediate vicinity of Mr. Mitchell's claim there were no settlers at all. He constructed a dug-out, fourteen by eighteen feet, in which he kept "bach" for one year, when it accidentally took fire in the chimney and burned, together with all his household effects. This was indeed a severe blow and at a time when he could least afford it. In the beginning he had little better than nothing to start with, and up to this time, crops having been a practical failure, he had made little progress. He killed an occasional deer or antelope, which constituted the greater part of his living for the first few years. On account of the grasshoppers and the drouth he was not able to raise anything like a fair crop of grain for six years. One year, during the grasshopper raids, he

lost seventy-five acres of crops. He would hardly have been able to live under such circumstances had it not been for an occasional job of freighting from Lowell and Kearney, which paid him forty-five cents per hundred for a distance of fifty miles. His crops have been fairly good since 1878, and he has prospered in proportion. In 1884 he sold his old homestead and is at present living in the Republican valley, just south of Alma. He is the possessor of eight hundred acres of land in different parts of the county, and deals largely in stock. He was married in June, 1874, to Lizzie Schrack, who is a native of Illinois and was born July 16, 1854. Five children bless their happy home—Jessie E., Mabel E., Jasper E., Celia E. and Harry L.

In politics Mr. Mitchell is a republican and a firm believer in the principles of his party. He is now serving his second term as supervisor of Prairie Dog township, and is highly esteemed by all who know him.

**J**OHN F. ZIEGLER was born in Hanover, Germany, March 6, 1848, and is one of a family of thirteen children born to John and Julia (Seabird) Ziegler, both of whom were natives of Germany. The former, a carpenter by occupation, was born in 1813 and lived to the ripe old age of seventy-four years. John F. Ziegler came to America with his parents when only eight years of age, and though young has some recollection of his native country. The family first located at Iowa City, Johnson county, Iowa, in the fall of 1856, where they

lived one year and then moved to Rock Island county, Ill., where they resided on a farm for five years. In the spring of 1862, Mr. Ziegler moved to Wabasha county, Minn., where he lived until the spring of 1864. Our subject in the meantime attended school in winter and worked on the farm in summer. The war of the rebellion being under full headway at this time, and the call for recruits very urgent, our subject responded, and in May of that year enlisted in Company E, Second Minnesota regiment. He participated in the battles of Kenesaw mountain, Marietta, Atlanta and Jonesburgh, at which latter place he was severely injured in tearing up a railroad track by having six lengths of iron rails and ties fall upon him in such a manner as to break his left leg, three ribs and severely sprain his spine. He was laid up in consequence thereof for many months, and was in hospitals at Chattanooga, Nashville, Washington, Louisville and Jeffersonville. He finally recovered sufficiently to join his regiment April 1, 1865, at Raleigh, N. C., just previous to Lincoln's death. He was at the grand review in Washington, and was mustered out at Louisville, Ky., July 11, 1865. He returned to Minnesota and remained there one year, moving back to Rock Island county, Ill., where he filled the capacity of foreman on the large stock farm of Wm. Morris, until he emigrated to Nebraska in the spring of 1872. He came West by rail as far as Sutton, Nebr., and then walked up the Republican valley, looking at the country, and arrived in Harlan county, April 15th. He pre-empted a quarter section in section 32, township 1, range 18 west, built a small dug-out, lived on it

six months, and then proved it up. The country was new and barren and the settlers were few and far between. Buffalo were roaring about in great herds, and elk and deer, though not plentiful, were occasionally to be seen. He devoted most of his time the first year to hunting, and killed one elk and fifty buffalo. He dried and sold the meat and hides and in this manner made quite a sum of money. In November of the first year he bought the right to a claim in section 32, on which he now lives, and later proved up on it. Crops were poor for a number of years on account of the grasshoppers and severe drought, but of late years he has had good crops and has prospered in a manner to enable him to improve his place in fine shape. His home is located in a romantic-looking spot on the banks of the Prairie Dog creek, and is surrounded with thrifty trees.

He was married March 30, 1877, to Miss Mary E. Moore, who was born in Schuyler county, Ill., August 14, 1841. Both Mr. and Mrs. Ziegler are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Politically, he is a republican and has held numerous local offices, serving as clerk of his town in 1884 and as member of the county board in 1885-86. He is at present justice of the peace in his township.

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**A**ARON NEWMAN, the subject of this memoir, is one the earliest settlers in the Republican valley, in Harlan township. He was born in Monroe county, Iowa, January 9, 1849, and is one of a family of twelve children born to Philip and Julia (Crouse) New-

man, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania; the former, by profession a United Brethren minister, was born in 1803 and lived a long and useful life, dying at the age of eighty-four years. He moved to Iowa in an early day and there spent the greater part of his eventful life, riding over the then new country as an itinerant, and preaching the gospel and establishing churches. A few years before his death he was struck on the head by a piece of flying timber in a saw-mill and received a fracture of the skull, from which he never fully recovered. The mother of our subject was born in the year 1804 and lived a long and useful life, being noted for her christian piety and benevolent acts, and died at the age of eighty-five years.

Our subject moved with his parents to Marion county, Iowa, when about one year old, where he lived until he came to Harlan county, Nebr. In early life he attended school in the district where he lived, and through assiduous application obtained a good education, considering the advantages at hand. When the war of the rebellion broke out, he was but a stripling of a boy and too young to be taken into the service of his country; but later, January 1, 1863, he enlisted in Company E, Eighth Iowa infantry, and was sent direct to Vicksburg, but arrived after the hardest of the battle was over. His next service was at Memphis, Tenn., where for nearly a year he did duty as provost guard. The regiment then went down the river to New Orleans and across the gulf to Spanish fort. During their transit on the gulf they were in a four-days storm and at one time life was entirely despaired of. The ship was finally

landed on Dolphin Island, where for ten days the soldiers recruited, their only food being oysters which they caught along the shores of the island. From there the regiment crossed to Spanish fort, and in a twelve-day battle succeeded in capturing it. For a considerable time thereafter, our subject did duty as guard at Montgomery, Ala., after which he was on duty at Selma, Ala., and later, in May, 1866, was discharged and returned home. He engaged in farming in Marion county, after the war, until he came to Harlan county, Nebr., in May, 1872, being one of the first settlers to file claim in the county. At that early day buffalo, deer and antelope were plentiful, and his meat for the first few years consisted principally of the same. He homesteaded a quarter section in section 29, township 2, range 18 west, and constructed a 12 by 16 foot dug-out, where he "bached" it until August 12th of the same year, when he returned and brought out his family. For the first four years his crops were successively destroyed by the grasshoppers and drought, and as he had comparatively little to begin with, he saw some very hard times. He was enabled to earn some money, however, for the first few years, by freighting goods from Lowell, distant about seventy miles to the north, and in this manner managed to live. He finally sold his farm and moved into town, and for several years ran the mail coach from Alma to Kearney and later to Holdrege. He afterwards purchased his present farm in the valley of the Republican, and has prospered since. He was married in February, 1861, to Amanda Ferguson, a most estimable lady, by whom he has had fourteen chil-

dren, eleven of whom are now living, viz. —Chas. T., John M., Nora, Rosa, Edward, Bertha, Franklin, Clarence, Thomas, Joseph, Nellie, Earl, Mary and Benjamin. Mr. and Mrs. Newman are both active members of the Free Methodist church. Politically, he is a prohibitionist, and since coming to Harlan county has held various local offices.

**A**LBERT II. GOULD was born in Lincoln county, Me., August 4, 1842, and is one of four children, two boys and two girls, born to Joseph and Mary E. (Hamilton) Gould, both of whom were natives of Maine; the former was born in December, 1815, and for many years was a lumberman in the states of Maine, New York and Pennsylvania, and came to Harlan county, Nebr., in 1871, after which he farmed until his death, May 23, 1883. The latter was born in 1820, and after a long and useful life died April 2, 1887.

The paternal grandfather was a lumberman in Maine and was killed in the woods by a falling tree when the father of our subject was but five or six years old.

When our subject was six years old he moved with his parents to Handy Hollow, N. Y., where his father went into the lumber business for two years and then moved to Yeomans Mill, in Tioga county, Pa., where he lived for one year, and then moved to Tioga village and engaged in the lumber business. Their next move was to Jackson, same county, where they settled on a farm and later engaged in the

lumber and saw-mill business, living here in all about eleven years.

Albert H., our subject, enlisted in the war August 18, 1861, when but nineteen years of age, going as a private in Company E, Eighty-sixth regiment New York volunteers. He participated in the battle of Bull Run, lasting three days, after which he was affected with heart trouble and rheumatism to such an extent that he was sent to the hospital, where he was confined for some months and finally discharged April 2, 1863. He returned home and continued to reside in Tioga county until 1868, during which time he was engaged in farming. He moved to Marengo, Iowa county, Iowa, and resided there two and one-half years on a farm. He came to Harlan county, March 28, 1872, and homesteaded his present farm in section 1, township 1, range 18 west. He was one of the first settlers to settle in the Republican valley. The country teemed with buffalo, antelope and deer, with now and then an elk. He came to Harlan county in rather poor circumstances, possessing at the time but one team and two cows; the latter straying away soon after, were never heard from. His crops for the first few years were poor, with the exception of the second year, when he raised seven hundred bushels of wheat. His first house was a 12 by 16 foot dug-out. He was married December 28, 1864, to Hettie A. Jewell, who was born in Pennsylvania, December 28, 1844. Their union has resulted in the birth of four children—Lydia E., Fred A., Laura B. and Burt R.

Mr. Gould, though hard pressed by circumstances of an adverse nature in the first years of his life in Harlan county,

has since prospered abundantly and is now the owner of a large landed estate with all the modern improvements and conveniences necessary to a comfortable life.

Politically, he is a strong believer in the principals of the republican party. He is a member of Gould Post, G. A. R., at Republican City, it having been named after his father, who was in the same company and regiment as himself.

CLARENCE A. LUCE, the popular and successful druggist of Republican city, Nebr., had his birth place among the green hills of Lamoille county, Vt., on May 27, 1847. He comes of good old New England stock, his father, Harvey, and his mother, Mary A., both being natives of Vermont. His father was a farmer and also followed the business of a contractor and builder. He died at the age of sixty-eight in Allamakee county, Iowa, in 1887, to which place he had removed from Vermont in the spring of 1855. Mr. Luce's mother also died at the same place in the spring of 1873. Our subject was the oldest of six children, of whom Alice, now Mrs. Heustis, is at present living at Atchison, Kans.; Clinton L., is in Albert Lea, Minn.; Philemon B., near McGregor, Iowa; Harvey L., at Hayes Center, Kans., and Jonathan, the third oldest, is dead.

Our subject removed with his parents to Iowa when he was eight years of age, and passed his life on the home farm until he was nineteen, receiving in the meantime a good common-school education. At this time he engaged in the occupation of raft-

ing lumber down the Mississippi, taking it from the pineries in the north and distributing it at various points along the river. This occupation he followed till his twenty-fifth year, at which time he concluded to abandon river life and embark in the wood business at Red House Landing, Iowa. This business he successfully conducted till 1878, when he sold out, and, removing to Republican City, Nebr., bought an interest in the drug store owned by his uncle, H. M. Luce. At the end of two years he purchased the interest of his uncle and has since continued the business alone. He now owns two drug stores, the only ones in Republican City, having bought the second in June, 1887. He has invested some of his surplus in realty, owning 320 acres of land in Harlan county, Nebr., and 160 in Decatur county, Kans.

His fellow-citizens have not seen fit to allow him to concentrate all his splendid abilities on his private business, and in 1885 sent him to Lincoln to represent the fifty-third legislative district, comprising Phelps and a part of Harlan counties. As a member of the legislature he was on the committee on towns and townships and also on the committee on federal relations. He has also been a member of the village and county board. He has taken a good deal of interest in social orders and fraternities, being a Knight Templar and a member of the I. O. O. F., having in the latter order passed all the chairs. He is a charter member of Home Lodge, No. 71, I. O. O. F., and had the honor of being the first noble grand of that Lodge. He has also been twice chosen to represent his lodge in the Grand Lodge. He has served as worshipful master in Republican Lodge

98, F. & A. M., and has twice represented this lodge in the grand lodge of the state and is at present holding the office of worshipful master.

Mr. Luce was married in December, 1873, to Miss Harriet E. Dickens, of Clayton county, Iowa, daughter of Edward Dickens of that place.

**J**OHAN Y. DOAK, the subject of this brief sketch, is a representative farmer of Republican City, Harlan county, is a native of Scotland and a descendant of Scotch ancestry from time immemorial. He is one of a family of ten children born to William and Mary (Young) Doak, of whom only six are now living, these being three sons and three daughters. The father is living, he and his sons being residents of Nebraska, while the daughters are married and settled in the old country. The mother died December 31, 1870.

The subject of this notice was born near the town of Bath, in Ayrshire, November 21, 1848. He was reared in his native place, growing up on his father's farm and receiving in his youth a good education and being trained to the habits of industry and usefulness common to his country and calling. After the death of his mother and the marriage of his sisters, the family became broken up, and the old home losing many of its attractions for him, he decided to leave his native place and seek his fortune in the new world. He came to America in November, 1878, or rather in December, taking sail from Scotland November 29th. He made his first stop in this country at New Orleans;

but remained there only a short time, going thence to San Antonio, Tex., at which place and in that vicinity he remained for about two and a half years, engaged at work on the railroad. Returning East a short distance, he stopped in Alabama about six months, where he also worked on the railroad. He then came to Nebraska, and, purchasing a farm in the Republican valley a year after he arrived, he settled on it and went to farming. He has continued farming since. His place lies about a mile and a half east of Republican City in Harlan county, and under his intelligent supervision has become one of the handsomest little places in that locality. When he took it there was only about ten acres of breaking done on it and no improvements had been made. He has put the entire place under fence, has eighty acres cultivated and well stocked, and has erected comfortable buildings. Mr. Doak is a steady-going man, attends strictly to his own business, is industrious and economical, and everything on his place gives evidence of intelligent management. He has taken much interest in the affairs of his community, being foremost in advocating all measures for the general prosperity and public good, and has served as road supervisor in his township and as director of his school district. He has no children himself, being unmarried; but he exhibits much interest in education notwithstanding, believing that public virtue lies in public intelligence. He has never dabbled any in politics, being content to follow the even tenor of his way, finding therein his greatest pleasure as well as highest reward. He votes the democratic ticket and usually stands squarely for the men and measures

of his party. Having been reared in the Presbyterian church, he adheres to the faith of his fathers, exhibiting in his daily walk and conversation the practical value of those great truths which lie at the foundation of all religion, regardless of sects.

Personally, Mr. Doak is pleasant. He is kind and accommodating, a good neighbor and a splendid citizen. The people of his township are proud of him, as they have every reason to be.

**G**ARVIN H. GOULD. The subject of this sketch is one of the leading farmers of Harlan county, and although not an old man is nevertheless an old settler. He is a native of Maine, as were also his parents, Joseph and Mary E. (Hamilton) Gould. His father, after residing successively in Maine, Pennsylvania and Iowa, moved in 1871 to Nebraska and located in Harlan county where he died in 1882. He was a successful farmer and a highly esteemed citizen. He served with credit in the late war, being a member of the Eighty-sixth New York volunteer infantry. He never aspired to anything like a public life, but filled some positions of prominence in connection with the administration of local affairs. He was the first probate judge elected in Harlan county, but, owing to the unsettled condition of affairs, he, with most of the other officers, refused to qualify. A pleasing recognition of his worth and prominence may be found in the fact that Gould Post, No. 216, G. A. R., of Republican City, was named in his honor. Mr. Gould's mother was a daugh-

ter of James and Mary E. Hamilton, of Maine, the latter of whom was one of the first white women to settle in Harlan county. There were four children in the family to which the subject of this sketch belonged, he being the second one.

Garvin H. Gould was born December 19, 1845. He was only about a year old when his parents moved to Pennsylvania, so that his earlier years were spent in the Keystone State. He grew up in a lumbering district and worked when a lad and young man in the lumber business. In 1864 Garvin H. Gould entered the Elmira (N. Y.) Commercial College, from which he graduated April 5, 1865. He then, with his brother, went into the grocery business, at Elmira, under the firm name of Gould Bros., and so continued until 1869, when they disposed of their business, and Garvin H. Gould moved to Iowa, began farming, and lived in Iowa till the spring of 1872, when he took up the line of travel further west, moving at that date to Nebraska and settling in Harlan county, where he has since resided. On moving to Harlan county he took a homestead in the Republican valley, filing on a quarter in section 6, township 1, range 17 west. He began in the usual primitive style, building a dug-out and breaking up the sod preparatory to putting out a crop. He met with such drawbacks and endured such privations and hardships as fell to the lot of most of the old settlers, but he stood steadfastly by his choice and increasing years witnessed a gradual improvement in his condition. After improving his homestead he was enabled in time to purchase other land adjoining, buying one hundred and sixty acres, which had some improvement on it.

He now owns three hundred and sixty acres, most of which he has under a splendid state of cultivation and well stocked. He has lived on his farm most of the time since coming to the county, and has at all times given to it his personal attention. His place lies only about two miles from Republican City, being thus convenient to market, schools, churches and the like. Mr. Gould clerked in a general store in Republican City for a number of years, but, as stated, has been interested in his farm at all times. He has taken no part in public matters, having no taste for the wranglings of political life, but has given his attention strictly to his own personal concerns and has met with the reward he has deserved by so doing. In politics, however, Mr. Gould affiliates with the republicans and is well informed on the general history of the country as well as the history of the parties. He has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for about ten years and has given considerable attention to matters connected with that fraternity. During what was known as the grasshopper famine of 1874-75, he was one of the disbursing agents for Harlan county, appointed by the State Aid Society, having supervision of the east half of the county.

Mr. Gould has been twice married. He first married Miss Laura B. Jewell, daughter of Andrew C. Jewell, of Pennsylvania. She died December 2, 1873, leaving only one child, Stanton C., who was born October 11, 1870. Mr. Gould married the second time in 1876, taking to wife Miss Luella M. Skeels, a daughter of Samuel and Amanda M. Skeels, who are natives of Ohio and are now residing in







J. A. PIPER.

Republican City, this state. To this union have been born six children as follows—Frank J., May, Ethel, Earl, Aggie and Harry.

Mr. Gould has taken great interest in the public schools of his community, having served almost continuously, since living in the county; on the local school board in some capacity. He is a man of liberal views and sound ideas on educational matters, and is enthusiastic in his support of educational enterprises. He is a public-spirited citizen and foremost of those in his vicinity in advancing the welfare of all of that community.

**J**A. PIPER is the veteran public official of Harlan county, of which he has been a resident for eighteen years and twelve of those years have been spent in the service of the people. A man with such a record is deserving of more than a passing notice, in a volume like this.

J. A. Piper is of German and English extraction—German on his father's side and English on his mother's. The family tradition as handed down from father to son concerning the origin of his paternal ancestry in this country is that the original Piper on American soil immigrated to this country in colonial days and settled first in Massachusetts. Afterwards he went to Canada, and settled in what is now Oxford county, Province of Ontario, but which was then a wilderness. The place where he settled was called Piper's Corners, and is so called to this day, being marked by two churches and a school

house, which have since been built on the site. There was established the seat of the subject's family. His paternal grand father lived there, his father was born there and so was the subject himself.

Joseph B. Piper was the father of J. A. Piper, and, as he was for many years a resident of Nebraska and died leaving a number of children in the state, it will be worth while recording these facts concerning him. He came to Nebraska in 1869, and settled in Nemaha county, and lived there some years, subsequently moving further West to Red Willow county, with a view of getting out to where he could find cheap lands for his younger children. He located and resided there till 1887, when, March 16th of that year, he died at his home of heart failure, being then in the sixty-second year of his age. In his earlier years he was a teacher, but after settling in this state he devoted himself to farming and stock-raising. He led the plain and uneventful life common to his calling. If he was distinguished for one thing more than another, it was for his diligent application to his home affairs and his devotion to his family.

“Wise in his daily work was he,  
To fruits of diligence  
And not to faiths or polity  
He plied his utmost sense.”

Mr. Piper's mother bore the maiden name of Lucinda Ford. She is still living, being now a resident of Red Willow county, this state. She was born in Oxford county, Ont., Canada, and is a daughter of Robert Ford, a native of Ireland, but himself born of English parentage. He emigrated to Canada when a young man many years ago, and settled in Ontario, where he married and afterwards lived.

Joseph B. and Lucinda Piper were the parents of eleven children, next to the eldest of whom is Joel Alfred, the subject proper of this biographical notice. He was born, as we have stated, in Oxford county, Ont., Canada, June 3, 1851. He was mainly reared in his native place and was educated partly in the public schools of Oxford county and partly at home under the supervision of his father. He was just turned into his eighteenth year when he came to Nebraska. His first years in the state were spent in Nemaha county, on his father's farm, which is now covered by part of the town of South Auburn. Mr. Piper broke the first furrow on that place, it being a raw prairie when his father moved there. As soon as he became of age so he could take up land, he came to Harlan county, settling here in June, 1872, and filing at that date on a homestead in Alma township on the head of Methodist creek, about six miles northeast of the town of Alma. He took this place with a view of making it his permanent home, and began at once to make substantial improvements. He started in, as most young men do, in a new country, as the saying goes, on the bottom round of the ladder. He was in the county in time to get his full share of the grasshoppers and the dry years, and there fell to his lot the same experiences that fell to the lot of all the old settlers. He stood by his choice, however, continued to improve his claim and in course of time proved up on it.

He still owns it and has added to it by purchase, until he now has a section and a half in a block lying around it, well stocked with cattle, horses and hogs, being one of as heavy farmers as there is in the county.

Mr. Piper's first public office in the county was that of sheriff. He was elected to this in the fall of 1875, and held one term. In the fall of 1879 he was elected to the office of superintendent of public instruction for the county and held that one term. Then in the fall of 1881 he was elected county clerk and has since been re-elected four terms, being now in the ninth year of his service in that capacity. Being a staunch republican, Mr. Piper has always, with one exception, been elected on the republican ticket. For the offices of sheriff and superintendent he had little or no opposition. For the office of clerk he has always had more or less, that is at the polls. In his first race for the clerk's office he ran on an independent ticket, there being no politics in the contest, the election turning on the county seat question. In each subsequent race he has been nominated by acclamation in convention and opposed at the polls by the nominees of the democratic and prohibition parties. The sharpest contest he has ever had was at the last election, November, 1889. His majority was small, but nevertheless safe. Such a record as this speaks volumes for Mr. Piper's personal popularity. The office of county clerk in Harlan county is one of the best offices in the county. There are men without numbers who would be glad to get it and many of them have tried. But he has held it against all opposition since first entering it up to the present time. And this he has done where there has been the strongest possible feeling, growing out of old county seat troubles. There is but one explanation of the matter; that is, Mr. Piper's fair dealing towards all factions and all

parties. He has administered the affairs of his office with absolute impartiality, and has regarded his office as a public trust, and has conducted himself towards the people as their trustee. He is thoroughly competent, as all know, and he is fearlessly honest. The other virtues of a successful public official he also possesses. He is polite, attentive to the wants of all, neat with his work, dispatching it with promptness, and he is always at his post. It will be years before his record is equalled in the county, if indeed it ever is.

Mr. Piper was married February 22, 1877, to Miss Jennie E. Proctor, daughter of William and Maria Proctor, who were natives of England but came to America in 1856, when Jennie E. was four years of age. The family made their first stop for a short time at Guelph, Canada, and then moved to Kane county, Ill., locating near Chicago. In 1874, they came to Harlan county, Nebr., where they settled on a farm adjoining that of the parents of our subject. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Piper have been born three children, named as follows—Jennie Lou, Helen M. and Elsie Ford. Both these parents have presided in the school-room, Mr. Piper having begun to teach after he had entered his homestead, and also taught while serving as sheriff and while filling the position of superintendent of public instruction. He taught in Alma, in 1876 and 1877, receiving the highest salary ever paid to a teacher at that place up to that time. Mrs. Piper had taught in Illinois previous to coming to Nebraska, and is at present engaged at the vocation in Harlan county, where she is looked upon as fully qualified for her work.

CHARLES W. ROSA, a prosperous farmer of Sappa township, Harlan county, Nebr., was born in New York, January 6, 1829, and is a son of George Rosa, also a native of New York, and born in 1802. From New York, George Rosa moved to Marion county, Ohio, and thence, in 1849, to Indiana, where he died in 1870. In 1824 he was married to Miss Filena Garnor, a native of Vermont, born in 1805. She migrated with her parents to New York, and in that state for a number of years was a school teacher. To her union with Mr. Rosa were born ten children, as follows—Willard G. (deceased); Lucy P., now Mrs. Dr. Lawson, of Marion county, Ohio; Charles W.; William W., a farmer of Tippecanoe county, Ind.; James E. (deceased); Edwin R.; Stephen W., who died in 1863 of quick consumption; George Riley, who was in the service, and died at St. Louis, Mo., of the mumps; Helen M., now Mrs. Mallett, of Cedar county, Nebr.; and Caroline, who died when young.

At the age of ten years, Charles W. Rosa was taken by his parents to Marion county, Ohio, where he resided until 1853, and then moved to Jasper county, Ind.; in 1858 he removed to Adams county, Ill., remained until 1860, and then returned to Jasper county, Ind., whence, in 1876, he came to Nebraska and located his homestead. With very few exceptions he has had good crops, and at no time has the entire family been off the farm for fourteen years.

Mr. Rosa has been twice married. His first wife was born in Ohio in 1826, and bore the maiden name of Barbara Cope. She bore two children—Maria Elizabeth (the deceased wife of a Mr. Hite) and

Oren Franklin. The second marriage of Mr. Rosa was in 1861, to Mrs. Margaret Haney, who was born in Indiana in 1833, and to this union six children have been born, namely—Callie L., now Mrs. Lewis; Ada V., now Mrs. King, of Furnas county, Nebr.; Clara D., a teacher, at home; Samuel Newton, Zilpha Y., now Mrs. Rule, and John W. Rosa.

Mr. Rosa, although he began life with nothing, is now one of the most substantial farmers in Harlan county. In politics he is a democrat; has been justice of the peace a number of years, and has also held a number of other positions of trust.

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**T** J. MALOY, surveyor and farmer of Sappa township, Harlan county, Nebr., was born in Washington county, Pa., April 19, 1846, and is of Irish and English descent. He was reared on a farm, but received a good education, and at the age of seventeen began teaching school, following the vocation in Washington county, Pa., and also at Iacona and Palmyra, Warren county, Iowa, having left his native county in 1868. While thus engaged, he mastered Davis' System of Surveying, and later bought an instrument. In 1870, he engaged with John Hoyt, county surveyor of Warren county, Iowa, and surveyed one half the county, while Mr. Hoyt surveyed the other half. In 1871, Mr. Hoyt's official term expired, when our subject went to Chicago to study further the science of surveying under Avandernailen (Room 41 Reynolds Block), a graduate from a French institution. The tuition fee was \$20 per month, and at

the end of two months Mr. Maloy had completed his course. He then returned to Warren county, Iowa, was elected county surveyor and filled the office until March 4, 1873, when he resigned and came to Harlan county, Nebr., at the inducement of his former employer, Mr. Hoyt. He located on sections 11 and 12, township 2, range 20, and engaged himself in surveying for settlers. In 1877, he returned to Iowa and employed himself in teaching and farming at Indianola. In 1881 he went into the grocery business, in which he continued until 1883, when he came again to Nebraska and settled on section 13, township 2, range 20, and engaged in farming. He was then worth \$3,000; at the present he owns four hundred and eighty-six acres of good land, well stocked and improved, and is engaged in breeding thorough-bred Poland-China hogs.

Mr. Maloy was married, October 22, 1879, to Miss Nancy Shrewsbury, a native of Indiana, of Irish and English descent, born September 27, 1855, and to this union have been born four children, namely—Walter C., February 10, 1881; Jeff. L., August 19, 1882; John W., March 21, 1884, and Mary M., May 22, 1886. Mr. and Mrs. Maloy are members of the Presbyterian church. In politics he is a prohibitionist, and for four years after his arrival in Nebraska served as county surveyor, declining further election. On his first coming to the state buffalo were quite common and were frequently in close view of his cabin. During the memorable Easter storm of 1873, Mr. Maloy was attending to his official duties, seventy-five miles west of his home, when, with nine others, he was compelled to seek

refuge in a log cabin, twelve by fourteen feet, where three days were passed in telling stories, singing songs and discussing different topics to while away the monotonous hours, and in devouring dried buffalo meat and molasses to retain the life within them.

Thomas Maloy, the father of the subject of this sketch, was of Irish descent and was born in Frederick, Va., October 10, 1806. He was a farmer by vocation, and from his native state moved to Pennsylvania. In 1834, he married Miss Margaret Gregg, who was born in 1818, in Washington county, Pa., was of English descent and died in 1850. After marriage, Thomas Maloy moved to Warren county, Iowa, and there died, September 2, 1872, lamented by all who knew him and honored for the life of integrity that he had lived. The children born to Thomas and Margaret Maloy were seven in number, and were named as follows—Sarah (Mrs. Bundy), of Ackworth, a miller by occupation, Warren county, Iowa, now deceased; James H., of Washington county, Pa., a farmer and teacher; Elizabeth (Mrs. Essick), wife of a farmer in Harlan county, Nebr.; John, who enlisted in Company K, One Hundred and Fortieth Pennsylvania volunteers and fell in the battle of the Wilderness, in 1864; Margaret, in Des Moines, Iowa; T. J., the subject of this sketch, and William, who died December 10, 1868. His ancestors were, as far as known, strong republicans, as well as himself. But, seeing the enormous political and moral evil growing out of the liquor traffic, he has become an uncompromising foe to the present liquor law, and it is his earnest desire to see the prohibition amendment engrafted in every state in the Union.

JOHN M. JOHNSON, one of the early farmers of Sappa township, Harlan county, Nebr., was born in Sweden in 1849, and was reared to farming. His father, P. Johnson, was born in 1828, and is still a resident of Sweden, where he is engaged in farming. In 1870 he paid a visit to America, and was so much pleased with the country that he thinks of coming again. In 1848 he married Guner Anderson, who was born in 1819, and who bore six children, namely—August, now a farmer in Harlan county; Harry, in Furnas county, Nebr.; Christina, now Mrs. Anderson, in Sweden; Andrew, of Colorado, now on a visit to Sweden; Tilda, now Mrs. Bolin, in Sweden. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are both members of the Lutheran church.

In 1869 John M. Johnson came to America and for two years worked by the month on a farm in Illinois. In 1871 he came to Nebraska and settled on section 24, township 2, range 20, having a capital of \$150. At that time there were only four or five inhabitants of Sappa township; Kearney was the nearest post-office, and the trading post was sixty-five miles away. The country was full of hostile Indians, and three hundred or four hundred camped about a mile from Mr. Johnson's cabin. About three hundred soldiers, under Capt. Madden, of Fort Hayes, camped where our subject's barn now stands, and the soldiers' pit and target are still to be seen near the spot. Buffalo meat was the principal article of food, and buffalo moccasins took the place of boots. At one time Mr. Johnson had ten acres of corn tramped down by the buffalo, but he has had his compensation in killing two of them for food.

Several times he saw and met tribes of Indians, but no serious encounter occurred. One morning, in 1872, he heard a noise on the roof of the dug-out, and he got his gun out and ready to fire, thinking the noise was made by Indians, but it proved to be buffalo hooking the roof. Another time he witnessed a herd of five hundred mire in a creek, and out of that number he got two. In the fall of 1873, Mr. Johnson, in company with three others, started out on a tour across the sand hills to Reckeree. Three days before Christmas they met a band of Pawnee Indians, who advised them to go back, as the country was full of Sioux, Utes and Cheyennes, but Mr. Johnson and his friends went on and reached Reckeree after having been without water for three days for themselves and team. They killed four buffalo during those three days. They went on to the Smoky river and came to a camp that looked as though white men had been there, and further on they found two men digging a grave for a companion named Brown that had been killed by the Cheyenne Indians the day before. They returned home safely with a load of buffalo meat.

In 1885 Mr. Johnson was married to Amanda Anderson, a native of Sweden and born in 1850. She came to America in 1871, and located in Illinois, whence she moved to Nebraska in 1885, being at that time a widow. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson — Edward in 1886 and Walter in 1888. The parents are constant attendants of the Lutheran church. Mr. Johnson now owns a quarter section of land, with eighty acres under cultivation. In 1885 Mr. Johnson was elected a justice of the peace in Sappa

township, and held that office until 1888, when he was elected a member of the county board of Harlan county.

**A**LBERT C. ROBBINS, a prominent citizen of Sappa township, Harlan county, Nebr., was born in July, 1818, in Jefferson county, N. Y., and was reared on the home farm. In 1839 he went to Alton, Ill., where he taught school one year, and also clerked in a store; he then went to Woodville, Wilkerson county, Miss., where he again engaged in teaching for a while, and then returned home, where he passed two years. His health being somewhat impaired, he sought Wisconsin for a change of air, and in 1845 or 1846 located at Ripon, where for twenty years he was engaged in the lumber and wheat business. He then went to Chickasaw county, Iowa, where for five years he was in the milling and furniture business. In 1871 he came to Nebraska and preempted a claim on section 22, township 2, range 20, which he still owns. His nearest trading point was Grand Island, one hundred miles away, but later on Melrose was started and soon had a population of over two hundred, and better facilities were had.

In politics Mr. Robbins is an Alliance democrat and has been intrusted with several important public trusts. For seven years he served as county judge; for two years as justice of the peace, and for sometime was postmaster at Orleans. He is also president of the local organization of the Farmers' Alliance, and is a Master Mason.

The marriage of Mr. Robbins took place in 1847 to Miss Cynthia O. Wilson, a native



of Cleveland, Ohio, born in 1830. To this union have been born eight children, in the following order—Frank, in the State of Washington; Carrie, now Mrs. Wilson, in Wilsonville, Nebr., which town was named after her husband, a merchant; Elizabeth, deceased wife of Mr. Gibson, hardware dealer of Wilsonville; Ruth, now Mrs. Mayer, in Washington; Olive, now Mrs. Wheeler, in Furnas county, Nebr.; Eunice M., assistant postmaster at Orleans; Walter, at home, and Millie, attending school at Orleans. The mother of these children is a conscientious member of the Presbyterian church.

The family from which our subject springs is one of the oldest in America. John Robbins, the first to reach our shores, immigrated from England and settled at Weathersfield, Conn., in 1638. Of the fifth generation from John was Austin Robbins, who was born in Weathersfield, Conn., in 1786, and who was the father of our subject. He married Eunice Morton, who was of the fifth generation born in this country of Richard Morton, a Scotch blacksmith, who landed at Plymouth from the "Little Jane," July, 1623, and settled in Hatfield, Mass. Austin Robbins moved from New Marlboro, Mass., to Jefferson county, N. Y., in 1800, living there until his death, which occurred in 1865.

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**N**ICOLAI NIELSEN, one of the most prominent farmers of Sappa township, Harlan county, Nebr., was born in Germany in 1853. His father, Peter Nielsen, was born in 1820, was a

prosperous farmer, and died in his native country, Germany, in 1862, a member of the Lutheran church. In 1851 he married Maria Anderson, who was born in 1830 and died in 1874, the mother of five children, namely—Nicolai (our subject), Ida (Mrs. Clausen), in Germany; Andrew at Oxford, Harlan county, Nebr.; Maggie (Mrs. Hellner), and Peter, in partnership with Andrew in the hardware business at Oxford.

Nicolai Nielsen attended school in his native land until sixteen years of age, and then superintended the home farm for his widowed mother until 1872, when he came to America. Here he first bought a quarter section of land in Saunders county, Nebr., and while working it lived with an uncle. In a short time, however, he rented out the place and engaged in freighting one summer from Sidney, Nebr., to the Black Hills; the following fall he engaged in selling and buying cattle, at which he prospered, but in a short time returned to Germany to look after his property interests there. In 1878 he came back to America, rented out the farm again, and commenced dealing in cattle and feeding and dealing in horses. He then sold his farm in Saunders county and in partnership with his brothers, Andrew and Peter, bought land in Harlan county, and continued to purchase as chances offered until the firm owned twelve hundred and eighty acres. He now possesses in his own right six hundred and fifty-five acres well stocked. He takes a special interest in fine horses, and owns four of the best in the county, ranging in value from \$1,200 to \$2,000, three of them being imported. He is also proprietor of the popular Stanford House at Stanford.

In 1881 Mr. Nielsen married Miss Carrie Casse, a native of Illinois, born in 1865, who has borne two children—Anna and Arthur. Mr. Nielsen is an Odd Fellow; in politics he is a republican, and has been town treasurer four or five years.

**J**UDSON A. PALMER, one of the first settlers of Sappa township, Harlan county, Nebr., is a son of Silas and Adelia (Champlain) Palmer, and was born in Michigan in 1841. Silas Palmer was a native of New York, born in 1814. He was a farmer and a prosperous one, being worth, at the time of his death, which occurred in Michigan in 1865, not less than \$12,000 to \$15,000. He was a devoted member of the Baptist church, in which for years he filled the position of deacon. He was married in 1839, and there were born to him six children, as follows—Judson A.; Ellen, now Mrs. Laine, of Michigan; Amelia, widow of a Mr. Stone, and residing in Hudson, Mich.; Sarah, now Mrs. Darling, of Kansas; Byron, a resident of Michigan; and Homer, who died in infancy. All the girls were teachers, and Ellen, a graduate from Adrian College, Mich., was principal at one time of the public schools of Hudson in the same state.

Judson A. Palmer remained with his parents until 1862, when he enlisted in Company C, Eighteenth Michigan infantry. He took part in many severe engagements and was mustered out at Nashville, Tenn., in 1865, but received his final discharge and pay at Jackson, Mich. He then rejoined his parents, and in 1868 was

united in marriage to Miss Julia Chapman, who was born in Michigan in 1848. Eight children have blessed this union and are named Alfred, Homer, Mabel, Orville, Eugene, Bertie, Ina and Leslie.

In the spring of 1869, Mr. Palmer bought a farm in Phelps county, Mo., on which he resided two years, and then came to Nebraska and located on section 22, township 2, range 20, Harlan county, but two years later came to his present home on section 26, township 2, range 20. Indians and buffalo abounded in those days. Snow storms were not unfrequent. On one occasion Mr. Palmer and others lay out for three days in one of those blizzards, and it was so severe that it became necessary to apply the black-snake (whip) to one of the party and drive him around the fire until he could get up a circulation of blood.

Mr. Palmer is an active member of the Christian church, and for a long time was Sabbath-school superintendent. He is a Master Mason and in politics is a republican.

**G**EORGE W. PASSMORE, one of the best known and highly esteemed citizens of Harlan county, Nebr., is a native of Chester county, Pa., and was born October 24, 1834. His parents, George and Phoebe (Harlan) Passmore, were both natives of the same county. His grandfather, George Passmore, was born in Pennsylvania, and was of Welsh descent. George Passmore, our subject's father, was a miller by trade, but followed contracting consider-

ably, and was a successful man of affairs until 1835, when he failed, losing his all. He then moved to Ohio with his family of small children in 1838. He died in 1872, surviving his wife one year. George W. Passmore worked in Jennings county, Ind., with a carpenter, in 1853, but worked at the trade only a short time. In 1856 he engaged in the milling business, and continued in that business for several years. He was burnt out in the spring of 1863, losing \$500 more than he was worth, but he rebuilt and did a successful business for three years. In 1866 he disposed of his interest in the mill and purchased a farm in the woods in Jennings, which he cleared and worked successfully for six years. He came to Nebraska in the fall of 1873, settling in Otoe county, where he continued his vocation as a farmer. In 1879 he disposed of his farm and came to Harlan county in 1880, purchasing a homestead right in Scandinavia township, where he now has one of the finest farms in the county.

Mr. Passmore was married December 25, 1856, the lady of his choice being Miss Sarah J. Haycock, daughter of Milton and Rebecca Haycock. She was born in Ohio in 1839, and is of good ancestry. They have had nine children, namely—Rebecca E., Alvernon (deceased), Elizabeth (deceased), Martha J., Milton (deceased), Harlan (deceased), Morton (deceased), William (deceased), and Minnie F. Mr. Passmore has three hundred and twenty acres of land, all well improved and in a good state of cultivation. He has been county supervisor for several years, but is not an aspirant to public position. He is a republican in whom there is no guile, and is prominent in political affairs in his own county. He

and his estimable wife are honored members of the Baptist church, and have been for more than a quarter of a century, and both stand high in the estimation of all who know them.

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**M**ORRIS SANDSTED was among the very first settlers of Harlan county. He filed on a homestead on Turkey creek in the fall of 1873, and was about the first man to settle in the northern part of the county. Wild game was plenty, but settlers were few and far between. He has experienced almost every phase of frontier life, and although he has seen some hard times, he has passed through them all and is now one of the most prosperous farmers in the county.

Mr. Sandsted is a native of Sweden, and was born September 22, 1848. He was reared on a farm, received a good education, and came to the United States in the spring of 1868, landing at New York city. He came West to Chicago and thence to Henry county, Ill., where he obtained employment on a farm for a few years; also spent two years in Des Moines, Iowa, and then came to Nebraska.

Mr. Sandsted was married March 5, 1874, the woman of his choice being Miss Hannah Jenson, who came to America from Sweden in 1871. Their family consists of five children, as follows—Edward, Annie, Emma, Willie and Millie.

Mr. Sandsted has three hundred and twenty acres of fine land, all of which is well improved, and his buildings are commodious and substantial. He takes great

interest in keeping his farm and buildings in good shape, and in supplying himself with every convenience known to the successful agriculturist. He is a breeder of Short-horned cattle and has some fine specimens to show as a result of his efforts in this direction. Mr. Sandsted has never sought political positions, but he has been called upon to fill some important public offices. He established Grover post-office and was the efficient postmaster of the same from 1875 to 1880, and subsequently served as postmaster of Scandinavia until the office was discontinued a few years ago. Has been justice of the peace two years, and has filled various other local offices. He is republican in politics, although no politician. He is one of the representative men of Harlan county, however, and no doubt could have any office he would choose to ask for, but he prefers the more quiet pursuits of life. He and his estimable wife are zealous members of the Free Mission church.

**M**ADISON J. CRESS is one of the first settlers of Spring Grove township, Harlan county, Nebr. He is a native of Virginia and was born east of the Blue Ridge mountains October 17, 1819, a son of Jacob and Jane (More) Cress, the former a native of Germany, and the latter of Virginia. The senior Cress moved to Illinois in 1831, locating in Knox county, where he followed farming for many years. He was in the War of 1812 and saw some severe times. He died in 1858 and his faithful wife in 1859. Madison Cress, the subject of this notice,

started out soon after attaining his majority, to make his own way through the world. Being reared on a farm, he naturally felt himself adapted to pursue that vocation, and accordingly began life's struggle in Knox county, Ill., where he followed farming with considerable success for several years. Mr. Cress came to Harlan county, Nebr., in the spring of 1872, and was one of the first to settle in this region. He took a pre-emption on Spring Creek, but subsequently homesteaded a claim near by. His nearest neighbors were eight miles distant, and the country thereabouts was one vast, unbroken prairie. Great herds of buffalo roamed about the vicinity, and other wild game was plentiful. Indians were also quite numerous and were frequently visitors to the settlers' cabins. Mr. Cress kept his family well supplied with venison and buffalo meats, and relates several interesting exploits of his own in chasing buffalo in his pioneer days. He was a victim of the terrible grasshopper scourge, having suffered from the total destruction of his crop. He built his first house out of railroad ties which had been cut but which the Indians refused to have hauled away. Mr. Cress and some of the older members of his family have seen some of the ups and downs of frontier life and are perfectly familiar with most of the hardships incident to that time.

Mr. Cress was married November 29, 1843 to Eliza A. Annis, a native of the State of Maine and born in the year 1820. Her parents were also natives of the same state and emigrated to Illinois in an early day. There have been born to this union nine children, as follows—Royal A., born September 20, 1847; Ellison A., born De-

ember 17, 1848; Sarah J., born October 25, 1850; Bessie A., born February 8, 1852; Emma, born October 25, 1854; Eva, born August 23, 1856; Andrew J., born June 7, 1858; Henry C., born March 3, 1860, and George W., born August 20, 1862.

In politics Mr. Cress is independent. He is a slave to no clique or party, but supports whom he chooses. He owns an estate of six hundred and sixty acres of land, most of which is under a good state of cultivation. In 1887 he erected a substantial frame house and has from time to time made other improvements equally important. He is engaged in raising all kinds of stock and is regarded as a careful, conservative man, who goes to the very bottom of everything before investing his money.

**S**ILAS W. DANIELS, one of the successful farmers and stock-raisers of Harlan county, Nebr., was born in St. Lawrence county, N. Y., April 2, 1847. His parents were Lewis W. and Mary (Chase) Daniels, of whom the former was a native of York State and the latter of New Hampshire. Lewis W. Daniels was by occupation a farmer and at one time was captain of a state militia company; he also filled various local offices in his native state and was a man of high repute with his neighbors. His death took place in 1881, having been preceded to the grave by his wife in 1853. The boyhood days of Silas W. Daniels were passed in assisting his father on the farm

and attending the district school, and subsequently a select school, and he thus succeeded in obtaining a good knowledge of the common branches of an English education. In 1869 he started out in life for himself and migrated to Grundy county, Ill., where for four years he engaged in farming; he then came to Nebraska, locating in Sarpy county, and in the spring of 1875 purchased a farm, on which he resided nine years. In the fall of 1884 he moved to Harlan county and bought the land in Spring Grove township, on which he now resides.

The marriage of Mr. Daniels took place September 12, 1869, to Miss Ella Moore, who was born in the State of New York in 1842. This congenial union has been blessed by the birth of four children, as follows—Lelah, born August 31, 1872; Lewis W., born March 18, 1879; Mary, born January 9, 1882 and Charlie, born June 25, 1887.

Mr. Daniels is the owner of four hundred and forty acres of rich land, which is under a high state of cultivation. He makes a specialty of the raising of cattle and hogs and is classed among the most successful stockmen of the country. Careful and conservative, he goes to the bottom of everything, making a thorough investigation of all surrounding circumstances before making an investment or entering upon any project, however promising. He stands high in the estimation of his neighbors and is regarded as one of the coming men of Harlan county. Although independent in politics, he has been intrusted with the office of county supervisor, and for nearly six years has performed its duties to the entire satisfaction of his constituents.

JOSEPH B. McNEW, one of the young and enterprising farmers of Harlan county, is a native of Kentucky, born in the village of Booneville, Owsley county, October 29, 1855, and is a son of Moses and Clarissa (Jones) McNew, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Kentucky. The senior McNew was a physician, practicing for several years with success prior to his death, which occurred in 1859. The mother of our subject and her eight children came to Harlan county, Nebr., in the spring of 1872, and homesteaded land in Spring Grove township, where she resided nearly fourteen years. In 1885 she removed to Washington, Lincoln county, where she continues to reside. Joseph B. McNew, the subject of this biographical notice, pre-empted a piece of land in Spring Grove township, in 1879, on which he lived for several years. He was married January 1, 1879, taking to share his life's fortunes Miss Eva Cress, a daughter of Madison J. Cress, a sketch of whom will be found in this work. This congenial union has resulted in the birth of two children—Floyd L., born November 19, 1879, and William L., born February 11, 1887. Mr. McNew is a staunch republican in politics and is well posted on the doctrines of that party. While he has not been an aspirant for office, he has been called upon to fill some positions of no little responsibility and trust. He has filled the office of assessor for nine consecutive years, and has always given the best of satisfaction. He remembers well when there were plenty of Indians in Harlan county, and when buffalo, elk and deer roamed over the surrounding prairies in great herds. Settlers, in those days, were few and far

between and the country was one vast unbroken prairie. He is therefore familiar with almost every phase of pioneer life in Harlan county, and he, in common with those around him, has endured some of the hardships and privations incident to the early settlement of any new country. He and his estimable wife are zealous members of the Methodist Protestant church, and earnest and enthusiastic workers in every new cause. He has one hundred and sixty acres of rich land, which he has under cultivation. He is an industrious and hard working young man and stands high in the estimation of his fellowmen.

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GEORGE A. BELL, the subject of this sketch, is a native of Meigs county, Ohio, and was born May 24, 1854. His father, Francis Bell, is a native of Pennsylvania, and his mother, who bore the maiden name of Rebecca Thompson, is a native of Ohio. In 1863, after several years' residence in the Buckeye State, the parents moved to Vermillion county, Ind., and in 1868 to Cedar county, Iowa, where they have since continued to reside. The senior Bell is a carpenter by trade, and while a resident of Ohio he worked at repairing and building boats and barges on the Ohio river for several years. Upon his removal to Iowa, he purchased a farm and he has since given his attention almost wholly to agricultural pursuits. The Bell family are of Scotch-Irish extraction, the paternal grandfather William Bell, having emigrated from Ireland in an early day.

George A. Bell is one of a family of five children, and his early life was passed with his parents; he attended the common and public schools in the locality where he lived, and also spent a few terms in the Wilton (Iowa) Collegiate Institute. He was a close student and made such progress in his studies that in a short time he obtained a certificate and taught school for several terms very successfully. Not caring to make teaching a profession, he engaged in farming for himself in 1880. In the spring of 1886 Mr. Bell moved to Harlan county, Nebr., and purchased unimproved land in Spring Grove township. The country was new, and time and much patience were required for its improvement. It was fully three years before Mr. Bell realized any thing like a crop, as a compensation for the vast amount of time and labor expended in breaking sod and getting it ready for cultivation. In 1887 he erected a handsome and substantial frame house and a commodious barn, which add materially to the appearance of his farm and the country around it.

Mr. Bell was married February 1, 1881, to Miss Nina J. Stewart. She was a native of Scott county, Iowa, born December 23, 1860, and is the daughter of Sidney A. and Alice A. (Osborne) Stewart, both of whom are natives of Meigs county, Ohio. Sidney A. Stewart moved to Iowa in 1855, but returned to his native county in Ohio in 1863. He was twice married and is the father of fifteen children, thirteen of whom were by his second wife. The paternal grandfather, James H. Stewart, was born near Albany, N. Y., in 1800. He came West in 1830, settling in Meigs county, Ohio, is

still living and is hale and hearty. He was an original whig and a prominent abolitionist, but was one of the organizers and chief promoters of the republican party, and has voted in his day for many a president. The paternal great grandfather was also James H. Stewart. He was born in New York State and died in 1865, at the remarkable age of 93 years. The Stewarts are a long-lived race.

Mr. and Mrs. George A. Bell have five children, namely—Joy L., born March 15, 1882; Glennie L., born August 13, 1883; Alice R., born October 7, 1884; Bonnie N. born November 28, 1887; and Blythe S., born January 24, 1889. Mr. Bell is a member of the Farmers' Alliance, and has always been a staunch advocate of the principles of the republican party. His farm comprises four hundred acres, all fenced and a goodly portion under cultivation. He is a careful, judicious farmer and has succeeded remarkably well.

**J**OHAN BURCHET, one of the honored pioneers of Harlan county, is a native of Lawrence county, Ky., and was born May 27, 1847. He is a son of Oliver and Luraid (Foster) Burchet, both of whom were natives of Kentucky. The parents of our subject died in 1853, when he was only seven years old. He was therefore thrown upon his own resources at a very early period of his life, but, it is said, "Where there is a will there is a way," and John Burchet found a way to get along. At fourteen years of age he crossed the plains to Salt Lake

City and spent several years during the early period of his life in the mountains. He found employment at various occupations, and being of an industrious turn of mind was never in want of a good job at fair wages. He followed teaming mostly but was engaged in mining some of the time. He saw some tough times, but lived through them all. He mingled with Indians considerably, but always found them friendly.

Mr. Burtchet came to Harlan county, Nebr., April 22, 1871, and took a homestead at that date, on Spring Creek, north of the Republican River valley, on which he settled and began life in true pioneer style. There was no settlement at that time in that section of the country. The prairie was covered with great herds of buffalo, deer and antelope, and wolves made the night hideous with their yelp. Mr. Burtchet passed through the grasshopper famine and saw his crop disappear before the pesky warriors, and was a heavy loser, having one hundred and sixty acres of corn, almost in roasting ears, all destroyed. The following year he had eighty acres taken, a loss which he feels almost at the present time.

On April 20, 1874, he was married to Miss Emily Getty, a native of New York State. They have had seven children, as follows—Marriette, Rolson R., Harriet A., Annie L., Cecil, William and John R. Mr. Burtchet was appointed postmaster of the Grand View office in 1878, a position he held for nearly three years. He is a republican in whom there is no guile and an active worker in the interests of that organization. He owns one hundred and sixty acres of land lying along the Spring creek, and there is not a richer

and more productive piece of land in the county. He is a clever, whole-souled man and ranks high in the estimation of all who know him.

SAMUEL McNEES, farmer of Renben township, Harlan county, Nebr., is a native of Indiana, and was born in 1831. His father, Jehu McNees, was born in Maryland in 1794, and from that state went to Tennessee; thence he moved to Indiana, and in 1854 to Warren county, Iowa. He was a farmer by occupation, and a successful one. He served in the War of 1812, and was truly a patriotic American. In politics he was first a whig, but later became a republican. He died in Iowa, a consistent member of the Christian church. His wife, Mary (Yeekley) McNees, whom he married in 1815, was also a native of Maryland, and was born in 1797. To these parents were born six children, as follows—Mrs. Sallie Puckett (deceased), Mrs. Lucinda Greenway, Mrs. Susan Huffman, Mrs. Marion Huffman (deceased), Samuel, the subject of this sketch, and Andrew, who died young.

Samuel McNees went to Warren county, Iowa, with his father in 1854, and from that time dates his business life. In 1862, he enlisted in Company B, Thirty-fourth Iowa infantry, in which he served until the close of the war, when he was mustered out at Chicago, in 1865. He then returned to Iowa, where he was engaged in farming until 1872, when he came to Nebraska. At that time the country was a wild and desolate waste, and buffalo and antelope



roamed the prairie in unmolested freedom. The fortune of Mr. McNees, on coming here, consisted of four teams and a wagon and \$400 to \$500 in cash; he is now the possessor of a half section of land, two hundred acres of which are in a fine state of cultivation. The family, however, own eight hundred and eighty acres, Mr. McNees having been the chief agent in securing this large property.

Mr. McNees has been an extensive traveler and has visited twenty-three states, and there is nothing he enjoys more than an occasional excursion. In politics, he is an active republican, and has served as county supervisor three terms and as assessor one term; he has also been a member of the school board ten years. His religious faith is that of the United Brethren.

The marriage of Mr. McNees took place in 1853, to Miss Phebe Right, a native of Indiana, born in 1834. To this union have been born eight children, namely—William, in Harlan county; Susan, wife of Rev. Pohemus, a United Brethren minister; Mrs. Tulley, wife of a farmer and stock raiser in Oregon; Mrs. Mary Yapp, in Franklin county, Nebr.; Mrs. Ann Jane Melton, in Lincoln county, Nebr.; George, in Oregon; John and Florence, at home.

Mr. McNees was a natural-born hunter, and has roamed the plains and mountains from the eastern line of Indiana to the Pacific coast, and from the Gulf of Mexico to the Northern lakes, and has killed all kinds of game that abound in those regions, both small and great, from the black squirrel of Indiana up to the buffalo of the plains and the grizzly of the mountains; he has slept out in the open air half the time since 1862. He is now sixty

years old and would walk two hundred miles to get a single shot at a buffalo or a grizzly. He loves nature more than art, and his delight is to get where man has not despoiled the work of nature.

STEPHEN MORGAN, one of the early settlers of Reuben township, Harlan county, Nebr., is a native of Ohio, and was born in 1844. James Albert Morgan, father of Stephen, was born in Genesee county, N. Y., in 1816. He first moved to Ohio, and thence, in 1846, to Cold Spring, Jefferson county, Wis., where he was employed in agricultural pursuits until 1878, when he came to Nebraska. He was a class-leader for years in the United Brethren church, and in politics was a representative republican, having held several important township offices under the auspices of that party. In 1842 he married Miss Jerusha Payne, who was born in Ohio in 1822, and who was a school teacher. She bore him ten children, of whom the fifth, seventh and eighth died in infancy. The others were—Elizabeth and Mary (both now deceased), Stephen, Daniel, William, Franklin A. and Lincoln Grant.

Stephen Morgan was but two years of age when he was taken to Wisconsin by his parents. His years were passed on the home farm until the breaking out of the Civil war, when he enlisted in Company H, Thirteenth Wisconsin infantry. He took part in a number of the principal engagements and in many skirmishes, but was ruptured in a railroad wreck near Richmond, Va., and has drawn a pension

ranging from \$4 to \$14 per month from the date of his discharge, having been mustered out December 24, 1865, at San Antonio, Texas. He returned to Wisconsin and farmed until 1871, when he came to Nebraska, locating first in Lincoln, Lancaster county, where he resided a year and a half. In 1872 he came to his present home, where he has passed through all the vicissitudes of pioneer life, the country at that time being a wilderness and infested with Indians, but abounding with game. Some eight or ten buffalo have fallen victims to Mr. Morgan's prowess, and smaller animals in untold numbers. When he came here he was \$170 in debt, but was skilled in his vocation, was industrious and economical, and now owns a tract of three hundred and twenty acres of good land, well stocked and improved with one of the finest dwellings in the country.

The marriage of Mr. Morgan took place in 1868, to Miss Addie Storm, who has borne him four children, namely—Leo Leslie, born January 11, 1870; Albert P., born July 22, 1875; Ada Pearl, who died March 2, 1885, when but two months old; and Daisy Gertrude, born December 28, 1886.

In politics Mr. Morgan is a republican. He has served one term as supervisor, two terms as justice of the peace, and has been a school officer since 1875. He is a post commander in the G. A. R., while Mrs. Morgan is president of the Woman's Relief Corps. Mr. Morgan was also president of the Harlan county agricultural society in 1887, and enumerator of the two hundred and fifty-second district of the first supervisor's district of Nebraska of the eleventh census, in 1890.

**A**NDREW RUBEN, the first settler in what is now known as Reuben township, Harlan county, Nebr., and which township was named in his honor, is a native of Sweden, born in 1842. His father, Andrew Anderson, was a carpenter and was born in 1810, and the mother of our subject, Margaret Anderson, was born in the same year—both in Sweden. This couple were married in 1834, and were the parents of six children, namely—Eric and Johanna (both in Sweden); Andrew, our subject; John, in Harlan county; Charles S., in Washington; and Mrs. Christina Cappen, in Furnas county, Nebr.

Andrew Ruben came to America in 1868, and first stopped two years in Des Moines, where he worked on a railroad; thence he came to Omaha, Nebr., where he worked at plastering until 1870, when he came to Harlan county and settled on section 31, township 3, range 19. The fact that he was the first settler in the township, as stated, is sufficient evidence that the country was a vast wilderness, and Mr. Ruben to day bears scars received in his struggles with buffalo, of which he has slain between two and three hundred. He endured all the hardships and privations of pioneer life as a matter of necessity, but has met with an ample reward. He began for himself when but eighteen years of age, with neither money nor assistance, but is now in good circumstances, and his word is accepted as readily as his note. His success is another example for the young, showing what courage and energy can accomplish.

Mr. Ruben was married in 1874, to Miss Ellen Liden, a native of Sweden, and this marriage has been blessed by the





A. E. HARVEY.

birth of five children, namely—Annette, Elizabeth, Adof, Eugene and Earnest (deceased.)

In politics, Mr. Ruben is a republican. In religion he and his family are Lutherans, he having been a trustee of the church for many years.

**H**ON. ANDREW E. HARVEY was born in La Porte, Ind., October 5, 1847, and is a son of Andrew E. and Prudence (Owen) Harvey, the former of whom was a native of Virginia and the latter a native of Georgia. Mr. Harvey comes of Southern ancestry on both sides, his father's family originating in Maryland, and his mother's in Georgia. He comes of the staple stock of these two states, the founding of these two families in this country dating back to colonial times. On his paternal side he is of English descent, and on his maternal side Welsh. His paternal grandfather, Archibald Harvey, was a Marylander by birth; his maternal grandfather, Asa Owen, was a Georgian. Two of his great-grandfathers served in the colonies' war for independence, and gave up their lives on the battle-field for the cause of freedom. Mr. Harvey's father also served his country with credit in one of her great wars—that of 1812. He was a pioneer settler also, and carried the arts of peace into the country which he had helped to deprive of its hostile inhabitants. He settled where La Porte, Ind., now stands, in 1832, when that entire region was but sparsely settled, and died there in 1852. He followed the peaceful pursuits of agriculture throughout life, and

achieved a fair degree of success. He never aspired to public position, preferring the paths of private life to the more uncertain honors and pleasures of a public career. He led an industrious, upright, useful life, and was greatly esteemed by all who knew him. Mr. Harvey's mother was born in Liberty county, Ga., a descendant of an old and respected family of that state. She was a woman of many excellent qualities of head and heart, and bore her husband the companionship he sought with her hand, for many years, standing side by side with him and helping to fight the battles of the pioneer, and establish in the wilds of the West the institutions of peace and the arts and industries of civilization. She also died on the old homestead at La Porte, Ind., where her remains rest beside those of her husband in the old family burying-ground.

The subject of this notice was reared on the old home place at La Porte, growing up, as did most lads of his day, dividing his time between his attendance at the district schools, and boyhood pursuits. He finished his education at Oberlin college, Ohio, and started West shortly afterwards in search of his fortune, making his first permanent stop at Atlantic City, Iowa. Having selected law as a profession, he entered upon a course of reading under Col. W. B. Hamlin, and was admitted to the bar; but before entering upon the practice, he joined Col. Hamlin in 1871, in an expedition to Florida and engaged for over two years in surveying government land in that state. Returning West in 1873, he came to Nebraska and settled in Arapaho city, Furnas county, where he at once entered upon the practice of his profession. March 10, 1873, he took a

homestead one mile northeast of Arapaho, which he improved and which he still owns. In 1878 he took a pre-emption claim in the same county and during the intervening years, and following the latter date, he gave his time and attention to the practice of the law and to the improving of his claims. He thus became one of the first settlers of Furnas county, and as such he was identified with the growth and development of that county during all the uncertain stages of its history, giving it the best fruits of his labor, toiling unceasingly with head and hands for the upbuilding of its interests. There is but little in Mr. Harvey's personal appearance, and still less in his fortunes, to indicate the fact, but he knows, nevertheless, what the lonely bachelor life of the plains means. He has been in daily contact with the aboriginal red-man; he has hunted buffalo, deer and antelope where his farm in Furnas county now is; he has passed through the grasshopper scourge, the dry years and the seasons of hard times, and he knows all the ups and downs of the pioneers and is acquainted by experience with their many ingenious ways and means of getting on amid privations and hardships.

In 1876 Mr. Harvey was elected to the Nebraska state legislature, representing Furnas, Gosper and Phelps counties, being the first man elected from these counties under the constitution of 1875. He took an active part in the legislature and representing, as he did, a large territory, his duties were of a varied and exacting nature. He served on a number of committees, the two important ones being constitutional limitations and county lines and boundaries. He was a mem-

ber of the legislature during the somewhat noted Hitchcock-Saunders senatorial contest, and was elected on the issue between these two aspirants for senatorial honors, being sent as a Saunders man, for whom he voted in accordance with the will of his constituents. In 1878 Mr. Harvey was appointed deputy treasurer of Furnas county and served in this capacity for two years, being elected to the office of treasurer in 1880. He served as treasurer for two years and in 1883 moved to Orleans, Harlan county, where he formed a partnership with the Hon. Geo. W. Burton in the banking business. In May, 1885, the private banking house of Burton & Harvey was merged into the First National Bank of Orleans, of which Mr. Harvey became cashier, holding that position till January, 1890, when he resigned and was at once elected vice-president, which position he now holds. In addition to their banking interests, Messrs. Burton & Harvey have been engaged for years in an extensive real estate and loan business and during this time have brought Eastern capital to the amount of two and a half million dollars into southwestern Nebraska and northwestern Kansas, and have been largely instrumental in developing this locality. Mr. Harvey has become so absorbed with business enterprises that he has not given any attention for some years to his profession; yet he has not relinquished his hold upon it. He pursues its studies with as much zeal as in former years, and, as absorbing as his duties of a different nature have become, he has not and can not quite forget that he is still a lawyer. Mr. Harvey has what not every member of the profession is credited with—practical sagacity. He has shown an ability

to handle not only other people's business successfully, but his own as well. He has never neglected his own affairs to chase political honors, and yet there is not a more popular man in the entire Republican valley. He has met his obligations as a citizen and official with faithful exactitude and he is remembered by his appreciative fellow-citizens for these things. He is kind and accommodating, plain and approachable, and because of these qualities he makes friends easily and holds them well. In politics he is a republican and is a staunch supporter of the principles of his party, and when occasion demands he gives to his party his untiring efforts, being its eloquent champion on the stump and its efficient worker at the polls.

Mr. Harvey married November 18, 1874, taking as a companion Miss Clara B. Hovey, a daughter of P. E. Hovey of Arapaho, Furnas county. Two children have been born to this union—Edward and Glenn.

In his pleasant home at Orleans, surrounded by his wife and two boys, Mr. Harvey finds more of the real pleasure of this life than he has ever found in the achievements of business or political success, signal as his achievements in these two fields of endeavor have been.

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**J**AMES M. VAUGHAN. The subject of this sketch is a native of West Virginia and was born in Wood county, March 14, 1857. He is the fourth of a family of eleven children born to Irvin C. and Lida (Barnett) Vaughan, both natives of Virginia. His father,

Irvin C. Vaughan, is a substantial farmer and is now living on the old homestead in West Virginia.

James M. Vaughan was reared on a farm and received a good common-school education. He remained on the farm till coming to Nebraska in 1878, being then twenty-one years of age. He settled in Harlan county and located a homestead and timber claim, but relinquished the timber claim to his brother-in-law and held the homestead. He had borrowed money to pay his fare to the state and afterwards borrowed \$15 more to make his filings. His venture was not to be foiled for want of money, for he belonged to that old Virginia stock that knew no failure, and he at once went to work as a farm hand and labored for four years for the same man. At the end of that time he had paid all his debts and had some money left to improve his land.

In 1883, after a four years' residence in Nebraska, he married, taking to share his wife's fortunes Miss Mary A. Bass. Her parents were natives of Canada, moved from there to Butler county, Iowa, and there died. To Mr. and Mrs. Vaughan have been born three children. The first died in infancy, the second, a son, Harry E., is now living, and the third is a fine boy four months old and weighs twenty-five pounds.

When Mr. Vaughan married he was then fully settled and began the struggles of life in earnest. Being strong and healthy, labor had no terror for him, consequently he was successful in all his undertakings. His timber claim was in section 29, and he owns all of section 28 except one tract of eighty acres, and has eighty acres in section 29, making him a

full section of land, having about one hundred and eighty acres under cultivation and breaking about one hundred acres more. He raises mixed crops and stock and has a good herd of cattle and one hundred and fifty head of hogs and ten horses.

Mr. Vaughan has made all he has since coming to Nebraska and is truly a self-made man. He has never had any failure in crops, although he has lost some stock. Taking everything into consideration, he has prospered well and has the foundation laid to make him one of the wealthiest men in his county, although he is comparatively a young man. He has served two terms as justice of the peace and two terms as road overseer, and is also a member of the Farmers' Alliance in Harlan county, taking an active interest in all matters relating to that organization. He and his excellent wife are both zealous members of the Baptist church. Politically, Mr. Vaughan is independent.

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**J**OHAN F. DAVID, one of the honored pioneers of Harlan county, was born in Schuyler county, Ill., on September 6, 1842. His father, William D. David, was a native of Tennessee, while his mother, who bore the maiden name of Louise Meaders, was a native of Virginia. The senior David migrated to Illinois in 1833, and was among the pioneer settlers of that great state. He was a farmer and died in 1866. The boyhood days of John F. David, the subject of this sketch, were spent on his father's farm and were devoid of any special interest. He worked on the farm during the summer and attended district school during the winter months,

and other than this he enjoyed no educational advantages. In 1862, when young David was twenty years old, he enlisted on the first day of February in the Sixty-second regiment, Illinois infantry. In the fall of that year he was taken prisoner at Holly Springs, Miss., but was paroled in a short time. He next enlisted in the Twelfth Illinois cavalry and saw service in Vicksburg, Cane river, Yelton, Pleasant Hill, and was present at the capture of the city of Mobile, Ala. Previous to his enlistment in the Twelfth Illinois cavalry, he joined the Seventy-eighth Illinois regiment, and took an active part in the battle of Lookout mountain. This act was purely voluntary on his part, as he was not a member of any regiment at that time. Mr. David was mustered out at the city of New Orleans April 1, 1866, making the time of his service four years and two months.

He returned to Illinois, where he conducted a farm till the spring of 1872, when he removed with his family to Harlan county, Nebr. He was the first man to take a claim in the north half of the county, and is the pioneer of pioneers of that section. He has seen the prairie black with buffalo and deer, and it was nothing strange to see a band of Indians camped near his sod house door. At one time there were eight hundred red skins camped on his homestead, at other times five hundred and three hundred. He had to go to Grand Island in those days, when his good wife wanted tea or coffee or sugar or a new calico dress. He had hardly got snugly settled when along came the festive grasshopper, in the year 1874, and destroyed all his corn, which gave such promise of an excellent crop. During the



terrible Easter storm, which occurred April 13, 1873, his stable was buried under fifteen feet of snow, and he lost the best mule he ever owned. Mr. David has gone through all these and more discouraging times since he came to the great state of Nebraska.

Mr. David was married August 29, 1867, to Miss Martha Schroder, a native of Illinois. This union has been blessed with nine children, namely—Elworth, Dallas D., Louisa, Bertha, Daisy, Frank William, Jessie, Bessie and Bird. Mr. David was the first county supervisor from Washington township and is also a member of the county board at this time (1890). He organized the postoffice at Bainbridge and was postmaster for five years. He has also been justice of the peace several years and has always taken an active part in local and county politics. He has three hundred and twenty acres of improved land, most of which is in the Turkey Creek valley, and all of which is very productive. He is an honored member of the Odd Fellows and a staunch republican in politics.

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**F**ERDINAND L. SEICK. The subject of this sketch is one of the honored pioneers of Harlan county, a native of Logan county, Ill., and was born March 18, 1841.

His father, John D., was a native of Poland and came to the United States in 1835. He visited various localities in this country before determining upon a permanent location and finally settled in Logan county, Ill., where he first met and was married to Miss Margaret, a daughter of Peter G. Cowardice, one of the first set-

tlers of the county. She died in 1851 and he followed in 1856. He was a journeyman carpenter and worked all his lifetime at his trade.

Ferdinand L. Seick had no special school advantages during his boyhood days, and, after the death of his parents, was thrown entirely upon his own resources. He worked on a farm during the year 1858, but he desired to learn some trade and in the spring of 1859 was apprenticed to a harness-maker, with whom he remained two years. In the spring of 1861, when the war of the rebellion broke out, young Seick was among the first to join the ranks of the boys in blue, and enlisted on the eighth day of June, 1861, in the Third regiment, Iowa volunteer infantry. His regiment was ordered down into Missouri and saw its first service at Bland Mills landing. The Third Iowa participated in the great battle of Shiloh, and also at the siege of Corinth, which lasted for forty days. This same regiment of Iowa boys again faced shot and shell at Vicksburg and Atlanta. Mr. Seick was taken prisoner at the latter place on the twenty-second day of July and sent to Andersonville. He was exchanged in two months, however, but not until he had suffered the horrors inflicted on the Union prisoners by the managers of that terrible institution. He saw his comrades die by the hundreds, saw them drink foul and slimy water and saw them starve for want of food. The day he left this horrible den he counted over five hundred corpses ready for burial. After spending a few days in a convalescent camp he was taken along with others to meet Sherman's army at Goldsborough, when he joined his old

company and regiment. He was mustered out at Louisville, Ky., July 12, 1865.

After the war Mr. Seick returned to Benton county, Iowa, and attended school at Vinton, Iowa, for nine months. He then resumed his old trade as a harness-maker, and in 1867 engaged with one Frank Evans in the business in Story county, Iowa. He disposed of his interests in six months, however, and moved to Lincoln, Ill., where he remained until 1872. In February of that year he came to Harlan county, Nebr., and homesteaded the southeast quarter of section 13, in Washington township. There were then only two other parties in that part of the county and the outlook was anything but encouraging. He made up his mind, however, to stay and proceeded immediately to erect a comfortable log house. The prairie was black with buffalo, and antelope and deer were quite plenty. The Indians were frequent visitors at the pioneer cabins and often camped in the neighborhood as they traveled to and from their happy hunting-grounds. In 1874, when everything seemed to indicate a prosperous year for the new settlers and crops gave every promise of abundant yield, the grasshoppers swooped down on the great fields of waving corn, then in roasting ears, and in a few hours destroyed every stalk. The next year they were not quite so bad, but in 1876 they were as numerous as ever and took everything green before them. Very few people who have settled in this region within the past few years fully appreciate what the pioneers had to pass through.

Mr. Seick had lived a bachelor for several years and found a life of single blessedness not as congenial as it might

be. So on the twenty seventh day of January 1881, he was married to Miss Charlotte T. Phelps, a native of Lincoln, Ill., born January 15, 1862. Her father was a native of Vermont and her mother of Germany. The family of Mr. Seick consists of four children, namely—Olive May, born November 11, 1881; Mary, born February 27, 1882; Marian A., born January 27, 1885, and John, born July 9, 1887.

Mr. Seick has one hundred and sixty acres of improved land and is a successful and prosperous farmer, although he has had as many failures as he has had crops. He has been a victim of the grasshoppers, drought and hail, but he is not discouraged and is not of a disposition to give up. He is a member of the Alliance and believes the farmers ought to act in union in order to accomplish anything for themselves. He has always been a republican, but he has resolved to act independently hereafter. Mr. Seick has always been an abstainer from intoxicating liquors, and is a strong and ardent advocate of temperance. He believes in total prohibition and is doing everything in his power to bring it about.

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**G**RIFFEY VANDIKE, the subject of this sketch, is a native of Virginia, and was born September 12, 1842.

Mr. Vandike came to Harlan county, Nebr., in the spring of 1874, homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 14, built a sod house, and made himself and family as comfortable as possible. He came with a team, and had two cows, so he began at

once to prepare the barren prairie for a crop. His first corn crop was a promising one indeed, but just before it began to mature it was destroyed by the grasshoppers. Although this discouraging thing was repeated, he never gave up in despair, but persevered on until he successfully passed through one of the most disastrous periods in the history of the state.

Mr. Vandike was married in 1866, the lady whom he selected to share life's burdens with him being Miss Nancy A. Lovell. This union was blessed with ten children, as follows—Seney Ann, Martha L., Lizzie A., Albert R., John O. (deceased), Elmer G. (deceased), Edward S., James O. (deceased), Clarinda S. and Verley W.

Mr. Vandike has four hundred and eighty acres of good land, and is engaged quite extensively in raising hogs and cattle. He is a member of the Alliance, and in politics has always been a republican. He lost his wife in August, 1887. She was a companion whom he loved dearly, and he has found much difficulty to reconcile himself to the great loss.

When the war broke out, Mr. Vandike shouldered a musket and marched to the front in defense of his country's flag, and in connection with his biographical sketch it would not be out of place to mention some facts concerning his military career. He enlisted on the twenty-fifth day of August, 1861, in the Twenty-third Missouri regiment of infantry. He participated in the engagement at Shiloh, and was taken prisoner April 6, 1862. He was taken to Corinth, then to Memphis and Mobile, and thence to Cohaba, Ala., and after a few days was removed to

Montgomery, and thence to Macon, where he was paroled May 24, 1862. He entered the Union lines again at Belmont station, near the Tennessee river, was in the fight at Nashville, after which he obtained a furlough, and spent a short time at home. He joined his regiment again in February, 1863, and participated in the Atlanta campaign. He was mustered out at Atlanta in September, 1864.

**J**OHIN T. RINEHART, one of the pioneers of Turkey Creek township, Harlan county, is a native of Pennsylvania, but has spent the greater part of his life in Iowa. He is the third of a family of six children born to Jacob and Sarah (Welliver) Rinehart, also natives of Pennsylvania, and was born August 13, 1846. When quite young he moved with his parents to Wisconsin, where his father died. Two years later the family moved to Iowa, and there our subject grew to manhood. He was reared on a farm and received an ordinary common-school training, being brought up to the habits of industry and usefulness common to farm life.

In 1861, at President Lincoln's call, he enlisted in Company K, Fifth Iowa infantry, Western department, and served two years, when he was wounded and got a discharge. When able, he joined the Ninth Iowa cavalry, Company E, and served in that till February, 1866. At the battle of Iuka, Miss., he received a shot-gun wound in his left arm, breaking the bone. On account of his wound he was disabled from service fourteen months, and was in

the hospital eleven months. He was mustered out at Little Rock, Ark., and got his discharge papers and pay at Davenport, Iowa. He returned home and engaged in the milling business, at which he continued five years.

Mr. Rinehart married March, 1866, the lady whom he chose for a life partner being Miss Elizabeth Artist, daughter of Samuel and Nancy Artist, natives of Virginia. To Mr. and Mrs. Rinehart have been born seven children, three boys and four girls, as follows—Charles, James T., Edith, Maud, Frank, Mary and Esta, all of whom are now living.

In 1873, Mr. Rinehart came to Nebraska and settled in Turkey Creek township, Harlan county. He located a homestead on the southwest quarter of section 7, township 3, range 17, went to work, and by steady industry, energy and pluck proceeded to make for himself and family a home. He was among the first settlers in the county and endured the hardships and privations of pioneer life. After filing on his claim he had only \$4 left. With this money and a good team he started in to farming. The first few years he found it difficult to live, the grasshoppers and drouth destroying all his crops. Of course this was discouraging to Mr. Rinehart, but he determined to stick by his claim. In the meantime he did what he could towards improving his farm, and with the appearance of good seasons began to raise good crops. He now has one of the best farms in Harlan county, having one hundred acres under cultivation, and raises mixed crops and has paid considerable attention to the breeding of and dealing in fine stock. Mr. Rinehart is well known in Harlan county as one of

its best farmers, careful in cultivating his land, giving his whole time and attention to his business, and has therefore been more than ordinarily successful, the independent position he now holds being due to his own efforts, aided by an industrious, economical wife.

Mr. Rinehart votes the republican ticket, and has served as school director and justice of the peace for a number of years. He is a zealous member of a number of the benevolent orders, among them the Grand Army of the Republic and Farmers' Alliance of Harlan county.

Mr. and Mrs. Rinehart have a pleasant home, where friend and stranger are alike welcome.

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**W**ILLIAM O. COE is a native of Oswego county, N. Y., and was born October 31, 1831. He is a son of Alexander and Martilla M. (Coon) Coe, both of whom were natives of New York. His father was a farmer and died in 1844; his mother died in 1886. Both were zealous members of the Free Will Baptist church. Soon after the death of his father, Mr. Coe moved to Cleveland, Ohio, and worked out. He remained in the Buckeye State for fourteen years, when he located in Noble county, Ind., and engaged in tilling the soil. He enlisted December 31, 1863, in the Twelfth regiment of Indiana cavalry, but was taken ill soon afterwards and sent to the hospital. He spent twelve months in Huntsville, Ala., was at Tallahoma, Tenn., New Orleans and Baton Rouge, and was mustered out at the last named place May 29, 1865.

Mr. Coe returned to Noble county, Ind., and resumed his vocation as a farmer. He came West in the spring of 1872 and settled in Harlan county, Nebr. He located a quarter section on Rope creek and was the first homesteader in Washington township. He built a sod house and hauled what lumber he was obliged to have from Beatrice. Wild game of all kinds was plenty especially buffalo, antelope and deer. He had fifty-six acres of corn stripped clean in two hours by the grasshoppers and passed through other trying ordeals almost as bad. Mr. Coe went to Ohio to solicit aid for the many sufferers on account of the grasshopper raid, and was successful in obtaining a considerable quantity of food and clothing. There was but one frame building in the county when he came, and a small store at Republican City. Provisions of all kinds were extremely high in those days. He paid \$10 for a barrel of salt, and other necessaries of life were equally high. He had two yoke of cattle and freighted considerably hauling goods from Lowell to the stores at Melrose and Orleans.

Mr. Coe was married November 1, 1853, the lady of his choice being Miss Emily M. Furman, a native of Ohio and born April 12, 1830. She is a daughter of Benjamin and Mary (Deeter) Furman, the former a native of New York and the latter a native of Connecticut. They died in 1888 and 1858 respectively.

Mr. Coe's family consists of eight children, namely—Ella M., born September 15, 1854; Willis A., born February 14, 1857; Arthur W., born May 16, 1859; Benjamin A., born March 7, 1862; Francis E., born January 13, 1864, and Fannie M.

(deceased), born January 12, 1864 (twins); George S., born July 19, 1867, and Mary A., born January 15, 1871. Mr. Coe was elected coroner of Harlan county in 1872 and again in 1874. He has been a member of the board of county supervisors and has been assessor of his township. He is an honored member of the G. A. R. and also of the Farmers' Alliance. His farm consists of four hundred acres, two hundred and thirty of which are under cultivation. He erected a fine brick house in 1886 and his farm is otherwise well improved. Both he and his estimable wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**J**OSEPH UPLINGER, of Republican township, Harlan county, Nebr., was born near Covington, Fountain county, Ind., July 3, 1836, was reared on a farm and received a common-school education. From the age of thirteen until nearly of age he hired out, but in 1857, being then possessed of forty acres, he was married in his native county, and there continued to reside until October, 1861, when he enlisted in Company K, Forty-third Indiana infantry, and served in the Western department three years. Although he took part in many battles he escaped being wounded or captured, and was mustered out and paid at Indianapolis, when he returned home and resumed farming, which he there continued until 1874, when he moved to Kansas and bought out a squatter in Phillips county, afterwards homesteading the land and remaining on it four years. In 1878 he came to Harlan county, Nebr., and bought

one-half of section 11, in townships 2 and 3, where he still resides. Having lost his wife in 1877 while in Kansas, he married in July, 1878, after reaching Nebraska, a widow who owned a quarter section adjoining his own purchase, thus making a joint farm of three-quarters of a section. When he left Indiana, Mr. Uplinger was worth about \$3,000, but now, after having passed through all the grievances and hardships of pioneer life, finds himself to be a quite wealthy man.

The first marriage of Mr. Uplinger, in 1857, was to Mrs. Elizabeth Rickett, a widow, and a daughter of Isaac Sloan. To this union were born seven children, viz.—Charles (deceased), Arnold, Eliza E. (deceased), Ernest W., Joseph M., an infant that died unnamed, and Lola A. The second marriage of our subject was to Mrs. Amanda Craig, a daughter of John White, who was a native of Illinois, was a mechanic and farmer, and married to Margaret Kemp. Mrs. Uplinger was first married in Minnesota, and came from that state to Nebraska in 1871, being among the first to settle in Republican township. By her marriage to Mr. Craig she became the mother of five children, named as follows—George W., Lee A., Eugene O., Violette and Alva; to Mr. Uplinger she has borne six children, viz.—Sammy C., Margaret, John C., Amanda, Eveline and Charles G., of whom the last named died in August, 1888, at the age of sixteen months.

The father of our subject, Jacob Uplinger, was a native of Germany, but when five years of age was brought to America by his parents, who settled in Lancaster county, Pa., where he was reared a farmer and distiller; he was mar-

ried in Virginia to Miss Anna M., daughter of Jacob and Barbara Risler, natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent. About 1830 he moved to Indiana, bought a farm in Fountain county, reared a family of five children and died about 1836, a short time before the subject of this sketch was born. The widow of Jacob Uplinger, at the age of ninety years, is now living with her son, our subject, who is filially caring for her in her old age.

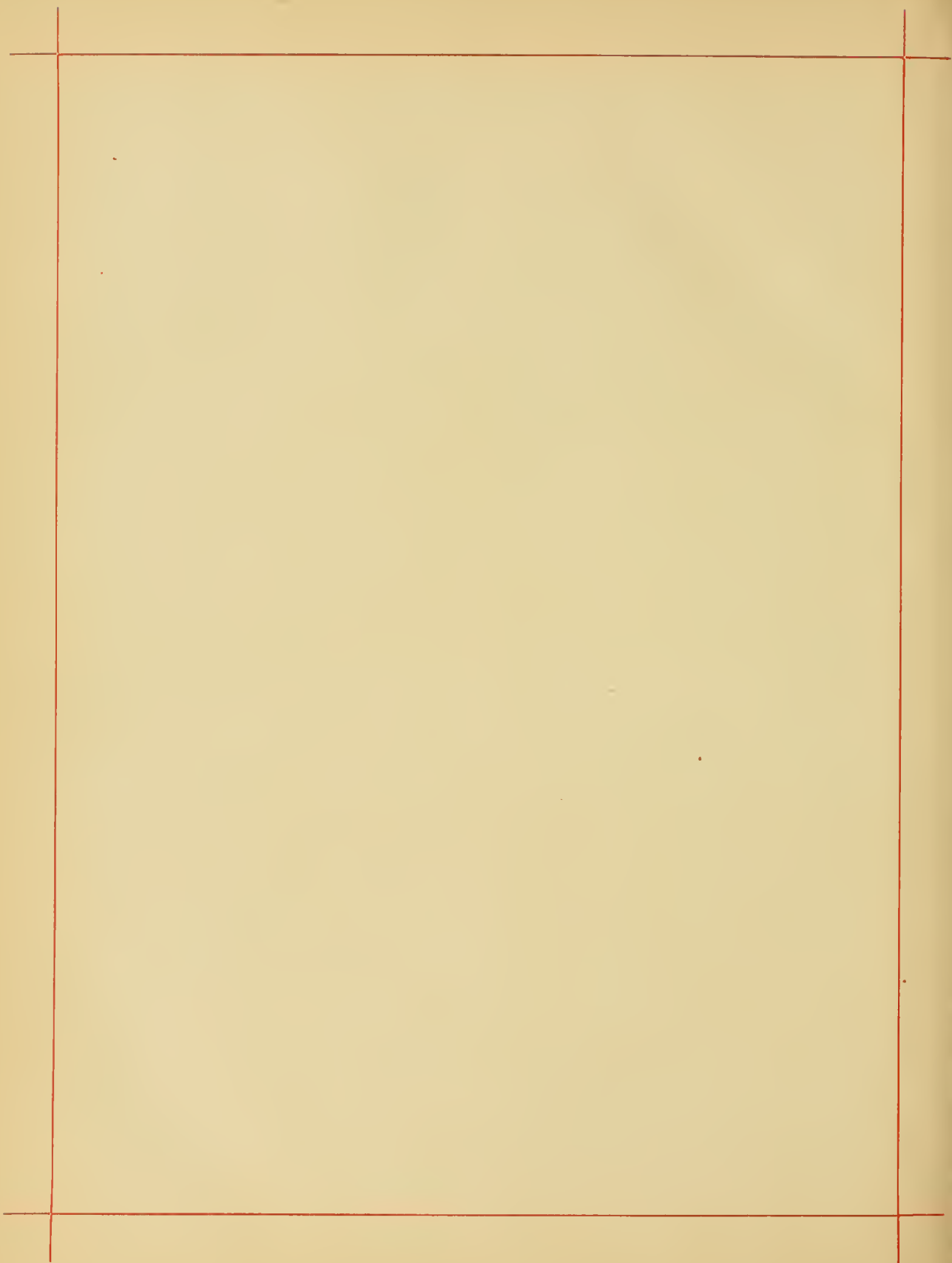
Mr. Uplinger is in politics a democrat, and has filled the position of moderator of schools many terms, and he is universally esteemed by all classes of the community.

**W**ILLIAM RIESENBERG, of Turkey Creek township, Harlan county, Nebr., was born in Peoria, Ill., in August, 1860. His father, Carl Riesenbergs, was a native of Germany, and came to America about 1850, locating in Peoria, and establishing a confectionery and fruit store. He served through the late war as chief bugler for General Funk and on a skirmish lost the sight of an eye. His death took place at Peoria in 1882. He was married in Germany to Miss Josephine Ellsner, and of his three children, William, our subject, is the youngest. His widow still resides in Peoria, at the age of sixty-eight years.

William Riesenbergs first learned the photographic business and later the trade of a machinist, and worked at the latter in Peoria until 1878, when he came to Nebraska and located a homestead, on which he remained three years, and then returned to Peoria and worked as a machinist five

years. In 1885 he married Miss Sarah Ward, daughter of Philip and Lydia Ward, of Logan county, Ill., who live at Emden. To this union have been born two children—Elsie and Carl. When he was twenty-one years of age, Mr. Riesen-berg filed his homestead papers, and has since bought an eighty-acre tract, all situated in section 30, Turkey Creek town-ship, Harlan county, and has about forty acres under cultivation. In 1887 he took

up his permanent residence in the state, and when the town of Huntley was estab-lished he opened a grocery and drug store n the new village, and about the same time was appointed postmaster, which position he still holds. He is also serving as township clerk, and is highly respected by all who know him. He is a member of the order of the Sons of Veterans and of the Catholic church, and in politics is a staunch republican.

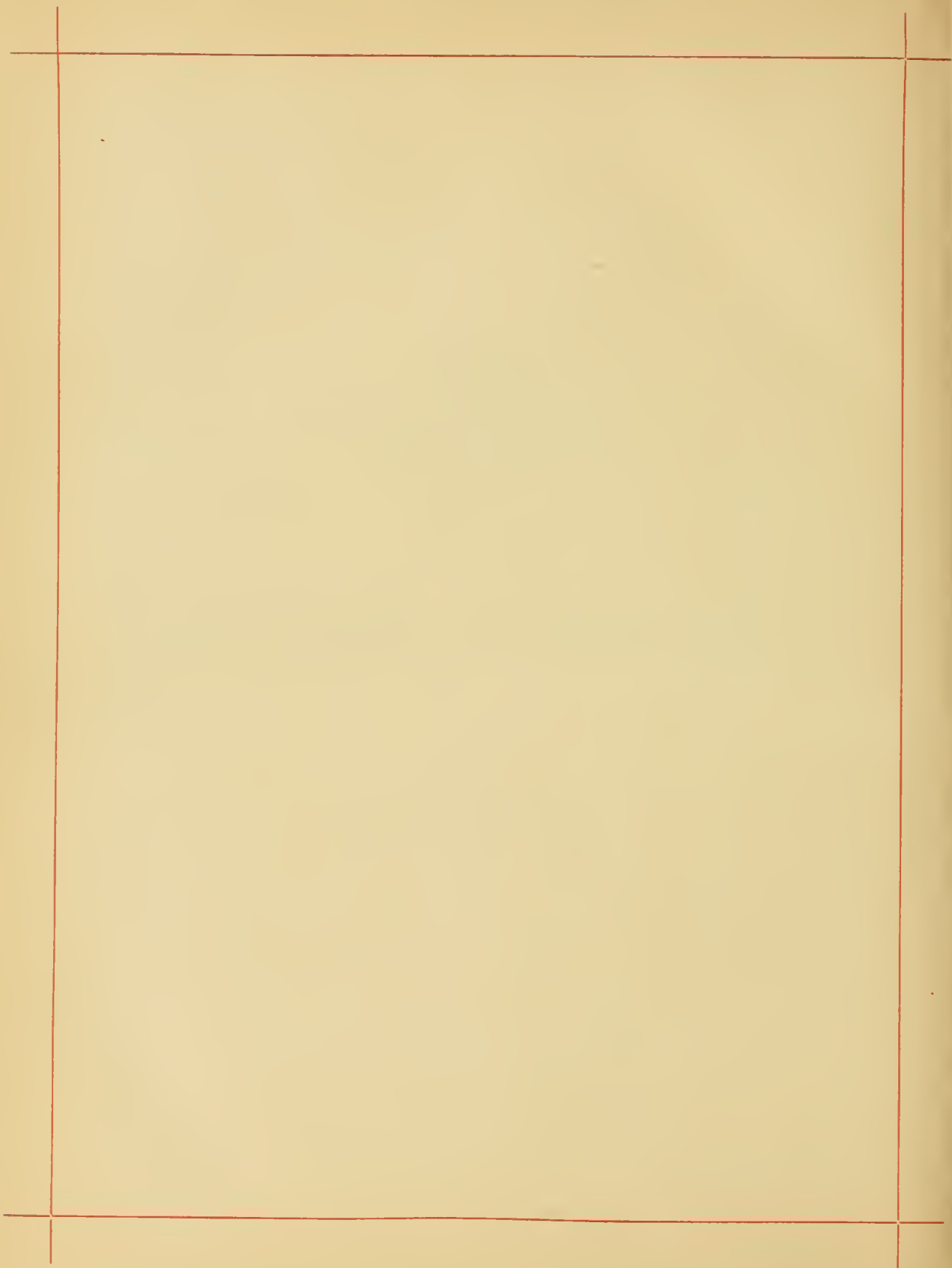






**FRANKLIN COUNTY.**





## BIOGRAPHICAL.

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**C**HARLES A. GRISWOLD was born in Pennsylvania August 5, 1840, and is one of a family of ten children born to James F. and Lydia (Franklin) Griswold, both of whom were natives of New York State, his mother being a daughter of Daniel Franklin, a Revolutionary soldier, and a distant relative of the famous Dr. Franklin, and his father a son of James Griswold, who served his country with distinction in the War of 1812 and subsequently became a man of some local political note. Mr. Griswold's parents moved to Pennsylvania in 1830, when the country was comparatively new, settled on a timber farm which the father cleared and on which he maintained his family, both parents living to the ripe age of seventy-three years. Here now live the most of C. A. Griswold's brothers and sisters, he being the only representative of the family in Nebraska. Charles A. Griswold was in his native country brought up on a farm and trained to the habits of industry and usefulness common to farm life. He received but an ordinary education, having mostly to make his own way in the world. He learned the carpenter trade when a young man and followed it till he enlisted in the Union army in 1861, on the opening of the Civil war, entering Company E, Ninth Pennsylvania cavalry,

and serving his country faithfully three years and three months, during the most trying period of her history. His command was with the armies of the Cumberland and the Tennessee and took a part in all the hard-fought battles in which those armies were engaged, ending with Sherman's "March to the Sea." He was never wounded, but was once captured while charging a battery at an engagement on the French Broad river in East Tennessee and narrowly escaped the horrors of prison life which befell many of his gallant comrades. He regained his liberty, however, through his own vigilance and fleetness of foot, and did a soldier's duty till the expiration of his term of enlistment instead of having to languish in a rebel prison. After leaving the army Mr. Griswold returned to Pennsylvania and shortly after went to work at his trade. In 1867 he married, then kept a store, farmed a little and subsequently worked at his trade in Pennsylvania up to 1877; in April of that year he came to Nebraska and located in Franklin county, entering a homestead claim on the southeast quarter of section 4, township 4, range 14 west, Antelope township. That was an early date for that part of the state and Mr. Griswold was the third man to locate in the township. He settled on

raw land and began on the sod and had rather a hard time of it at first, but he stuck steadily to the claim, and after the first season of hardship was past, his condition began gradually to improve and his affairs have prospered since. The homestead has grown from a mere claim on the prairie to a well improved, neat, comfortable place, furnished with a good dwelling, barns, orchard and groves, and is well stocked with good breeds of cattle, horses and hogs. He has given his attention mainly to farming, but in 1881 he put up a building on his place which he filled with goods and began mercantile business. He shortly afterwards secured a postoffice for his locality and received the appointment of postmaster, conducting the postoffice and selling goods till the spring of 1887, when, the B. & M. R. R. having built within a mile of his place, and a station being started on it near by, he was obliged to remove to the new town with his store, and the postoffice was given to a Mr. Porter, there being a democratic administration at that time. In 1888, when Harrison was elected, Mr. Griswold received the appointment of postmaster and took the office in June, 1889. The new town was called Upland and Mr. Griswold became one of the chief factors in building it up. Three postoffices of the vicinity being consolidated into one, Mr. Griswold now divides his time between the postoffice and his store, keeping one clerk.

In 1867 Mr. Griswold married Miss Martha M. Arnout, a daughter of Joshua and Martha (Chilson) Arnout, natives also of New York State.

Mrs. Griswold's father died in 1859; her mother is still living, being a member of

Mr. Griswold's household. Mr. and Mrs. Griswold have had born to them a family of four children, all daughters—Cora B., May M., V. Grace, and Lillie G., the last named being deceased. Mr. Griswold has taken a prominent part in the affairs of his township, having served as justice of the peace and assessor, director of the school district three times, and, as stated, as postmaster. In politics he is a temperance republican, as might be supposed from his antecedents and personal history, already recorded. He is a zealous Mason and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

**W**ILLARD WESTON is a native of Broome county, N. Y., and was born July 15, 1836. He accompanied his parents to Susquehanna county, Pa., in 1847, where he lived several years. His father was a miller and mill-wright for many years. Willard was apprenticed to a carpenter at the age of sixteen, and, after learning his trade, he followed it for twenty-four years, during which time he followed contracting to quite an extent. He was also in the mercantile business in Pennsylvania for two years and owned and operated a saw-mill for some time during the winters. Mr. Weston came to Franklin county, Nebr., in April, 1874, and was one of the first settlers in the northwestern part of the county, where he located a homestead, and built a sod house in which to receive his family. He was eaten out by the grasshoppers and saw some very hard times. When Mr. Weston came to Franklin county the entire country was undevel-

oped and the boundless prairie was unbroken for miles. No towns had sprung up and few railroads passed through that section, and Mr. Weston knows all the ups and downs incident to the settlement of a new country.

He was married November 17, 1858, to Abbie M. Lester, a native of Pennsylvania, born November 28, 1838. Five children have been born to this union, namely—Mary M., Elmer E., Elias J., Jonathan O. and Elizabeth J. Mr. Weston has been justice of the peace and notary public for many years. In 1880 he was appointed postmaster of Moline, and in 1882 he opened a small general store, and is now doing quite an extensive business. He belongs to the Masonic, Odd Fellows and Good Templars orders, and has been a strong prohibitionist for some years. He owns four hundred acres of good land which is in a good state of cultivation. Both he and his wife are zealous members of the Congregational church, and he has always been an active church worker and a contributor to every good cause.

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**W**M. F. NELSON came to Nebraska in the spring of 1877 and settled in Antelope township, Franklin county. He was born in Michigan, February 26, 1844, and is the eldest of a family of seven children born to Thomas Nelson and Emma L. Perry. His father is a native of England, having been brought to America by his parents when a lad eight years of age. He resided most of his life in Michigan, and there married Emma L. Perry, daughter

of Ira Perry, of the State of New York. In earlier years he followed the trade of a carpenter, and afterwards farmed. He moved to Nebraska, and resided in this state till the death of his wife, which occurred in 1889, when he sold out and went to New York, where he lives with a married daughter. Only two of the seven children of this marriage live in Nebraska--these being Richard L., who resides near Lincoln, and William F., the subject of this sketch.

William F. Nelson was reared in his native place, growing up on the farm and receiving only a limited education. He resided in Michigan till he got well along in his teens, and then went to Wisconsin, where he remained for nine years. Returning to Michigan, he married, and then, in 1877, coming to Nebraska, he settled, as already noted, in Antelope township, Franklin county, where he took a pre-emption claim, which he afterwards changed to a homestead, filing on the northeast quarter of section 22, township 4, range 14 west. When Mr. Nelson came to the county, he had a small team, his household goods and \$30 in money. With these he began the solution of the problem of living on the frontier, amid the hardships and privations that then surrounded the settlers. He had many ups and downs, and met with many discouragements which would have overcome weaker natures than his. But he has succeeded through it all, and is to-day in a fairly prosperous condition. While looking sharply after his own affairs, he has been active in promoting the welfare of the community where he resides, having filled a number of local offices, and standing out prominently at all times for

the enforcement of the laws and the fostering of a spirit of morality, education and sobriety.

Mr. Nelson married Miss Eliza A. Lockwood, daughter of John Lockwood, a native of New York, but now of California. To this union have been born a family of four children, as follows—Jennie A., William E., Stephen D. and Eugene A.

In politics Mr. Nelson is a democrat, standing squarely for the men and measures of his party on all occasions.

**E**LBERT S. PHELPS was born in Portage county, Ohio, June 6, 1847, and came to Franklin county, Nebr., on the twenty-fifth day of April, 1872, being one of the first to take a homestead in the northern part of the county. There was no settlement then, and there were no neighbors nearer than ten miles, but there was plenty of buffalo and other wild game. He has stood in his own door and shot buffalo while they were passing. Lowell, thirty-five miles distant, was the nearest trading-point. Indians were plenty, often passing his house, and he has cooked many a meal for red men. He passed through the grasshopper period and saw some very hard times, but gallantly overcame them.

He was married in the fall of 1879 to Miss Ellen Chisholm, a native of New York State, and to this union have been born four children, viz.—Carrie, Ray, Guy and Edgar. Mr. Phelps owns one hundred and sixty acres of improved land as good as can be found in the county. He is democratic in politics, and is well posted in the principles of his party.

**P**ERRY PARKER, a successful farmer residing in Antelope township, Franklin county, came to Nebraska in the spring of 1875, and therefore knows something of pioneer life, and all the privations and hardships incident thereto. Mr. Parker is a native of Michigan, having been born in that state in April, 1848, and is next to the youngest of a family of eight children born to John and Tamer (Walters) Parker. His father was born in Ohio, but moved to Michigan at an early date; his mother was born in Tennessee; but they met and were married in Michigan. They now live in Missouri, having moved there in 1871. Perry Parker grew up on a farm in his native state and received the rudiments of an ordinary common-school education from the district schools of the county where he was reared. He lived with his parents till he reached his twenty-second year, going then to Missouri, where he rented a farm and began for himself. He lived in Missouri five years and came thence to Nebraska, settling in Franklin county. He filed a homestead claim in the southeast quarter of section 24, township 4, range 14 west, and there began the life of a pioneer. He had a hard time of it at first, as did all the old settlers, but by industry and good management he has made a success of it, now having a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres, one hundred and thirty-five of which are under cultivation and otherwise well improved. He has usually raised good crops, and, beginning with seventy-five cents and a yoke of oxen, he now has plenty around and is recognized as one of the most intelligent and prosperous farmers of his county. In the labor of making

for himself a home in the West, Mr. Parker has been ably assisted by his excellent wife. He married after coming to Nebraska, taking to share his fortunes a courageous young lady, who, like himself, came West in pursuit of her fortune, Miss Serena McKenzie, daughter of John and Mary McKenzie; the former a native of the State of Tennessee and the latter a native of Illinois. The father died in Iowa, 1868; the mother is still living, being a resident of Franklin county, this state.

Mr. and Mrs. Parker have had born to them a family of three children—Jessie C., Clara M., and Dola W. Mr. Parker has borne a conspicuous part in the local affairs of his township, having served on the school board of his district for the past eleven years. He belongs to the Grange Association, and in politics affiliates with the republican party.

**W**ILL BREBNER is a native of Scotland, and was born April 4, 1861. He came to the United States in 1877, landing in New York city July 4, and came to Franklin county, Nebr., in the fall of 1877, and here took a homestead. He was accompanied by his mother, who kept house for him until her death, which occurred in 1889, and to whose wise counsel, untiring zeal and energy in his behalf, he attributes much of his present success.

Our subject came to this county with very limited means (having but \$4.50 in his pocket when he arrived here) and settled in a pretty new section of the country, where he built a sod house, but by hard

work and rigid economy he has made for himself a comfortable home already. He owns four hundred and eighty acres of land, some of which is very productive and yields abundant crops, and he has great faith in the future of Nebraska.

He is an independent republican in politics, and has been elected to the position of assessor of his township two terms. He is also an officer of the Farmers' Alliance, and takes an active interest in the workings of that organization. He is an energetic and highly respected young man.

**C**ARSON HILDRETH, one of Bloomington's business men, is a native of Michigan, and moved from that state to Franklin county, Nebr. in 1873. Mr. Hildreth served the county as its treasurer four years, 1884-88, and has since been engaged in mercantile trade. Mr. Hildreth is a strong prohibitionist and is chairman of the county temperance league.

**T**HE BLOOMINGTON ARGUS, the official county paper of Franklin county, Nebr., is now in its eleventh year and is all "home print." Its able editor, H. M. Crane, was born in Vassar, Tuscola county, Mich., in March, 1861, a son of R. H. and Laura Crane, natives of New York. Mr. Crane was brought by his parents to Nebraska in 1871, and here for several years he chased buffalo and played with Indians.

He learned the printing business under Congressman Laws of the Orleans *Sentinel*, beginning in 1876, and in 1880 he started the *Republican Valley Echo* at Franklin, but sold out in 1884 and moved to Keya Paha county, where he started the *Norden Borealis*; this journal he sold in 1886 and returned to Franklin and bought back the *Echo*, which paper he again sold in 1888. In 1889 he ran the Trenton *Torpedo*, and finally settled in Bloomington in the fall of 1889 and bought the *ARGUS*. On September 22, 1890, he bought the good will of the *Echo* and consolidated the two papers under the name of the *Republican Valley Echo*. It will thus be seen that Mr. Crane has had an extensive career as a journalist, and his ability as an editor is proven by his success.

Mr. Crane was married November 20, 1882, to Idah J. Barker. They have two children—Queena, two years old, and James Laird, two weeks old. He was a charter member of Lodge, No. 93, Knights of Pythias, of Bloomington city.

**J**AMES E. KELLY, of Bloomington, Nebr., was born February 16, 1842, in Westmoreland county, Pa., and is a son of F. P. and Margaret J. (Easley) Kelly. The father was also a native of Pennsylvania, and both parents died in that state, the father in 1876 and the mother in 1878. James E. Kelly is the eighth in a family of nine children, namely—Joseph, Sarah, Margaret, William, Catherine A., Martha, Henry, our subject, and Michael. He was educated in the public schools in Pennsylvania, but at the age of

seventeen went to Ohio and began life for himself. At the expiration of one year he went to Indiana. In August, 1861, he enlisted in Company G, Thirty-fourth Indiana volunteer infantry, and rose from the rank of private to that of corporal, then to orderly sergeant, then to second lieutenant, then to first lieutenant, then commissioned captain, but was not mustered in as such inasmuch that the number of men in his company was below the minimum. He with his regiment re-enlisted in the fall of 1863, and was mustered out of service in February, 1866, at Indianapolis, Ind., serving in all four years and six months. Captain Kelly was in some of the fiercest battles of the war, and was in the last that was fought, which occurred May 13, 1865, on the old battle-ground of Resaca de la Palma, Tex. One man was killed, that being the last life that was lost in the great struggle to save the Union from disruption. Captain Kelly's brother Henry was a member of the Sixteenth squadron of Ohio cavalry with Kilpatrick. He was taken prisoner and died from the effects of his treatment in Andersonville prison. Joseph, William and Michael all served in the war in a Pennsylvania regiment—Joseph four years, Michael three years, William one year in the Army of the Potomac; Joseph and Michael were wounded and made cripples for life.

Captain Kelly, after leaving the service, engaged in mercantile business in Indiana. From Indiana he went to South Carolina, and from there to Wisconsin. In 1879, he came to Nebraska, settling in Harlan county, where he took up a homestead which he still owns, and which is well improved and in a fine state



of cultivation. There were but few settlers at that time in Harlan county, and he was among the earliest. In 1880 he moved to Bloomington, Franklin county, where he now resides.

On January 1, 1864, while Captain Kelly was on a veteran furlough, he married—taking for his life companion Miss Margaret J. Lawrence, a daughter of John A. Lawrence, a native of Pennsylvania. Three children have been sent to bless this union—Maud L., now Mrs. James H. H. Hewitt, of Hemmingford, Nebr.; Pearl D., and Alton L. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly are both members of the Lutheran church and contribute liberally to its charities. Captain Kelly is now receiver of the United States Land Office at Bloomington, Nebr., also a member of the Masonic fraternity, and in politics is a staunch republican. He is a refined, polished gentleman, and a progressive, public-spirited man. If Franklin county had for her officials such men as Captain Kelly, strangers entering her gates would be favorably impressed.

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**B**ENJAMIN H. REAMS is an old Nebraskan and a prominent and influential farmer of Franklin county. He comes of Southern parentage, originally of Irish extraction. His father, James T. Reams, whose sketch appears in this work, is a native of Tennessee and a son of Harrison Reams, who was a Virginian by birth and a son of John Reams, also a Virginian by birth and an early settler of Tennessee. The Reamses were near relations to the Harrisons in Virginia, Mr. Reams' great-grandmother being a full

cousin to William Henry Harrison, the ninth president of the United States. Mr. Reams' mother bore the maiden name of Mary A. Dowis, whose parents were Isaac and Betsey Dowis, natives of North Carolina, being early settlers of Kentucky. James T. and Mary A. Reams had a family of ten children, of whom the subject of this notice is the eldest son living and the third in point of age. He was born in Kentucky, in 1849, and was reared partly in Indiana, partly in Missouri and partly in Nebraska, his parents being successively residents of these states during his childhood and early youth. They moved to Nebraska in 1863 and settled in Douglas county, near Omaha, where the father engaged first in farming and afterwards in contracting, being one of the builders of the Union Pacific railway. He worked on that railway till 1869, when it was completed. He then returned to Omaha and engaged in grading streets and afterwards working on other railroads in that vicinity till 1872. He then moved with his family to Franklin county, where he took a homestead and located. The subject of this sketch, accompanying him to Franklin county, parted with him there and went to Burt county, where he took a homestead and lived for eight years. Abandoning his homestead he returned to Franklin county, and, purchasing a tract of railroad land adjoining his father's homestead, settled there and has resided there since. He has a pleasant place and one which in time will be valuable. He began on the raw prairie and now has his farm in a fine state of cultivation and fairly well improved as to buildings and other conveniences. Mr. Reams has taken an active interest in the

affairs of his township and has filled a number of local offices with credit to himself and satisfaction to his neighbors. In politics he is a democrat, and is, besides, a member of the Farmers' Alliance.

When Mr. Reams went to Burt county to live he was a single man, but there he met a lady who afterwards became his wife. Her maiden name was Louisa Hannick, she being a daughter of Frederick M. Hannick, a native of Germany, who came to this country and settled in Burt county in 1849. Mr. and Mrs. Reams have had born to them a family of six children—Ezra, Emma, Maud, Pearl, Elsie and Ai Therman.

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**I**RA SMITH, the leading furniture dealer of Franklin, Franklin county, Nebr., was born in the State of Maine, December 8, 1831, and is a son of Owen and Anna (Fenderson) Smith, both of whom were natives of the State of Maine, where they lived a happy life together until, growing tired, they peacefully fell into that long sleep that knows no waking. The paternal grandparents of our subject were Daniel and Mary Smith; and the maternal grandparents were John and Dolly Fenderson, all natives of Maine.

The subject of this biographical sketch is the third son in a family of nine children, named as follows—Moses, Charles, Ira, Colby, Allen, Harriet, Louise, Lavina and Ann. Mr. Smith, having learned the carpenter trade in his native state, started West in 1856 and settled in Jasper county, Iowa, where he continued to follow his

trade. In 1857 he took as a life companion Miss Annie Slater, daughter of Thomas Slater, a native of England. Three boys have been born to this worthy couple, which they have named—Charles W., Ira E., and Thomas O. Mr. Smith continued to follow his trade until September 11, 1862, when he enlisted in Company A, Second Iowa cavalry, and went out to defend the grand old stars and stripes. His war life was a very hazardous one. Being of a bold and daring nature, he took many risks while on scout duty, and was in many close places and took desperate chances to escape capture. On one occasion, while alone, he was attacked by a dozen of the enemy, but he refused to surrender and escaped without a scratch. He was with Grierson on his noted raid to Baton Rouge and went with Hatch on his detour to lead the rebels off from Grierson's rear. He was never absent from duty and was continuously engaged in all those dangerous duties pertaining to the cavalry service, and was honorably discharged in November, 1864. After his discharge he returned to his home in Iowa, where he resided till 1878, when he moved to Kansas and remained there for a few years. In 1882 he came to Nebraska, settling in Franklin, where he built the house he now occupies, and engaged in the furniture business. He is at present doing a furniture and undertaking business, and leads the trade in that line in the town. By honesty and fair dealing he has built up a fine business, and has the confidence of the entire community. When Ira Smith tells his customers the quality of a piece of furniture, they know that it is what he represents it to be and act accordingly. He is

a member of the Ben. Franklin Post, G. A. R. As will be seen from his ancestral record, Mr. Smith is of the old Maine stock, and is as staunch a republican as the great Maine statesman, James G. Blaine.

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**T**HOMAS STURGEON, one of the prominent business men of the town of Franklin, Franklin county, Nebr., was born in Essex county, England, March 4, 1845, and is a son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Rutherford) Sturgeon, both of whom were natives of England. Our subject has two brothers and two sisters, namely—Aleck, Richard, Sarah, wife of Lewis Pharmer, of New York, and Elizabeth. In 1850, young Sturgeon, when only five years of age, came with his parents to America and located in Kingston, N. Y., where he received his education and learned the trade of ship-building from his father, after which he went to New York city and followed his trade there for three years. He then returned to Kingston, N. Y., and took charge of Thomas Cornell's steam-boat works, filling the position of superintendent satisfactorily for eight years.

In 1878, he came to Nebraska and took a homestead on section 8, township 2, range 14, in Franklin county, where he resided until 1882, during which year he moved into the town of Franklin. He has seen the town grow from a mere hamlet to its present large proportions. Before the bridge was built across the Republican river, he built a ferry-boat for the purpose of transporting passengers,

and by this and other acts of his he has done as much to build up and make the town of Franklin what it is as any man in it. In 1887 he engaged in mercantile business, and by honesty and fair dealing has established an excellent trade.

Mr. Sturgeon married Harriet Harnden, a daughter of George Harnden, of England. They had known each other from childhood, their fathers having worked together in Chatham dock-yards, and were old friends. This union has been blessed with nine children, namely—Fannie, Tommie, Mamie, Lizzie, Kittie, Jennita, and three who died in infancy. When the war of the rebellion broke out, Thomas Sturgeon, at the age of sixteen, enlisted in Company F, Twentieth New York State militia, or Eightieth New York volunteers, and went to the army of the Potomac. He participated in the battles of Fredericksburg, Wilderness and Mine Run, and was engaged in numerous skirmishes. He also served in the State militia, Company E, Twentieth New York. On a midnight retreat from Fredericksburg to Falmouth, he was exposed to severe weather, from the effects of which he has almost lost the use of his left arm. No man in Franklin stands higher in the estimation of the people than Thomas Sturgeon.

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**H**ORATIO H. WALDO was born January 20, 1833, and is a son of David and Theoda (Haskill) Waldo. His parents came to Nebraska in 1875, where they resided until they died. The father died on November 14, 1879, and the mother eight years later.

There was just eight years difference in their ages and they both died at the same age. They were noted for their many charities and other christian graces. The father was particularly noted for his honesty and integrity in business and his motto always was—"Do as you would be done by." Our subject is the fourth child in a family of eight children, named as follows—Catharine, wife of John Vanhorn of Polk county, Nebr.; Sallie, wife of Robert Eaton, of Franklin county, Nebr.; Oscar L.; Horatio H., our subject; Annie, wife of Eugene Wheeler; Chauncey H., who was a member of Company E, Fifth Iowa cavalry and died in Omaha, Nebr., from disease contracted while in the war; Helen M., wife of Hiram P. Edwards, of Ogle, Ill.; Abbie M., wife of Henry M. Warriner, of Bloomington, Nebr.

H. H. Waldo was educated in the common schools until he reached the twentieth year of his age, when he began life for himself by engaging in farming. He continued farming until he made a contract with the government to carry the mail. In 1861, he enlisted in Company E, Fifth Iowa cavalry, and was engaged in the battles of Fort Donelson, Nashville and Franklin, Tenn. While in the service he never shrank from those dangerous and hazardous duties peculiar to the cavalry service. At one time he was out with a squad of a dozen cavalymen, when they were surrounded by many times their number of the enemy, but by courage and determination they bravely cut their way through, and thereby escaped capture. In 1864, while in an engagement near Duck river, he received a wound on the cheek, and, having noticed the man who shot him, he returned fire and killed him.

He was honorably discharged June 27, 1865, at Nashville, Tenn. He still suffers from disease contracted from exposure during the war, and will never be a well man again.

In 1867, he chose for a sharer of his fortunes Miss Mary Prince, of Virginia. By this union one child, named Annie Blanche, was born. His wife died, May 10, 1871, in Wyoming, Jones county, Iowa, and is buried there. She was a strict member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and was noted for her many charities and christian deeds.

In 1875, he married Arabella Lyness, a daughter of Joseph Lyness, of Jackson, Iowa. To this union three children have been born, namely—Caroline Nebraska, who died at the age of thirteen months in Polk county, Nebr., and is buried there; Charles A. and Clarence H.

Mr. Waldo has been in the livery business for seventeen years. In 1885, he moved to Franklin, bringing with him a fine lot of stock, and opened a livery, in which business he has been very successful. He is a "hustler" for business and is known by every traveling man who comes to Franklin and is liked by all of them. He has never been known to "gouge" a man, and he has adopted and follows his father's motto, "Do as you would be done by." He is a member of I. O. O. F. and G. A. R. Post. He and his wife attend the M. E. church.

**H** O. HENDRICKS, of North Franklin township, Franklin county, Nebr., was born in Ohio in 1842, and is a son of Samuel K. and Martha (Prichard) Hendricks. Samuel

K. Hendricks was born in Pennsylvania in 1800, was reared a farmer, and from his native state moved to Columbiana county, Ohio; thence he moved to Indiana, in which state he died in 1873, a consistent member of the Christian church. In politics he was originally a democrat, but in 1856 joined the republican ranks. Mrs. Martha Hendricks was also born in Pennsylvania, was left an orphan at the age of three years—her father having been killed at the battle of Baltimore, in the War of 1812, while defending his country's flag, the stars and stripes—and in 1830 was married to Mr. Hendricks. To this union were born twelve children, as follows—Mary E., now Mrs. Saunders, of Michigan; George, in Franklin county, Nebr.; Joel, in Michigan; Eliza M., who died in August, 1858; Sarah J. and Andrew, who both died young; H. O., the subject of this sketch; Salathiel P., in Missouri; Maria C., married and residing in Ohio; Martha J., now Mrs. Gibbons, of Nebraska; Samuel S., in Michigan; and Emanuel D., in Indiana.

H. O. Hendricks was reared as a farmer, but also was engaged in teaching for seven winters. In the meantime, however, in 1864, he enlisted in Company F, One Hundred and Eighty-second Ohio volunteer infantry, from which he was mustered out July 14, 1865. He then returned to Ohio and resumed farming and teaching until 1870, this period being included in the seven winters alluded to above. He then came to Nebraska and located on a homestead in Saunders county, where he resided five years; thence he came to Franklin county, and in 1875 settled on section 18, township 4, range 13 west. Although he had no means at all when

nineteen years of age, and had but about \$600 when he came to Nebraska, he is now the owner of eight hundred acres of good land, well improved and well stocked.

Mr. Hendricks has been twice married, his first marriage having taken place, in 1866, to Rachel Hall, a native of Michigan, born in 1849. This lady bore five children, named Samuel O., Nancy E., Vinnie, Caressa and Bessie. The second marriage of Mr. Hendricks took place in 1884, to Laura Casey, who was born in Kentucky in 1854, and became the mother of two children—Alvin E. and Ernest. Mr. Hendricks is a member of the G. A. R. and of the Farmers' Alliance. In politics he is a republican, and has served as assessor, justice of the peace and town clerk. He was also postmaster at Orange, Nebr., nearly nine years. He has always been successful in his business undertakings and has been popular in every community in which he has lived.

J. E. PETERSON, of North Franklin township, Franklin county, Nebr., is a native of Sweden, and was born in 1854. His father is John Peterson, a prosperous merchant tailor, who was born in Sweden in 1830, and is still a resident of that country. Josephine Peterson, the mother of our subject, was born in 1833, and died in 1855, when her only child, the subject of this sketch, was an infant. The latter was only thirteen weeks old when he was taken in charge by his grandparents, who sent him to school until he was sixteen years of age, when he decided to come to America, and this country was reached by him in 1871.

He located first in New Windsor, Mercer county, Ill., where he worked on a farm in summer and in a blacksmith shop in winter. In 1876 he hired a farm, on which he remained until coming to Nebraska in 1885, having in the meantime acquired about \$2,000. He is now the owner of a quarter section of well-stocked land, which is also highly improved.

The marriage of Mr. Peterson took place in 1876, to Miss Sophia A. Johnson, daughter of John and Mary Johnson, of Galva, Ill. Two children have come to shed sunlight in the household, namely—Edward Walter, born September 18, 1877, and Frank Emmett, born July 22, 1879. In politics Mr. Peterson is a democrat, and is now serving his second term as county supervisor. He is a member of the Farmers' Alliance, and president of the local branch. Industrious and thrifty, he has won the respect of all who know him.

**T**HE CAMPBELL PRESS is a six-column folio and was established in January, 1876, by Frank W. Barber. Its present editor, U. G. Knight, was born in Constantine, Mich., in 1864, and in the spring of 1871 was brought to Nebraska by his parents, who settled in Webster county, and still reside there. George W. Knight, father of U. G. Knight, was born in Canada, but came to the States several years before the breaking out of the rebellion. At the first call for volunteers he enlisted in the First Minnesota infantry and served out his full term of three months. Immediately after being mustered out he re-enlisted, joining the Third

Minnesota infantry, and served through the war and Indian campaign of 1864, and until the close of the war, when he was mustered out as captain. Broken down in health, he located with his family in Michigan, in which State he resided until coming to Nebraska, where his health has materially improved. In 1873 he was appointed postmaster at Inavale, and still retains the office.

U. G. Knight remained with his parents until twenty years of age, working on the farm and attending school. At the age mentioned he went to Colorado, where he spent some months teaching school and working in the grain business, but in the early winter he returned to his home, taught school a few terms, and in the spring of 1885 went to Los Angeles, Cal., and there entered upon his first newspaper work, becoming city editor of the *Laborers' Advocate and Shipping Gazette*, but, on account of a difference in politics, soon fell out with the manager, the famous Captain Jayne, and took his departure for San Francisco, where he became a reporter on the *Daily Call*. In a short time, however, he quit the *Call* and went into the interior of the state, where he remained until August, 1887, and then came back to Nebraska and taught school one term. In the spring of 1889 he went to Hebron and was employed in the composing room of the *Journal*, and, in fact, there learned the mechanical part of the business. Three months later he went to Red Cloud, where he was employed until April, 1890, as foreman of the *Democrat*. The next move was to take editorial charge of the *Campbell Press*, which journal he has placed on a sound financial basis, making of it a good, lively, and

able newspaper. He is a republican in politics and an active worker in the party, and has already gained considerable prominence in the state and surrounding counties. He is a hustler and will make his mark in the political arena before many years.

**J**OSEPH ELLIOTT, a prosperous farmer of North Franklin township, Franklin county, Nebr., was born in England, in 1840, and is a son of William and Christina (Charlesworth) Elliott, the former of whom was born in 1811, and died in 1876—a farmer by vocation, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and one who by his daily walk through life evidenced the sincerity of his profession of faith. Mrs. Christina Elliott was born in 1816, was married in 1834, and became the mother of seven children, namely—Elizabeth, now Mrs. Pugmore, and a resident of England; George, who died in 1882; Joseph, whose name heads this sketch; Ann, who died in 1884; William, a resident of England; Susanna, now Mrs. Smith, and Charles, also a resident of England. At the age of nine years Joseph Elliott left the parental roof and went to work on a farm at the rate of \$5.00 per annum and board for the first year, and an additional \$5.00 per annum each year until he came to America in 1861. Here he worked on a farm in Illinois for a year, when his soul caught the martial spirit of the day, and he enlisted in August, 1862, in Company C, Seventy-fourth Illinois volunteer infantry. At the action at Mission Ridge he was wounded in the arm by a shot and was

mustered out June 13, 1865. Returning to Illinois he hired out as a farm hand for another year, and then rented a farm, which he worked on his own account until 1870, when he came to Nebraska, the possessor of \$1,000 in cash, the result of his own industry. For awhile he resided at Beatrice, Gage county, but not liking the location removed to Iowa, and there remained until 1879, when he returned to Nebraska, and settled in Franklin county, where he now owns a quarter section, which is well improved and well stocked, although he has had the misfortune of losing two crops.

Mr. Elliott is a member of the G. A. R. and of the A. O. U. W., and in politics is a republican. Socially, he and his family stand very high in the esteem of the community, and as an agriculturist he is looked upon as one of the best in the township.

**M**cKEE CRILLY is a native of Ireland and was born in 1846. Hugh Crilly, his father, was born in 1813, was reared a farmer, and came to America in 1877, choosing Franklin county, Nebr., as his home. He was a man of good habits, was strictly honest, and was quite prosperous. He died in 1883, a faithful member of the Presbyterian church. The father of Hugh was James Crilly. The mother of our subject, Sarah (McKee) Crilly, also a native of Ireland, was born in 1813 and was a daughter of Patrick McKee, who was born in 1775 and died in 1850. He was a lawyer by profession, having been educated at Queen's College, Belfast, and hav-

ing also graduated from a college in Scotland. The wife of Patriek McKee bore the maiden name of Hannah McIlwrath. Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Crilly were married in 1837, and to their union were born nine children, namely—Mary, now Mrs. A. M. Johnson, of Riverton, Nebr.; Mrs. Sarah Schell, of Denver, Colo.; McKee, our subject; Margaret J., James, Hugh, and Samuel, Katie and Elizabeth, the latter attending school in Denver, Colo.

McKee Crilly came to America in 1865, stopping at Joliet, Ill., whence he came to Scott county, Iowa, and for three years worked by the month on a farm; the next two years he passed on rented land. In 1872 he came to Nebraska and stopped awhile at Riverton, then a stockade. The same year he took up a homestead, on section 2, township 1, range 13 west, in Franklin county, on which he resided until 1884, when he settled on his present place. In the spring of 1873 occurred one of the most memorable snow and hail storms on record, lasting three days, and during this time Mr. Crilly was safely housed at his father-in-law's, a few miles from his own home. It was in this year Mr. Crilly married Miss Alice L. Fowler, a native of Illinois, born in 1858. Five children have been the result of this union, namely—Hugh Clark, who was born in 1876 and who died in 1879; Herbert, born in 1878; Samuel, born in 1880; Earl, born in 1884, and Glenn, born in 1887.

Mr. Crilly began life for himself when nineteen years old. When he came to America he had about \$35 or \$40, and when he came to Nebraska had one team and \$25. There were about fifty inhabitants in Franklin when he came, and of

these only six remain. Hundreds of Indians camped about his place for three or four winters and he was frequently annoyed by their depredations. What was then a barren waste is now a land of civilization and plenty, and the change has been effected by just such hardy pioneers as our subject. Mr. Crilly now owns a splendid farm of three hundred and twenty acres, well stocked and improved with every convenience.

**A** M. JOHNSON, of Grant township, Franklin county, Nebr., was born in Sweden, in 1836. His father, John Monson, was born in 1792, was a prosperous farmer, and died in 1871, a member of the Lutheran church. He was married, in 1812, to Mary Greta Anderson, who was born in 1797, became the mother of five children, and died in 1873—a good, kind, christian woman. The children were named as follows—Caroline, Gustaf, Halda Sophia (deceased), Nels (in Nebraska), and A. M.

A. M. Johnson came to America in 1868 and traveled through the country, looking for a desirable abiding place, until 1872, when he reached Nebraska. He had learned the carpenter's trade in the old country and had also studied music, but his first employment in this country was at coffin-making in Chicago. On arriving in Nebraska, he settled on section 35, township 2, range 13 west, Franklin county, where he is highly respected as a good, honest, reliable citizen. January 15, 1872, he married Miss Mary Crilly, who was born in Ireland, in 1840, and in 1868 came to the United States with her



brother, McKee Crilly. They stopped at Davenport, Iowa, and there her marriage to Mr. Johnson took place. No children have been born to this union, but they have an adopted son, Fernando, whom they took from the Orphans' Home at Elmira, N. Y., and who gives promise of becoming a useful and respected citizen. Mr. Johnson and family are members of the Congregational church, of which he is now a trustee, and for a number of years was a deacon. In politics, he is a republican.

**H**ON. A. H. BUSH was born in Lewis county, New York, June 8, 1818. His father, Roland Bush, was a native of Massachusetts, and was born March 12, 1793. His mother bore the maiden name of Harriet Phelps, and was also a native of Massachusetts, born October, 1796. They settled in New York in an early day, where they were afterwards married. In 1850 they migrated to Wisconsin, where he died in 1883 and she in 1887. The senior Bush was in the War of 1812, and was a man of considerable prominence in the communities where he lived, having held various local offices. They were adherents to the Free-will Baptist faith. There were only three children in the paternal family — two besides the subject of this notice, all of whom are living. The Bush family are noted for their longevity.

The boyhood days of our subject were passed on a farm. He attended school and obtained a fair education, and at nineteen was engaged to teach at a salary

of \$16.00 per month. After teaching one term he prepared himself for school work and taught several successful terms afterwards. His success as a teacher led to his election as county superintendent of schools, a position he filled with credit for four years; he also organized and held the first institute in Lewis county, N. Y. In 1849 Mr. Bush moved to Wisconsin, locating on a farm in Richland county, and was elected county treasurer of Richland county in 1856, and served two years. He came to Franklin county, Nebr., in June, 1872, in advance of his family, and selected a homestead near Naponee, where he has since resided. His first house consisted of a dug-out, which was afterwards replaced by a log dwelling. Buffalo were plentiful, and antelope roamed over the adjacent prairie in great herds. He was visited three years in succession by the grasshoppers, which destroyed his crop entirely; consequently, he experienced some very hard times during his first few years of settlement.

On September 13, 1843, Mr. Bush was married to Miss Rosanna Metcalf, a native of the Empire State, born in 1821. She died in September, 1846, leaving one child — John M. Our subject then contracted a second marriage, which was celebrated on the fourth day of July, 1848; the lady who that day became his wife bore the maiden name of Cordelia A. Devoe, and was born in New York April 12, 1832. This union has resulted in the birth of eight children, as follows — Harriet K., born November 18, 1849; Charles R., born September 2, 1854; Alfredellice M., born April 4, 1857; Cora R., born May 17, 1859; Minnie E., born July 10, 1862 (deceased); Fred D., born October 10,

1866; Carl F., born January 12, 1871; and Helen M., born August 2, 1878.

Mr. Bush was elected to represent Franklin county in the legislature in 1876 and voted for the adoption of the present constitution of the state, and took an active part in the election of Senator Saunders. He served on three important committees and was an active and efficient worker in that body. He entered the United States mail service in 1880, and made the run between Omaha and Lincoln, served in that capacity for four years, and was one of the oldest mail agents in the service. He has been an active and efficient worker in the cause of temperance all his life, and is a staunch republican in politics. He now owns one hundred and seventy acres of splendid land. He is as clever a man as one will meet in a day's journey, and is an active and influential man in the community in which he lives.

**I**SAAC CROLEY is a native of Shelby county, Ind., was born September 3, 1845, and is a son of Absalom and Mary (Babb) Croley, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. Both were zealous workers and members of the Baptist church. The father died in 1866, and the mother in 1857. The grandfather of our subject was a native of Pennsylvania, and a soldier in the War of 1812.

Isaac Croley obtained a fair, common-school education, but being the eldest of the family, he was denied the school advantages enjoyed by the youth of this day. The war of the Rebellion breaking

out, he enlisted December 15, 1863, in the Ninth Indiana cavalry, and served till September, 1864, when he was taken prisoner and remained in prison till the close of the war, and when released was unable to stand on his feet.

He was married February 20, 1867, to Mary Jones, a native of Indiana. They have had four children, as follows—Laura (deceased), Riley, Charles and Harry. Mr. Croley came to Franklin county, Nebr., in April, 1876, and homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 33, township 2, range 16. There were only few settlers at that time, and wild game was plentiful. Mr. Croley has held various local offices, and is the present supervisor of his township. He is an Alliance man, and is independent in politics. He owns two hundred acres of land, which is in a fine state of cultivation and very productive.

**J**OHAN BRUNK, the subject of this biographical sketch, is a native of Brown county, Ill., was born September 25, 1842, and is a son of Abram and Matilda (Bond) Brunk, both natives of Kentucky, who married and settled in Illinois in an early day. The father was a "forty-niner" and died in California in 1850. He was a successful mine operator. Mrs. Abram Brunk died in 1875, the mother of nine children, of whom the subject of this notice is the seventh. John Brunk took care of his mother for several years, remaining on the old homestead. He enlisted February 14, 1865, in the Fourteenth Illinois regiment, and served till the close of the

war, when he was discharged at Springfield, Ill., November 16, 1865.

Mr. Brunk came to Franklin county, Nebr., in April, 1877, and took a homestead in Lincoln township, but prior to his coming to settle, built a sod house and prepared to receive his family.

He was married in July, 1866, to Miss Alice Simpkin, of Illinois. Her parents came from England. Six children have been born to this union—Carlota (deceased), Elizabeth, George T., Maggie (deceased), John W. and Alice May.

Mr. Brunk is a member of the Masonic fraternity and of the Grange. He is also a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He owns one hundred and sixty acres of good land and is a staunch believer in prohibition.

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**R**ICHARD B. ROWLEY is a native of Ontario county, N. Y., and was born at East Bloomfield, April 29, 1833. He is a son of Daniel and Rachael (Tomiller) Rowley, both of whom were natives of New York, but moved to Illinois in 1857. The senior Rowley enlisted at the age of sixty years in the war of the rebellion, and served about one year, when he was taken sick and was placed on board a steamer that is supposed to have been blown up. Mrs. Rowley died in 1886, the mother of twelve children, six of whom are now living.

Richard Rowley engaged in farming when he arrived at the age of twenty-one years. He enlisted September 5, 1864, in the First New York veteran cavalry, saw considerable service, and was discharged June 8, 1865.

He located in Illinois in 1866, and in Franklin county, Nebr., in the spring of 1876. He pre-empted the southeast quarter of section 17, Lincoln township, on which he built a sod house, and was among the very first settlers, passing through the grasshopper times.

He was married August 5, 1856, to Eviline Rowley, a native of New York, born January 27, 1841. Eight children have been born to this union—Steward, born November 28, 1863; Mary, born September 5, 1860 (deceased); Earnest (deceased); Frank, born July 17, 1869; Daniel, born November 31, 1871; Ray, born June 26, 1873; Maud, born July 12, 1876, and Carrie C., born June 28, 1878.

Mr. Rowley affiliates with the republican party, and is an honored member of the G. A. R. He has four hundred and eighty acres of as fine land as can be found in the county, and buys and sells cattle and hogs, and is one of the best-known men in his locality.

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**L**ESTER SHADDUCK is a native of Erie county, Pa., born December 4, 1828, and is a son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Willard) Shadduck, the former of Vermont and the latter of Maine. They were early settlers in Pennsylvania. The elder Shadduck was a soldier in the War of 1812, and was educated for a Universalist minister. He was a circuit judge in an early day and died June 25, 1835, aged about sixty-two. The paternal grandfather of our subject was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. The mother of Lester Shadduck died in 1863. When

our subject was about fourteen he began working out at \$5 per month. In 1850 he went to Wisconsin on a prospecting tour, but was not favorably impressed with the country. He next visited Iowa and purchased eighty acres of land in Clinton county, that State. He returned to Pennsylvania, but in a short time set out for the West again, and located on the land he had purchased and set to work to improve it. He enlisted October 12, 1861, in the Eleventh Wisconsin regiment, Company I, and participated in the fight at Peach Orchard bluffs, Magnolia hills, Champion hills, Black River bridge and Vicksburg. He was wounded at the last-named battle on May 22, 1863, and was sent to Memphis, where he lay in the hospital for some time. He was discharged at New Orleans, June 11, 1864.

Mr. Shadduck was married October 6, 1858, to Miss Tabitha Clews, a native of England. Mrs. Shadduck departed this life on April 2, 1861, the mother of two children—Ann E. and Joseph H., both deceased. Mr. Shadduck next married, April 1, 1865, Mrs. Catherine McEwen, a native of Dublin, Ireland. Her parents were John and Catherine Johnston, who came to America in 1839, and settled in New York city, where Mr. Johnston lived for many years. He was with Col. John Astor for nine years, and died in 1887, in Columbia county, Wis. Mr. Johnston was a graduate of the National college of Dublin, Ireland.

Mr. Shadduck had the following children by his second wife—William A., born May 2, 1866; Lillie E., born December 23, 1870; Eva Rosella, born March 23, 1873.

Mr. Shadduck came to Franklin county,

Nebr., August 8, 1881, and has one hundred and sixty acres of good land in a fine state of cultivation. Politically, he is a republican.

**P** S. FLITCROFT is a native of St. Lawrence county, N. Y., and was born near Ogdensburg, on the St. Lawrence river, September 4, 1837. He is a son of James and Bricea (Snider) Flitcroft, both of whom were also natives of New York. His mother died in 1868 and his father in 1873.

When Mr. Flitcroft was twenty-one years old he embarked in the boating and lumbering business on the St. Lawrence river and followed his business quite successfully for several years. He piloted the rapids for about eight years, and subsequently worked at the mason trade in Illinois for some years. He also spent four years in Butler county, Iowa, and came to Franklin county, Nebr., in the fall of 1874 and took a homestead in Lincoln township. He was among the first settlers, not a tree or a house being in sight. Wild game was plentiful, and he could see from two hundred to five hundred antelope in a drove. The times were hard but the people in those days were plucky, happy and contented. He was married January 3, 1857, to Miss Helen Call, a native of Jefferson county, N. Y., and born in 1837. Seven children have been born to this union—Charles, Emma, Augustus, Edward, Oscar, Annie and Jane, all deceased except Edward. The second marriage of Mr. Flitcroft took place April 5, 1879, to Rebecca E. Jack-

son, daughter of Robert and Lucy Jackson. She was born in Illinois, June 25, 1863. Two children have resulted from this marriage—Helen J. (deceased) and Byron D. Mr. Fliteroft has one hundred and sixty acres of choice land, all under good cultivation. He was elected county commissioner in the fall of 1877 and served three years. He organized and named several of the townships in the county, and was one of the most active and popular officials the county has had for some time. He is a republican and a prominent and active member of the Farmers' Alliance.

**J**AMES M. DIMMICK is a successful farmer residing in Logan township, Franklin county. He is a native of Schuyler county, Ill., and is one of a family of nine children born to Ebenezer and Margaret (Phillips) Dimmick, the former of whom was a New Yorker by birth, and the latter a native of Ohio. The father was born in Oneida county, N. Y., in 1803. When a young man he moved to Ohio, where he married, and in 1834 went to Illinois, settling in Schuyler county, where he subsequently lived and died. He was a man of diversified pursuits and extensive interests. Starting as a farmer, he became a merchant and in later years officiated as a class leader. He established the town of Pleasant View, in Schuyler county, was the first merchant of the place, and the first postmaster, which office he held from 1861 to 1882. He was always a prominent citizen of his community and a leader in religious matters, having been

an active member of the church for sixty-eight years, and his house was always open to the pioneer preacher. He was twice married and the father of nine children—all, however, by the first marriage.

The subject of this notice was reared in his native county, growing up on the farm, and receiving an ordinary common-school education. At the age of eighteen he entered the Union army, enlisting May 24, 1861, in Company G, Sixteenth Illinois volunteer infantry, was ordered at once to the front and served with the armies of the Southwest. He served mostly with the army of the Cumberland, and took part in all the engagements participated in by that army. He served out the term of his enlistment and was mustered out at Chattanooga, Tenn., in May, 1864, when he returned home. By an accident, he received a severe injury to one eye, and was once sick in a hospital, but with these exceptions he came off unscathed, doing a soldier's duty during his entire term of service. After returning to Illinois he engaged for a few years in farming, and then went to saw-milling, and followed this till 1873, when he moved to Nebraska, and settled in Franklin county, in August, 1873. He filed a homestead claim at that date on the southeast quarter of section 6, township 3, range 14 west. In 1877 he located a timber claim in the same section, making him three hundred and twenty acres. He began with a wagon and team, his household goods, one pig and a few chickens, and, as may well be imagined, he had for the first few years a hard time of it. He lost a few crops in consequence of the grasshopper invasions and drought,

but on the whole, did well and has prospered in recent years. He is regarded now as one of the most successful farmers of his township, and the order and neatness of everything on his farm gives evidence of the industry, system and good management that prevail there.

Mr. Dimmick has from the beginning been identified with the best interests of his locality, and has taken an active part in the affairs of his township. He has been township treasurer two terms, and at all times a member of the school board in one capacity or another. He belongs to the Grange and the Alliance and in politics is a republican. He is an active member of the Methodist church and a strong supporter of all church organizations.

He married Annie E. Hamilton, a daughter of James T. and Malinda Hamilton, natives of Virginia and emigrants to Illinois at an early day. Mrs. Dimmick's parents are still living, being residents of the the newly made State of Washington, and Mr. and Mrs. Dimmick have seven children, all girls—Nettie J., Malinda, Margaret, Enola, Emmarette, Theodosia and Mary A.

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**M**ICHAEL HUFFMAN, one of the most highly respected men of Franklin county, Nebr., was born in Bourbon county, Ky., February 10, 1826. His father moved to Brown county, Ill., in 1833, was a farmer and blacksmith by occupation, and died in 1872. Our subject engaged in farming when he became of age, and has stuck to

it ever since. He came to Franklin county, Nebr., in the fall of 1875, took a homestead and was one of the first settlers in the county. He lived in a sod house and shared fully in the vicissitudes of the early pioneers, having had his crops destroyed by the grasshoppers and laboring under other disadvantages common to the early settlement of a new country. When he came there were plenty of antelope, but the buffalo were beginning to disappear.

Mr. Huffman was married January 21, 1847, the lady of his choice being Miss Sarah Shelly, a native of Indiana. To this happy union there have been born nine children, namely—Henry, born May 23, 1848; Elizabeth, born December 26, 1849; Mary A., born November 19, 1853 (deceased); Sarah A., born June 3, 1855; Eli, born June 23, 1859; Harriet A., born April 6, 1863; Charles, born April 10, 1865, and Berdella, born August 8, 1867 (deceased), and a boy that died unnamed when eight days old.

Mr. Huffman has belonged to the Masonic organization since 1859, and is also a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He has two hundred and forty acres of choice land, which is well timbered and has plenty of fruit growing on it.

In 1850 Mr. Huffman, with the great rush of gold seekers, went to California with an ox-team, and in the spring 1852 returned by the way of Panama, having done fairly well. From 1867 to 1872 he was engaged in the milling business, with his brother Henry, in Schuyler county, Ill., on Crooked creek. His failing health was the cause of withdrawal, but he never gave up farming. The mill which they

erected is still operated by Henry Huffman. In his early Nebraska days Michael Huffman's house was a stopping place for the homesteaders that freighted their produce from the Solomon and Republican rivers, and country adjacent, to Kearney to exchange for the necessities of life, but for these accommodations Mr. Huffman made no charge whatever, and he is today noted for his cleverness and genuine hospitality.

**S**AMUEL H. DOUGLASS, an old Nebraskan, and an early settler of Franklin county, is a native of the state of New York and a descendant of York State ancestry, his parents both having been born and reared there, and his grandparents also. His father, Thomas Douglass, was a small farmer in New York, and spent all his years in the peaceful pursuit of agriculture. Mr. Douglass' mother, who bore the maiden name of Chloe Howe, was a frugal housewife, thrifty and industrious and greatly devoted to her family. She was the mother of eleven children, only two of whom are now living, these being the subject of this sketch and an elder sister.

Samuel H. Douglass was born May 10, 1819. He was reared on his father's farm, received an ordinary common-school education, and was trained to the habits of industry and usefulness common to farm life. His father being a man of limited means and having a large family to provide for, the subject of this notice had from necessity to make his own way in

the world from an early age. He was variously engaged after reaching maturity, beginning as a farmer, going from that to the brick business and still later to mercantile pursuits. He married, in his native state, in 1851, taking to share his life's fortunes, Miss Carrie Delano, a daughter of Frederick and Caroline Delano, who, as well as their daughter, were born in Vermont. The wife of his youth still abides with him, having borne him four children, three of whom are now living, having reached maturity. The full list is as follows—Lillie (who died in infancy), Thomas F., Sidney H. P. and Miles C.

Mr. Douglass came to Nebraska in March, 1871, making his first stop in Richardson county, where he remained two years, engaged in farming. Selling out there, he moved to Franklin county in 1873, and settled on a homestead, taking the northwest quarter of section 28, township 3, range 14 west. After improving this, he sold it, and taking a timber claim in the same vicinity, it being the northeast quarter of section 30, township 3, range 14 west, located there, and has continued to reside there since. Mr. Douglass followed farming, exclusively, up to 1886, and met with fair success. At that date, he opened a store in Macon, and has since given his attention mainly to that. He has made a reasonably good success in the mercantile business, being a safe, conservative business man. In 1885 Mr. Douglass received the appointment of postmaster, at Macon, and held the office till the close of Cleveland's administration. He is a democrat in politics, being a staunch supporter of the principles of his party, and has served his township as justice of the peace and has been quite

active in school matters, having served many terms as school director, and now serving as treasurer of his school district. He is a worthy citizen and highly esteemed by all who know him.

**J**AMES T. REAMS is a pioneer and a commonwealth builder. He comes of pioneer ancestry, his parents having been early settlers of Kentucky, his grandparents early settlers of Tennessee and his great-grandparents Virginians and Marylanders. He is originally of Irish extraction, both his father's and mother's families having come from the Emerald Isle some time in the colonial days, the tradition as to the Reams side being that there were three sons, who lived during the Revolutionary period, the two older ones serving in the war. These subsequently became the heads of families and started the several branches in this country. They intermarried with the Harrisons, of Virginia, and in that way the name of Benjamin Harrison became introduced in the family, and has since run through it, the mother of the subject of this sketch being a cousin of William Henry Harrison, better known as "Old Tippecanoe." The father of James T. Reams was Harrison Reams, who was born in Virginia but reared in Tennessee, whither his father, John Reams, moved at an early day. Harrison Reams married Lida Daugherty, then of Tennessee, but whose parents, Benjamin and Elizabeth Daugherty, were natives of Maryland, who moved to Tennessee at an early day. Benjamin and Lida (Daugherty)

Reams were the parents of eight children, of whom the subject of this notice is the second in age. James T. Reams was born in Tennessee September 3, 1826. When he was three years old, his parents moved to Kentucky, and he there grew to manhood. He married in Kentucky in 1847, taking to wife Miss Mary A. Dowis, a daughter of Isaac and Betsey Dowis, who was a native of Kentucky, but whose parents were South Carolinians. In 1857, Mr. Reams moved to Indiana, a year later to Missouri, and in 1863 to Nebraska, settling in Douglas county, near Omaha. For a while he farmed in Nebraska, but afterwards became a contractor on the Union Pacific railway, and followed that till the completion of the railroad in 1869. He then returned to Omaha, and after making a prospecting tour through the southwestern part of the state, he again engaged in contracting, grading streets in Omaha and railroads running out from that place. He gave this up in 1872, and, with his family, moved to Franklin county and took a homestead, filing on the southwest quarter of section 10, township 1, range 14 west. The same year he bought the northwest quarter of the same section, which was owned by the railroad, and there he located and began his improvements. Having been raised in a wooded country, he managed to settle where he would have plenty of timber, and his first house was a log one with a stone chimney. He encountered the usual amount of hardships that fall to the lot of the first settlers of a country, but, having already been considerably on the frontier, he was not discouraged by these. The chief difficulty he met with in those days was in securing breadstuffs. Meat



was plentiful, the prairies abounding in buffalo, antelope and deer; but the grasshoppers and drouth played havoc with the crops, and the question, "What shall we do for bread to eat?" frequently became one hard to answer. Even when corn and wheat could be had, there were no mills within reasonable distance, the nearest one being at Beatrice, one hundred and fifty miles away. He continued on the farm, however, seeing, as he says, some good times along with some pretty tough ones, till 1879, when, the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company having built up the Republican valley and a station established where the town of Franklin now stands, he built a hotel there and moved to that place and began to manage the hotel. He was engaged at two different times in the hotel business in Franklin, but never relinquished his farming interest, and finally returned to his farm to live the remainder of his life. He has a beautiful place, well improved, and one that, under his careful management, yields him a competence. Mr. Reams is recognized as one of the best farmers of his community, as well as one of the first settlers and most influential citizens. He has been identified with the best interest of his locality, having served his township as supervisor, and having been almost continuously on the school board since his school district was organized. In politics he is a democrat and a staunch supporter of the principles of his party. He belongs to the Farmers' Alliance of Franklin county, and takes an active interest in all matters relating to the farming interests of his community. He is also a member of the Masonic fraternity.

Mr. Reams has had born to him a fam-

ily of ten children, as follows—Isaac (who died at the age of six), Margaret, Benjamin H., Sarah, John F., Andrew J., Bartlett, Lucy, Alice and Rosa.

WILLIAM E. AUSTIN is one of the oldest settlers and most highly esteemed citizens of Logan township, Franklin county. He is a native of Massachusetts, and comes of old New England stock of great respectability, and is the fifth of a family of ten children born to John and Lodemia (Daniels) Austin. His parents were both born in Massachusetts, as were also their parents, and his father was a successful farmer and a man of some local public note. The mother was a daughter of Dan Daniels, whose father was an Irishman by birth, an immigrant to America at an early day; a man of wealth, a lover of liberty, and a staunch supporter of the colonial cause against the mother country. He was the commander, under the British, of the fort at Boston when the Revolutionary war began, but deserted and joined the Americans. A prize was offered for his head by England on account of the part he took in the Revolution, but his head was never obtained. He used his great wealth in furthering the cause of freedom, cashing colonial script and equipping soldiers for the field. Mr. Austin's maternal grandfather, Dan Daniels, served in the Revolution as a courier, was once captured and tried for his life, but escaped the death penalty. The family name was originally Mc-

Daniels, but Dan changed it to Daniels. Dan Daniels held a commission as justice of the peace for sixty years, the longest period of any man in Massachusetts, and held the office at the time of his death.

The subject of this notice was born June 23, 1815, and was reared in his native place, growing up on a farm. He lost his father at the age of twelve, and he, in consequence, made his way alone from that time on. He resided in Massachusetts till 1863, engaged in farming, but sold out then and moved to Iowa, where he lived till 1872. That year he came to Nebraska, settling in Logan township, Franklin county, where he has since resided. He took a homestead, filing on the northwest quarter of section 30, township 3, range 14 west, which he began at once to improve. He began in a humble way, and, as may be supposed, suffered many hardships. The first few years he lived in a dug-out. He raised a crop or two of pretty fair sod corn and then came the grasshoppers. Fortunately he had some means and thus was enabled to tide himself over that season of failure and want, but he saw much suffering on the part of others. He was at that time running a small store in his township, and such was the suffering among the settlers that he could not withstand his charitable impulses, and as a result he gave away almost all he had to his neighbors. He has been steadily engaged in farming at all times since settling in the county, and, with the exception of the grasshopper years and the dry years of 1880 and 1881, he has had good crops. He has taken an active part in developing the country and particularly the locality where he lives. When he settled there it

was all open country, raw prairie and no improvements, but he has made his homestead a handsome place and has rendered much assistance to others in doing the same for themselves. The next year after settling in Logan township he secured a postoffice for his community, giving it the name of Macon. His son Frank was the first postmaster, and he held the office for many years. A pleasant, thrifty, village has sprung up there, and it has become the local market for the vicinity.

Mr. Austin has been married twice. He first married in 1845, taking to wife Miss Emaline Clark, a daughter of Alexander Clark of Massachusetts. By this marriage he had born to him four children—William H., John Franklin, Edward L. and Charles F., the latter dying in infancy. Mr. Austin lost his wife in 1862 while still residing in Massachusetts. He married again in 1867, his second wife having borne the maiden name of Fannie Lester, being a daughter of Thomas and Abigail (Phelps) Lester. No children have been born to this union.

In politics Mr. Austin is independent. He believes in judging every man and every measure strictly according to merit. He is also independent and non-sectarian in matters of religion, and established a non-sectarian Sunday-school in the township in 1872, which has continued to grow and prosper since, and has been a powerful factor in the moral growth and development of his community since. Mr. Austin has ideas of his own on many subjects, some of which do not agree with prevailing notions. He believes, for instance, that all land titles should be held according to the law of Moses, and he opposes, strongly, usurious interest. He is prompted to those

beliefs by his warm and zealous nature and by its uncompromising hatred of wrong and over-reaching on the part of the strong and wealthy.

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**J**OHN J. CHITWOOD, the subject of this biographical sketch, is one of the earliest settlers and most prosperous farmers of Logan township, Franklin county. He was born in Schuyler county, Ill., February 20, 1836, and is one of a family of six children born to John and Sarah (Lamaster) Chitwood. His father was a native of Indiana, moved to Illinois when a young man and died there in 1877.

John J., our subject, was reared on a farm, received a good common-school education, and made his home with his parents until twenty-five years of age. August 12, 1861, he enlisted in Company H, Second Illinois cavalry. His command served mostly with the armies of the Southwest, covering the territory of Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana. He served three years, being mustered out at Baton Rouge, La. The war being over he returned home, and on the twenty-third day of March, 1865, he married, taking for a life companion Miss Jane Martha Jackson, a daughter of Jeremiah and Mary Jackson, natives of Indiana. After marrying he rented a farm and lived on it for eight years. April, 1874, he came to Nebraska, settling in Franklin county. He located a homestead and purchased a timber claim in section 10, township 3, range 15 west, built a sod house and began to improve his place. The first

year he had all his crops destroyed by the grasshoppers, but he did not let that discourage him. He determined to stick to his claim and make for himself and family a home. He worked hard and managed well, and now has one of the finest farms in Franklin county, having about three hundred acres under cultivation. His sod house has given way to a substantial frame, surrounded by all necessary out-buildings, groves and orchards.

In addition to farming, Mr. Chitwood has made stock-raising an important branch of business, having on his place a herd of well-graded cattle, and gives special attention to the improvement of horses. Starting out in life without a dollar, Mr. Chitwood has achieved a marked success, and it is due to his intelligence, industry and good management. Mr. and Mrs. Chitwood have had born to them a family of five children, as follows—Charles A., James W., Harriet E., Mary E. and Minnie J. In politics, Mr. Chitwood is a republican and takes an active interest in his party. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and a staunch supporter of the Grange. He and his estimable wife are both members of the Methodist church and active in all church work.

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**L**EVI D. HAGER is one of the very best farmers and one of the very earliest pioneer settlers of Franklin county, and is one of the men, who, by their enterprise and industry have made the country what it is to-day. He is one of the few whose lives are full of good

lessons which should not be lost, but preserved as an example worthy of imitation by the coming generations. He was born June 10, 1844, at Wallingford, Rutland county, Vt., and comes of good old New England ancestry, being one of a family of twelve children born to Steadman and Sylvia (Davis) Hager, both of whom were natives of Vermont, the former having been born in the year 1809, the latter in 1812. His parents left Vermont and moved to Outagamie county, Wis., when he was but one year old, and there the father pre-empted a quarter section of timber land on which the family settled. On this place our subject resided, attending school and choring about his father's farm until twelve years old (1856), when he emigrated with the family still farther West and settled in Dodge county, Nebr., eight miles west of where the city of Fremont now stands. His father's claim was located near Pawnee Indian village, and for a long time the family were troubled by the thievishness of the natives. The winter of 1856 was one of the severest ever experienced within the memory of the oldest settlers of Nebraska; and it was during one of those driving, blinding snow storms, known as the Nebraska blizzard, that the father of our subject perished. It seems that he was some distance from home when the storm overtook him, and not being able—as any one having experienced a Nebraska blizzard well knows—to find his way home, he wandered about until overcome by the elements and compelled to lie down and die. His remains were not found until six months later, when his skeleton and pieces of his clothing, sufficient for identification, were found lying in the forks of a tree, which

had blown down. A small pile of brush near by indicated that he had attempted to kindle a fire, but probably owing to the driving wind was unable to do so. The family being thus deprived of the father, one on whom it had always depended for guidance and support, and the boys being young and inexperienced and the country new and sparsely settled, naturally were compelled to endure hardships and privations which doubtless would have otherwise been averted.

Our subject remained at home doing what he could to alleviate the wants of the family until twenty-one years of age, when, the balance of the family having grown well up to maturity, he left home to begin life on his own account. He came to Franklin county, June 3, 1871, and pre-empted a claim on Centre creek, four miles north of where the town of Franklin is now located, in section 15, township 2, range 15 west. But few persons had attempted to settle in the country up to this time, and the few that had taken claims were to be found along the river and creeks. Wood and water were among the first essentials to permanent settlement, and for this reason Mr. Hager settled on Centre creek. His claim was about half timber and half prairie, and later, when the country became more thickly populated, he divided his wood land into small lots and disposed of it to other settlers having no timber. His first house was a 16x18-foot two-story log house, in which he lived for seven years. The country was full of wild game—buffalo, deer, antelope and wild turkey—and he has killed many of the former, dried the meat and carried it with him to eat, while on long trips or in the field at work. He used to cut up the hides

of the buffalo into straps which he used to lariat his oxen. It was customary among the early pioneers to divide the meat of a buffalo, killed by one of them, with all his neighbors, and in this manner the little neighborhood was kept well supplied with meat. For the first few years Mr. Hager's nearest trading point was at Lowell, fifty miles to the north, and thither he would go with his oxen over the broad prairie, making the trip to that place and back in four days. There being no water on the vast space of prairie lying between the Republican and Platte rivers known as the "divide," and over which he had to pass, he carried pumpkins along, on which to feed the oxen, thus quenching, in a measure, their thirst. In making one of these four-day trips to and from Lowell, he was obliged to camp and spend the night on the open prairie. Let the reader imagine, if he can, a night thus spent on the broad open prairie, with nothing but the dome of heaven for his shelter and the radiance of the stars for his light; with no sound to greet his ears save the munching of the oxen and the occasional bark of a hungry coyote in his swift flight over the prairie in search of food.

Mr. Hager's entire stock in store when he landed in Franklin county consisted of one yoke of oxen, a half interest in a cow, some provisions, and three dollars in money. It will be seen by this, that the circumstances under which he began pioneer life in Franklin county were not as favorable as might be expected, after considering the marvelous success he has achieved in the score of years intervening. Crops, from various causes—chief among which were drought and grasshoppers—

were almost a total failure the first four years; but with that invincible determination characteristic of his people, he kept toiling on until prosperity at last dawned upon the country and justly rewarded his assiduous efforts. In May, 1879, he disposed of his old pre-emption on Centre creek and purchased a quarter section of railroad land on the "divide," in Macon township, on which he now resides. He also filed a timber claim on a quarter section across the road from his newly purchased land, which claim bears the distinction of being the first final proof filed under the new act of Congress, known as the timber claim act, and entitling settlers to the right of land under its provisions. The first house constructed on the new purchase was a 12x16-foot sod house, in which he lived six years, and then built the present spacious brick mansion, which is one of the best residences in the county. Mr. Hager has dealt largely in stock, and from this source he has made and accumulated considerable money. His farm, of three hundred and sixty acres, is one of the best in the county, and is fully equipped with all the modern improvements. He has made a somewhat phenomenal success at fruit growing, and now has apples and peaches bearing on his place.

Mr. Hager was married March 21, 1872, to Miss Lilly B. Thompson, who was born in Scott county, Ill., December 9, 1853. Her parents are John and Mary (Chapman) Thompson, the former being a farmer by occupation and a native of Kentucky by birth; the latter was a native of Maryland. The congenial union of Mr. and Mrs. Hager has resulted in the birth of four children, namely—Ida B.,

Frank E., Mary A. and Ebbert D. Religiously, Mr. and Mrs. Hager are believers in the Methodist Episcopal faith, and are active members of the organization in their neighborhood. Politically, Mr. Hager, although reared a republican, and for many years a believer in its principles, has of late years allied himself with the prohibition party. He has held various local offices, serving in the capacity of justice of the peace, of Franklin precinct, in 1872, and also as county commissioner for a term of three years, commencing in 1877. He is a member of the order of A. F. and A. M., at Bloomington, and a man highly respected and esteemed by all who know him.

He has been class-leader in the Methodist Episcopal church since 1873, and director of the school district in his neighborhood for ten years past.

**H**IPPE YELKEN, one of the most extensive farmers in Franklin county, Nebraska, was born in Germany, October 19, 1845, and is a son of John H. and Jedy Yelken, both of whom are natives of Germany. The father was quite an extensive farmer in his native country. The mother is now living in America. There were four boys and three girls in the family. Hippe Yelken, the subject of this sketch, lived in Germany until nineteen years of age, when he sailed for America. His youthful days were spent in attending school and laboring on the farm. May, 1865, after a six weeks' voyage, he landed on the shores of America, and settled thirty-

two miles south of Chicago, Ill., where he lived on a farm a short time, then moved to Menard county, same state, where he resided on a farm for seven years. He came from there to Franklin county, Nebr., May 28, 1872, and was the first settler and homesteader on the divide in Franklin county. The "Divide," as it is called, is an elevated tract of land lying between the Republican and Platte valleys, and was by the first settlers of that section of Nebraska considered worthless for farm land. It has, however, since proven to be the best farm land in Nebraska, and is improved far beyond that of any other section. His homestead lies in section 26, township 3, range 15 west, on which he still resides. At the time of his coming to the county there was not a house between the Republican and Platte rivers, a distance of forty miles, and buffalo, deer, elk and antelope were plentiful. He killed some buffalo, and for the first few years lived principally on buffalo meat. Antelope, for a number of years after he settled there, were often seen strolling over his farm. His first dwelling consisted of a log house fourteen by eighteen feet, made from the small trees grown along the creek bottoms. He lived in this house six years and then built a twelve by twenty-six-foot sod house, which he lived in seven years, and then built the present fine frame house, which is one of the very best in the county. When our subject came to Franklin county he had only a team and one cow and was in debt \$450. During the grasshopper period of 1874-76 he lost nearly all his crops. The first few years he had to go to Lowell to trade, a distance of thirty-seven and a half miles, and down to the Republican river for his

fuel. During the great Easter snow storm in 1873, when the snow blew for three days and nights so that no one dared venture from doors, he lost one colt and six head of cattle. Notwithstanding all these losses he has been one of the most successful farmers in Franklin county. By persevering hard work he has got his four hundred acres in a splendid state of cultivation, which, with its excellent improvements, makes it one of the best farms in the county. Mr. Yelken devotes his time principally to raising good stock, and in this line he has been equally successful.

Our subject was married, February 27, 1868, to Miss Mana Blank, who was born in Germany, September 21, 1850. This union has resulted in the birth of six children, namely—Katie, Thomas, John, Martie, Frank (deceased), Anna. He has also an adopted son, Thomas. Mr. and Mrs. Yelken are members of the Lutheran church. In politics Mr. Yelken is a democrat, and has held the offices of road overseer and treasurer of Macon township since 1888.

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**C**HARLES SHIELDS, an honored and respected citizen of Hildreth, Franklin county, Nebr., was born in Portage county, Ill., August 19, 1844. His father, George H. Shields, was born in Susquehanna county, Pa., January 17, 1809, where he resided until twenty-one years of age and then moved to Illinois. During the early part of his life he worked in a large factory and for fifteen years managed a carding machine. Later he purchased a

farm and during the remainder of his life was engaged in farming. He lived a long and useful life, being an honored and influential citizen of his community until his death, which occurred December 1, 1883. The mother of our subject, Susan (Butchal) Shields, is a native of Ohio, born December 12, 1814, and is a woman noted for her kind disposition and benevolent acts. She is still living in Brown county, Ill., and is the mother of eight children, four boys and four girls, as follows—Cyrus, born January 15, 1835, is now living on a farm in Brown county, Ill.; William F., born July 2, 1837, is now a farmer in this (Franklin) county; Electa A., born March 29, 1840, is married to a Mr. Wright and resides in this county; Sarah E. (widow Engles), living in Brown county, Ill.; Mary (deceased); James F., born December 15, 1850, died at the age of twenty-one years; Amanda, born October 7, 1853, is married to a Mr. Stofer and now living in Brown county, Ill.

The paternal grandfather of our subject came from Ireland and the paternal grandmother from Germany. Charles, the subject proper of this sketch, resided in Portage county, Ill., until about eight years of age, when he moved with his parents to Brown county, Ill., where he was reared on a farm and lived until 1875, being engaged in many and varied pursuits of life. His early life was occupied with attending school, working on the farm and serving an apprenticeship at the potter's trade. He enlisted in the war of the rebellion August 22, 1862, and was in Company E, Sixteenth Illinois infantry, 2d brigade, 1st division and 14th corps. He served his country faithfully for a period of nearly three years and was dis-

charged June 12, 1865. The war being over, he returned to Brown county and worked for five years at the potter's trade, finally purchasing a half interest in the factory and a year later the entire plant. After running the factory one year he sold a half interest to a man by the name of McNeal. Under the management of the new firm a steam clay crusher costing \$5,500 was placed in the factory. Two years later he disposed of his interest and that fall, September, 1874, came West to Franklin county, Nebr., and homesteaded a claim in section 6, township 4, range 15 west, and the following spring returned, and, March 20, 1875, moved his family out. The nearest settler to his claim at that time was on what was known as Walker's Ranch, which was four and a half miles distant. He hurriedly constructed a sod house, twelve by sixteen feet in dimensions, which, when completed, cost but seventy-five cents in actual money. In this he lived a year and a half and then built a new one, twelve by twenty-six feet, and made use of the old one for a stable. Crops, on account of severe drought and the grasshoppers, were practically a failure for the first few years and everything tended to discourage the pioneer settlers. He experienced all the hardships and privations characteristic of the time and was barely able to make a living for himself and family during the first two years. He took a timber claim across the line in Kearney county and afterwards purchased eighty acres of railroad land. He made a marked success at farming and three years ago moved into Hildreth, where he now owns two residences, one hotel, one store building, an office building and numerous lots, from all

which he receives a monthly rental of \$40 and at present manages the hotel himself.

Mr. Shields was married to the lady of his choice, Miss Geneva Alice Anderson, December 31, 1870. She was born in Quincy, Ill., June 12, 1855. Of this congenial union seven children have been born (five of whom are living), as follows — George S., born January 19, 1872; Otie S., born September 6, 1874, died February 6, 1876; Maud, born July 20, 1877; Chester D., born January 27, 1880, died July 9, 1888; Lydia M., born November 16, 1884; Charles L., born July 20, 1881; Earl, born March 20, 1887.

Politically Mr. Shields affiliates with the republican party. He served in the capacity of justice of the peace four years, that of constable two years and a like period as member of the town board. He is a member of the G. A. R. order and also of the order of Odd Fellows for twenty years.

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**H**ENRY J. NEAD, the subject of this biographical notice, is a native of Germany and a descendant of German ancestry from time immemorial. His parents, who belong to the plain, substantial stock of the Fatherland, are still living, being residents of their native country. The father, Michael Nead, is a miller by trade, and has led the industrious, useful life common to his calling all his years. The mother bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Zikenburger, being an industrious, thrifty, frugal housewife and devoted mother. These are the



parents of five children, of whom the subject of this notice is the third and only boy. He was born in the town of Gross, Gottenberg, in September, 1842, and was reared in his native country, receiving a good common-school education in his youth and learning the trade of a miller under his father. He started out at the age of seventeen to make his own way in the world, coming at that date to America. He made his first permanent stop in this country in Peoria, Ill., and engaged in the milling and distilling business at that place. He began as an employé of others, but by industry and economy he managed to save money from his earnings, and in time was able to embark in business on his own account. His affairs prospered from year to year until he finally came to be fairly well fixed, but an accidental fire swept away all he had made and he was forced to start again on the bottom round of the ladder. He came to Nebraska in 1876, settling in Franklin county, where the following year he took a claim, it being the southeast quarter of section 32, township 2, range 14 west, on which he filed and began the arduous task of making a home out of the rude and inhospitable elements of the West. He underwent the usual number of hardships and privations incident to opening a new country and fought the battles of the pioneer heroically from the beginning to the end. After the first few years his fortunes began to gradually improve, and each succeeding year witnessed a corresponding rise in his worldly affairs, until now he is recognized as one of the prosperous men of his community. He owns two hundred and ninety-six acres of good land lying in the Republican valley in Franklin county,

one hundred and ten acres of which he has under cultivation and otherwise well improved. He has plenty of stock and of late years has been giving much of his time to improving his place. In earlier years he had to work a good deal at his trade and his time was thus necessarily taken from his farm.

Mr. Nead married while residing in Beardstown, Ill., in 1873, taking to share his life's fortunes Miss Mary J. Rice, of Beardstown, Ill. This union has been blessed with two children, both sons—Herbert E. and Walter H. The former of these died in August, 1889, at the age of thirteen—a bright, promising boy. His loss was a sore bereavement to his parents. His mind had already begun to give evidence of great strength, he being first in his classes at school, and he was, besides, a kind, dutiful and affectionate son.

Mr. Nead has exhibited much interest in the schools of his community, having served as moderator of his school district and lent a helping hand to all educational enterprises. He is also prominently connected with the Farmers' Alliance in Franklin county and an active worker in that organization. In politics he is a republican, being a staunch supporter of the principles of his party. He is a zealous member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Methodist church, and a liberal contributor to all charitable purposes.

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**R**OBERT A. GLENN. Prominent among the few remaining pioneer settlers who came to Franklin county in an early day, and endured the many hardships and privations incident to

the settlement and development of the country, is Robert A. Glenn. He was born August 23, 1838, in Brown county, Ill., and comes of a long line of ancestry, the source of which originates in Ireland. His father, who is still living (1890) at the advanced age of seventy-eight years, was a native of Kentucky, born in the year 1812. Although a farmer by occupation, he is a man of considerable distinction, having served his country faithfully during the Black Hawk war, and also the war of the rebellion, participating in the latter for two and one-half years, a member of Company H, Fiftieth Illinois regiment. The mother of the subject bore the maiden name of Amanda O'Neal, and was a native of Kentucky, born in 1815. She was a faithful companion and kind mother, ever striving to rear her children in the paths of honesty and virtue and to contribute her share to the betterment of mankind. The paternal grandfather, Henry Glenn, was a native of the New England states and a farmer by occupation. He settled in Illinois in an early day, and died at Alton, being engaged at flat-boating on the Mississippi at the time of his death. Of the ancestral history beyond this date, little is known, save the fact that they came originally from Ireland.

Robert A. Glenn was reared on a farm in Brown and Schuyler counties, Ill., where he resided the greater part of the time until 1866. His early youth was spent in attending the district school, the building being one of those primitive old log houses, which were characteristic of those times. His school advantages were necessarily limited, but being naturally of an assiduous disposition he acquired the

rudiments of an education, which, together with that strong element, common-sense, formed the basis for his long successful life. In addition to his labor on the farm he learned the cooper's trade from his father, and followed it to a considerable extent up to the breaking out of the war of the rebellion, at which time he nobly responded to his country's call for aid, and enlisted May 24, 1861, in Company E, Sixteenth Illinois infantry. The day following his enlistment he was elected sergeant, and was commissioned second lieutenant May 22, 1863, at Nashville, Tenn.; and finally, May 22, 1864, was promoted to the rank of captain. He served faithfully in this capacity until July 8, 1865, on which date he was mustered out, and returned home. He settled down in Schuyler county, Ill., and for the following five years was engaged at the peaceful pursuit of farming. Mr. Glenn came to Franklin county, Nebr., in September, 1871, and homesteaded a quarter-section in section 6, township 3, range 14 west. The country was new and undeveloped, and wild game was plentiful. He killed one buffalo, one elk and one antelope. He erected a sod house on his claim twelve by fourteen feet, in which he lived two years, when he erected one of a similar kind, though more commodious, having two rooms fourteen by sixteen feet each, with a brush roof, which, when complete, cost \$15. On the divide where he settled, water was very scarce and only found at a great depth. Not being able to dig a well, he hauled water for the first two years a distance of six miles. He earned considerable money the first few years by picking up buffalo bones and hauling them to Kearney, where he

marketed them for \$5 per ton.\* Crops for the first two years were nearly a total failure, and he at one time became discouraged and would have left the country had it not been for his wife, who persuaded him to stay. Mr. Glenn at the present time is postmaster of Hildreth, a thrifty little village on the north line of the county, and is also extensively engaged in the wind-mill business.

Mr. Glenn has been twice married; his first marriage to Charlotte Barton, occurred February 9, 1864, and resulted in the birth of three children, namely—Della May, born December 15, 1867, Edgar Barton, born December 8, 1869, and Albert Estil, born January 1, 1871. He was married a second time, August 31, 1875, to Harriet A. McLean, who was born December 17, 1841, near Prescott, Ontario. She came to Franklin county in November, 1873, and pre-empted a claim, afterwards homesteading the same. This congenial union has resulted in the birth of five children, as follows—Charlotte Maud, born September 25, 1876; Erma Floyd, born January 10, 1879; Dwiet Albertus, born January 29, 1881, died July 24, 1881; Orpha Luella, born February 3, 1882; Ray Fielding, born March, 1884.

Politically, Mr. Glenn affiliates with the republican party, although he has strong prohibition proclivities. He represented Franklin county in the state legislature in 1885; in 1878 he was nominated and came within eleven votes of being elected to the office of county sheriff. He has filled various other minor offices in his township, among which are those of assessor and justice of the peace, the former of which he held for ten years and the latter for twelve years. He is an honored mem-

ber of the G. A. R. post, at Wilcox, Nebr., and a member of the Riverton Lodge of A. F. and A. M.

**J**OHN SCHEUNEMAN is an old and prosperous settler of Marion township, Franklin county, Nebr., and is a native of Germany, having been born near Colberg, in 1840. He was reared on a farm and received a good education in his youth, and resided in his native place until he was twenty-six years of age, coming to America in 1866. He was at that time married and brought with him to this country a wife and two children. He stopped first in Quebec, Canada, but remained there only a short time, coming thence to the States and settling in Milwaukee, Wis. There he was overtaken by a great misfortune and one that deeply affected him. He lost by death his excellent wife and two children, and was thus left alone in a strange country with nothing, as it seemed to him, in this life worth living for. He remained at Milwaukee till 1871, and then he struck for the further West. He came to Nebraska and settled in Franklin county, taking a homestead in Marion township and filing on the northeast quarter of section 28, township 2, range 14 west. This was then raw land, as was most of the land in Franklin county. Mr. Scheuneman began on the bottom round of the ladder. He had no money and had to work by the day for the means with which to sustain life. His first improvements on this claim were necessarily very rude. He made a dug-out and borrowed a horse blanket,

got a skillet, and a few days' provisions, and these constituted his house and household goods. He had many hardships and met with many discouragements, but he had pluck and endurance, and he made up his mind to stick it out, believing that a better time was coming for all who remained faithful to the end. He was right. After the grasshoppers and the droughts, came more prosperous seasons, and every year since has added to his wealth and prosperity. He has added to his original homestead until he now owns in his home place four hundred and forty acres of land, nearly every acre of which he has under cultivation, and all of which yields an abundance of grain and other products. Besides this, he owns a half interest in a farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Marion township, which is also in a good state of cultivation, and from which he gets a fair revenue. He has improved and beautified his home place until it is one of the handsomest and most desirable places in his vicinity, having a large frame house, two large barns, an orchard and an artificial grove, and is well supplied with improved grades of cattle and hogs. Mr. Scheuneman never sells any raw material off his place. He feeds all he raises, and often has to buy. He has been identified with the growth and local administration of his township ever since settling there, having taken a particularly active interest in school matters in his township. He has been treasurer of his school district for some years, and the present prospering condition of the affairs of the district are due in a large measure to his efficient management. He is also a member of the Farmers' Alliance of Franklin county, and

contributes his share towards building up the farming interest of his community, as well as a member of the Lutheran church and a strong supporter of law, morality and good government. In politics he is a democrat, but never allows any political aspirations to interfere with his duties as a citizen, confining his attention strictly to his own affairs.

Mr. Scheuneman has been twice married, marrying first in his native land, the lady whom he took to wife being Miss Caroline Grindeman, who accompanied him to America, and died, as already stated, in Milwaukee in 1866. By this marriage there were four children born, one of whom died in Germany, two in Milwaukee about the same time that the mother died, leaving only one, a daughter, Bertie, now grown up, the wife of Peter Peterson, of Bloomington, Franklin county. In 1878, Mr. Scheuneman married the widow of his deceased brother, Charles Scheuneman, and by this marriage has had four children, three of whom are living, these being—Louis, Fred and Lillie. Mrs. Scheuneman had by her former marriage five children, all of whom remain with her, having received the same care and attention at their step-father's hands that he bestowed on his own. Mr. Scheuneman is a man of the most benevolent impulses, and his whole life has abounded in deeds of charity. He has been instrumental in bringing more than ten families of his kinfolk from the old country to America, furnishing the money in a number of instances to pay their way and give them a start. In this way he brought his mother and stepfather and most of his brothers and sisters. He is a truly good man and a valuable citizen.

**J**AMES A. CHITWOOD is a native of Schuyler county, Ill., and was born March 8, 1838. His father, Joshua Chitwood, was a native of North Carolina, but was reared in Indiana. He located in Schuyler county, Ill., when he was a young man, where he married and where he lived until his death, which occurred in 1877. The mother bore the maiden name of Sarah LaMaster, a native of Indiana. She died in 1879 a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church and the mother of eight children, seven boys and one girl.

On August 1, 1861, James A. Chitwood enlisted in the Second Illinois cavalry. He was at the great struggle at Vicksburg and on the Red River expedition, and also at the fight at Champion Hills. He was mustered out in August, 1864. During his three years' service he was never wounded or captured. After the war he returned to Illinois and engaged in farming. In 1868 he went to Linn county, Kans., and spent seven years there. He came to Franklin county, Nebr., in the spring of 1875 and took a homestead in Antelope township. There were only a few settlers there at that time but antelope were plentiful. He built a sod house in which he passed his early pioneer days. He was a great sufferer from the grasshoppers and in 1882 he sold out and purchased a farm on Center creek in Bloomington township. In 1880 he sold \$900 worth of grain and then sold his farm for \$800.

He was married January 5, 1865, to Sarah E. Gillette, of Schuyler county, Ill. They were old school-mates together. Her father was Elijah Gillette, a native of Connecticut; her mother was Eliza A.

Foreman, a native of New York. They were married at St Charles, Mo., in 1828, and about one year afterwards located in Illinois. Her father died in 1871 and her mother in 1880. Her father was a cooper and farmer by occupation and he was the father of ten children.

Mr. and Mrs. Chitwood have three children—Wason A., born October 1, 1865; Orson, born March 3, 1867, and Arthur J., born September 3, 1874 (deceased). Mr. Chitwood is a staunch republican, and while he is no politician he has held some local offices and was census-taker in 1880. He owns one hundred and sixty acres of well improved land.

**J**OHAN C. WORTH is a prosperous farmer and one of the first settlers of Franklin county. He was born in Luzerne county, Pa., June 25, 1838. His father, whose christian name he bears, was a native of Germany, born in 1805, came to America when only eleven years old, and was variously engaged throughout life, following farming in his later years. He died in 1888. The mother of our subject, Mary (Walla) Worth, was a native of Pennsylvania and was born in 1800. These were the parents of nine children, three boys and six girls.

The subject of this notice was reared mainly in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, whither his parents moved when he was young. His early boyhood was spent on his father's farm, attending to the ordinary duties of the farm during the summer and going to school during the winter. September 15, 1861, he entered the Union army, enlist-

ing in Company D, Fourth Iowa cavalry. He served out the term of his enlistment, being engaged mostly on detailed duty as teamster. He re-enlisted in February, 1863, continuing in the same command, and saw considerable service towards the close of the war. In April, 1865, he was with his regiment in Alabama chasing the wily cavalry commander, Forrest, and had much experience in that service. Later he was detailed on parole duty and stationed at Washington, Ga. Returning to his regiment at Atlanta, Ga., he was mustered out there August 15, 1865, and went at once to Davenport, Iowa, where he was discharged. After a short visit to his old home he went to Worth county, Mo., whither his parents had moved during the war, and there settled and began farming. He lived in Worth county till February, 1869, at which time he went to Omaha, Nebr., and engaged in teaming for three years. Falling in with the tide of emigration then spreading over the western prairies, he moved to Franklin county, this state, in the fall of 1872 and took a claim, filing on a quarter in section 11, township 1, range 15 west, where he settled and has since resided. He was among the first settlers in the county and endured the usual number of hardships and privations incident to the early settlement of the country. When Mr. Worth came to Franklin county he had four head of horses, two cows, and ten dollars in money. With this start he began the difficult undertaking of making for himself a home in the rude and inhospitable West. The grasshoppers, droughts and hail played havoc with his first five or six crops, and it was only with the greatest difficulty that he managed to live.

He found employment at freighting from Hastings and Lowell to interior points, and in this way earned enough to keep the wolf from the door. In the meantime he made what progress he could towards improving his farm, and with the appearance of good seasons began to raise good crops. He is now one of the well-to-do farmers of his community and is enjoying some of the fruits of his early toil and privations.

In the labor of building up a home on the frontier, Mr. Worth has been ably seconded and materially aided by an excellent wife. He married April 25, 1866, taking as a life-companion Miss Margaret E. Reams, a native of Kentucky, who was born February 5, 1848. This union has been blessed with four children, as follows—William L. (now deceased), Mary A., Cora E. and one that died in infancy.

Mr. Worth is a democrat in politics and a staunch supporter of his party. He has filled the office of supervisor of his township for the past three years and has made an efficient officer. He is an active member of Ben. Franklin Post, No. 136, G. A. R., and has filled every office in the post except quartermaster and adjutant. He and his wife are both members of the Christian church at Franklin, and Mr. Worth has filled the office of elder in the church for the past seven years.

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**C**HARLES H. DOUGLAS, an early settler and a thrifty farmer of Franklin county, was born in Oswego county, N. Y., March 13, 1839, and is one of a family of six children—

four boys and two girls—born to Ossian and Harriet (Calkins) Douglas, both of whom were natives of New York State, the former having been born in 1814 and the latter in 1820. The paternal grandfather of our subject, Sanford Douglas, was also a native of New York and was a volunteer soldier in the War of 1812, and the paternal great-grandfather was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. The maternal grandfather, Russell Calkins, is still living, and, although nearly one hundred years of age, is enjoying good health.

Our subject, Charles H., was reared on a farm in Oswego county, N. Y., until twenty-one years of age, when he moved to Lake county, Ill., settled on a farm and remained there one year. Then came the Civil war, and the demand for reinforcements being urgent, he responded promptly to the call, enlisting September 25, 1861, in Company H, Sixty-sixth Illinois regiment. His first battle, which was a good initiation, was that of Fort Donelson. He next participated in the battle of Pittsburg Landing, and later on was in the siege of Corinth, at which place he was under fire every day for nearly the entire summer. He was finally taken prisoner while on garrison duty near Corinth, and was taken to Atlanta, where he was confined a short time, and then taken to Libby prison and later to Belle Isle, where he spent the entire winter. The following spring he was removed to Andersonville, and there spent the summer, and was transferred thereafter at short intervals, to Savannah and to Millen, sixty miles in the woods. He was finally sent back to Savannah, and November 24, 1864, paroled and sent to

the hospital at Annapolis, Md. When the war was over, he settled down to farming in Lake county, Ill., where he resided till 1879, and in November of that year, he came West and settled in Franklin county, taking a homestead claim on section 15, township 1, range 16 west, now known as Turkey Creek township. He also bought a quarter of railroad land in section 13, and the right to a timber claim in section 22, same town and range. He lived in a 12x16 dug-out on his homestead claim, long enough to prove up on it. The first few years' experience he had at farming was similar to that of other old settlers at that time. The grasshoppers and drought played havoc with his crops and he found it difficult to get along; but time, which is said to right all things, brought Mr. Douglas the reward he well merited for his patient industry and self denial. Better seasons brought better crops, and as he toiled along from year to year, he witnessed a gradual rise in his worldly affairs. He has come to be one of the most prosperous farmers in his county, owning a splendid place near Bloomington, which he has in a good state of cultivation, well stocked and ornamented with handsome groves, all the result of his own persevering industry and foresight.

Mr. Douglas married August 25, 1861, taking to share his life's fortunes Miss Charlotte Stebbins, a lady who was in every way fitted to bear him the companionship he sought with her hand. She was born in Lake county, Ill., September 26, 1839. This union has been blessed with six children, four of whom are now living, these being—Albert, Ralph, Marshall and Willis. Mr. and Mrs. Douglas

are both active and consistent members of the Methodist church at Bloomington.

In politics Mr. Douglas is a republican, being a stanch supporter of the principles of his party and well posted in the political history of the country. He has held a number of local offices, such as clerk of his township and justice of the peace. Being an old soldier, he naturally takes much interest in all matters relating to his old comrades. He is a member of Antietam Post, No. 131, G. A. R., at Bloomington, and at present is filling the office of senior vice-commander.

**J**OHN HUTCHISON, the subject of this biographical memoir, is a prosperous farmer on Center creek and one of the earliest settlers of Franklin county. He was born in Casey county, Ky., August 11, 1820, and is one of a family of nine children born to Thomas and Polly Hutchison, both of whom were natives of Virginia, the former having been born February 26, 1800, is still living, and the latter born in the year 1798, died at the age of eighty-six.

Our subject spent his boyhood days attending school and laboring on the farm in Casey county, Ky. At the age of twenty-one he moved to Livingston county, Mo., where he engaged in farming until the war broke out. In October, 1862, he enlisted in the Confederate army, entering Company H, Third Missouri volunteers, but soon after entering the field he was taken prisoner and sent to St. Louis, where he was held in custody for a short time and then exchanged. He

rejoined his regiment at the siege of Vicksburg and for forty-eight days and nights participated in the battle, being captured by the Union forces in May. He was held in Reading camp until the following fall and then exchanged. He rejoined the regiment while on the Georgia raid and participated in all the skirmishes from Atlanta to Mobile, Ala. At the fall of Fort Blakesly, he was again taken prisoner and sent to Ship Island, where he, with others, was guarded for eleven days by negroes, when he was sent to Vicksburg, and a little later, while being taken to Jackson, Miss., he heard of Lee's surrender and sixteen days after he was paroled.

The war being over, he footed it to Chattanooga and from there home. He remained in Livingston county but a few days and then moved to Glenwood, Iowa, and a short time later to Rock Bluff, Cass county, Nebr., where he lived on a rented place for five years. He came to Franklin county in October, 1870, and in April of the following spring moved his family. He filed homestead papers on his present land in section 26, township 2, range 15 west, being one hundred and sixty acres, October 11, 1870. At that early day there were no houses between his place and Red Cloud, and only two shanties where that thriving city now stands. The country was one vast prairie, and buffalo, elk, deer and antelope roamed about in herds. He used to be fond of hunting, and remembers distinctly of having as high as three buffalo, five elk and eighteen turkeys lying in his yard at one time. His first house was a dug-out, fourteen by eighteen feet, in which he lived the first four years. At that time the nearest



trading point was Beatrice, from which place he hauled his provisions, it requiring one week to make the trip. There being no bridges, he was often compelled to swim the streams. The first year he was well remunerated for his toil by a good crop of corn, but for several years thereafter raised but little, on account of the drought and grasshoppers. Although having seen some of the hardest and most discouraging days of pioneer life, he stuck close to his claim and withstood the storms of adversity until, at the present, he has one of the finest and best improved farms in Franklin county. He was married March 26, 1861, to Miss Mary Davis, a native of Missouri. Mr. and Mrs. Hutchison are both active members of the Christian church in Franklin. In politics Mr. Hutchison is a democrat, and held the office of county commissioner in 1872-3. He was also treasurer of the county agricultural society from the date of its organization to a few years ago. He is a zealous member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Joppa Lodge, No. 76, at Franklin.

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**J** W. STINSON is one of Franklin county's earliest settlers and most prosperous farmers. He was born in Wayne county, near Richmond, Ind., September 8, 1829. His parents dying when he was a mere youth, leaving him to his own resources, he went to Ohio at the age of sixteen years, and served an apprenticeship at the blacksmith trade, which he followed three years, moving then to Butler county, Ohio, where he

resided until 1851. In March, 1852, he moved to and located on a farm in Brown county, Ill., where he resided until the breaking out of the war. He enlisted August 6, 1861, in the Third Illinois cavalry, and participated in a great many skirmishes, and was severely wounded at the battle of Pea Ridge. His right hand was badly injured, and his hearing badly affected by the firing of the artillery, so that he was incapacitated for duty and was placed in the invalid corps, where he remained from July 3, 1863, to January 15, 1864, when he was discharged from the regular service, and went into the quartermaster's department, where he acted as steward until the close of the war, in June, 1865. In December, 1865, he moved to Shelby county, Mo., where he farmed until 1872, and then, in May, he came to Franklin county, Nebr., being one of the first settlers of the county. He homesteaded a claim, on which he constructed a dug-out 22 by 28 feet. There were plenty of deer, antelope and some buffalo, he having killed some of all kinds. He brought fourteen head of cattle and fourteen head of horses and mules from Missouri and raised enough corn the first year to winter them all. In 1873 he raised twenty-five hundred bushels of corn, twelve hundred bushels of oats and about one hundred tons of hay, and made eighteen hundred rails, all of which were destroyed on October 12 of that year by fire started by the Pawnee Indians across the line in Kansas.

Mr. Stinson now has a fine farm of four hundred and eighty acres, two hundred and forty of which are now under cultivation. He has extensive improvements on his place; also a stone quarry, with

stone from six to ten inches thick and of fine building quality. Mr. Stinson had held various public offices before coming to Nebraska, and, since coming, has served as deputy sheriff under D. K. Calkins, who was one of the first sheriffs of Franklin county. He has been justice of the peace for eight years, and has held other minor offices. He is republican in politics, and has been a member of the United Brethren church since 1854.

Mr. Stinson was married, January 26, 1851, to Miss Martha J. Ray, a native of Ohio. Their union has resulted in the birth of seven children, namely—William W., Martha H., Frank, Fred D., Laura J., Gilbert A., and Lydia (deceased).

**RUFUS M. STARK**, merchant of Riverton, Nebr., was born in Green county, Ill., in 1854, and is a son of J. P. Stark, who is also a native of Illinois, but moved to Edgar, Nebr., in 1877, and is a prosperous mechanic; he is a member of the Masonic fraternity and also of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he is a trustee, steward and class-leader. His mother, Ann E. (DeMotte) Stark, is a native of Indiana. Rufus M. Stark is the eldest of three children, the other two being—John A. and Harry L. He was educated in the public schools of Bloomington, Ill., and the Illinois Wesleyan University. In 1874 he went to St. Joe, Mo., arriving there August 28, and worked in a restaurant until March, 1875, when he went to Troy, Kans., and worked on a farm until September of the same year, when he returned to St. Joe and took a

course in Bryant's business college, from which he graduated, but did not get his diploma for want of \$5 to pay for it. He then returned to Troy, Kans., and began working in the general store of John F. Wilson, as bookkeeper and salesman, continuing with him until August, 1877, when he went to Florence, Kans., entering the employ of Tucker & Co., dealers in general merchandise. Thence he went again to St. Joe, Mo., and engaged with Townsend & Wyatt, dry goods merchants. November 1, 1878, he came to Riverton, Nebr., and began clerking in the Franklin house. He afterwards was employed by Douglas & Brandon, and was with them until they failed, May 1, 1880.

March 21, 1880, Mr. Stark was married to Miss Sarah Weeks, a native of Illinois. Four children were born to this union, namely—Lena E., who died when nine years old, of diphtheria, after an illness of eleven and a half days: she was a bright, amiable child, beloved by all who knew her, and in intelligence was in advance of her years; Rufus J. died when only a month old; Stella A. was born May 3, 1885; Jessie V. was born October 27, 1887. About a month after his marriage, Mr. Stark was thrown out of work, by the failure of the firm with which he was employed, with only \$30 in money. He then engaged with P. A. Williams & Co., and was with them until they were burnt out, on November 12, 1882. He then went to work with E. M. Razeo in a grocery and drug store, and was with him until March 1, 1883; then was with Chapin & Hager until August 27th, and then with Anthon & Young for two years. In 1885 he determined to engage in mercantile business on his own account, and

bought out M. B. Kelly & Son, August 13, 1885, paying \$100 down and giving his note for the balance. He has been a successful merchant, increasing his trade and building up his stock until it will now invoice between \$7,000 and \$8,000. Mr. and Mrs. Stark are both active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mr. Stark is trustee and Sunday-school superintendent. He is a member of the Masonic order, and has passed through the Royal Arch degree. In politics he is a republican-prohibitionist. He is city treasurer and member of the school board of Riverton, and Mrs. Stark is an active member of the W. C. T. U. of Riverton. Mr. Stark is not only one of the leading business men of Riverton, but is an active and leading spirit in all moral and elevating enterprises, in which he has the willing co-operation of his wife. Mr. Stark says his success in business is due to the liberal use of printer's ink.

**T**HOMAS J. PICKETT, was born in Louisville, Kentucky, March 17, 1821, and is a son of William and Mildred (Johnson) Pickett. Both of the parents are natives of Virginia, and the father served in the War of 1812. Thomas J. is the third in a family of eight children, namely—William, Mary, Thomas J., Mildred, Martha, and three who died in infancy. In 1834 our subject left Louisville, Ky., the place of his birth, and went to Peoria, Ill., to learn the printer's trade, but returned in a few months to Louisville and was engaged as a clerk in a shoe store for one year, and then returned to Peoria, Ill., and resumed the printer's

trade. In the spring of 1837 he joined a company of men going to Oregon, but finding them uncongenial associates, he left them in the Indian Territory and returned to Peoria, Ill., again took up his trade as a printer, and leased the Tazewell *Reporter* office and edited *The Reporter*, a whig paper, during the campaign of 1840.

In the fall of 1840 he married Miss Louisa Bailey, a native of Maryland. This union was blessed with five children, namely—Horace, editor of the *Akron Pioneer Press*, of Akron, Col.; George B., editor of the *News*, of Fort Morgan, Col.; Charles, a compositor on the *Catholic Telegraph*, St. Joe, Mo.; Thomas J., Jr., editor of the *Gazette*, of Ashland, Nebr., and State senator from that district; and Mildred, wife of Mr. Terrell, a prosperous merchant of Paducah, Ky. His first wife died in Chester county, Pa., in 1854, and in 1855 Mr. Pickett married Miss Elizabeth Hoyt, of Batavia, N. Y., and by this union has had three children, namely—Harriet, now Mrs. Guthrie, of Lincoln, Nebr.; Mary B., now Mrs. Boswell, of Kentucky, and William L., chief clerk in the freight office of the B. & M. R. R., in Lincoln, Nebr.

In 1850 Mr. Pickett started the first daily paper in Peoria, Ill., which came to a sudden termination by the office being destroyed by fire the same year. He afterwards owned and published a number of papers. At the breaking out of the war he was editing *The Rock Island Register*. He gave his time to the cause of the Union and raised a company for the Sixty-ninth regiment and was appointed its lieutenant-colonel. After they were mustered out he recruited for the Six-

teenth Illinois cavalry. He was then authorized to raise a regiment which became the One Hundred and Thirty-second Illinois, and was appointed colonel of the same. At the close of the war he received a certificate of thanks and honorable discharge, signed by President Lincoln and Secretary Stanton. Returning from the war he located in Paducah, Ky., and established a newspaper there which he named *The Register*. While in Paducah he was clerk of the United States district court and postmaster at two different times. In 1878 he went to Nebraska City, Nebr., and in connection with his three sons established *The Sun*, a daily paper. From Nebraska City he moved to Lincoln and leased the office of the *Globe* and there published a daily paper called *The Capital*. In 1882 he moved to Bloomington, Nebr., and there published *The Guard*, until the office was destroyed by fire in 1890. He then moved to Riverton in the same county and purchased the *Enterprise*, which he published under the name of *The Guard*.

He has been a Mason for forty-three years and during that time has served as master of lodges at Peoria and Rock Island, Ill., and Paducah, Ky. He was also elected grand master in Illinois in 1851 and 1852, and grand master of Masons in Kentucky in 1872. He has filled many honorable positions during his life, having been state senator from Rock Island, Ill., from 1860 to 1864. He was a delegate to the national convention that nominated Fremont and was also a delegate to the national convention that nominated Grant. He was the first president of the Illinois Press Association and served three terms as president of the Republican Valley Press Association.

As will be seen from his ancestral record, Col. Pickett is a Virginian, and as such possesses all the genial and hospitable characteristics of his ancestry. His love of the union called him to assist in suppressing the rebellion, and he, with his two sons, Horace and George, were "Patriots to the manner born." His sons, Horace and George, were both members of Company H, Thirty-seventh Illinois volunteer infantry.

**G**EORGE W. CLAPP is the oldest settler now living on Rebecca creek, Franklin county, Nebr. He was born September 27, 1847, in Bradford county, Pa. His father, Benjamin Clapp, was a native of New York, born February 18, 1809, and was a farmer by occupation.

The mother of our subject was a native of New York State, born July 31, 1813. The families on both sides have been noted for their long life. The father has one brother and three sisters now living, the youngest of which is over sixty years of age. The mother has now living three brothers and one sister, the youngest of which is over sixty years.

George W. Clapp, the subject of this notice, lived in Pennsylvania until ten years old, and in 1857 moved with his parents to Wolworth county, Wis., where he resided on a farm for two years. The family then moved to Linn county, Iowa, and settled on a farm where they remained eighteen months and then moved to Delaware county, Iowa, where he resided seventeen years on a farm.

He enlisted in the war of the rebellion February 25, 1864, in Company B, Fourth Iowa cavalry, and participated in the raids near Memphis, Tenn., during the summer of 1864, and was in the battle of Tupelo, lasting four days. December 14, 1864, while on picket duty, he was captured and sent to Andersonville prison, where he was confined four months and fourteen days. He experienced all the harrowing distresses common to the inmates of that place, and when released weighed but seventy-five pounds, having lost sixty-five pounds during his confinement. He was mustered out June 9, 1865, and returned to Iowa, and, after recuperating about one year, engaged in farming. He came to Franklin county, Nebr., December 14, 1870, and homesteaded his present claim at the mouth of Rebecca creek. His family came the following spring. He was among the first settlers in the county, and wild game was plentiful. He has experienced all the hardships and vicissitudes of pioneer life, but his theory has always been, "Stick to it and all will be right in time," which his prosperity of later years has fully verified.

He was married December 21, 1869, to Serilda Akers, who was born July 16, 1844, in Hendricks county, Ind. The union has resulted in the birth of six children—Charlotta L., Fred E., Frank (deceased), Autlie, John (deceased) and Acie.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Clapp are members of the Methodist church in good standing at Naponee, Nebr. Politically he affiliates with the republican party. He served as constable of the township from 1878 to 1885; is a member of the G. A. R. and has filled the office of quartermaster and chaplain in his post.

**E**UGENE HUNTER, of Washington township, Franklin county, Nebr., was born in Ashtabula county, Ohio, 1852. His father, John Hunter, was born in the same county and state in 1822, and remained there until 1860, when he moved to Lafayette county, Wis., where, in 1861, he enlisted in Company E, Eleventh Wisconsin infantry. He was wounded in a battle in Arkansas and was also under Sherman for a time. At the end of his three years' term of service he accepted a bounty of \$900 from a drafted man and was sent to Leavenworth, and thence to Fort Kearney, but when about seven miles from the former place his regiment was ordered to return, and was mustered out at Springfield, Ill. He then returned to his home in Wisconsin, and was awarded a small pension. After a residence in Wisconsin for a number of years he moved to Caldwell county, Mo., and thence to Norton county, Kans. He is a very prosperous farmer; is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and of the G. A. R., and is temperate in all things. Alexander Hunter, the father of John Hunter, was a son of an Irish landlord and was born in the north of Ireland. At the age of sixteen he came to America, and settled in New York, where he became a school teacher.

John Hunter, in 1850, married Miss Lydia Moulton, who was born in Maryland, in 1827, and at the age of seventeen moved with her parents to Ashtabula county, Ohio, where she was married. She bore her husband four children, named as follows—Charles, in Inavale, Nebr., where he is engaged in the live stock and hardware business, having set-

ted there in 1872; Eugene, the subject of this sketch; Flora, married to Mr. Van Note, a well-to-do farmer of Hamilton Mo., and Ursula, now Mrs. Baker, of Washington. Mrs. Lydia Hunter died in 1888 at the home of our subject in Riverton. She was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church, was very quiet, but was a hard worker; was kind to persons in need, was a good nurse and was beloved by all who knew her. The father of Mrs. Lydia Hunter was Alonzo Moulton, a native of Canada, who came to the United States about 1824, and first located in Maine. He was a teacher, and later a contractor and builder; was well informed, was prosperous in his business, and died in 1887, at the age of eighty-four. His widow, Mrs. Priscilla (Prescott) Moulton, a native of Maryland, is still in good health at the age of eighty-one years.

Eugene Hunter removed from his native county to Caldwell county, Mo., with his parents, and in 1879 moved thence to Webster county, Nebr., where he took up a homestead on section 20, township 2, range 12, and this place he still owns. In 1886 he moved with his family to Riverton, Washington township, Franklin county; for the previous three years, however, he had been in business with a brother-in-law as a stock-buyer and agricultural implement dealer, which he still continues, and has, besides, about \$4,000 invested in other business. He began his business life at the age of twenty-seven with no capital, and when he came to Nebraska possessed about \$500 only. He now owns a quarter section of land, besides his home in town and a number of town lots and his business

capital—thus affording another example to the young of what enterprise and industry will accomplish. He is a Master Mason, and, in politics, is a republican, having served under the auspices of that party a second term as supervisor, and also as township clerk and as member of the school board.

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**J**OHAN M. PATTERSON was born in 1838, in Mount Joy, Lancaster county, Pa., and there his boyhood days were passed in attending school and assisting his father in business. John Patterson, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Lancaster county, as above, in 1809; was a farmer at first, but later engaged in dealing in coal, lumber and grain. He was a hard worker and a good financier, and at the time of his death, which occurred in May, 1872, he had, by his own exertions, accumulated \$60,000. He married Barbara Coffman, in 1836. She was born in Chester county, Pa., in 1817, and bore her husband six children, of whom two died in infancy. The others are—Mary Ann, now Mrs. Shock, of Mount Joy, in Lancaster county, Pa.; Samuel, a shipping clerk in Baltimore, Md.; Phebe (deceased), wife of George R. Moore, a Presbyterian minister; John M., the subject proper of this sketch. In politics, the elder Mr. Patterson was first a whig, but later became a republican. At the death-bed of his daughter Phebe, who was his favorite child, he was induced by her to unite with Christ, and thenceforward he was an ardent and liberal supporter of the Presbyterian church.

John M. Patterson finished his education at Freehold (N. J.) academy, and then resumed work for his father in the office, where he was employed until 1862, when he enlisted in Company F, Fifteenth Pennsylvania infantry, for three months. At the close of his term he enlisted in Company G, Ninth Pennsylvania cavalry, for three years, served out his time, and was honorably discharged at New Berne, N. C., in August, 1865. He participated in the engagement at Altoona, Lookout mountain, Franklin, Tenn., Murfreesboro, Chickamauga and Triune, Tenn. At the last-named battle he was shot in the right thigh and the right hand, and still carries a ball in the latter member. On his return to Mount Joy he re-entered the employ of his father, with whom he remained until 1870. He was then for some time employed as night baggageman in the Union depot at Erie, Pa., and from there he went to Mount Pleasant, Ohio, whence he came to Nebraska, in 1877, locating on section 34, township 1, range 13, Franklin county, remaining on that place two years, when he moved to his present farm, on section 17, township 1, range 13.

The marriage of Mr. Patterson took place in 1866, to Miss Elizabeth E. McDannel, who was born February 5, 1846. One child, Ada, has been sent to brighten their home. Miss Ada Patterson has been a teacher for four years, and is now employed in that capacity in the public schools of Lincoln. She graduated from the Franklin academy, and also took the Chautauqua course, securing her diploma when but fifteen years old. In politics Mr. Patterson is a republican; his wife is a member of the Presbyterian church, as is also his daughter.

ROBERT D. READY, one of the most prosperous agriculturists of Washington township, Franklin county, Nebr., was born in Virginia, in 1833, and is the youngest of the six children born to James and Lucinda (McLarens) Ready. James Ready was born in Virginia in 1800, was married in 1822, and in 1835 moved to Ohio, where his wife died in 1838, and thence moved to Bureau county, Ill., where he still superintends his farm. Mrs. Lucinda Ready was born in Virginia in 1804, her father having been captured with the troops of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. She died in 1838, the mother of the following children—Armistead, a lawyer of New Philadelphia, Ohio, who has been in practice since 1851, and has served as state senator; John W., in DeWitt county, Ill.; Epenetus, who died in 1878; Martha, who died in 1852; Mary, who departed in 1864, and Robert D., the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this sketch. The parents were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics James Ready was an old line whig.

Robert D. Ready came from Virginia to Ohio with his parents; thence moved to Illinois, where he remained until 1882, and then came to Nebraska, where he settled on section 19, township 1, range 13 west, Franklin county. At the early age of fifteen years he had begun business for himself with nothing, but is now in very comfortable circumstances, owning five hundred and sixty acres of excellent and well-stocked land. He has since his majority been a factor in the republican party, having, while in Illinois, held several important offices, and, since his residence in Nebraska, on the adoption of

township organization, was elected one of the first supervisors of Washington township and was elected chairman of the board for two terms.

In 1854, Mr. Ready married Miss Jane Day, who was born in Indiana in 1838, but who was, at the time of her marriage, a resident of Illinois. To this union nine children have been born, as follows—Laura (deceased), William (deceased), Elmer and John (twins), Charles L., a lawyer at Hayes Center, admitted to the bar in 1887; Jennie, Armistead, James and Robert D., Jr. (all four at home). Both parents are member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and are active and consistent in their faith.

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**G**EORGE POMEROY, a wealthy farmer and stock-grower of Washington township, Franklin county, Nebr., was born in Lee county, Iowa, in 1849, and is a son of George and Rose Anna (Through) Pomeroy, the former of whom was born in Ohio and moved thence to Lee county, Iowa, and then to Wapello, where he died in 1883, having followed the most of his life the business of carder and cloth-dresser. In 1835 he married Rose Anna Through, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1815, and from that state was taken by her parents to Ohio. She became the mother of eleven children, three of whom died in infancy, the living eight being—Mrs. Hannah Margaret Kellogg, of Oregon; Thomas M., of Muscatine county, Iowa; Mrs. Ann Stretch, of Taylor, Iowa; Mrs. Ellen Jane Cloyd, of Ottumwa, Iowa; Mrs. Rose Ann Harsh, of Riverton,

Nebr.; George, the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Emma Hawkins, of Muscatine county, Iowa, and Grimes, in Ottumwa, Iowa.

George Pomeroy, the subject of this sketch, when eight years of age was taken from Lee county, Iowa, to Wapello, by his parents, and thence to Muscatine county; from there he returned to Wapello, where he resided until 1874, when he came to Nebraska and settled on his present farm on section 30, township 1, range 13 west, in Franklin county. He began his business life in 1872 with comparatively no capital; he now owns about five hundred acres of good land, one hundred head of cattle and a number of horses, all gained by hard work and good judgment and management.

The marriage of Mr. Pomeroy took place in 1872, in Iowa, to Miss Margaret Harsh, who was born in 1853 in Ohio. To this union have been born four children, namely—Daniel W., Laura, who died in 1879; an unnamed child who died in infancy, and Rose, at home. In politics Mr. Pomeroy is a republican, but he has never been a seeker after public office.

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**A**LBERT AVERHOFF, one of the most substantial residents of Washington township, Franklin county, Nebr., was born in Germany in 1855, and came to America in 1869, and here, at the age of fourteen, began the battle of life without capital. His first stopping place in this country was at Clarence, Cedar county, Iowa, where he attended school for one year, and hired out as a farm hand until 1876, when he



came to Nebraska and settled on section 18, township 1, range 13 west, in Franklin county, his present home. He now owns a half-section of excellent land, and bears the reputation of being one of the most reliable men and skillful farmers in the county."

In 1885 Mr. Averhoff married Miss Maggie Bauman, a native of Aurora, Ill., born in 1858, and a devoted Christian lady. One child, Alice, born December 29, 1889, has come to bless the union. The father of this lady is a native of Bavaria, Germany, and met and married Miss Maria Stack at Aurora, Ill., in 1856. Mrs. Maria Bauman, also a native of Germany, was born in Wurtemberg, but early came to America. She bore her husband eight children as follows—Maggie; George, an artist at Galesburg, Ill.; Lena, now Mrs. Saunter, wife of an engineer at Galesburg; Clara, a senior at Galesburg high school; Henry, married, and a farmer at Rushville, Nebr.; Freddie, still with his parents; Jessie, now Mrs. W. H. R. Lewis, and for a few terms a teacher in one of the district schools, her husband being a farmer; Rosa Helen, who died in infancy. Mr. Bauman is a carriage-maker by trade and was for a number of years in business at Clarence, Iowa. He is a christian man and was one of the main founders of the German Methodist Episcopal church at Aurora, Ill., erected in 1861.

Louis Averhoff, the father of our subject, was born in Germany in 1808, and is by occupation a stone-mason. In 1839 he married Mary Schusler, who was born in 1813. She is the mother of six children, who were named as follows—Henrietta, now Mrs. Ratvant; Henry, in Iowa;

Minnie; William, in Franklin county, Nebr.; Augusta, the late Mrs. Ranking, and the subject of this sketch. Louis Averhoff is a good christian man, being a member of the Lutheran church.

**H**UGH CRILLY, an enterprising young farmer of Washington township, Franklin county, Nebr., was born in Ireland in 1856. His father, also named Hugh, was born in the same country in 1813, was a farmer by vocation and came to America in 1877, locating in Franklin county, Nebr., where he became quite prosperous. He was a man of good habits, was strictly honest and a member of the Presbyterian church. In 1837 he married Sarah McKee, also a native of Ireland, born in 1813. She was a daughter of Patrick McKee, who was born in 1775, was educated at Queen's college, Belfast, and subsequently graduated from one of the standard colleges of Scotland. He was a lawyer by profession and died in 1850. To Hugh Crilly, Sr., and his wife, Sarah, were born seven children, viz.—Mary, now Mrs. John Johnson, of Riverton, Nebr.; Mrs. Sarah Shell, in Denver, Colo.; McKee, in Grant township, Franklin county; Margaret J., at home; James, at home; Hugh and Samuel, in the public schools at Denver, Colo. The paternal grandfather of these children was James Crilly and the maternal grandmother was Hannah (McElwrath) McKee. Hugh Crilly, the father, died in 1883, universally lamented.

Hugh Crilly, the subject proper of this sketch, came to America with his parents

in 1877, and located on section 28, township 1, range 14, Franklin county, Nebr. Being a single man, however, he made his headquarters with his father until the latter's death, until which time everything had been held in common. Since that event he has managed his individual affairs, and has also superintended his mother's interests and the progress of the family has been more than usually great, although, on coming to Nebraska, they were comparatively poor. To-day they own six hundred and sixty acres of land, one hundred and twenty head of cattle and one hundred hogs, together with all necessary farm improvements.

Mr. Crilly was married in 1887 to Miss Carrie Marriott, a native of Illinois, born in 1860. She was a professional teacher and came to Nebraska in 1885. Two children have been born to this marriage, viz.—Ethel C., in 1888, and George Guy, December 25, 1889.

Mr. Crilly is a Master Mason, a deacon in the Congregational church, and in politics is a republican, with strong prohibitionist proclivities.

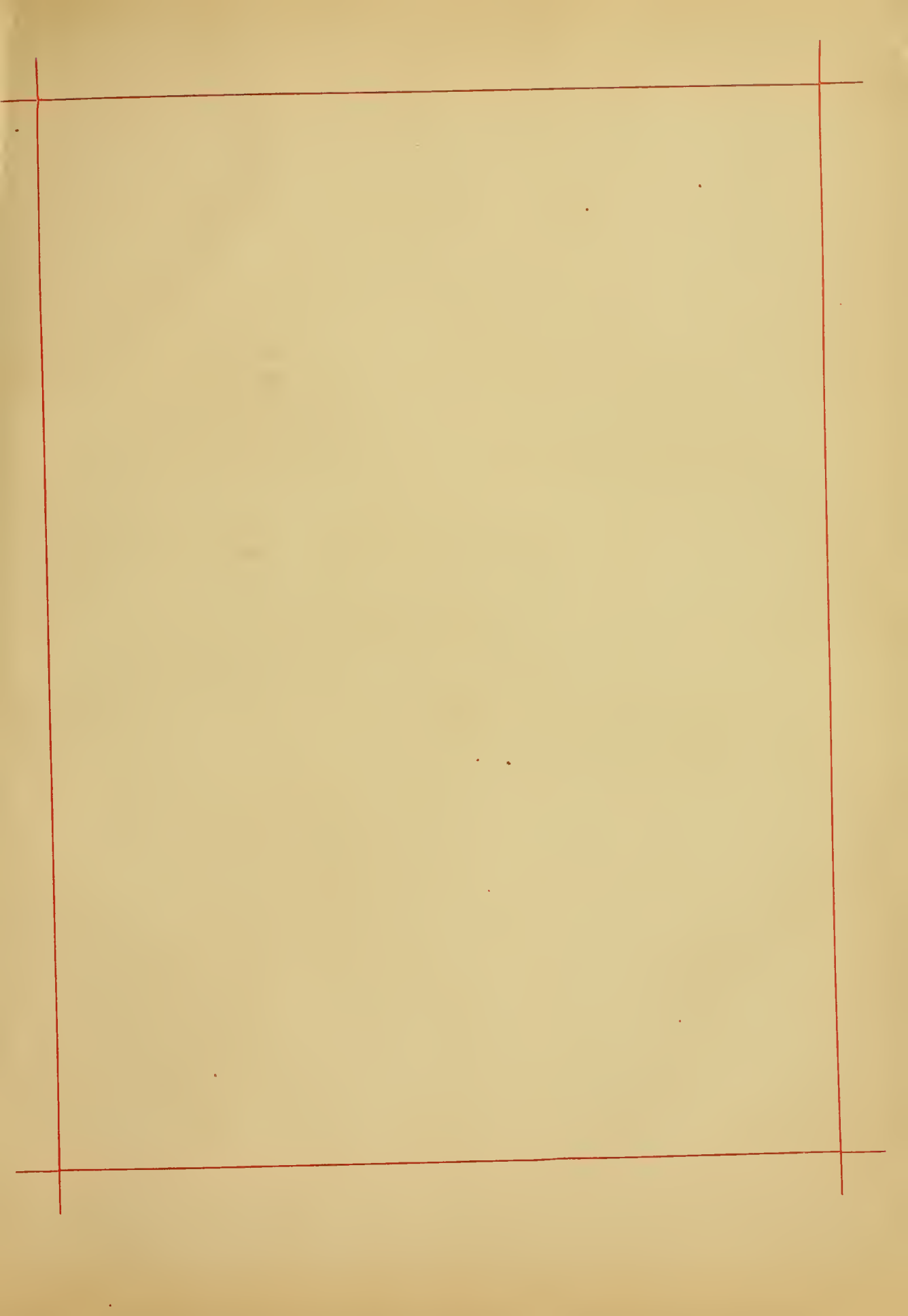
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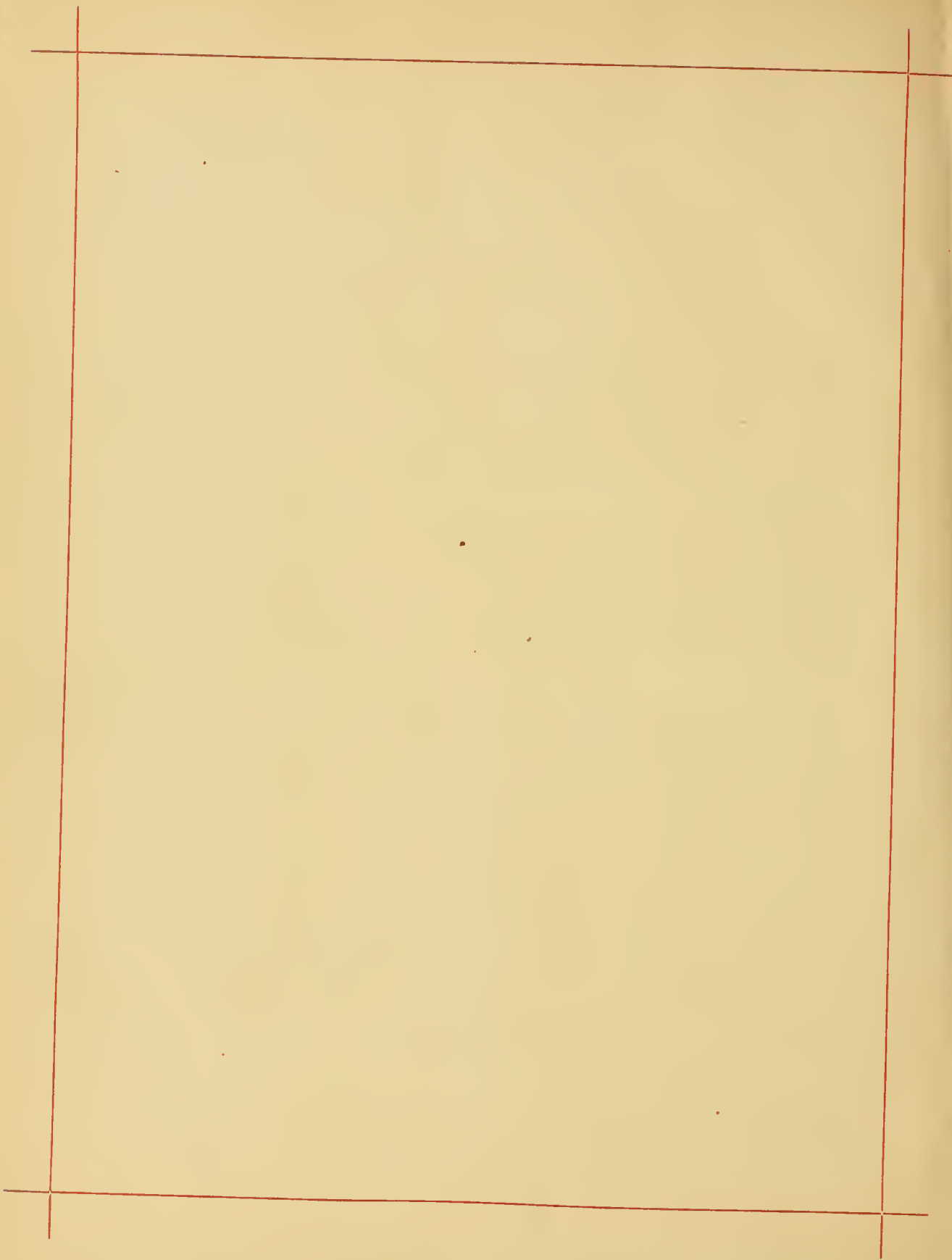
**J**ESSE D. ELLIS, farmer and stock raiser of Washington township, Franklin county, Nebr., is a son of Zachariah and Delilah (Ball) Ellis. Zachariah was born in Virginia in 1823, from that state he moved to Ohio; and thence to Illinois, and in 1886 to Nebraska,

locating in Franklin county. Delilah (Ball) Ellis was born in Maryland in 1817, and when six years of age was taken by her parents to Ohio, whence she removed to Illinois, in which state she was married in 1845. She became the mother of nine children, who were named Elizabeth Jane (deceased), Joseph (in Nebraska), Esther (deceased), Daniel and William (who died in infancy), Sarah (Mrs. Elliot, of Illinois), Jesse D. (our subject), Mary S. (Mrs. Garvin, of Kansas) and Effie R. (who died when eighteen years old).

Jesse D. Ellis was born in Bureau county, Ill., in 1856, and there made his home until 1886. He did not attend school after fourteen years of age, as he was considered to be the main support of his family, whose affairs he managed until about four years ago. His means were then quite limited, but he now owns a quarter-section of land, seventy-five hogs, thirteen horses and a half-interest in about one hundred head of cattle. Mr. Ellis is highly respected in his community and quite popular. In politics he is an Alliance man and is president of the local organization; he is also president of the Riverton Co-operative Business Association. In Illinois he had likewise been intrusted with a number of important offices.

In 1883 Mr. Ellis married Miss Jennie C. Rolls, who was born in Scotland in 1862 and when six years old came to America with her parents. To this marriage two children have been born, as follows—Harold, in 1884, and Roy, in 1886.





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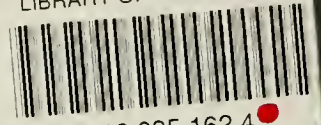






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