

NYPL RESEARCH LIBRARIES



3 3433 08191940 3

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

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

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

Internet Archive
Digitized for Microsoft Corporation
by the Internet Archive in 2008.

From New York Public Library.

May be used for non-commercial, personal, research,
or educational purposes, or any fair use.

May not be indexed in a commercial service.

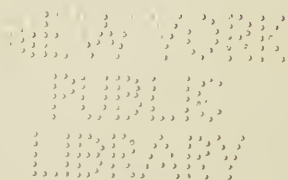
HISTORY
OF
Clay County, Iowa

FROM ITS EARLIEST SETTLEMENT TO 1909

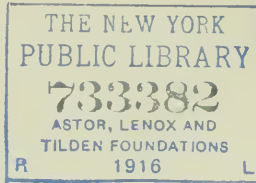
BY
Samuel Gillespie and James E. Steele

ALSO BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES
OF MANY PROMINENT CITIZENS OF THE COUNTY
AS WELL AS ITS ILLUSTRIOUS DEAD

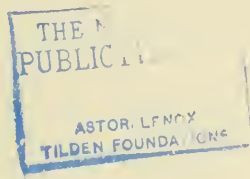
Illustrated



CHICAGO
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY
1909



NOV 23 1916
LIBRARY
YPSALON





J. E. STEELE

HISTORY OF CLAY COUNTY

INTRODUCTION.

Sixty years ago all that part of the great and beautiful state of Iowa of which the county of Clay is a part was practically terra incognita, a vast wilderness, given over by the Almighty to wild beasts, birds of the air and their masters, the Indians, who roamed the plains and forests at will, claiming and securing an existence from the bounteous hand of nature. Here the deer, buffalo and other fur-bearing animals found a habitat, and the many streams gave generously of the palatable fish. The red man had no care for the morrow. No thought came to him that his possessions would ever be disturbed by the paleface. So he continued on in his dreams. The hunt was his daily avocation, broken in upon at intervals by a set-to with a hostile tribe of aborigines that was always cruel and bloody in its results and added spoils to the victor and captives for torture. He knew not of the future, and cared less. But the time was coming—was upon him—when he was called upon to make way for a stronger and a progressive race of men; when the fair land that was his birthright and his hunting grounds, resplendent with the gorgeous flower and emerald sod, must yield to the husbandman. The time had come for the buffalo, deer and elk to seek pastures new, that the alluvial soil might be turned to the sun and fed with grain, to yield in their seasons the richest of harvests.

It is hard for the present generation to realize the rapid pace of civilization on the western continent in the past one hundred years; and when one confines his attention to the advancement of the state of Iowa in the past sixty years, his amazement is all the more intense. Evidences of progress are on every hand as one wends one's way across the beautiful state. Manufacturing plants are springing up hither and yon; magnificent edifices for religious worship point their spires heavenward; schoolhouses, colleges and other places of learning and instruction make the state stand out prominently among her sisters of this great republic. Villages are growing into towns, towns are taking on the dignity of a city government, until today Iowa is noted throughout the Union for the number, beauty and thrift of her cities and towns.

The commonwealth is cobwebbed with her telegraph, telephone and railroad lines, and all these things above mentioned have been made possible by the thrift, determination and high character of the people who claim citizenship within her borders.

THE INDIAN AND HIS FATE.

It is conceded by historians, who have given the subject deep thought and careful research, that this country was inhabited by a race of human beings distinct from the red man. But that is beyond the province of this work. The men and women who opened up the state of Iowa and the county of Clay to civilization had only the red man to dispute their coming and obstruct their progress; and in that regard something should be recorded in these pages.

So far as the writer can ascertain, the Indians were the first inhabitants of Iowa. For more than one hundred years after Marquette and Joliet had trod the virgin soil of Iowa and admired its fertile plains not a single settlement had been made or attempted; nor even a trading post established. The whole country remained in the undisputed possession of the native tribes. These tribes fought among themselves and against each other for supremacy and the choicest hunting grounds became the reward for the strongest and most valiant of them.

When Marquette visited this country, in 1673, the Illini were a very powerful people and occupied a large portion of the state. But when the country was again visited by the whites not a remnant of that once powerful tribe remained on the west side of the Mississippi, and Iowa was principally in the possession of the Sacs and Foxes, a warlike tribe which, originally two distinct nations residing in New York and on the waters of the St. Lawrence, had gradually fought their way westward and united, probably, after the Foxes had been driven out of the Fox river country in 1846 and crossed the Mississippi. The death of Pontiac, a famous Sac chieftain, was made the pretext for war against the Illini, and a fierce and bloody struggle ensued, which continued until the Illini were nearly destroyed, and their possessions went into the hands of their victorious foes. The Iowas also occupied a portion of the state for a time, in common with the Sacs, but they, too, were nearly destroyed by the Sacs and Foxes and, in the "Beautiful Land" these natives met their equally warlike and bloodthirsty enemies, the Northern Sioux, with whom they maintained a constant warfare for the possession of the country for a great many years.

In 1803, when, under the administration of Thomas Jefferson, then president of the United States, Louisiana was purchased from Napoleon Bonaparte, emperor of France, the Sacs, Foxes and Iowas possessed the entire state of Iowa and the two former tribes also occupied most of Illinois. The Sacs had four principal villages, where most of them resided. Their largest and most important town, from which emanated most of the obstacles encountered by the government in the extinguishment of Indian titles to land in this region, was on Rock river, near Rock Island; another was on the east bank of the Mississippi, near the mouth of Henderson river; the third was at the head of the Des Moines rapids, near the present site of Montrose; and the fourth was near the mouth of the Upper Iowa. The Foxes had three principal villages. One was on the west side of the Mississippi, six miles above the rapids of Rock river; another was about twelve miles from the river, in the rear of the Dubuque lead mines; and the third was on Turkey river.

The Iowas, at one time identified with the Sacs of Rock river, had withdrawn from them and become a separate tribe. Their principal village was on the Des Moines river, in Van Buren county, on the site where Iowaville now stands.

Here the last great battle between the Sacs and Foxes and Iowas was fought, in which Black Hawk, then a young man, commanded one division of the attacking forces. The following account of the battle has been given:

"Contrary to long established custom of Indian attack, this battle was commenced in the daytime, the attending circumstances justifying this departure from the well-settled usages of Indian warfare. The battlefield was a level river bottom, about four miles in length and two miles wide near the middle, narrowing to a point at either end. The main area of this bottom rises perhaps twenty feet above the river, leaving a narrow strip of low bottom along the shore, covered with trees that belted the prairie on the river side with a thick forest, and the immediate bank of the river was fringed with a dense growth of willows. Near the lower end of this prairie, near the river bank, was situated the Iowa village. About two miles above it and near the middle of the prairie is a mound, covered at the time with a small clump of trees and underbrush growing on its summit. In the rear of this little elevation, or mound, lay a belt of wet prairie, covered at that time with a dense growth of rank, coarse grass. Bordering this wet prairie on the north the country rises abruptly into elevated broken river bluffs, covered with a heavy forest for miles in extent, and in places thickly clustered with undergrowth, affording convenient shelter for the stealthy approach of an enemy.

"Through this forest the Sac and Fox war party made their way in the night, and secreted themselves in the tall grass spoken of above, intending to remain in ambush during the day and make observations as this near proximity to their intended victims might afford, to aid them in their contemplated attack on the town during the following night. From this situation their spies could take a full survey of the village and watch every movement of the inhabitants, by which means they were soon convinced that the Iowas had no suspicion of their presence.

"At the foot of the mound above mentioned the Iowas had their race course, where they diverted themselves with the excitement of horse racing, and schooled their young warriors in cavalry evolutions. In these exercises mock battles were fought, and the Indian tactics of attack and defense carefully inculcated, by which means a skill in horsemanship was acquired that is rarely excelled. Unfortunately for them, this day was selected for their equestrian sports, and wholly unconscious of the proximity of their foes, the warriors repaired to the race ground, leaving most of their arms in the village, and their old men, women and children unprotected.

"Pash-a-popo, who was chief in command of the Sacs and Foxes, perceived at once this state of things afforded opportunity for a complete surprise of his now doomed victims, and ordered Black Hawk to file off with his young warriors through the tall grass and gain the cover of the timber along the river bank, and with the utmost speed reach the village and commence the battle, while he remained with his division in the ambush to make a simultaneous attack on the unarmed men whose attention was engrossed with the excitement of the races. The plan was skillfully laid and dexterously executed. Black Hawk, with his forces, reached the village undiscovered, and made a furious onslaught upon the defenseless inhabitants by firing one general volley into their midst and completing the slaughter with the tomahawk and scalping knife, aided by the devour-

ing flames with which they enveloped the village as soon as the fire-brand could be spread from lodge to lodge.

"On the instant of the report of firearms at the village, the forces under Pash-a-popo leaped from their couchant position in the grass, and sprang, tiger-like, upon the unarmed Iowas in the midst of their racing sports. The first impulse of the latter naturally led them to make the utmost speed towards their arms in the village, and protect, if possible, their wives and children from the attack of their merciless assailants. The distance from the place of attack on the prairie was two miles, and a great number fell in their flight by the bullets and tomahawks of their enemies, who pressed them closely with a running fire the whole way, and the survivors only reached their town in time to witness the horrors of its destruction. Their whole village was in flames and the dearest objects of their lives lay in slaughtered heaps amidst the devouring element, and the agonizing groans of the dying, mingled with the hideously exulting shouts of the enemy, filled their hearts with maddening despair. Their wives and children who had been spared the general massacre were prisoners, and their weapons were in the hands of the victorious savages; all that could now be done was to draw off their shattered and defenseless forces and save as many lives as possible by a retreat across the Des Moines river, which they effected in the best possible manner, and took a position among the Soap creek hills."

The Sioux located their hunting grounds north of the Sacs and Foxes. They were a fierce and warlike nation, and often disputed possession in savage and fiendish warfare. The possessions of these tribes were mostly located in Minnesota, but extended also over a portion of northern and western Iowa, to the Missouri river. Their descent from the north upon the hunting grounds of Iowa frequently brought them into collision with the Sacs and Foxes, and after many a sanguine conflict a boundary line was established between them by the government of the United States, in a treaty held at Prairie du Chien in 1825. Instead of settling the difficulties, this caused them to quarrel all the more, in consequence of alleged trespasses upon each other's side of the line. So bitter and unrelenting became these contests that in 1830 the government purchased of the respective tribes of the Sacs and Foxes and the Sioux a strip of land twenty miles wide on both sides of the line, thus throwing them forty miles apart by creating a "neutral ground," and commanded them to cease their hostilities. They were, however, allowed to fish on the ground unmolested, provided they did not interfere with each other on United States territory.

Soon after the acquisition of Louisiana the United States government adopted measures for the exploration of the new territory, having in view the conciliation of the numerous tribes of Indians by whom it was possessed and also the selection of proper sites for the establishment of military posts and trading stations. The Army of the West, General Wilkinson commanding, had its headquarters at St. Louis. From this post Captains Lewis and Clarke, with a sufficient force, were detailed to explore the unknown sources of the Missouri, and Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike to ascend to the headwaters of the Mississippi. Lieutenant Pike, with one sergeant, two corporals and seventeen privates, left the military camp near St. Louis in a keel boat, with four months' rations, August 9, 1805. On the 20th of the same month the expedition arrived within the present

limits of the state of Iowa, at the foot of the Des Moines rapids, where Pike met William Ewing, who had just been appointed Indian agent at the point; a French interpreter, four chiefs, fifteen Sac and Fox warriors. At the head of the rapids, where Montrose is now situated, Pike held a council with the Indians, in which he addressed them substantially as follows:

"Your great father, the president of the United States, wishes to be more acquainted with the situation and wants of the different nations of red people in our newly acquired territory of Louisiana, and has ordered the general to send a number of his warriors in different directions to take them by the hand and make such inquiries as might afford the satisfaction required."

At the close of the council he presented the red men with some knives, tobacco and whisky. On the 23d of August he arrived at what is supposed, from his description, to be the site of the present city of Burlington, which he selected as the location for a military post. He describes the place as "being on a hill about forty miles above the River de Moynes rapids, on the west side of the river, in latitude forty degrees twenty-one minutes north. The channel of the river runs on that shore. The hill in front is about sixty feet perpendicular, and nearly level at the top. About four hundred yards in the rear is a small prairie, fit for gardening, and immediately under the hill is a limestone spring, sufficient for the consumption of a whole regiment." In addition to this description, which corresponds to Burlington, the spot is laid down on his map at a bend in the river a short distance below the mouth of the Henderson, which pours its water into the Mississippi from Illinois. The fort was built at Fort Madison, but from the distance, latitude, description and map furnished by Pike, it could not have been the place selected by him, while all the circumstances corroborate the opinion that the spot he selected was the place where Burlington is now located, called by the early voyagers on the Mississippi "Flint Hills." In company with one of his men, Pike went on shore on a hunting expedition, and, following a stream which they supposed to be a part of the Mississippi, they were led away from their course. Owing to the intense heat and tall grass, his two favorite dogs, which he had taken with him, became exhausted and he left them on the prairie, supposing they would follow him as soon as they should get rested, and went on to overtake his boat. After reaching the river he waited for some time for his canine friends, but they did not come, and as he deemed it inexpedient to detain the boat longer, two of his men volunteered to go in pursuit of them. He then continued on his way up the river, expecting the men would soon overtake him. They lost their way, however, and for six days were without food, except a few morsels gathered from the not accidentally-met trader from St. Louis, and might have perished had they not induced two Indians to take them up the river, overtaking the boat at Dubuque. At the latter place Pike was cordially received by Julien Dubuque, a Frenchman, who held a mining claim under a grant from Spain. He had an old field piece, and fired a salute in honor of the advent of the first American who had visited that part of the territory. He was not, however, disposed to publish the wealth of his mines, and the young and evidently inquisitive officer obtained but little information in that regard.

Upon leaving this place Pike pursued his way up the river, but as he passed beyond the limits of the present state of Iowa, a detailed history of his explora-

tions does not properly belong in this volume. It is sufficient to say that on the site of Fort Snelling, Minnesota, he held a council with the Sioux, September 23d, and obtained from them a grant of one hundred thousand acres of land.

Before the territory of Iowa could be opened to settlement by the whites it was first necessary that the Indian title should be extinguished and the aborigines removed. The territory had been purchased by the United States, but was still occupied by the Indians, who claimed title to the soil by right of possession. In order to accomplish this purpose, large sums of money were expended, warring tribes had to be appeased by treaty stipulations and oppression by the whites discouraged.

BLACK HAWK.

When the United States assumed control of the country, by reason of its purchase from France, nearly the whole state was in possession of the Sacs and Foxes, a powerful and warlike nation, who were not disposed to submit without a struggle to what they regarded the encroachment on their rights by the pale-faces. Among the most noted chiefs, and one whose restlessness and hatred of the whites occasioned more trouble to the government than any other of his tribe, was Black Hawk, who was born at the Sac village on Rock river in 1767. He was simply the chief of his own band of Sac warriors, but by his energy and ambition he became the leading spirit of the united nations of the Sacs and Foxes and one of the prominent figures in the history of the country from 1804 until his death. In early manhood he attained distinction as a fighting chief, having led campaigns against the Osages and other neighboring tribes. About the beginning of the nineteenth century he began to appear prominent in the affairs of Mississippi. His life was a marvel. He is said by some to have been the victim of a narrow prejudice and bitter ill-will against the Americans.

November 3, 1804, a treaty was concluded between William Henry Harrison, then governor of Indian Territory, on behalf of the United States, and five chiefs of the Sac and Fox nation, by which the latter, in consideration of two thousand two hundred and thirty-four dollars' worth of goods then delivered and a yearly annuity of one thousand dollars to be paid in goods at just cost, ceded to the United States all that land on the east side of the Mississippi extending from a point opposite the Jefferson, in Missouri, to the Wisconsin river, embracing an area of fifty-one million acres. To this treaty Black Hawk always objected and always refused to consider it binding upon his people. He asserted that the chiefs and braves who made it had no authority to relinquish the title of the nation to any of the lands they held or occupied and, moreover, that they had been sent to St. Louis on quite a different errand, namely, to get one of their people released, who had been imprisoned at St. Louis for killing a white man.

In 1805 Lieutenant Pike came up the river for the purpose of holding friendly council with the Indians and selecting sites for forts within the territory recently acquired from France by the United States. Lieutenant Pike seems to have been the first American whom Black Hawk had met or had a personal interview with, and was very much impressed in his favor. Pike gave a very interesting account of his visit to the noted chief.

Fort Edwards was erected soon after Pike's expedition, at what is now

Warsaw, Illinois, also Fort Madison, on the site of the present town of that name, the latter being the first fort erected in Iowa. These movements occasioned great uneasiness among the Indians. When work was commenced on Fort Edwards a delegation from the nation, headed by their chiefs, went down to see what the Americans were doing, and had an interview with the commander, after which they returned home and were apparently satisfied. In like manner, when Fort Madison was being erected, they sent down another delegation from a council of the nation held at Rock river. According to Black Hawk's account the American chief told them he was building a house for a trader, who was coming to sell them goods cheap, and that the soldiers were coming to keep him company—a statement which Black Hawk says they distrusted at the time, believing that the fort was an encroachment upon their rights, and designed to aid in getting their lands away from them. It is claimed by good authority that the building of Fort Madison was a violation of the treaty of 1804. By the eleventh article of that treaty the United States had the right to build a fort near the mouth of the Wisconsin river, and by article six they had bound themselves "that if any citizen of the United States, or any other white person, should form a settlement upon their lands, such an intruder should forthwith be removed." Probably the authorities of the United States did not regard the establishment of military posts as coming properly within the meaning of the term "settlement," as used in the treaty. At all events, they erected Fort Madison within the territory reserved for the Indians, who became very indignant. Very soon after the fort was built a party led by Black Hawk attempted its destruction. They sent spies to watch the movements of the garrison, who ascertained that the soldiers were in the habit of marching out of the fort every morning and evening for parade, and the plan of the party was to conceal themselves near the fort and attack and surprise them when they were outside. On the morning of the proposed day of the attack five soldiers came out and were fired upon by the Indians, two of them being killed. The Indians were too hasty in their movements, for the parade had not commenced. However, they kept up the siege for several days, attempting the old Fox strategy of setting fire to the fort with blazing arrows, but finding their efforts unavailing, they desisted and returned to their wigwams on Rock river. In 1812, when war was declared between this country and Great Britain, Black Hawk and his band allied themselves with the British, partly because he was dazzled by their specious promises, but more probably because they were deceived by the Americans. Black Hawk himself declared they were forced into the war by having been deceived. He narrates the circumstance as follows: "Several of the head men and chiefs of the Sacs and Foxes were called upon to go to Washington to see the great father. On their return they related what had been said and done. They said the great father wished them, in the event of war taking place with England, not to interfere on either side, but to remain neutral. He did not want our help, but wished us to hunt and support our families and live in peace. He said that British traders would not be permitted to come on the Mississippi to furnish us with goods, but that we should be supplied by an American trader. Our chiefs then told him that the British traders always gave them credit in the fall for guns, powder and goods, to enable us to hunt and clothe our families. He repeated

that the traders of Fort Madison would have plenty of goods; that we should go there in the fall and he should supply us on credit, as the British traders had done." Black Hawk seems to have accepted the proposition, and he and his people were very much pleased. Acting in good faith, they fitted out their winter's hunt, and went to Fort Madison in high spirits to receive from the trader their outfit of supplies; but after waiting some times they were told by the trader that he would not trust them. In vain they pleaded the promise of the great father at Washington; the trader was inexorable. Disappointed and crestfallen, the Indians returned sadly to their own village. Says Black Hawk: "Few of us slept that night. All was gloom and discontent. In the morning a canoe was seen ascending the river. It soon arrived, bearing an express, who brought intelligence that a British trader had landed at Rock Island with two boats filled with goods, and requested us to come up immediately, because he had good news for us and a variety of presents. The express presented us with pipes, tobacco and wampum. The news ran through our camp like fire on a prairie. Our lodges were soon taken down, and all started for Rock Island. Here ended all our hopes of remaining at peace, having been forced into the war by being deceived." He joined the British, who flattered him, and styled him "General Black Hawk," decked him with medals, excited his jealousy against the Americans and armed his band; but he met with defeat and disappointment, and soon abandoned the service and returned home.

There was a portion of the Sacs and Foxes whom Black Hawk, with all his skill and cunning, could not lead into hostilities against the United States. With Keokuk, "the Watchful Fox," at their head, they were disposed to abide by the treaty of 1804, and to cultivate friendly relations with the American people. So when Black Hawk and his band joined the fortunes of Great Britain, the rest of the nation remained neutral and, for protection, organized, with Keokuk for their chief. Thus the nation was divided into the "war party" and "peace party." Keokuk became one of the nation's great chiefs. In person he was tall and of portly bearing. He has been described as an orator, entitled to rank with the most gifted of his race, and through the eloquence of his tongue he prevailed upon a large body of his people to remain friendly to the Americans. As has been said, the treaty of 1804 between the United States and the Sac and Fox nations was never acknowledged by Black Hawk, and in 1831 he established himself, with a chosen band of warriors, upon the disputed territory, ordering the whites to leave the country at once. The settlers complaining, Governor Reynolds, of Illinois, despatched General Gaines, with a company of regulars and one thousand five hundred volunteers, to the scene of action. Taking the Indians by surprise, the troops burnt their village and forced them to conclude a treaty, by which they ceded all their lands east of the Mississippi and agreed to remain on the west side of the river.

Necessity forced the proud spirit of Black Hawk into submission, which made him more than ever determined to be avenged upon his enemies. Having rallied around him the warlike braves of the Sac and Fox nations, he recrossed the Mississippi in the spring of 1832. Upon hearing of the invasion, Governor Reynolds hastily gathered a body of one thousand eight hundred volunteers, placing them under Brigadier-General Samuel Whiteside. The army marched

to the Mississippi and, having reduced to ashes the village known as "Prophets' Town," proceeded several miles up the Rock river, to Dixon, to join the regular forces under General Atkinson. They formed at Dixon two companies of volunteers, who, sighing for glory, were despatched to reconnoiter the enemy. They advanced, under command of General Stillman, to a creek, afterwards called "Stillman's Run," and, while encamping there, saw a party of mounted Indians at a distance of a mile. Several of Stillman's men mounted their horses and charged the Indians, killing three of them; but, attacked by the main body under Black Hawk, they were routed, and by their precipitate flight spread such a panic throughout the camp that the whole company ran off to Dixon as fast as their legs could carry them. On their arrival it was found that eleven had been killed. For a long time afterward Major Stillman and his men were subjects of ridicule and merriment, which was as undeserving as their expedition was disastrous. Stillman's defeat spread consternation throughout the state and nation. The number of Indians was greatly exaggerated and the name of Black Hawk carried with it associations of great military talent, cunning and cruelty. He was ever active and restless and was continually causing trouble.

After Black Hawk and his warriors had committed several depredations and added more scalp-locks to their belts, that restless chief and his savage partisans were located on Rock river, where he was in camp. On July 19th General Henry being in command, ordered his troops to march. After having gone about fifty miles they were overtaken by a terrible thunderstorm, which lasted all night. Nothing cooled in their ardor and zeal, they marched fifty miles the next day, encamping near the place where the Indians encamped the night before. Hurrying along as fast as they could, the infantry keeping up an equal pace with the mounted men, the troops on the morning of the 21st crossed the river connecting two of the four lakes, by which the Indians had been endeavoring to escape. They found on their way the ground strewn with kettles and articles of baggage, which in the haste of retreat the Indians were obliged to abandon. The troops, imbued with new ardor, advanced so rapidly that at noon they fell in with the rear guards of the enemy. Those who closely pursued them were saluted by a sudden fire of musketry from a body of Indians who had concealed themselves in the high grass of the prairie. A most desperate charge was made on the four, who, unable to resist, retreated obliquely in order to outflank the volunteers on the right; but the latter charged the Indians in their ambush and expelled them from the thickets at the point of the bayonet and dispersed them. Night set in and the battle ended, having cost the Indians sixty-eight of their bravest men, while the loss of the Illinoisans was but one killed and eight wounded. Soon after this battle Generals Atkinson and Henry joined forces and pursued the Indians. General Henry struck the trail, left his horses behind, formed an advance guard of eight men and marched forward upon the trail. When these eight men came in sight of the river, they were suddenly fired upon and five of them killed, the remaining three maintaining their ground until General Henry came up. Then the Indians, charged upon with the bayonet, fell back upon their main force. The battle now became general; the Indians fought with a desperate vigor, but were furiously assailed by the volunteers with their bayonets, cutting many of the Indians to pieces and driving the

rest of them into the river. Those who escaped from being drowned found refuge on an island. On hearing of the frequent discharge of musketry, General Atkinson abandoned the pursuit of the twenty Indians under Black Hawk himself and hurried to the scene of action, where he arrived too late to take part in the battle. He immediately forded the river with his troops, the water reaching up to their necks, and landed on the island where the Indians had secreted themselves. The soldiers rushed upon the Indians, killed several of them, took the others prisoners and chased the rest into the river, where they were either drowned or shot before reaching the opposite shore. Thus ended the battle, the Indians losing three hundred, besides fifty prisoners; the whites but seventeen killed and twelve wounded.

Black Hawk, with his twenty braves, retreated up the Wisconsin river. The Winnebagoes, desirous of securing the friendship of the whites, went in pursuit and captured and delivered them to General Street, the United States Indian agent. Among the prisoners were the son of Black Hawk and the prophet of the tribe. These, with Black Hawk, were taken to Washington, District of Columbia, and soon consigned as prisoners to Fortress Monroe. At the interview Black Hawk had with the president he closed his speech delivered on the occasion in the following words: "We did not expect to conquer the whites. They have too many houses, too many men. I took up the hatchet, for my part, to revenge injuries which my people could no longer endure. Had I borne them longer without striking my people would have said, 'Black Hawk is a woman; he is too old to be a chief; he is no Sac.' These reflections caused me to raise the war whoop. I say no more. It is known to you. Keokuk once was here; you took him by the hand, and when he wished to return to his home you were willing. Black Hawk expects, like Keokuk, he shall be permitted to return, too."

By order of the president, Black Hawk and his companions, who were in confinement at Fortress Monroe, were set free on the 4th day of June, 1833. After their release from prison they were conducted, in charge of Major Garland, through some of the principal cities that they might witness the power of the United States and learn their own inability to cope with them in war. Great multitudes flocked to see them wherever they were taken, and the attention paid them rendered their progress through the country a triumphal procession, instead of prisoners transported by an officer. At Rock Island the prisoners were given their liberty amid great and impressive ceremony. In 1838 Black Hawk built him a dwelling near Des Moines, this state, and furnished it after the manner of the whites and engaged in agricultural pursuits, together with hunting and fishing. Here, with his wife, to whom he was greatly attached, he passed the few remaining days of his life. To his credit, it may be said, that Black Hawk remained true to his wife and served her with a devotion uncommon among Indians, living with her upwards of forty years.

At all times when Black Hawk visited the whites he was received with marked attention. He was an honored guest at the old settlers' reunion in Lee county, Illinois, and received marked tokens of esteem. In September, 1838, while on his way to Rock Island to receive his annuity from the government, he contracted a severe cold, which resulted in an intense attack of bilious fever and terminated his life in October. After his death he was dressed in the uniform pre-



CLAY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

sented to him by the president while in Washington. He was buried in a grave six feet in depth, situated upon a beautiful eminence. The body was placed in the middle of the grave in a sitting position upon a seat constructed for the occasion. On his left side the cane given him by Henry Clay was placed upright, with his hand resting upon it. His remains were afterwards stolen and carried away, but they were recovered by the governor of Iowa and placed in the museum at Burlington of the Historical Society, where they were finally destroyed by fire.

INDIAN TREATIES.

The territory known as the "Black Hawk Purchase," although not the first portion of Iowa ceded to the United States by the Sacs and Foxes, was the first opened to actual settlement by the tide of emigration which flowed across the Mississippi as soon as the Indian title was extinguished. The treaty which provided for this cession was made at a council held on the west bank of the Mississippi, where now stands the city of Davenport, on ground now occupied by the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad Company, September 21, 1832. This was just after the Black Hawk war and the defeated savages had retired from east of the Mississippi. At the council the government was represented by General Winfield Scott and Governor Reynolds of Illinois, Keokuk, Pashapopo and some thirty other chiefs and warriors were there. By this treaty the Sacs and Foxes ceded to the United States a strip of land on the eastern border of Iowa, fifty miles wide, from the northern boundary of Missouri to the mouth of the Upper Iowa river, containing about six million acres. The western line of the purchase was parallel with the Mississippi. In consideration for this cession the United States agreed to pay annually to the confederated tribes, for thirty consecutive years, twenty thousand dollars in specie, and to pay the debts of the Indians at Rock Island, which had been accumulating for seventeen years, and amounted to fifty thousand dollars, due to Davenport & Farnham, Indian traders. The government also donated to the Sac and Fox women and children, whose husbands and fathers had fallen in the Black Hawk war, thirty-five beef cattle, twelve bushels of salt, thirty barrels of pork, fifty barrels of flour, and six thousand bushels of corn.

The treaty was ratified February 13, 1833, and took effect on the 1st of June following, when the Indians quietly removed from the ceded territory and this fertile and beautiful region was opened to white settlers.

By the terms of the treaty out of the "Black Hawk Purchase" four hundred square miles of land was reserved for the Sacs and Foxes, situated on the Iowa river, and including within its limits Keokuk village, on the right bank of that river. This tract was known as Keokuk's reserve, and was occupied by the Indians until 1836, whereby a treaty made in September between them and Governor Dodge, of Wisconsin territory, it was ceded to the United States. The council was held on the banks of the Mississippi above Davenport, and was the largest assemblage of the kind ever held by the Sacs and Foxes to treat for the sale of land. About one thousand of their braves and chiefs were present, Keokuk being the leading spirit of the occasion and their principal speaker.

FIRST LAND TITLE IN IOWA.

By the terms of this treaty the Sacs and Foxes were removed to another reservation on the Des Moines river, where an agency was established at what is now the town of Agency, in Wapello county. The government also gave out of the "Black Hawk Purchase" to Antoine LeClaire, interpreter, in fee simple, one section of land opposite Rock Island and another at the head of the first rapids above the island, on the Iowa side. This was the first land title granted by the United States to an individual in Iowa.

General Joseph M. Street established an agency among the Sacs and Foxes very soon after the removal of the latter to their new reservation. He was transferred from the agency of the Winnebagoes for this purpose. A farm was selected, upon which the necessary buildings were erected, including a comfortable farm-house for the agent and his family, at the expense of the Indian fund. A salaried agent was employed to superintend the farm and dispose of the crops. Two mills were erected—one on Soap creek and the other on Sugar creek. The latter was soon swept away by a flood, but the former did good service for many years.

Connected with the agency were Joseph Smart and John Goodell, interpreters. The latter was interpreter for Hard Fishes' band.

Three of the Indian chiefs—Keokuk, Wapello and Appanose—had each a large field improved, the two former on the right bank of the Des Moines, and back from the river, in what was "Keokuk's Prairie," and the latter on the present site of the city of Ottumwa. Among the traders connected with their agency was J. P. Eddy, who established his post at what is now the site of Eddyville. The Indians at this agency became idle and listless in the absence of their natural excitements and many of them plunged into dissipation. Keokuk himself became dissipated in the latter years of his life and it has been reported that he died of delirium tremens after his removal with his tribe to Kansas. In May, 1843, most of the Indians were removed up the Des Moines river, above the temporary line of Red Rock, having ceded the remnants of their land to the United States, September 21, 1837, and October 11, 1842. By the terms of the latter treaty they held possession of the "New Purchase" until the autumn of 1845, when most of them were removed to their reservation in Kansas, the balance being removed in 1846.

Before any permanent settlement was made in the territory of Iowa, white adventurers, trappers and traders, many of whom were scattered along the Mississippi and its tributaries as agents and employes of the American Fur Company, intermarried with the females of the Sac and Fox Indians, producing a race of half-breeds, whose number was never definitely ascertained. There were some respectable and excellent people among them, children of some refinement and education.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first permanent settlement made by whites within the limits of Iowa was by Julien Dubuque in 1788, when, with a small party of miners, he settled on the site of the city that now bears his name, where he lived until his death, in 1810. What was known as Girard settlement, in Clayton county, was made by some

parties prior to the commencement of the nineteenth century. It consisted of three cabins in 1805. Louis Honori settled on the site of the present town of Montrose probably in 1799, and resided there probably until 1805, when his property passed into other hands. Indian traders had established themselves at other points at an early date. Mr. Johnson, an agent of the American Fur Company, had a trading post below Burlington, where he carried on traffic with the Indians some time before the United States came into possession of Louisiana. In 1820 LeMoliese, a French trader, had a station at what is now Sandusky, six miles above Keokuk, in Lee county. The same year a cabin was built where the city of Keokuk now stands by Dr. Samuel C. Muir, a surgeon in the United States army. His marriage and subsequent life were very romantic. While stationed at a military post on the Upper Mississippi the post was visited by a beautiful Indian maiden—whose native name unfortunately has not been preserved—who, in her dreams, had seen a white brave unmoor his canoe, paddle it across the river and come directly to her lodge. She felt assured, according to the superstitious belief of her race, that in her dreams she had seen her future husband, and had come to the fort to find him. Meeting Dr. Muir, she instantly recognized him as the hero of her dream, which, with child-like innocence and simplicity, she related to him. Charmed with the dusky maiden's beauty, innocence and devotion, the doctor took her to his home in honorable wedlock; but, after a while, the sneers and jibes of his brother officers—less honorable than he—made him feel ashamed of his dark-skinned wife, and when his regiment was ordered down the river to Bellefontaine, it is said, he embraced the opportunity to rid himself of her, never expecting to see her again, and little dreaming that she would have the courage to follow him. But with her infant this intrepid wife and mother started alone in her canoe, and after many days of weary labor and a lonely journey of nine hundred miles she at last reached him. She afterwards remarked, when speaking of this toilsome journey down the river in search of her husband: "When I got there I was all perished away—so thin." The doctor, touched by such unexampled devotion, took her to his heart and ever after, until his death, treated her with marked respect. She always presided at his table with grace and dignity, but never abandoned her native style of dress. In 1819-20 he was stationed at Fort Edwards, now Warsaw, but the senseless ridicule of some of his brother officers, on account of his Indian wife, induced him to resign his commission. He then built a cabin, as above stated, where Keokuk is now situated, and made a claim to some land. This land he leased to parties in the neighborhood and then moved to what is now Galena, where he practiced his profession for ten years, when he returned to Keokuk. His Indian wife bore him four children: Louise, James, Mary and Sophia. Dr. Muir died suddenly of cholera in 1832, but left his property in such condition that it was wasted in vexatious litigation, and his brave and faithful wife, left friendless and penniless, became discouraged; so with her two younger children she disappeared. It is said she returned to her people on the Upper Missouri.

CIVIL GOVERNMENT FOR TERRITORY AND STATE.

After the "Black Hawk Purchase" immigration to Iowa was rapid and steady, and provisions for civil government became a necessity. Accordingly, in

1834, all the territory comprising the present states of Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota was made subject to the jurisdiction of Michigan territory. Up to this time there had been no county or other organization in what is now the state of Iowa, although one or two justices of the peace had been appointed and a post-office was established at Dubuque in 1833. In September of 1834, therefore, the territorial legislature of Michigan created two counties on the west side of the Mississippi river—Dubuque and Des Moines—separated by a line drawn westward from the foot of Rock Island. These counties were partially organized. John King was appointed chief justice of Dubuque county and Isaac Leffler of Des Moines county. Two associate justices in each county were appointed by the governor.

In October, 1835, General George W. Jones, in recent years a citizen of Dubuque, was elected a delegate to congress. April 20, 1836, through the efforts of General Jones, congress passed a bill creating the territory of Wisconsin, which went into operation July 4 of the same year. Iowa was then included in the territory of Wisconsin, of which General Henry Dodge was appointed governor; John S. Horner, secretary; Charles Dunn, chief justice; David Irwin and William C. Frazer, associate justices. September 9, 1836, a census of the new territory was taken. Des Moines county showed a population of six thousand two hundred and fifty-seven, and Dubuque county, four thousand two hundred and seventy-four.

ORGANIZATION OF THE TERRITORY OF IOWA.

The question of the organization of the territory of Iowa now began to be agitated and the desires of the people found expression in a convention held November 1, which memorialized congress to organize a territory west of the Mississippi river and to settle the boundary line between Wisconsin territory and Missouri. The territorial legislature of Wisconsin, then in session in Burlington, joined in the petition. The act was passed dividing the territory of Wisconsin and providing for the territorial government of Iowa. This was approved June 12, 1838, to take effect and be in force on and after July 3, 1838.

The new territory embraced "all that part of the present territory of Wisconsin west of the Mississippi river and west of a line drawn due north from the headwaters or sources of the Mississippi river to the territorial line." The organic act provided for a governor, whose term of office should be three years; a secretary, chief justice, two associate justices, an attorney-general and marshal, to be appointed by the president. The act also provided for the election, by the white citizens over twenty-one years of age, of a house of representatives, consisting of twenty-six members, and a council, to consist of thirteen members. It also appropriated five thousand dollars for a public library and twenty thousand dollars for the erection of public buildings. In accordance with this act President Van Buren appointed ex-Governor Robert Lucas, of Ohio, to be the first governor of the new territory; William B. Conway, of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, secretary; Charles Mason, of Burlington, chief justice; Thomas S. Wilson, of Dubuque, and Joseph Williams, of Pennsylvania, associate justices; Mr. Van Allen, of New York, attorney; Francis Gehon, of Dubuque, marshal; Augustus C. Dodge, register of the land office at Burlington; and Thomas C. Knight, receiver of the land office at Dubuque.

On the 10th of September, 1838, an election was held for members of the legislature, and on the 12th of the following November the first session of that body was held at Burlington. Both branches of this general assembly had a large democratic majority, but notwithstanding that fact General Jesse B. Brown, a whig, of Lee county, Des Moines and Dubuque counties having been previously divided into other counties, was elected president of the council, and Hon. William H. Wallace, of Henry county, also a whig, speaker of the house. The first session of the Iowa territorial legislature was a stormy and exciting one. By the organic law the governor was clothed with almost unlimited veto power. Governor Lucas was disposed to make free use of this prerogative, and the independent Hawkeyes could not quietly submit to arbitrary and absolute rule. The result was an unpleasant controversy between the executive and legislative departments. Congress, however, by act approved March 3, 1839, amended the organic law by restricting the veto power of the governor to the two-thirds rule, and took from him the power to appoint sheriffs and magistrates. Among the first important matters demanding attention was the location of the seat of government and provision for the erection of public buildings, for which congress had appropriated twenty thousand dollars. Governor Lucas, in his message, had recommended the appointment of commissioners with a view to selecting a central location. The extent of the future state of Iowa was not known or thought of. Only a strip of land fifty miles wide bordering on the Mississippi river was alienated by the Indians to the general government, and a central location meant some central point within the confines of what was known as the "Black Hawk Purchase."

The friends of a central location favored the governor's suggestion. The southern members were divided between Burlington and Mount Pleasant, but finally united on the latter as the proper location for the seat of government. The central and southern parties were very nearly equal and, in consequence, much excitement prevailed. The central party at last was triumphant and on January 21, 1839, an act was passed appointing commissioners to select a site for a permanent seat of government within the limits of Johnson county. All things considered, the location of the capital in Johnson county was a wise act. Johnson county, was, from north to south, in the geographical center of the purchase, and as near the east and west geographical center of the future state of Iowa as could then be made. The site having been determined, six hundred and forty acres were laid out by the commissioners into a town and called Iowa City. On a tract of ten acres the capitol was built, the cornerstone of which was laid with appropriate ceremonies July 4, 1840. Monday, December 6, 1841, the fourth legislature of Iowa met at the new capital, Iowa City, but the capitol building not being ready for occupancy a temporary frame house erected for the purpose was used.

In 1841 John Chambers succeeded Robert Lucas as governor, and in 1845 he gave place to James Clarke. The territorial legislature held its eighth and last session at Iowa City in 1845. James Clarke was the same year appointed the successor of Governor Chambers and was the third and last territorial governor.

THE TERRITORY BECOMES THE STATE OF IOWA.

The territory of Iowa was growing rapidly in its population and soon began to look for greater things. Her ambition was to take on the dignity and import-

ance of statehood. To the furtherance of this laudable ambition the territorial legislature passed an act, which was approved February 12, 1844, providing for the submission to the people the question of the formation of a state constitution and providing for the election of delegates to a convention to be convened for that purpose. The people voted on this at their township elections the following April. The measure was carried by a large majority and the members elected assembled in convention at Iowa City, October 7, 1844. On the 1st day of November following the convention completed its work and adopted the first state constitution. By reason of the boundary lines of the proposed state being unsatisfactorily prescribed by congress the constitution was rejected at an election held August 4, 1845, by a vote of seven thousand two hundred and fifty-six to seven thousand two hundred and thirty-five. May 4, 1846, a second convention met at Iowa City, and on the 18th of the same month another constitution prescribing the boundaries as they are now was adopted. This was accepted by the people August 3 by a vote of nine thousand four hundred and ninety-two to nine thousand and thirty-six. The new constitution was approved by congress and Iowa was admitted as a sovereign state in the Union, December 28, 1846, and the people of the territory, anticipating favorable action by congress, held an election for state officers October 26, 1846, which resulted in the choice of Ansel Briggs for governor; Elisha Cutler, Jr., secretary; James T. Fales, auditor; Morgan Reno, treasurer; and members of both branches of the legislature.

The act of congress which admitted Iowa into the Union as a state gave her the sixteenth section of every township of land in the state, or its equivalent, for the support of the schools. Also seventy-two sections of land for the completion of her public buildings; the salt springs within her limits, not exceeding twelve in number, with sections of land adjoining each other; also in consideration that her public lands should be exempt from taxation by the state the state was given five per cent. of the net proceeds of the public sale of public lands within the state.

The constitutional convention of 1846 was made up largely of democrats, and the instrument contains some of the peculiar tenets of the party of that day. All banks of issue were prohibited within the state. The state was prohibited from becoming a stockholder in any corporation for pecuniary profit, and the general assembly could only provide for private corporations by general statutes. The constitution also limited the state's indebtedness to one hundred thousand dollars. It required the general assembly to provide for schools throughout the state for at least three months during the year. Six months' previous residence of any white male citizen of the United States constituted him an elector.

At the time of the organization of the state Iowa had a population of one hundred sixteen thousand six hundred and fifty-one, as appears by the census of 1847. There were twenty-seven organized counties, and the settlements were being rapidly pushed toward the Missouri river.

The western boundary of the state, as now determined, left Iowa City too far toward the eastern and southern boundary of the state. This was conceded. Congress had appropriated five sections of land for the erection of public buildings, and toward the close of the first session of the general assembly a bill was introduced providing for the relocation of the seat of government, involving to

some extent the history of the state, which had already been discussed. This bill gave rise to much discussion, and parliamentary maneuvering almost purely sectional in its character. February 25, 1847, an act was passed to locate and establish a state university, and the unfinished public buildings at Iowa City, together with the ten acres of land on which they were situated, were granted for the use of the university, reserving their use, however, for the general assembly and state officers until other provisions were made by law.

Four sections of land and two half sections were selected in Jasper county by the commissioners for the new capital. Here a town was platted and called Monroe City. The commissioners placed town lots on sale at a cost exceeding the receipts. The town of Monroe was condemned and failed of becoming the capital. An act was passed repealing the law for the location at Monroe, and those who had bought lots there were refunded their money.

By reason of jealousies and bickerings the first general assembly failed to elect United States senators, but the second did better and sent to the upper house of congress Augustus Caesar Dodge and George Jones. The first representatives were S. Clinton Hastings, of Muscatine, and Shepard Leffler, of Des Moines county.

The question of the permanent seat of government was not settled, and in 1851 bills were introduced for its removal to Fort Des Moines. The latter locality seemed to have the support of the majority, but was finally lost in the house on the question of ordering it to a third reading. At the next session, in 1853, a bill was again introduced in the senate for the removal of the seat of government. However, the effort was a more final vote and was just barely defeated. At the next session the effort was successful, and on January 15, 1855, a bill relocating the capital of the state of Iowa within two miles of the Racoon fork of the Des Moines river and for the appointment of commissioners was approved by Governor Grimes. The site was selected in 1856 in accordance with the provisions of this act; the land being donated to the state by citizens and property holders of Des Moines. An association of citizens erected a temporary building for the capitol and leased it to the state at a nominal rent.

THE STATE BECOMES REPUBLICAN.

The passage by congress of the act organizing the territories of Kansas and Nebraska, and the provision it contained abrogating that portion of the Missouri bill that prohibited slavery north of thirty-six degrees and thirty minutes, was the beginning of a political revolution in the northern states, and in none was it more marked than in the state of Iowa. Iowa was the "first free child born of the Missouri compromise." In 1856 the republican party of the state was duly organized in full sympathy with that of other states, and at the ensuing presidential election the electoral vote of the state was cast for John C. Fremont. Another constitutional convention assembled at Iowa City in January, 1857. One of the most pressing demands for this convention grew out of the prohibition of banks under the old constitution. The practical result of this prohibition was to flood the state with every specie of "wildcat currency." The circulating medium was made a part of the free-bank paper of Illinois and Indiana. In addition to this

there was paper issued by Iowa brokers, who had obtained bank charters from the territorial legislature of Nebraska, and had their pretended headquarters at Omaha and Florence. The currency was also variegated with the bills of other states, generally such as had the best reputation where they were least known. This paper was all at two, and some of it from ten to fifteen per cent. discount. Every man who was not an expert at detecting counterfeit bills and who was not posted in the methods of banking institutions did business at his peril. The new constitution adopted at this convention made ample provisions for house banks under the supervision of the laws of the state, and other changes in the old constitution were made that more nearly met the views of the people.

The permanent seat of government was fixed at Des Moines and the university at Iowa City. The qualifications of electors remained the same as under the old constitution, but the schedule provided for a vote of the people upon a separate proposition to strike out the word "white" from the suffrage clause. Since the early organization of Iowa there had been upon the statute books a law providing that no negro, mulatto or Indian should be a competent witness in any suit at law or proceeding to which a white man was a party. The general assembly of 1856-7 repealed this law, and the new constitution contained a clause forbidding such disqualification in the future. It also provided for the education of "all youth of the state" through a system of common schools.

THE CAPITAL REMOVED TO DES MOINES.

October 19, 1857, Governor Grimes issued a proclamation declaring the city of Des Moines to be the capital of the state of Iowa. The removal of the archives and offices was commenced at once and continued through the fall. It was an undertaking of no small magnitude. There was not a mile of railroad to facilitate the work and the season was unusually disagreeable. Rain, snow and other accompaniments increased the difficulties, and it was not until December that the last of the effects—the safe of the state treasurer, loaded on two large "bobsleds," drawn by ten yoke of oxen—was deposited in the new capitol. Thus Iowa City ceased to be the capital of the state after four territorial legislatures, six state legislatures and three constitutional conventions had held their regular sessions there.

In 1870 the general assembly made an appropriation and provided for a board of commissioners to commence work of building a new capitol. The cornerstone was laid with appropriate ceremonies November 23, 1871. The estimated cost of the building was two million five hundred thousand dollars, and the structure was finished and occupied in 1884, the dedicatory exercises being held in January of that year. Hon. John A. Kasson delivered the principal address. The state capitol is classic in style, with a superstructure of buff limestone. It is three hundred and sixty-three feet in length, two hundred and forty-seven feet in width, with a central dome rising to the height of two hundred and seventy-five feet. At the time of completion it was only surpassed by the capitol building of the state of New York, in Albany.

CLIMATE.

In former years considerable objection was made to the prevalence of high winds in Iowa, which is somewhat greater than in the states south and east. But

climatic changes have lessened their grievance. The air, in fact, is pure and generally bracing; so during the winter. Thunderstorms are also more violent in this state than in those of the east and south, but not near so much so as toward the mountains. As elsewhere in the northwestern states, easterly winds bring rain and snow, while westerly ones clear the sky. While the highest temperature occurs in August, the month of July averages the hottest and January the coldest. The mean temperature of April and October nearly corresponds to the mean temperature of the year, as well as to the seasons of spring and fall, while that of summer and winter is best represented by August and December. "Indian summer" is delightful and well prolonged.

TOPOGRAPHY.

The state lies wholly within and comprises a part of a vast plain. There are no mountains and scarcely any hilly country within its borders; for the highest point is but one thousand two hundred feet above the lowest point; these two points are nearly three hundred miles apart, and the whole state is traversed by gently-flowing rivers. We thus find there is a good degree of propriety in regarding the whole state as belonging to a great plain, the lowest point of which within its borders, the southeastern corner of the state, is only four hundred and forty-four feet above the level of the sea. The average height of the whole state above the level of the sea is not far from eight hundred feet, although it is over a thousand miles from the nearest ocean. These remarks are, of course, to be understood as only applying to the state at large or as a whole. On examining its surface in detail we find a great diversity of surface by the formation of valleys out of the general level, which have been evolved by the actions of streams during the unnumbered years of the terrace epoch. These river valleys are deepest in the northwestern part of the state, and consequently it is there that the country has the greatest diversity of surface and its physical features are most strongly marked.

It is said that ninety-five per cent. of the surface of Iowa is capable of a high state of cultivation. The soil is justly famous for its fertility, and there is probably no equal area of the earth's surface that contains so little untillable land or whose soil has so high an average of fertility.

LAKES AND STREAMS.

The largest of Iowa's lakes are Spirit Lake and Okoboji, in Dickinson county; Clear Lake, in Cerro Gordo county, and Storm Lake, in Buena Vista county. Its rivers consist of the Mississippi and Missouri, the Chariton, Grand, Platte, One Hundred and Two, Nodaway, Nishabotany, Boyer, Soldier, Little Sioux, Floyd, Rock, Big Sioux, Cedar, Wapsipunicon, Turkey and Upper Iowa.

IOWA AND THE CIVIL WAR.

Iowa was born a free state. Her people abhorred the "peculiar institution" of slavery, and by her record in the war between the states proved herself truly loyal to her institutions and the maintenance of the Union. By joint resolution in the general assembly of the state in 1857 it was declared that the state of

Iowa was "bound to maintain the union of these states by all the means in her power." The same year the state furnished a block of marble for the Washington monument at the national capital and by order of the legislature there was inscribed on its enduring surface the following: "Iowa—Her affections, like the rivers of her borders, flow to an inseparable Union." The time was now come when these declarations of fidelity and attachment to the nation were to be put to a practical test. There was no state in the Union more vitally interested in the question of national unity than Iowa. The older states, both north and south, had representatives in her citizenship. Iowans were practically immigrants bound to those older communities by the most sacred ties of blood and most enduring recollections of early days. The position of Iowa as a state, geographically, made the dismemberment of the Union a matter of serious concern. Within her borders were two of the great navigable rivers of the country, and the Mississippi had been for years its highway to the markets of the world. The people could not entertain the thought that its navigation should pass to the control of a foreign nation. But more than this was to be feared. The consequence of introducing and recognizing in our national system the principle of secession or disintegration of the states from the Union. "That the nation possessed no constitutional power to coerce a seceding state," as uttered by James Buchanan in his last annual message, was received by the people of Iowa with humiliation and distrust. And in the presidential campaign of 1860, when Abraham Lincoln combated with all the force of his matchless logic and rhetoric this monstrous political heresy, the issue was clearly drawn between the north and the south, and it became manifest to many that in the event of the election of Lincoln to the presidency war would follow between the states. The people of Iowa nursed no hatred toward any section of the country, but were determined to hold such opinions upon questions of public interest, and vote for such men as to them seemed for the general good, uninfluenced by any threat of violence or civil war. So it was that they anxiously awaited the expiring hours of the Buchanan administration and looked to the incoming president as to an expected deliverer that should rescue the nation from the hands of traitors and the control of those whose resistance invited her destruction. The firing upon the flag at Fort Sumpter aroused a burning indignation throughout the loyal states of the republic, and nowhere more intense than in Iowa. And when the proclamation of the president was published, April 15, 1861, calling for seventy-five thousand citizen soldiers to "maintain the honor, the integrity and the existence of our national union, and the perpetuity of popular government," they were more than willing to respond to the call. Party lines gave way, and for a while, at least, party spirit was hushed and the cause of our common country was supreme in the affections of the people. Fortunate indeed was the state at this crisis in having a truly representative man as executive of the state. Thoroughly honest and as equally earnest, wholly imbued with the enthusiasm of the hour, and fully aroused to the importance of the crisis and the magnitude of the struggle upon which the people were entering, with an indomitable will under control of a strong common sense, Samuel J. Kirkwood was, indeed, a worthy chief to organize and direct the energies of the people in what was before them. Within thirty days after the date of the president's call for troops the first Iowa regiment was mustered into

service of the United States, a second regiment was in camp ready for the service and the general assembly of the state was convened in special session and had, by joint resolution, solemnly pledged every resource of men and money to the national cause. So urgent were the offers of companies that the governor conditionally accepted enough additional companies to compose two regiments more. These were soon accepted by the secretary of war. Near the close of May the adjutant-general of the state reported that one hundred and seventy companies had been tendered the governor to serve against the enemies of the Union. The question was eagerly asked: "Which of us will be allowed to go?" It seemed as if Iowa was monopolizing the honors of the period and would send the largest part of the seventy-five thousand wanted from the whole north. There was much difficulty and considerable delay experienced in fitting the first three regiments for the field. For the first regiment a complete outfit of clothing was extemporized, partly by the volunteer labor of loyal women in the different towns, from material of various colors and qualities obtained within the limits of the state. The same was done in part for the second infantry. Meantime an extra session of the general assembly had been called by the governor to convene on the 15th of May. With but little delay that body authorized a loan of eight hundred thousand dollars to meet the extraordinary expenses incurred and to be incurred by the executive department in consequence of the emergency. A wealthy merchant of the state, ex-Governor Merrill, immediately took from the governor a contract to supply a complete outfit of clothing for three regiments organized, agreeing to receive, should the governor so elect, his pay therefore in the state bonds at par. This contract he executed to the letter, and a portion of the clothing was delivered at Keokuk, the place at which the troops had rendezvoused, in exactly one month from the day in which the contract had been entered into. This clothing was delivered to the soldiers, but was subsequently condemned by the government, for the reason that its color was gray, and blue had been adopted as the color to be worn by the national troops. Other states had also clothed their troops, sent forward under the first call of President Lincoln, with gray uniforms, but it was soon found that the Confederate forces were also clothed in gray, and that color was at once abandoned for the Union soldier.

At the beginning of the war the population of Iowa included about one hundred and fifty thousand men presumably liable to render military service. The state raised for general service thirty-nine regiments of infantry, nine regiments of cavalry and four companies of artillery, composed of three years' men, and four regiments and one battalion of infantry composed of one hundred days' men. The original enlistments in these various organizations, including one thousand seven hundred and twenty-seven men raised by draft, numbered about sixty-nine thousand. The reenlistments, including upwards of seven thousand veterans, numbered nearly eight thousand. The enlistments in the regular army and navy and organizations of other states will, if added, raise the total upwards of eighty thousand. The number of men who, under special enlistments and as militia, took part at different times in the operations of the exposed borders of the state was probably five thousand.

Every loyal state of the Union had many women who devoted much time and great labor toward relieving the wants of our sick and wounded soldiery, but for

Iowa can be claimed the honor of inaugurating the great charitable movement, which was so successfully supported by the noble women of the north. Mrs. Harlan, wife of Hon. James Harlan, United States senator, was the first woman of the country among those moving in high circles of society who personally visited the army and ministered to the wants of the defenders of her country. In many of her visits to the army Mrs. Harlan was accompanied by Mrs. Joseph T. Fales, wife of the first state auditor of Iowa. No words can describe the good done, the lives saved and the deaths made easy by the host of noble women of Iowa, whose names it would take a volume to print. Every county, every town, every neighborhood had these true heroines, whose praise can never fully be known till the final rendering of all accounts of the deeds done in the body. The contributions throughout the state to "sanitary fairs" during the war were enormous, amounting into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Highly successful fairs were held in the principal cities and towns of the state, which all added to the work and praise of the "Florence Nightingales" of Iowa, whose heroic sacrifices have won for them the undying gratitude of the nation. It is said to the honor and credit of Iowa, that while many of the loyal states, older and larger in population and wealth, incurred heavy state debts for the purpose of fulfilling their obligations to the general government of Iowa, while she was foremost in duty, while she promptly discharged all her obligations to her sister states and the Union, found herself at the close of the war without any material additions to her pecuniary liabilities incurred before the war commenced. Upon final settlement after restoration of peace her claims upon the federal government were found to be fully equal to the amount of her bonds issued and sold during the war to provide means for raising and equipping her troops sent into the field and to meet the inevitable demands upon her treasury in consequence of the war. It was in view of these facts that Iowa had done more than her duty during the war, and that without incurring any considerable indebtedness, and that her troops had fought most gallantly on nearly every battlefield of the war, that the Newark (New Jersey) Advertiser and other prominent eastern journals called Iowa the "Model State of the Republic."

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

School teachers were among the first immigrants to Iowa. This gives point to the fact that the people of Iowa have ever taken a deep interest in education, and in this direction no state in the Union has a better record. The system of free public schools was planted by the early settlers, and it has expanded and improved until now it is one of the most complete, comprehensive and liberal in the country. The lead-mining regions of the state were first to be settled by the whites, and the hardy pioneers provided the means for the education of their children even before they had comfortable dwellings for themselves. Wherever a little settlement was made the schoolhouse was the first thing undertaken by the settlers in a body, and the rude, primitive structures of the early times only disappeared when the communities increased in population and wealth and were able to replace them with more commodious and comfortable buildings. Perhaps in no single instance has the magnificent progress of the state of Iowa been more marked and rapid than in her common school system and in her schoolhouses.

Today the schoolhouses which everywhere dot the broad and fertile prairies of Iowa are unsurpassed by those of any other state in the great Union. More especially is this true in all her cities and villages, where liberal and lavish appropriations have been voted by a generous people for the erection of large, commodious and elegant buildings, furnished with all the modern improvements, and costing from ten thousand dollars to sixty thousand dollars each. The people of the states have expended more than twenty-five million dollars for the erection of public school buildings, which stand as monuments of magnificence.

THE FIRST SCHOOL BUILDING AT DUBUQUE.

Dubuque saw within its limits the first school building erected in the state of Iowa, which was built by J. L. Langworthy and a few other miners in the fall of 1833. When it was completed George Cabbage was employed as teacher during the winter of 1833-4, and thirty-five pupils answered to his roll-call. Barrett Whittemore taught the school term and had twenty-five pupils in attendance. Mrs. Caroline Dexter commenced teaching in Dubuque in March, 1836. She was the first female teacher there, and probably the first in Iowa. In 1839 Thomas H. Benton, Jr., afterwards for ten years superintendent of public instruction, opened an English and classic school in Dubuque. The first tax for the support of schools at Dubuque was levied in 1840. A commodious log schoolhouse was built at Burlington in 1834 and was one of the first buildings erected in that settlement. A Mr. Johnson taught the first school in the winter of 1834-5. In Scott county, in the winter of 1835-6, Simon Crazen taught a four months' term of school in the house of J. B. Chamberlain. In Muscatine county the first term of school was taught by George Baumgardner, in the spring of 1837. In 1839 a log schoolhouse was erected in Muscatine, which served for a long time as schoolhouse, meeting house and public hall. The first school in Davenport was taught in 1838. In Fairfield, Miss Clarissa Sawyer, James F. Chambers and Mrs. Reed taught school in 1839.

Johnson county was an entire wilderness when Iowa City was located as the capital of the territory of Iowa, May, 1839. The first sale of lots took place August 18, 1839, and before January 1, 1840, about twenty families had settled in the town. During the same year Jesse Berry opened a school in a small frame building he had erected on what is now known as College street.

In Monroe county the first settlement was made in 1834 by John R. Gray about two miles from the present site of Eddyville, and in the summer of 1844 a log schoolhouse was built by Gray and others, and the first school was opened by Miss Urania Adams. About a year after the first log cabin was built at Oskaloosa, a log schoolhouse was built, in which school was opened by Samuel W. Caldwell in 1844.

At Fort Des Moines, now the capital of the state, the first school was taught by Lewis Whitten, clerk of the district court, in the winter of 1846-7, in one of the rooms on "Coon Row," built for barracks.

The first school in Pottawattamie county was opened by George Green, a Mormon, at Council Point, prior to 1849, and until about 1854 nearly all the teachers in that vicinity were Mormons.

The first school in Decorah was taught in 1855 by Cyrus C. Carpenter, since governor of the state. During the first twenty years of the history of Iowa the log schoolhouse prevailed, and in 1861 there were eight hundred and ninety-three of these primitive structures in use for school purposes in the state. Since that time they have been gradually disappearing. In 1865 there were seven hundred and ninety-six; in 1870, three hundred and thirty-six; in 1875, one hundred and twenty-one, and today there is probably not a vestige of one remaining.

In 1846, the year of Iowa's admission as a state, there were twenty thousand pupils of schools out of one hundred thousand inhabitants. About four hundred school districts had been organized. In 1850 there were twelve hundred and in 1857 the number increased to three thousand two hundred and sixty-five. The system of graded schools was inaugurated in 1849, and now schools in which more than one teacher is employed are universally graded. Teachers' institutes were organized early in the history of the state. The first official mention of them occurs in the annual report of Hon. Thomas H. Benton, Jr., made December 2, 1850, who said: "An institution of this character was organized a few years ago, composed of the teachers of the mineral regions of Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa. An association of teachers has also been formed in the county of Henry, and an effort was made in October last to organize a regular institution in the county of Jones."

Funds for the support of public schools are derived in various ways. The sixteenth section of every congressional township was set apart by the general government for school purposes, being one-thirty-sixth part of all the lands in the state. The minimum price of all these lands was fixed at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. Congress also made an additional donation to the state of five hundred thousand acres and an appropriation of five per cent. on all the sales of public lands to the school funds. The state gives to this fund the proceeds of the sales of all lands which escheat to it, the proceeds of all fines for the violation of liquor and criminal laws. The money derived from these sources constitute the permanent school fund of the state, which cannot be diverted to any other purpose. The penalties collected by the courts in fines for forfeitures go to the school fund in the counties according to their request and the counties loan the money to the individuals for long terms at eight per cent. interest on security of lands valued at three times the value of the loan, exclusive of all buildings and improvements thereon. The interest on these loans is paid into the state treasury and becomes available school funds of the state. The counties are responsible to the state for all money so loaned, and the state is likewise responsible to the school fund for all money transferred to the counties. The interest on these loans is appropriated by the state auditor semi-annually to the several counties of the state in proportion to the number of persons between the ages of five and twenty-one years of age. The counties also levy a tax for school purposes, which is apportioned to the several district townships in the same way. A district tax is also levied for the same purpose. The money arising from these several sources constitutes the support of the public schools, and is sufficient to enable every sub-district in the state to afford from six to nine months' school every year. The burden of district taxation is thus lightened and the efficiency of the schools increased. The taxes levied for the support of the

schools are self-imposed. Under the admirable school laws of the state, no taxes can be legally assessed or collected for the erection of schoolhouses until they have been ordered by the election of a school district at a school meeting legally called. The teachers' and contingent funds are determined by the board of directors under certain legal instructions. These boards are elected annually. The only exception to this method of levying taxes for school purposes is the county tax, which is determined by the county board of supervisors. In each county a teachers' institute is held annually under the direction of the county superintendent, the state distributing annually a sum of money to each of these institutes.

STATE UNIVERSITY.

By act of congress, approved July 20, 1840, the secretary of the treasury was authorized to "set apart and reserve from sale, out of any public lands within the territory of Iowa not otherwise claimed or appropriated, a quantity of land not exceeding two entire townships for the use and support of a university within said territory when it becomes a state." The first general assembly, therefore, by act approved February 25, 1847, established the "State University of Iowa" at Iowa City, then the capital of the state. The public buildings and other property at Iowa City were appropriated to the university, but the legislative sessions and state offices were to be held in them until a permanent location for a capital was made. The control and management of the university were committed to a board of fifteen trustees, and five were to be chosen every two years. The superintendent of public instruction was made president of this board. The organic act provided that the university should never be under the control of any religious organization whatever, and that as soon as the revenue from the grant and donations should amount to two thousand dollars a year the university should commence and continue the instruction free of charge of fifty students annually. Of course, the organization of the university was impracticable so long as the seat of government was retained at Iowa City.

In January, 1849, two branches of the university and three normal schools were established. The branches were located at Fairfield and Dubuque and were placed upon an equal footing, in respect to funds and all other matters, with the university of Iowa at Iowa City. At Fairfield the board of directors organized and erected a building at a cost of two thousand five hundred dollars. This was nearly destroyed by a hurricane the following year, but was rebuilt more substantially by the citizens of Fairfield. This branch never received any aid from the state and, January 24, 1853, at the request of the board, the general assembly terminated its relations to the state. The branch at Dubuque had only a nominal existence. The normal schools were located at Andrew, Oskaloosa and Mount Pleasant. Each was to be governed by a board of seven trustees, to be appointed by the trustees of the university. Each was to receive five hundred dollars annually from the income of the university fund, upon condition that they should educate eight common school teachers free of charge for tuition, and that the citizens should contribute an equal sum for the erection of the requisite buildings. The school at Andrew was organized November 21, 1849, with Samuel Ray as principal. A building was commenced and over one thousand dollars

expended on it, but it was never completed. The school at Oskaloosa was started in the courthouse, September 13, 1852, under the charge of Professor G. M. Drake and wife. A two-story brick building was erected in 1853 costing two thousand four hundred and seventy-three dollars. The school at Mount Pleasant was never organized. Neither of these schools received any aid from the university fund, but in 1857 the legislature appropriated one thousand dollars for each of the two schools, and repealed the laws authorizing in payment to them of money from the university fund. From that time they made no further effort to continue in operation.

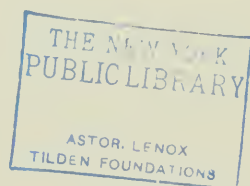
. From 1847 to 1855 the board of trustees of the university was kept full by regular elections by the legislature, and the trustees held frequent meetings, but there was no actual organization of the university. In March, 1855, it was partially opened for a term of sixteen weeks. July 16, 1855, Amos Dean, of Albany, New York, was elected president but never fully entered into its duties. The university was again opened in September, 1855, and continued in operation until June, 1856, under Professors Johnson, Van Valkenberg and Griffin. The faculty was then reorganized with some changes, and the university was again opened on the third Wednesday of September, 1856. There were one hundred and twenty-four students (eighty-three males and forty-one females) in attendance during the years of 1856-57, and the first regular catalogue was published. At a special meeting of the board, September 22, 1857, the honorary degree of bachelor of arts was conferred on D. Franklin Wells. This was the first degree conferred by the university.

By the constitution of 1857 it was provided that there be no branches of the State university. In December of that year the old capitol building was turned over to the trustees of the university. In 1858 ten thousand dollars were appropriated for the erection of a students' boarding hall. The board closed the university April 27, 1858, on account of insufficient funds and dismissed all the faculty with the exception of Chancellor Dean. At the same time a resolution was passed excluding females. This was soon after reversed by the general assembly. The university was reopened September 19, 1860, and from this time the real existence of the university dates. Chancellor Dean had resigned before this and Silas Totten, D. D., LL. D., was elected president at a salary of two thousand dollars. August 19, 1862, he resigned, and was succeeded by Oliver M. Spencer. President Spencer was granted leave of absence for fifteen months to visit Europe. Professor Nathan R. Leonard was elected president pro tem. President Spencer resigning, James Black, D. D., vice-president of Washington and Jefferson college, of Pennsylvania, was elected president. He entered upon his duties in September, 1868.

The law department was established in June, 1868, and soon after the Iowa Law School, at Des Moines, which had been in successful operation for three years, was transferred to Iowa City and merged in the department. The medical department was established in 1869, and since April 11, 1870, the government of the university has been in the hands of a board of regents. The university has gained a reputation as one of the leading educational institutions of the west, and this position it is determined to maintain.



SPENCER PUBLIC LIBRARY



STATE NORMAL COLLEGE.

Cedar Falls, one of the chief cities of Black Hawk county, holds the State Normal school, which is an institution for the training of teachers and is doing most excellent work.

STATE NORMAL COLLEGE.

By act of the legislature, approved March 23, 1858, the State Agricultural College and Farm was established at Ames, in Story county. In 1862 congress granted two hundred and forty thousand acres of land for endowment of schools of agriculture and the mechanical arts. In 1864 the general assembly voted twenty thousand dollars for the erection of the college buildings. In 1866 ninety-one thousand dollars more was appropriated for the same purpose. The building was completed in 1868, and the institution was opened the following year. The institution is modeled to some extent after the Michigan Agricultural college. In this school of learning admission is free to all students of the state over sixteen years of age. Students are required to work on the farm two and a half hours each day. The faculty is of a very high character and the college one of the best of its kind. The sale of spirits, wine or beer is prohibited within three miles of the farm. The current expenses of this institution are paid by the income from the permanent endowment. Besides the institution here mentioned there are many others throughout the state. Amity college is located at College Springs, in Page county, Burlington university at Burlington, Drake university at Des Moines, Iowa college at Grinnell, etc.

STATE INSTITUTIONS.

SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF.

The legislature established the institution for the deaf and dumb January 24, 1855, and located it at Iowa City. A great effort was made for its removal to Des Moines, but it was finally located at Council Bluffs. In 1868 an appropriation was made by the legislature of one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars for the erection of new buildings and ninety acres of land were selected south of the city. October, 1870, the main building and one wing was completed and occupied. In February, 1877, fire destroyed the main building and the east wing. About one hundred and fifty students were in attendance at that time. There is a regular appropriation for this institution of twenty-two dollars per capita per month for nine months of the year for the payment of officers' and teachers' salaries and for a support fund. The institution is free to all of school age too deaf to be educated in the common schools, sound in mind, free from immoral habits and from contagious and offensive diseases. No charge for board or tuition. The session of the school begins the first day of October and ends the last day of June of each year.

COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND.

In 1852 Professor Samuel Bacon, himself blind, established a school for the instruction of the blind at Keokuk. He was the first person in the state to agitate

a public institution for the blind, and in 1853 the institute was adopted by the legislature, by statute, approved January 18, 1853, and removed to Iowa City. During the first term twenty-three pupils were admitted. Professor Bacon was a fine scholar, an economical manager and in every way adapted to his position. During his administration the institution was, in a great measure, self-supporting by the sale of articles of manufacture by the blind pupils. There was also a charge of twenty-five dollars as an admission fee for each pupil. In 1858 the citizens of Vinton, Benton county, donated a quarter section of land and five thousand dollars for the establishment of the asylum at that place. May 8 of the same year the trustees met at Vinton and made arrangements for securing the donation, and adopted a plan for the erection of a suitable building. In 1860 the contract for the building was let for ten thousand four hundred and twenty dollars, and in August, 1862, the goods and furniture were removed from Iowa City to Vinton and in the fall of the same year the school was opened with twenty-four pupils. There is a regular appropriation of twenty-two dollars per capita per month for nine months of each year to cover support and maintenance. The school term begins on the first Wednesday in September and usually ends about the 1st of June. Applicants may be admitted at any time and are at liberty to go home at any time their parents may send for them. The department of music is supplied with a large number of pianos, one pipe organ, several cabinet organs and a sufficient number of violins, guitars, bass viols and brass instruments. Every student capable of receiving it is given a complete course in this department. In the industrial department the girls are required to learn knitting, crocheting, fancy work, hand and machine sewing; the boys, netting, broom-making, mattress-making and cane-seating. Those of either sex who desire may learn carpet-weaving.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

The hospital for the insane was established by an act of the legislature January 24, 1855. The location for the institution was selected at Mount Pleasant, Henry county, and five hundred thousand dollars appropriated for the buildings, which were commenced in October of that year. One hundred patients were admitted within three months after it was opened. The legislature of 1867-68 provided measures for an additional hospital for the insane, and an appropriation of one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars was made for the purpose. Independence was selected by the commissioners as the most desirable location and three hundred and twenty acres were secured one mile from the town on the west side of the Wapsipinecon river and about a mile from its banks. The hospital was opened May 1, 1873. The amount allowed for the support of these institutions is twelve dollars per month for each patient. All expenses of the hospital, except for special purposes, are paid from the sum so named, and the amount is charged to the counties from which the patients are sent.

SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' HOME.

The Soldiers' Orphans' home is located at Davenport, and was originated by Mrs. Anne Whittenmeyer during the late rebellion of the states. The noble-hearted woman called a convention at Muscatine, September 7, 1863, for the pur-

pose of devising means for the education and support of the orphan children of Iowa whose fathers lost their lives in the defense of their country's honor. The public interest in the movement was so great that all parts of the state were largely represented, and an association was organized, called the Iowa State Orphan Asylum. The first meeting of the trustees was held February 14, 1864, at Des Moines, when Governor Kirkwood suggested that a home for the disabled soldiers should be connected with the asylum, and arrangements were made for collecting funds. At the next meeting, in Davenport, the following month, a committee was appointed to lease a suitable building, solicit donations and procure suitable furniture. This committee obtained a large brick building in Lawrence, Van Buren county, and engaged Mr. Fuller, of Mount Pleasant, as steward. The work of preparation was conducted so vigorously that July 13 following the executive committee announced that it was ready to receive children. Within three weeks twenty-one were admitted, and in a little more than six months seventy were in the home. The home was sustained by voluntary contributions until 1866, when it was taken charge of by the state. The legislature appropriated ten dollars per month for each orphan actually supported and provided for the establishment of three homes. The one in Cedar Falls was organized in 1865; an old hotel building was fitted up for it, and by the following January there were ninety-six inmates. In October, 1869, the home was removed to a large brick building about two miles west of Cedar Falls, and was very prosperous for several years, but in 1876 the legislature devoted this building to the State Normal school. The same year the legislature also devoted the buildings and grounds of the Soldiers' Orphans' home at Glenwood, Mills county, to an institution for the support of feeble-minded children. It also provided for the removal of the soldiers' orphans' at Glenwood and Cedar Falls homes to the one located at Davenport. There is in connection with this institution a school building, pleasant, commodious and well lighted, and it is the policy of the board to have the course of instruction of a high standard. A kindergarten is operated for the very young pupils. The age limit beyond which children are kept in the home is sixteen years. Fewer than twenty per cent. remain to the age limit. A library of well-selected juvenile literature is a source of pleasure and profitable entertainment to the children, as from necessity their pleasures and pastimes are somewhat limited. It is the aim to provide the children with plenty of good, comfortable clothing, and to teach them to take good care of the same. Their clothing is all manufactured at the home, the large girls assisting in the work. The table is well supplied with a good variety of plain, wholesome food and a reasonable amount of luxuries. The home is now supported by a regular appropriation of twelve dollars per month for each inmate, and the actual transportation charges of the inmates to and from the institution. Each county is liable to the state for the support of its children to the extent of six dollars per month, except soldiers' orphans, who are cared for at the expense of the state.

FEEBLE-MINDED CHILDREN.

An act of the general assembly, approved March 17, 1876, provided for the establishment of an asylum for feeble-minded children at Glenwood, Mills county, and the buildings and grounds of the Soldiers' Orphans' home were taken for that

purpose. The asylum was placed under the management of three trustees, one of whom should be a resident of Mills county. The institution was opened September 1, 1876. By November, 1877, the number of pupils were eighty-seven. The purpose of this institution is to provide special methods of training for that class of children deficient in mind or marked with peculiarities as to deprive them of the benefits and privileges provided for children with normal faculties. The object is to make the child as nearly self-supporting as practicable, and to approach as nearly as possible the movements and actions of normal people. It further aims to provide a home for those who are not susceptible of mental culture, relying wholly on others to supply their simple wants.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS.

The industrial school for boys is established at Eldora. By act, approved March 31, 1868, the general assembly established a reform school at Salem, Henry county, and provided for a board of trustees from each congressional district. The trustees immediately leased the property of the Iowa Manual Labor Institute, and October 7 following the school received its first inmate. The law at first provided for the admission of both sexes under eighteen years of age. The trustees were directed to organize a separate school for girls. In 1872 the school for boys was permanently located at Eldora, Hardin county, and some time later the one for girls at Mitchellville. There is appropriated for these schools and their support the sum of thirteen dollars monthly for each boy and sixteen dollars monthly for each girl inmate. The object of the institution is the reformation of juvenile delinquents. It is not a prison. It is a compulsory educational institution. It is a school where wayward and criminal boys and girls are brought under the influence of Christian instructors and taught by example as well as precept the better ways of life. It is a training school, where the moral, intellectual and industrial education of the child is carried on at one and the same time.

PENAL INSTITUTIONS.

The governor by an act, approved January 25, 1839, was authorized to draw the sum of twenty thousand dollars, appropriated by an act of congress in 1838, for public buildings in the territory of Iowa and establish a state penal institution. The act provided for a board of directors, consisting of three persons, to be elected by the legislature, who should superintend the building of a penitentiary to be located within a mile of the public square in the town of Fort Madison, Lee county, provided that the latter deeded a suitable tract of land for the purpose, also a spring or stream of water for the use of the penitentiary. The citizens of Fort Madison executed a deed of ten acres of land for the building. The work was soon entered upon, and the main building and warden's house were completed in the fall of 1841. It continued to meet with additions and improvements until the arrangements were all completed according to the designs of the directors. The labor of the convicts is let out to contractors, who pay the state a stipulated sum for services rendered, the state furnishing shops and necessary supervision in preserving order.

PENITENTIARY AT ANAMOSA.

The first steps toward the erection of a penitentiary at Anamosa, Jones county, were taken in 1872, and by act of the general assembly, approved April 23, 1884, three commissioners were selected to construct and control the prison buildings. They met on the 4th of June following and chose a site donated by the citizens of Anamosa. Work on the building was commenced September 28, 1873. In 1873 a number of prisoners were transferred from the Fort Madison prison to Anamosa. The labor of the convicts at the penitentiary was employed in the erection and completion of the buildings. This institution has a well-appointed and equipped department for female prisoners; also a department for the care of the criminal insane.

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

A state historical society in connection with the university was provided for by act of the general assembly January 25, 1857. At the commencement an appropriation of two hundred and fifty dollars was made, to be expended in collecting and preserving a library of books, pamphlets, papers, paintings and other materials illustrative of the history of Iowa. There was appropriated five hundred dollars per annum to maintain this society. Since its organization the society has published three different quarterly magazines. From 1863 to 1874 it published the *Annals of Iowa*, twelve volumes, now called the first series. From 1855 to 1902 it published the *Iowa Historical Record*, eighteen volumes. From 1903 to 1907 the society has published the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics*, now in its fifth volume. Numerous special publications have been issued by the society, the most important of which are the *Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of Iowa*, in seven volumes. The *Executive Journal of Iowa*, 1838-1843, and the *Lucas Journal of the War of 1812*.

IOWA SOLDIERS' HOME.

The Iowa Soldiers' home was built and occupied in 1888 at Marshalltown. The first year it had one hundred and forty inmates. In 1907 there were seven hundred and ninety-four inmates, including one hundred and twelve women. The United States government pays to the state of Iowa the sum of one hundred dollars per year for each male inmate of the soldiers' home who served in any war in which the United States was engaged, which amount is used as part of the support fund of the institution. Persons who have property or means of support, or who draw a pension sufficient therefor, will not be admitted to the home; and if after admission an inmate of the home shall receive a pension or other means sufficient for his support, or shall recover his health so as to enable him to support himself, he will be discharged from the home. Regular appropriation by the state is fourteen dollars per month for each member and ten dollars per month for each employe not a member of the home.

OTHER STATE INSTITUTIONS.

There are at Clarinda and Cherokee, state hospitals for the insane and one at Knoxville for the inebriate.

It is strange but true that in the great state of Iowa, with more than sixty per cent. of her population engaged in agricultural pursuits and stock-raising, it was not until the year 1900 that a department of the state government was created in the interests of and for the promotion of agricultural, animal industry, horticulture, manufactures, etc. The Iowa department of agriculture was created by act of the twenty-eighth general assembly. In 1892 the Iowa geological survey was established, and the law which provided therefor outlined its work to be that of making "a complete survey of the natural resources of the state in the natural and scientific aspects, including the determination of the characteristics of the various formations and the investigation of the different ores, coal, clay, building stones and other useful materials." It is intended to cooperate with the United States geological survey in the making of topographical maps of those parts of the state whose coal resources make such maps particularly desirable and useful. The State Agricultural society is one of the great promoters of the welfare of the people. The society holds an annual fair, which has occurred at Des Moines since 1878. At its meeting subjects are discussed of the highest interest and value, and these proceedings are published at the expense of the state.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSTITUTION OF IOWA.

BY JOHN C. PARISH.

In the year 1907 the state of Iowa closed the first half century of existence under the constitution of 1857. In April, 1906, the general assembly, looking forward to the suitable celebration of so important an anniversary, passed an act appropriating seven hundred and fifty dollars, to be used by the State Historical Society of Iowa in a commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the constitution of 1857. It was eminently desirable that the celebration should occur at Iowa City, for it was the place, then the capital of the state, that the constitutional convention of 1857 was held. And it was particularly fitting that the exercises should be placed under the auspices of the State Historical Society of Iowa, for the same year, 1857, marks the birth of the society. While the convention was drafting the fundamental law of the state in a room on the lower floor of the old stone capitol, the sixth general assembly in the legislative halls upstairs in the same building passed an act providing for the organization of a state historical society. Thus the event of 1907 became a celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the State Historical society as well as a commemoration of the semi-centennial of the constitution of 1857.

In due time plans were matured for a program covering four days, beginning on Tuesday, March 19, and closing on Friday, March 22, 1907. It consisted of addresses by men of prominent reputation in constitutional and historical lines, together with conferences on state historical subjects. On Tuesday evening Professor Andrew C. McLaughlin, of Chicago university, delivered an address upon "A Written Constitution in Some of Its Historical Aspects." He dwelt in a scholarly way upon the growth of written constitutions, showing the lines along which their historical development has progressed.

The speaker of Wednesday was Professor Eugene Wambaugh, of the Harvard Law school, one of the leading authorities in the country upon questions of constitutional law, and formerly a member of the faculty of the College of Law of the University of Iowa. Professor Wambaugh, taking for his subject "The Relation Between General History and the History of Law," outlined the history of the long rivalry between the civil law of Rome and the common law in their struggle for supremacy, both in the old world and the new. In closing he referred to the constitution of Iowa as typical of the efforts of the American people to embody in fixed form the principles of right and justice.

Thursday morning was given over to a conference on the teaching of history. Professor Isaac A. Loos, of the State University of Iowa, presided, and members of the faculties of a number of colleges and high schools of the state were present and participated in the program. In the afternoon the conference of historical societies convened, Dr. F. E. Horack, of the State Historical Society of Iowa, presiding. Reports were read from the historical department at Des Moines and from nearly all of the local historical societies in the state. Methods and policies were discussed and much enthusiasm was aroused looking toward the better preservation of the valuable materials of local history.

The history of the Mississippi valley is replete with events of romantic interest. From the time of the early French voyagers and explorers, who paddled down the waters of the tributaries from the north, down to the days of the sturdy pioneers of Anglo-Saxon blood, who squatted upon the fertile soil and staked out their claims on the prairies, there attaches an interest that is scarcely equaled in the annals of America. On Thursday evening Dr. Reuben Gold Thwaites, superintendent of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, delivered an address upon "The Romance of Mississippi Valley History." He traced the lines of exploration and immigration from the northeast and east and drew interesting pictures of the activities in the great river valleys, when land was young and the ways full of wonder to the pioneer adventurer.

Friday's program closed the session. On this day Governor Albert B. Cummins attended and participated in the celebration. At the university armory, before a large gathering, he spoke briefly on the constitution of the United States, paying it high tribute and at the same time showing the need of amendment to fit the present day's needs. He then introduced Judge Emil McClain, of the supreme court of Iowa, who delivered the principal address of the day. Judge McClain took for his subject "The Constitutional Convention and the Issue Before it." He told of that memorable gathering at the old stone capitol in Iowa City fifty years ago, when thirty-six men met in the supreme court room to draft the fundamental law for the commonwealth.

The members of the convention of 1857 were from various occupations. The representatives of the legal profession led in numbers, with fourteen members, among whom were many men of prominence: William Penn Clarke, Edward Johnstone and J. C. Hall were there. James F. Wilson, afterwards so prominent in national politics, was a member, then only twenty-eight years of age. J. C. Hall was the only delegate who had served in either of the preceding constitutional conventions of the state, having represented Henry county in the convention of 1844. There were twelve farmers in the convention of 1857—rugged types of

these men <http://stores.ebay.com/Ancestry-Found> history of the state its elements of enduring strength. Among the remaining members were merchants, bankers and various other tradesmen. They were a representative group of men and they attacked the problems before them with characteristic pioneer vigor.

The convention of 1857 chose for its presiding officer Francis Springer, an able farmer and lawyer from Louisa county. Many were the discussions that stirred the convention. One of the first was over the proposition to move the convention bodily to Davenport or to Dubuque. The town of Iowa City, it seems, had not provided satisfactory accommodations for the delegates; and for hours the members gave vent to their displeasures and argued the question of a removal. But inertia won and the convention finally decided to remain in Iowa City and settled down to the discussion of more serious matters.

The constitution of 1846 had prohibited banking corporations in the state. But there was strong agitation for a change in this respect, and so the convention of 1857 provided for both a state bank and a system of free banks. The matter of corporations was a prominent one before the convention. So also was the question of the status of the negro. The issues were taken up with fairness and argued upon their merits. The convention was republican in the proportion of twenty-one to fifteen. The delegates had been elected on a party basis. Yet they did not allow partisanship to control their actions as members of a constituent assembly. On the 19th of January they had come together, and for a month and a half remained in session. They adjourned on March 5th, and dispersed to their homes.

That the members of the convention did their work well is evidenced by the fact that in the fifty years that have followed only four times has the constitution of 1857 been amended. Nor did these amendments embody changes, the need of which the men of 1857 could have well foreseen. The first two changes in the fundamental law were due to the changed status of the negro as a result of the Civil war. In 1882 the prohibitory amendment was passed, but it was soon declared null by the supreme court of Iowa, because of technicalities in its submission to the people, and so did not become a part of the constitution. The amendments of 1884 were concerned largely with judicial matters, and those of 1904 provided for biennial elections and increased the number of members of the house of representatives.

With these changes the work of the convention of 1857 has come down to us. Fifty years have passed and twice has the convention been the subject of a celebration. In 1882, after a quarter of a century, the surviving members met in Des Moines. Francis Springer, then an old man, was present and presided at the meeting. Out of the original thirty-six members, only twenty responded to roll call. Eight other members were alive but unable to attend; the remainder had given way to the inevitable reaper. This was in 1882. In 1907 occurred the second celebration. This time it was not a reunion of members of the convention, for only one survivor appeared upon the scene. It was rather a commemoration of the fiftieth birthday of the constitution of the state. Only one member of the convention (John H. Peters, of Manchester, Iowa,) is reported to be living.

The celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of our fundamental law was marked by a unique feature. There were present and participating in the program three pioneers of the state, a survivor of each of the three constitutional conventions. These three conventions met in 1857, in 1846, and in 1844, respectively fifty, sixty-one and sixty-three years ago. On the opening day of the celebration, J. Scott Richman appeared upon the scene. Sixty-one years ago he had come to Iowa City as a delegate to the convention of 1846. Eighty-eight years old, with patriarchal beard and slow step, he came as the only living member of the convention that framed the constitution under which Iowa entered the Union. On Thursday there came from Marion, Samuel Durham, a tall pioneer of ninety years of age, the sole survivor of Iowa's first constitutional convention, that of 1844. His memory ran back to the days of Iowa's first governor, Robert Lucas, for he had reached Iowa from Indiana in the year 1840. On the last day of the program these two old constitution-makers of 1844 and 1846 were joined by a third, John H. Peters, who had come from Delaware county as a member of the last constitutional convention fifty years ago. They sat down together at the luncheon on Friday noon and responded to toasts, with words that took the hearers back to the days when Iowa was the last stopping place of the immigrant.

Thus the celebration was brought to an end. From every point of view it was a success. Probably never again will the state see the reunion of representatives of all three constitutional conventions.

Time must soon take away these lingering pioneers of two generations ago. But the state will not soon forget their services, for they have left their monument in the fundamental law of the commonwealth.

EXPLANATORY.

Something over fifty years have come and gone since the first white man appeared, to occupy and develop the rich agricultural lands of Clay county. These have been years of vast and remarkable changes; and those who came in 1856 can scarcely realize the wonderful growth of the population, the vastness of the development made since that period. From a broad, unbroken prairie, it is now covered with churches, schools, fine homes, productive farms, live towns and a happy, prosperous people. Since that memorable date, stirring events have occurred. The Indians have laid waste to property, and destroyed it; a war, bloody and destructive, has passed over this fair land. There have been years of desolation and destruction. Had some of the vigorous minds and ready pens of the early settlers been directed to keeping a chronological journal of the passing events, to write a history of Clay county would have been comparatively an easy task. In the absence of any such data, we must rely upon such facts, figures and incidents as we may glean from those who have resided here either since its formation, or upon the meagre official records which only give but an imperfect account of the earlier times. Of those who came here in the pursuit of homes during the years of 1856 and 1857 but few are left to tell the story of their hardships, privations and dangers they encountered. The struggles, changes and vicissitudes that these fifty years evoke, are as trying to the minds as to the bodies of men. Physical and mental strength waste away beneath

the weight of accumulating years, and the memory of dates, names, and important events are forgotten in the lapse of time. The footprints of time leave their impressions and destroying agencies upon everything, and consequently it would be unreasonable to suppose that the annals, incidents and events of more than fifty years could be preserved intact and unbroken. In a history like this errors will naturally occur, however careful the writers may have been. It has been their aim and object to make as few as it was possible. To the many who aided and assisted in gathering these facts, figures, incidents and biographies the writers extend their warmest thanks.

CLAY COUNTY.

The county of Clay is twenty-four miles square, containing an area of 368,640 acres. It is located in the northwestern part of the state, being in the second tier of counties from the north, and the third from the west boundary of the state. Its soil is a rich dark-colored loam, extending in depth from two to eight feet. Underlying this rich soil is a clay subsoil, which renders it capable of withstanding either drouth or excessive rainfalls. The Little Sioux river and its many tributaries furnish abundant water and excellent drainage. In addition to the Little Sioux there are the Ocheydan, Willow, Prairie, Muddy and Henry creeks. In the eastern part of the county are several lakes, known as Lost Island lake, Swan lake, Virgin lake, Pickerell lake and Mud lake. In these lakes are found an abundance of fish of all kinds. Around these lakes and along these streams are found some of the finest and most fertile lands which Clay is known to possess. The surface of the county is undulating, divested of the many sloughs so usually found in lands of this description. The consequences are that there is very little waste land in the county. The lower lands have proven a great source of profit to the farmers, as they produce an abundance of rich and nutritious grass, which, when cut and properly cared for, makes excellent substitute for tame hay. The farmers have taken advantage of this and yearly tons of this grass have been cut, stacked and pressed, and shipped to eastern markets, realizing for the farmers handsome margins for their labor. There is a scarcity of timber, and with the exception of the extreme southwest part of the county and Gillett's Grove there is no timber, but this scarcity is supplied by a great many large and beautiful groves, which have been planted and cared for until they have grown to such a size that they not only furnish shade and adorn the farms, but furnish plenty of good firewood. The Little Sioux river is a beautiful stream, and with its serpentine windings measures a distance of nearly seventy-one miles in Clay county. This splendid stream and its broad rich valleys cannot but fill the mind of the beholder with admiration. Its waters are clear and silvery, its bed rocky and sandy, its current slow and steady; its flow and volume constant. Heavy water powers at Spencer and Peterson afford excellent manufacturing facilities, and all along the stream dams might be constructed which would cause thousands of busy wheels to toil in the service of man.

A most excellent clay is found here, and several brick and tile kilns are in active operation and are turning out thousands of brick annually of a superior quality.

The county is fairly well supplied with railroads, as two of the largest and most important lines in Iowa pass through its borders. The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway crosses the county four miles north of its center, and from Spencer a branch line extends north to Spirit Lake. The southwest part of the county is crossed by the great Chicago & Northwestern and furnishes an outlet for the southern part of the county. A roadbed was completed some time ago through the entire county from the southeast corner north to Spirit Lake; but for some reason the company purposing building the line has never completed it. It is probable that some time in the future work will again be commenced on it. The Gowrie & Northern road was constructed in 1900 and runs from Gowrie to Sibley, entering the county at the center and south line of Garfield township and running northwesterly crosses Herdland, Lincoln, Clay and Lone Tree townships. The Minneapolis & St. Louis runs south from Spencer and makes its exit through Herdland township.

ITS CLIMATE, SOIL AND GROWTH.

Clay county, one of the newest counties in the state, by its rapid development and growth, has in a few years taken its place in the ranks among the wealthy and populous counties in Iowa. The hundreds of farmers, with improved farms, commodious and substantial dwellings, countless herds of stock, broad fields of golden grain, are the potent and self-evident proofs of its rapid and wonderful development, and yet the work has just begun. Thousands of acres await the approach of the sturdy yeoman, when the quiet beauty of its existence shall fade before the destructive implements of toil, only to be replaced with a harvest of greater and more resplendent beauty and grandeur. A healthful climate is one of the chief elements to be considered in the settlement of a new country, and the fact that Clay county is situated near the most elevated point between the Mississippi river, and between the Great Lakes and the Gulf, and far above the miasmatic influences that are prevalent in the lower lands, and the gentle undulating character of the country where circulates an atmosphere free from impurities, renders this county and this section of the state exceedingly healthful. The soil is of a rich alluvial loam, admirably adapted to all branches of agricultural pursuits. The county is well watered, with numerous streams and lakelets, and the little Sioux river traverses the entire length, furnishing excellent water power for manufacturing enterprises. This county is especially adapted to grazing and dairying pursuits, and the excellence of the dairy products of Northwestern Iowa are becoming known in the leading markets of the country, and the rapidly increasing demand assures a rich return to those who are engaged in the business. In all the vast expanse of Northwestern Iowa there is no fairer portion than Clay county, or that is endowed with greater elements of growth and prosperity. A good soil, a healthful climate, good water and abundance of it, good railroads and markets, make the advantages in the pursuit of farming and stock growing equal to the more developed portions of the state, while land can be purchased here at a price from three-fifths to one-half of its value.

ITS ORGANIZATION.

By an act of the legislature in 1851 Clay county was created, and her boundary lines were defined. At the same time there were several

other counties created, and their boundary lines were defined. This being shortly after the termination of the Mexican war, the legislature determined that three of the counties should be named in honor of three of the distinguished officers who fell in that war. The names selected were Clay, Hardin and Yell. The last named was afterwards changed to Webster. Whether the real object was to name the county Clay, after the gallant officer who fell while leading his men on the field of battle, or in honor of his more distinguished father, who had so many warm Iowa followers, is not apparent, but at any rate this fair county was thus christened. In 1853 the legislature attached Clay to Waukan—now Woodbury—for revenue, election and judicial purposes. At this time it was simply a county in name only; its beautiful prairies had not at this time attracted the attention of those seeking homes in the western territory. It was not until the fall of 1858 that the little settlement in Clay county mustered up courage sufficient to apply for a separate organization, "that it might take its position among the older counties of the sovereign state of Iowa." At this time the county seat of Woodbury county was located at Sergeant's Bluff, and as all business in Clay had to be transacted at that place, and as the distance was quite great and very inconvenient to reach, it was decided to apply for a separate and distinct county government. Charles C. Smeltzer, who at that time and subsequently was quite active in local and county affairs, drew up a petition and circulated it among the settlers, who generally signed it. This petition was presented to the county court of Woodbury county, and after due consideration the prayer of the petitioners was granted, and an election of officers was ordered to be held October 12th, 1858. This first election, which was the beginning of the new life of Clay county, was held at the house of Ambrose Mead, on section 34, in Peterson township. The returns show that there were eighteen votes cast, and the following county officers were elected: County Judge, C. C. Smeltzer; treasurer and recorder, S. W. Foreman; sheriff, Henry Brockschink; superintendent of schools, Ambrose S. Mead; clerk of court, Ezra M. Wilcox; surveyor, S. W. Foreman; drainage commissioner, John Kindelspyer; coroner, Christian Kirchner. Thus the county was completely organized, and its independent life fully inaugurated. Charles C. Smeltzer, the newly-elected county judge, appears to have been greatly elated over the result of the election and the organization, as the following entry in the first record of the county will indicate:

"Be it remembered, that in accordance with the prayer of a majority of legal voters of Clay county, Iowa, praying for an organization of said county (that it might take its position among the older counties of the sovereign state of Iowa as an independent and self-sustaining community, and that the bonds that existed between Clay and Woodbury, to which Clay was attached for judicial purposes, might be irrevocably dissolved), which prayer, in form of a petition, was presented to the honorable county court of Woodbury county, Iowa, Judge John Campbell presiding, that an election was ordered by said court, to be held October 12th, 1858, authorizing the voters of said county to meet at the house of Ambrose S. Mead, for the purpose of perfecting an organization and voting for state, district, county and township officers, thus severing the ties between the independent county of Woodbury and the independent county of Clay, that the mutual resources might be developed, and the youthful, yet strong

community might stand forth in its conscious strength, and prove to the world that it no longer needed the fostering care of another, but that it was well able to maintain itself, and that it would give to it the proud position of an independent sovereign within itself, with all the characteristics of a prosperous people, noble, loving and enterprising, ready to assume the guardianship of the weak and dispense even-handed justice to the benighted of Northwestern Iowa."

This pronunciamiento is notable and historical for its grand eloquence and its author may have thought it would be handed down alongside of the Declaration of Independence.

While the county had all the necessary official appendages for its running machinery, yet it was without a public building, the result being that the offices were kept at the respective houses of the officers. A. W. Hubbard, judge of the Fourth judicial district, on the 7th of June, 1859, appointed a commission, consisting of Miles Mahon, R. W. Wheelock and John W. Tucker, authorizing them to locate the county seat of Clay county. The commissioners examined the county, and July 16th, 1859, reported in favor of locating it on section 20 in Spencer township (now Sioux township). This was on the land now owned by M. E. Griffin and the town was laid out by George E. Spencer. It is said that just previous to the coming of the commissioners several shrewd speculators had come on and laid out the town of Spencer on this section, and with a flourish of trumpets had declared their intentions to the people of the town and the surrounding country. The commissioners, in their report, stated that they had made the selection with a knowledge that the people had the right to accept or reject their selection. The "people" did decide, and refused to pay any attention to the recommendation made by the commissioners. The county records therefore remained where they were. On the 14th of May, 1860, a document was duly circulated and duly signed asking that the county seat be located at the present site of Peterson. An election was directed to be held, and although but ten votes were cast, Peterson was chosen and remained the seat of government until near the close of 1871. At this election Judge Charles Smeltzer was authorized to erect public buildings at Peterson, at a cost not to exceed six thousand dollars. In the course of a year a court house was erected, but instead of being within the first appropriation, something over forty thousand dollars, it is said, was expended in its construction at different times. In 1871, the county seat question was again agitated. The county by this time had received a large immigration, and the northern part was filling up more rapidly than the southern. There was considerable objection to the extreme southeastern location of the county seat, and a great clamor by the northern residents for its removal to a more central location. The pressure was so extreme that the question of a relocation was submitted. Previous to this Spencer had sprung up, and was a town of larger size than Peterson. In October, 1871, the question was submitted to the voters, and resulted as follows: Spencer, 359; for Peterson, 200; thus giving Spencer a majority of 159. This ended the matter and the question has never been seriously agitated since that time. A court house was built at a cost of one thousand three hundred and thirty-three dollars and, although it has long since given way to a more convenient one, it still stands as one of the earlier landmarks of Spencer. The removal, in the light of future events, has proven decidedly satis-

factory, and even those of 1871, who were most bitterly opposed to the change, are now ready and willing to acquiesce in the judgment that it was best for the county's and public's interests.

THE PIONEERS.

If there is anywhere a class of people who deserve to have their names perpetuated in history, it is the hardy pioneers who came to Clay county in its infancy, who left their eastern homes of plenty and comfort and braved the dangers, privations and hardships of the wild western prairies, and made it possible for settlement. It was no easy task to forsake the advantages of the thickly settled East of peace and plenty, and blindly plunge into the unknown and unsettled West, explore, inhabit and develop a vast field of industry, and aid in making it possible for others to obtain a home. To these brave men and women, who, nothing daunted, dared to imperil their lives, we today owe a debt of eternal gratitude, and the future historian will not fail to give them just credit for their heroism and self-sacrifice. In listening to a recital of their deeds of daring, their indomitable pluck, energy, enterprise, and the unconquerable determination that marked their wonderful achievements in transforming these bleak prairies into a live, teeming and densely populated country, sounds more like romance than reality. As the sight-seer passes through Clay county in an elegant coach, drawn as by the wings of lightning, catching a glimpse of the waving, golden harvest, green pastures, beautiful farm houses, handsome towns and innumerable herds of fine cattle quietly grazing on nutritious grasses, he wonders at the marvelous transformation. Yonder, a beautiful lake surrounded by clumps of bushes is seen, the fair western maiden, in company with her lover, quietly rowing over its smooth and placid waters, enjoying a pleasant pastime, little thinking that only a half of a century ago the wild and uncivilized red man held absolute possession of it, and that it would have been either instant death or fearful torture to have ventured on its quiet waters. The change is marked and marvelous. These vast, unbroken prairies of surpassing beauty, of unequalled richness and fertility, overshadowed with fair skies, and surrounded by beautiful scenery, and dotted with bright lakes, could not always remain in the possession of a rude and barbarous race. No. There are always brave and daring men who possess the courage to investigate and penetrate the great unknown. Such were the men who came to Clay county, not as discoverers, but as settlers, that the way might be made possible for its settlement and the development of its soil. That they accomplished this grand and noble object is wonderfully attested by its large population, its hundreds of schoolhouses for the education of the youth, its large, commodious places of worship, its beautiful villages and cities, and the teeming, prosperous multitude of farmers, merchants and mechanics, who extend a hearty welcome to all who seek a home in this enticing spot, where the broad, rich, rolling prairie land is to be had at a far less value than it is really worth.

The early development of the county was quite slow, and but few events transpired worthy of note other than those mentioned. Its immigration being small, its real worth unknown, and there being so many thousands of acres of government land to choose from, it is no wonder that it did not at once spring into prominence. The settlers plodded along, exerting their best energies to make

for themselves homes and accumulate something for the future. They, however, in time, succeeded in effecting an organization and had the county made a separate and distinct county. They made some public improvements, built a courthouse, and made numerous other county changes. There being but a few of them, they knew each other intimately, and the friendships thus formed in those days are yet unbroken. Everything moved along prosperously until 1873, when a plague, in the form of grasshoppers, came down upon them. The elements had been favorable, and the crops were plentiful, and gave evidence of yielding the toiling farmers a rich reward for their labors, when all at once this destructive and devastating plague swept down upon them. Swarms upon swarms of these pests came until the skies were black and the earth covered with them. They destroyed and laid waste to the great growing fields of waving corn, wheat, oats, etc. From field to field they went their way, and when they left one to go to another, it had the appearance of having been mowed to the earth and left as bare as if nothing had ever grown there. It was a sad and terrible blow to the tillers of the soil. It was too late to plant and sow another crop, and even if they did there was no assurance that they would not receive another visit from the pests. Many farmers were poverty stricken. All they had had been swept away. Their source of revenue was gone, and even their potatoes, cabbages, turnips and other vegetables, which they intended to live upon during the coming winter, were taken from them. It was a pitiful plight in which they were placed. Many were without ready money, and many others had no hopes of getting any unless they sold the only team they possessed. While this might have furnished them with temporary means, for the fall and winter, when spring came they would be without means to purchase another team, and therefore would be unable to farm. Work was scarce; in fact it was next to impossible to get employment. What should they do? was the inquiry one would make of another as they looked out upon their destroyed fields of grain and talked over the situation. Many grew disheartened, and gathering together their few effects, started for the east in search of employment, leaving behind them the farms on which they had spent time and toil, and had almost lived on long enough to acquire a title. It was a sad blow to these enduring and deserving farmers, who had struggled so hard to make for themselves a "place" that they could say "these one hundred and sixty acres belong to me." It was a trying time to the souls of many a man as he looked for the last time upon those fertile acres which he had cultivated, and which had promised him such an abundant yield. These he must forsake, for to stay was to lose all.

Such were the conditions of affairs in 1874. The raid made by the grasshoppers did a great amount of injury to the county. An impression prevailed that they would make annual visits to this section, and it required several years to disabuse this belief. Many remained, being more fortunately situated than those whom necessity required to go elsewhere, to seek sustenance for the coming winter.

It was not until some years afterwards that immigration began to turn in this direction, and even then it was limited. The scare was not over, and the people who wanted to come waited to see if the grasshoppers would make another visit. They had heard of the work done by them, and of the privations

of those who went and stayed, and were thus prevented from coming. In time these fears were removed, and Clay began to fill up. When the railroad came, the prospects of future settlement became more encouraging. In the spring of 1879 the tide came. Many came to purchase land, others to build and establish homes. As if by magic the houses sprang into existence, and the prairies were soon dotted over with well-tilled farms and good, substantial farm houses. It was well worth the years of solitude and privations of the early settler to see his home suddenly surrounded by other farms under good cultivation; and to live within a short distance of friendly and pleasant neighbors.

We have thus briefly and imperfectly sketched the earlier struggles, the repeated failures and the final triumphs of Clay county, and have seen it transformed from a vast unbroken prairie into almost a wilderness of farms, dwellings, towns and villages. Even today it is a source of genuine comfort to those who went through the hardships we have enumerated, to tell the newcomer of the trials and troubles of the early days, and to point out the many and varied improvements made in the past half a century.

ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT.

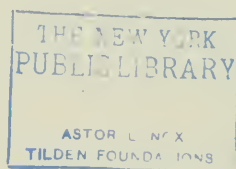
Until the year 1856 the only inhabitants of Clay county were the Indians and the great Northwestern Iowa was a trackless prairie. But gradually settlement extended its way westward and the rich and fertile prairies began to teem with activity. And as the years rolled around immigration increased and the east heard of the wonderful productiveness of the soil; the salubrious climate, the cheapness of the land and the population multiplied itself in a short time. The lack of settlement for so many years was to an extent due to a lack of timber. There appeared to be a desire among the settlers to select the timbered districts and to regard the prairies as worthless for agricultural purposes, because they did not produce the necessaries for fuel and fences. But gradually there came a change in the minds of men in regard to this, and the great west, with its boundless and sweeping prairies, were sought for and then came the rush. And when the soil was subjected to farm tillage and reaped such rich harvests, its fame was spread far and wide, and Northwestern Iowa became known as the great agricultural center of the west. But this was not accomplished in a year, but required time and patience to develop and make known all of its natural resources.

The first permanent settlement by whites known was made in the spring of 1856. Previous to this settlement the firm of Lane & Ray, government surveyors, had passed through this county and run township lines and staked them out, and as was the custom in new counties, posted the sign, "Claimed by Lane & Ray." Whether deciding to relinquish their claims to these lands to some more determined men who would brave and bear the wants, privations and hardships of pioneer life, or obtaining a more lucrative position or business, they at least never returned to make their claim good or establish their ownership to the land. The principal portions of the land claimed by these surveyors were located along the banks of the river, in the south part of the county.

Unquestionably, the earliest permanent white settlers in Clay county were the Kirchmers, who came here in April, 1856. In the year 1855, J. A. Kirchner,



VIEW NEAR SPENCER



in company with his brother, Jacob, set out from his native state, New York, to find fame and fortune in the far away west, of whose wonders he had heard and read so much. As they had no settled point in view, they traveled from place to place, hearing glowing accounts of the state of Iowa. They drifted westward, until they reached Cedar Falls, then but a small village near the borders of the west, where supplies were obtained by the pioneers. After reaching the place, they formed the acquaintance of Ambrose S. Mead, who, like themselves, was desirous of exploring the western part of the state. Mr. Mead possessed some Indian ponies, which he tendered the use of to the New Yorkers, which were gladly accepted by them. They at once purchased a sleigh and the necessary provisions to last them during their search for a location, and started out on their trip. Being impressed with the advantages of Spirit Lake and its surroundings, of which they had heard so much, they directed their course toward the historical part of the great Hawkeye state. While on their way they inspected numerous points and were greatly pleased with the beauty and wealth of the soil. Upon reaching a point near Algona, Kossuth county, they met a Mr. Brown, who informed them that he had spent a part of the previous year with a United States surveying party and was thoroughly acquainted with all the new territory. After making known to him their intentions to go to Spirit Lake to locate, he remarked to them: "Why don't you go to Clay county? That is the finest county in the state and the land is the best."

After a long conversation, in which a full description of the county was given and the route to take, they set out and finally reached a point just a little west of where Peterson now stands. Being unable to cross the river they, however, made a careful survey of the surroundings and decided to locate there. Their impression of the country was most favorable and they saw that the glowing accounts of the beauty and fertility of the soil had in no sense been exaggerated; they there and then decided to make it their home for life. They immediately made claim to the timber land along the river on sections 32, 33 and 34, township 94, range 38, being in all about 300 acres, which was equally divided among the three. After choosing their land and settling everything satisfactorily among themselves, they returned to Cedar Falls, where they purchased the necessary teams, farm implements and provisions and returned to their new home, where they immediately set to work to perfect arrangements for the immediate occupancy and improvement of their claims. The first work of the pioneers upon reaching their claims was the erection of a cabin, or log house, and at the same time to commence breaking the ground on their newly acquired farms. The first plowing done was by J. A. Kirchner in May, 1856. Mr. Kirchner, after building a house and arranging for his crops, set out for New York, and in the fall returned with his father, Christian Kirchner, and wife and ten children. The house was built of logs, trees were felled and hewn and placed together. Shortly after the completion of this log cabin, James Bicknell and family arrived, and it was sold to him. Then Mr. Kirchner set to work to build another, which stood for several years in the corporate limits of Peterson. These first cabins were very primitive affairs, but they answered the purposes most satisfactorily. Among the next settlers were the Gillett brothers, who settled at what is now the little town of Gillett's Grove. During the year

there also arrived Ezra Wilcox and a Mr. Wilcox. Although the winter was quite severe the little band of pioneers suffered no discomforts, other than what was incident to a partially completed preparation, and their stock passed through without loss. In the meantime, the progress of settlement had rapidly increased, and a small town had sprung up in Webster county, where the government had established a fort, known as Fort Dodge, which made the distance a great deal less from which to obtain supplies.

The little settlement, of energetic and determined pioneers, made unusual progress with their labors to complete their homes and increase and enhance their possessions. It was not until something over a year after taking possession of these lands that they did acquire title to them. They went to Sioux City and made formal entry. The distance was quite great, but they became accustomed to long journeys and did not mind it. Their trips to and from trading points were made twice a year, and sufficient supply was purchased to last from spring to fall and from fall to spring. There were no incidents worthy of note during the first eighteen months of their residence and they began to think that all dangers were passed and the future foreboded nothing but peace and prosperity. Their crops were good, their stock in excellent condition and increasing, the families healthy and contented, and everything pointed to pleasant and happy homes.

During the next year the little band was increased by the arrival of John Kindelspyer, who located in the southeastern part of the county, also Frederick, William and C. H. Brockschink. In the spring of 1858 there came Charles C. and H. E. W. Smeltzer; the former was subsequently elected county judge and the latter held several county offices. There were a number of other arrivals but the settlement was by no means swelled, as the census of 1860 shows only a total population of fifty-two. But those who came located their claims and proceeded to improve them with all their might and main and to build for themselves houses. The first religious services were held at Peterson, at the residence of C. Kirchner, on Sunday, in August, 1856, and were conducted by Rev. O. S. Wright. On that occasion nearly every soul in the county attended divine worship. The class of people who settled here at that time was moral and upright, and gave hearty accord to the establishing of religious services.

THE INDIAN TROUBLES.

Our little band of pioneers progressed rapidly in developing the soil and making suitable homes for themselves, and were undisturbed by the few Indians that were living in and about Clay county at that time. Small bands of these wandering tribes frequently made the settlers visits, but gave no cause to them for alarm. They appeared to be friendly and made no pretensions of disturbing the whites. Up to February, 1857, the colony had been favored by uninterrupted peace and prosperity, but in that month the red-skins came down upon them and threatened for a time an overthrow of all their bright hopes. It appears that during the month previous a party of Indians passed down the Sioux river, with the intention of paying a friendly visit, and as they had made no sign of molesting the whites, no fears were apprehended, but when they had passed farther into

the white settlement, the latter became greatly alarmed at their boldness and at Smithland, the sixty or seventy warriors were disarmed and given to understand that while they would not be molested on their journey they would not be permitted to carry firearms. Upon having their arms taken from them, they became greatly enraged and immediately started back, vowing vengeance on all whites whom they should meet. On their returning they stopped at every house, appropriating everything in the way of firearms and provisions they could lay their hands on. When they had secured sufficient rifles and ammunition to arm their numbers, they became bolder, and not only slaughtered their stock, seized their provisions, burned their houses, but killed the settlers and created a reign of terror throughout the country. The Clay county settlers had heard of the depredations they were committing and were thoroughly alarmed for the safety of themselves and their property. When they came to the home of Mr. Bicknell and finding no one there—he with his family having gone to Mr. Kirchner's, across the river, they immediately appropriated everything which met their fancy. The next day they made their appearance at the Kirchner home, where they found the terror stricken settlers huddled together. Without any ceremony they captured all the arms to be found, killed the cattle and took what they wanted. After remaining in the Peterson settlement for a day and a night they pushed on, leaving the whites badly frightened, but thankful that they had escaped with their lives. This band of bloodthirsty Siouxs then proceeded to the house of Ambrose Mead, who was absent at the time at Cedar Falls. Previous to leaving for this place, he had arranged to have a Mr. Taylor and family remain with Mrs. Mead and the children during his stay. Becoming angry at Taylor for his interference, they threatened to kill him if he did not keep out of their way. Fearing that they would carry out their threats, Taylor left the women and children and set out to secure assistance. The Indians killed the stock, drove off the ponies and carried the women with them. But fearing they would be pursued and overtaken, they decided to allow the women to return, after taking such liberties as the helpless women could not prevent. They then directed their steps toward Linn Grove and Sioux Rapids, where they subjected the settlers to the same treatment they had given the Mead and Taylor families. From thence they went to Gillett's Grove, where they not only repeated their operations but burned the buildings. The Indians had no sooner left Peterson than a courier was sent to Sac City, to inform the people there and give warning to the settlers of the depredations being committed by the red devils. A company was at once formed of settlers and set out in great haste to overtake them. They followed them to within a few miles of where Spencer now stands, but a severe snow storm coming on, prevented the Indians from being overtaken and caused the settlers to take refuge from the terrible snow storm. The Indians, however, hurried on to Okoboji and Spirit Lake, and massacred the entire colony, men, women and children, with one exception, Miss Abigail Sharpe, who was subsequently rescued and has since written a book, detailing the history of the attack, and massacre and the horrible tortures inflicted on the helpless captured, by those wild, bloodthirsty and inhuman brutes.

When the horrible and blood-curdling tale of the Spirit Lake butchery became known to the settlers, many of them, being so thoroughly alarmed, they

left their claims entirely or sought refuge at the homes of friends. This tribe was under the leadership of a chief known as Ink-pah-du-tah, and whose crimes are the most atrocious in the annals of Iowa Indian history. This had the effect to materially check settlement throughout the northwest.

The Indians kept up their onward march of death and destruction until they reached Jackson, Minnesota. In the meantime companies well armed were hurriedly organized and sent to this point, where they met and attacked the Indians and succeeded in defeating them. The battle was a sharp one, but finally the Indians were sent flying westward until they were driven out of the state and also out of Minnesota. The Indians being exterminated from Clay county and peace and safety being restored, the settlers were given a chance to repair their property and to proceed with their work of developing the resources and the cultivation of the soil. From that date Clay county was no more troubled with the Indians.

THE COURTHOUSE HISTORY.

After the election of 1858, Clay county was equipped with a full quota of officers. She had neither a courthouse nor a public building of any description, and as a result the officers made their homes public buildings, and whatever public meetings were required to be held were held at the most convenient house. This was not all. Clay was duly organized and officered, but she was without a county seat. Judge Hubbard, then the presiding judge of the Fourth judicial district, comprehending the condition of affairs, in open court appointed a commission, consisting of three, who were supposed to be disinterested parties, to locate a county seat. They selected the site previously mentioned and named it Spencer, in honor of United States Senator Spencer, of Alabama, who had been one of the United States surveying party which surveyed Clay county and established the boundary lines. The committee made its report to Charles C. Smeltzer, then county judge. Whereupon he entered upon the court docket the following order:

"I, Charles C. Smeltzer, county judge of said (Clay) county, and the official head thereof, do hereby order that said town of Spencer, named in their report as the county seat of Clay county, Iowa, be and is from this time hence 'till changed, according to law, the seat of justice of said county."

For several months the court records are dated "Spencer, Clay county, Iowa," but that was finally dropped, and the former form of "Office of the County Judge" was substituted, showing that the judge while in spirit was at Spencer, in person he was many miles away.

A petition was in time drawn up and circulated among the settlers and generally signed, and on the 14th day of May, 1860, was presented to Judge Smeltzer. The petitioners prayed that an election might be called to test the county seat question, and that they should be given the privilege to select the site. The prayer was granted, and on the 27th day of June, 1860, after due notice having been given, the voters of the county, of which there were ten, decided to locate the county seat at what is now known as Peterson. At this election Judge Smeltzer was authorized to cause to be erected a courthouse building at the new county seat, at an expense of six thousand dollars. Bids and plans were immediately advertised for, and on the 15th day of September, 1860, the contract

was let to C. H. Brockschink. Work was at once commenced, and in due course of time was completed, and Clay county had a courthouse. Mr. Brockschink afterwards presented a claim for fifteen hundred dollars for extra work done, and was allowed nine hundred dollars. Additions were subsequently made to the building to accommodate the officers, and it is claimed that these additions cost the county quite an extravagant sum of money. It is not infrequent to hear the earlier settlers speak of the "Forty-thousand dollar court house."

During the interim of 1860 and 1870 the northern part of the county received a large immigration, and in time became more numerously inhabited than the southwestern part. Its voting population in 1870, combined with the eastern section, was, therefore, numerically greater than the southern part.

The location of the county seat in the extreme southwestern corner was very inconvenient for those living in the northern part. As the years passed by, a feeling of dissatisfaction grew up with the location, and the more the subject was agitated the greater the displeasure of the northern and eastern people became. A petition was drawn up and circulated among the voters, and received many signatures. The petition set forth that Peterson, the county seat, was inconvenient of access, that it was not sufficiently centrally located, and the people demanded that the seat of government should be placed where it would accommodate the many, and not a chosen few. The petition was presented to the Board of Supervisors, which body ordered an election to be held. The result was that the county seat was relocated, and Spencer chosen as the place. The principal argument against the removal, previous to the election, was that Spencer was not provided with a building sufficient to accommodate the county officials. This argument was immediately met, by the people of Spencer setting to work and erecting a building that would meet these requirements. It was no easy task in those days to erect a building. The lumber must be hauled a distance of forty or fifty miles, and the amount of money required to purchase a thousand feet of lumber in those days would buy three thousand now. But, undaunted, the attempt was made. A stock company was at once organized, shares were sold, and the entire community in and around Spencer became interested. Those who were unable to buy a share and pay the money, gave a day's labor. "Where there's a will there's a way," is an old saying, and in short time the building was completed and ready for occupancy. The structure was afterwards sold to the county for one thousand three hundred and thirty-three dollars, payment being made in county warrants, at that time away below par. Even at that price it would seem today that it was an extravagant figure, but it cost the stock company a greater sum. We insert the proposition made by the company to the Board of Supervisors, not for the intrinsic worth, but as an incident of the earlier times. It is as follows:

"We hereby propose to the board of supervisors, of Clay county, Iowa, to sell them the courthouse and lot owned by the Spencer Courthouse Company, for one thousand three hundred and thirty-three dollars, in county warrants.

(Signed),

J. B. EDMUNDS, Secretary.

C. D. MARCELLUS, President."

This building was occupied until 1882, when it became inadequate for the wants of county purposes, and its dimensions too limited. The board of super-

visors then leased of A. W. Miller, the basement and several of the rooms in the second story of the Clay county bank, using the second story of the courthouse for court purposes.

At the April meeting of the board of supervisors in 1884, it was decided to build a new courthouse. A number of liberal-spirited citizens purchased the block on which the present courthouse now stands, and donated it to the county. The contract was let to H. H. Wade for four thousand four hundred and thirty-five dollars, and a brick building was constructed. It was two stories high, and contained seven rooms, besides the court room. It was supplied with four large vaults, and was in every way sufficient to meet the demands of the times.

There were many who regarded the building as lacking in architectural beauty and finish, and criticised the board of supervisors for not constructing one on a more pretentious scale. At the time it was built the people of the county were opposed to making an appropriation for a courthouse, and as the law would not permit the board of supervisors to expend a greater sum than five thousand dollars, they were from necessity compelled to keep within that limit. Such briefly are the facts connected with the various changes made in the courthouse buildings up to 1900.

CREATION OF TOWNSHIPS.

The first action relating to townships was taken December 3d, 1859, when it was ordered by County Judge C. C. Smeltzer, "that the whole of Clay county be divided into, or recognized as one civil township, to be known as Clay."

On the 15th day of October, 1860, Douglas township was created, embracing nearly one-half of the county.

On September 19, 1861, a township was created, and named Sioux, which included the four western congressional townships in the county, except four sections. This township was afterward merged into others.

In September, 1866, the boundaries were all changed, and the north half of the county was named Spencer township.

Douglas township was divided in January, 1867, and Lincoln was set off.

September 5, 1870, Bridgewater township was set off, comprising territory taken from Spencer. It has since been included with other townships.

Summit was set off September 2, 1872, embracing the same territory as at the present.

Gillett's Grove township was set off September 2, 1873.

Herdland came into existence at the same time.

Riverton was set off from Spencer July 7, 1874.

October 15, 1877, Lone Tree township was set off.

Peterson was set off, and its organization was authorized September 3, 1878.

Lake and Freeman townships were set off and organized June 7, 1882.

Logan was created June 3, 1882.

Meadow came into existence in June, 1882.

Waterford was set off September 1, 1884.

SIOUX TOWNSHIP.

All that part of Spencer township outside the incorporated city of Spencer and the territory embraced in the city limits of Spencer was cut off, and made a separate township and designated as Sioux Township April 2, 1894.

Among the early settlers in this township were John F. Calkins, Byron Hough, S. Calkins; Harvey Mars, and their families; a German by the name of Kail, James Mars, Romain Hough, Solomon Wells, Rev. D. N. Coats and his son, R. A. Coats. There also came John Martin, F. M. Wells, Homer and Anson Calkins and John W. Marsten. John Marsten located on section 1 and owned the land on which the original town of Spencer now stands. The settlement grew rapidly and soon a town began to assume proportions on the west side of the township, which is now known as the city of Spencer.

GILLETT'S GROVE.

Gillett's Grove township was organized in 1873, being taken from Lincoln township, and is composed of congressional township number 95, range 36. Its chief physical features are the rolling prairies and the Little Sioux river. The former has a deep rich soil, which annually yields a heavy growth of native grasses and of all cultivated crops, when the soil is subdued from its native state. The river extends the entire distance across the township from north to south through the eastern tier of sections. Its valley is about one-half mile wide between the base of bluffs, which are nearly fifty feet high, receding most too abruptly to be easily cultivated, though entirely covered with grass where there is no timber, and is cut through in many places by the smaller watercourses, which affects the drainage of the prairies. The principal ones are Lexington creek from the west, named after the town of New Lexington, a town staked out upon the east half of section 22, and the west half of section 23, some time before the Indian outbreak of 1857. Elk creek from the east, deriving its name from the lake of the same name, which it drains, and Lime creek from the southeast, called so from a lime-kiln on its banks, operated in the early days by Asa and Isaac Johnson. In this township, along the river bottom and the bluffs, and in the ravines, was one of the largest bodies of native timber in the country. The kinds of wood were burr oak, black walnut, elm, tin-tight bark, hickory, ash and soft maple. In the best body of this timber the Gillett's built their houses and began improvements for a home in 1856, previous to the Indian depredations, but afterwards were driven away. A depression less than two feet, which was the cellar, marked the place where the log house stood, and where were scattered about pieces of glass, dishes, crockery and nails. The house was burned after Gillett and his family had made their escape. From the Grove and the timber skirting the river, the surrounding settlers were supplied with fuel and building materials for a distance of twelve miles. In the summer of 1872, P. M. Moore erected a saw mill on the river at the lower end of the Grove, where most of the timber suitable for lumber was sawed. The mill was afterward converted into a feed mill.

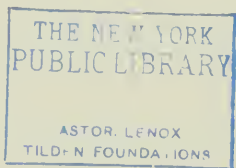
When the township was organized, the settlement consisted of A. W. Green, E. C. Green, S. Gray, E. Reed, D. C. Palmer, J. Garreston, S. E. Beven, A. F. McConnell, John Stephens, Stephen Wilson, R. Taber, John McPherson, William Wilson, W. W. Moore, P. M. Moore, A. A. Mills, John Mills, Jasper Messenger, J. P. Evans, and their families. Also D. C. Palmer, Aaron Bates, Oscar Hodgins, E. H. Crandall, D. H. King and John O. Evans.

When W. W. and P. M. Moore settled at Gillett's Grove, in the summer of 1866, the nearest postoffice was Peterson, twenty miles away. The nearest flour mill was Estherville, thirty-five miles. The best trading place—Fort Dodge—seventy-five miles. The nearest railroad—Iowa Falls—was one hundred and twenty miles. There were no bridges across the river, or any of the sloughs or mud holes, hence a journey for supplies or any business was attended with many troubles and difficulties. Early in the spring and fall, it was difficult to cross these sloughs when they were filled with water and the ground was very wet and soft. The journey was no less dangerous or unpleasant in the winter time, owing to the distance between the places of shelter and the deep snows. The only cheering points along the route to Fort Dodge were the stopping places, which were few and quite a distance apart. There was one place on this long journey where not a house or a tree could be seen for forty miles, and when the ground was covered with snow, but a faint trace would be left to guide the traveler towards his destination. As soon as it could be done a mail route was established, and secured an office at Gillett's Grove. P. M. Moore was appointed postmaster in 1867. A few years afterwards he resigned and his father, W. W. Moore, was appointed.

In 1871 an office was established on the same route on section 30, named Greenville, of which A. W. Green was appointed postmaster. The citizens of this township were mostly from Wisconsin, Illinois and other parts of this state. They are intelligent and enterprising, mostly church members, belonging principally to the Methodist, Congregational, Baptist and Friends denominations. The last named have a good church at Greenville. The township has settled up more slowly than other parts of the county, owing to the fact that much of the land has been owned by non-residents, having purchased it from the government in 1857. But there has been a gradual improvement from year to year, the opening of new farms and the planting of artificial groves, which grow rapidly, and are seen in every direction. Some of the earliest planted have grown more than fifty feet high. The people are engaged in farming and raising cattle, horses and hogs. Very few men who have been industrious and persevering have failed to do well. The early settler drove a team of oxen and lived in a sod house. This was made by first selecting a piece of ground covered with a tough sod, and plowing it with a breaking plow, then cutting the sods thus turned over in lengths about two feet long. These pieces were then laid into a wall, after the manner of laying brick, until the wall was about two feet thick on the bottom, a foot and one-half thick at the top, and about six feet high. Then a strong post was set in the center, extending about six feet more or less, above the walls, according to the size of the house. Upon the top of this post one end of the other poles or rafters were laid and the other ends of the walls at the proper intervals. Then willow brush was laid across these rafters, then hay upon the willows, and upon the hay sods were tightly laid, and afterwards the whole was plastered over with clay mortar, and with some hay thinly spread upon the ground inside of the house it was ready for occupancy. A house thus constructed, although rude, furnished shelter and comfort for its occupants, and the earlier inhabitants appreciated their sod shanties, as the pelting storms beat down upon their roofs.



NORTH SCHOOL. SPENCER



Although cheap, they were comfortable, and in fact were all that could be had during the first years of settlement of this country. Many of the children, now men and women, remember the happy days they spent in the sod house. But now they are driving fine horses, living in painted frame and brick houses, and feeding their stock in commodious barns, under the shelter of nice, large trees they planted for wind breakers and protection from storms. The storms in the winter upon the shelterless prairies were sorely felt by the people—more in the early settlement than at the present time, because of the greater distance between places. In the winter of 1876 and 1878 a man named Parish came to Gillett's Grove to see his daughter, who was working for a family. He started from Okoboji Lake in the morning, intending to walk to the Grove, expecting to reach there before evening. Darkness, however, overtook him, and instead of reaching the Grove, he passed by it. After wandering around several hours he found an empty house, which was only about a mile from the place he wished to reach. He entered it, but did not have the means to light a fire, and therefore spent the night as best he could. He walked, jumped, lay down, and in fact did everything to keep from freezing. When day came he began his journey, but was unable to find a house until noon. When he came to W. W. Moore's it was found that his feet were so badly frozen that they had to be amputated.

In the winter of 1869 a young man named Con started for Spirit Lake early one morning, taking a lunch, expecting to walk there that day. Soon after he started it began to snow, and within an hour it was snowing and drifting so furiously that it was impossible for him to proceed farther. He could neither proceed nor return, as he became so bewildered, and did not know which direction to take. He therefore walked back and forth all one day and one night. At one time he attempted to crawl or dig into a snow drift and let the snow cover him. But he became chilly and returned to his path, which, as the snow piled upon it, became so high that he would fall off, and had to make another. In the morning it cleared away, and he made his way to the river, where he discovered a wood cutter's shanty and found something to eat. He succeeded in reaching the lakes, never once laying down his axe, which he carried while battling with the furious storm. Upon arriving at the lakes he found friends and was carefully cared for, but the heroic struggles of that bitter cold and stormy day and night were far too great for his physical strength, and within a few short weeks his remains were deposited in their last resting place.

Another man, named Laughlin, was hunting deer on a fine, clear winter day, and after securing one, hung it up in a tree in the grove and started home. A place was found where he broke through the ice on the river and evidently wet his feet. Farther on his gun was found leaning against a tree. He never reached home. Early in the evening a terrible storm came on, and he must have been overtaken by it. His remains were found in the spring, where the high water had washed them ashore, about a mile farther down, and about two miles from his home.

In June of 1881 a hurricane swept across this township from the northwest. It broke down about one hundred native trees in Moore's grove. It partially unroofed P. M. Moore's barn, moved Simon Brailer's house from its foundation,

nearly demolished Mr. Newton's house, and tore David Brailer's house all to pieces, which was only finished the day before. The neighbors came and replaced the house, which stood there for a great many years. Many other small buildings were more or less injured or destroyed. One tornado in the summer of 1886 passed over from the south to nearly north, touching lightly, but hurting nothing until farther on. One hail storm crossed the northwest corner of the township and almost entirely destroyed the crops where it struck. The corn-stalks were completely stripped, and the small grain almost all knocked off. Gardens were destroyed and the grass laid low.

PETERSON TOWNSHIP.

Although the civil township bearing this name dates its birth and name from 1871, yet it was the first settled portion of Clay county. The name is prominently connected, and its history so intimately interwoven with that of the county's that the latter would be largely shorn of its fifty odd years of excellent record of pioneer life and the sturdy integrity it has borne, as well as stripped of much that makes it one of the most interesting counties of north-west Iowa, were Peterson omitted. The history of this township, therefore, forms a leading feature in the annals of the county, and deserves more than a mere passing notice. Peterson township is located in the southwestern part of the county and is settled by sturdy and solid yeomen, who are active and progressive. The first settlement was made in the spring of 1856, by J. A. Kirchner, John Kirchner and Ambrose S. Mead. The Kirchners came from Albany, New York, and Mead from the eastern part of the state. After selecting their claims along the banks of the Little Sioux river, on sections 32, 33 and 34, they at once set to work to build houses, and when they had completed them, commenced to till the soil. During the years 1856 and 1857 John J. Bicknell, C. Kirchner, Chas. Oldfield and families arrived, and added to the number who had cast their fortunes in Clay. In 1857 Charles C. Smeltzer, J. W. Brockschink, H. E. W. Smeltzer and others came, thus making valuable acquisitions to the pioneers, to whom it was a great pleasure to extend a greeting to every newcomer. Later there arrived Harry Gardner, R. B. Crego and others. By this time, with those who settled farther east, there was a sufficient number to organize the county and establish a seat of government. This was accomplished, and the place where the little band of advanced western pioneers lived was formally constituted a town and made the capital of the county. A majority of the citizens of the county had settled in and around where the town of Peterson now stands, and the six or eight houses composed the town. The reason for putting up their log houses in such close proximity was for two very good reasons. In the first place there prevailed a feeling of lonesomeness at being separated from any place inhabited by white settlers and a desire to be as near each other as practicable, and thus share with each other what comforts and pleasures there were for them in social intercourse. There was another and very important reason. The Indians had made one or two invasions on their quiet homes, and it was deemed expedient for their mutual protection to be within hailing distance of each other should the savages again make a raid upon them. The houses were therefore built within only a short distance of

each other, so that, should any unforeseen event occur, other houses would be within easy access. These houses were also constructed not alone for warmth and comfort, but for protection as well, should the settlement receive an attack from the wily and stealthy redskins. In the course of time the settlement grew and became more extended, and as the frightful Indians were held under subjection by the United States government, there was little cause for fear of molestation, and the newcomers took claims more remote from the primitive or original settlers. This township was abundantly supplied with timber, consisting of walnut, oak, basswood, ash and elm; and, as the Little Sioux river furnished excellent water power, J. A. Kirchner conceived the idea of utilizing both by building a saw mill. In this move he was greatly encouraged by his neighbors, and at once went east and purchased the necessary machinery to operate it. Men were employed and set to work, and in as brief a time as this faraway place could accomplish it the sound of falling trees and the busy whirl of the big saw could be heard all day long. For miles and miles farmers and newly acquired landowners could be seen busily wending their way to the mill, drawing with their teams heavy timbers to be sawed and made ready for building purposes. Log cabins soon gave place to more pretentious and commodious frame dwellings, and the settlement put on an entirely different appearance.

The soil of this township is of a superior quality and produces every kind of cereal. The main body of the land is a little inclined to be level, with the exception of that part that lies along the Little Sioux river. This is somewhat rough and hilly, but a greater portion of it is either utilized for grazing or producing purposes. The farmers are chiefly in good circumstances, and a large proportion of them own good farms. Having a good market at the town of Peterson, they are able to realize fair prices for their marketable products.

There are excellent schools in all parts of the township, and they are sufficient to accommodate all of their patrons. It is blessed with good citizens, and has consequently prospered through these many years. In point of wealth, population and natural advantages it stands second in the county, and as the future years come and go it will keep pace with the moving and improving northwest, accumulating wealth, increasing its numbers and establishing a reputation for vast possessions and great prominence.

LONE TREE.

Lone tree is that portion of the territory of Clay county embraced in township 96, north range 38 west, and is composed of thirty-six full sections. It was duly constituted a township on the 15th day of October, 1877. And although having an organization of over thirty-one years, it has only the past years come into note. The land composing this township is in the main very good, and is excellent plow, grazing and hay land. While not so high and rolling as some other townships, it yet has some very excellent advantages which render its soil valuable. The Ocheydan, with its winding channel and a number of small tributaries, courses its way through the township, thus giving an abundant supply of water. Then there are numerous small lakes scattered over the entire township, so there is little need of wells to satisfy the thirst of the stock. Yet it cannot be called a swampy or wet township, for in many

parts the land lies well above the level. Some most excellent farms are found in this township, well cultivated, supplied with excellent buildings and producing abundantly.

The first settlement made in this township was by J. W. and S. B. Crist, who came here in May, 1870. The former remained some six years, and then moved west and was followed by the latter in 1879. They located on section 2, on what is known as the "Lone Tree farm." It was so named because at one time it was the only farm which contained a tree, and hence the name. This tree was a large elm and could be seen from a great distance before the present cultivated groves were grown. It therefore stood out in bold relief on the broad and unbroken prairie, and from this tree the township received its name.

The Crist brothers were shortly followed by James Johnson, who located on the western side of the township. Then came H. Wetmore, Wm. F. Shaffer and David Arledge. Then there was a cessation for a time, which was eventually broken by the arrival of a number of families. After the planting of Everly there was a large influx and the entire township put on a busy, stirring air. Since that date Lone Tree has gradually forged ahead and has been rapidly populated and its soil greatly enhanced in commercial value. The Chicago and Milwaukee railroad spans the township, and has been a potent agency in increasing and developing what resources it possesses. The farming community is composed of excellent farmers who are industriously tilling the soil, building themselves substantial dwellings, and surrounding themselves with all the necessary comforts of life. They have a fair start in the stock line, and by prudence and care they are destined to become a wealthy community. A number of speculators own considerable land in this township, but even these are constantly giving way to the sturdy farmers who have come to make homes. All in all, Lone Tree is possessed of good soil, excellent drainage, splendid water, good grazing and hay land, abundant crops and an enterprising and intelligent class of citizens. In 1901 the Gowrie and Northwestern railroad was completed. It enters Lone Tree township at its southeastern border and leaves the township about midway of its western border line.

DOUGLAS TOWNSHIP.

Douglas is that congressional township No. 94 north, and 37 west. It is doubtful if there is another township in Clay county so rich in material resources and with as little waste land as this. The south line just misses the breaks and rough land along the Little Sioux river, while Willow creek traverses it five miles and drains all the north half and affords abundant watering places for stock.

Settled by an industrious and enterprising class of people, having nine schoolhouses and three churches, it is no wonder it is rich in all the material resources that go to make up a prosperous people, containing between six and seven hundred inhabitants, and hardly a dwelling in the township but that is surrounded by beautiful groves. The west half is settled largely by Welsh people, who are as a rule the best of citizens; industrious, economical and

naturally religious, they are a valuable adjunct to any community in which their lot is cast.

Douglas township formerly embraced what is now Herdland, Garfield, Logan, Gillett Grove and Lincoln townships. Of the earlier settlers, William Crozier was perhaps the first permanent settler in the congressional township, he coming in the summer of 1858, and John Kindlespyer settling the same season on section 32, now Herdland township. Two years previous Ezra Wilcox had located a claim on section 20, (now) Herdland township, and George Gillett located on section 23, (now) Gillett's Grove township. Both settlements were made in magnificent groves on the Sioux river, which now bear their names. There were others at this time that took up claims but lacked fortitude and endurance to stay on them. The earliest permanent settlers, with the exception of those mentioned above, were O. C. Poots, David Christy, Thomas Pucket and Paxton Morriss, who, with their families, came in the summer of 1863, and at once erected for themselves the primitive log house, there being plenty of timber for that purpose along the river. The first schoolhouse in the township was built in the year 1863, on section 32, (now) Herdland township, on the farm of D. D. Christy. It was called the White schoolhouse and was the polling place for the township.

S. W. Dubois, Stephen Dubois, Joseph Watts and son Hiram, Samuel and J. L. Crozier came in June, 1864. All these had families except S. W. Dubois. Peter Dubois, Erastus Treman, Ellis and Ashley George, John Phineas and Jesse Pickering and parents came in the fall of the same year. At that time the nearest railroad station was at Iowa Falls, the Illinois Central having been built to that place that year.

It was indeed a great undertaking for those early pioneers to carve out for themselves and families a home. With Fort Dodge the nearest trading point, a distance of seventy miles from the Sioux river, the roads many times were almost impassable. Corn was worth at Fort Dodge from \$1.50 to \$2 per bushel; wheat, about \$2.60, and a common cow would sell readily at \$50. What little grain there was that could be spared was readily taken by the newcomers for bread and seed.

The summer of 1866 brought another grist of settlers: J. J. Duroe, Ephraim Sands, O. G. and J. C. Tabor, all of whom brought their families and took up claims. The Dubois and Sands people moved in the Samuel Crozier house until they could build houses for themselves.

After the first settlers had taken all of the desirable claims along the river, the adventurous newcomers had to push out on the prairie, and as the majority were poor, but of that class who overcome all obstacles, the most of our prairie settlers turned architects and built sod houses or dugouts, which, although dirty, were as a rule warm, and as the material cost nothing, the prairies were soon dotted with sod houses. Strange that when men suffer such privations as do all pioneers to a new country they should move on as soon as the country fairly gets under way of settlement; but such is the history of all new countries, and ours is no exception.

The first caucus ever held in the township was held by the side of a hay stack, near the old Kenyon place, on section 34, (now) Gillett's Grove town-

ship. Thomas Pucket was nominated supervisor for the new township. This was in the fall of 1864.

The first township officers were: F. E. Bigsby, clerk; S. W. Dubois, Stephen Dubois and J. L. Crozier, trustees; Samuel Crozier and George Crozier, constables; for road supervisor, district No. 1, which comprised the whole township, S. T. Collins.

The first official records in the township were of an election held at the White schoolhouse October 9, 1866, of which E. D. Wright for secretary of state had forty-four votes, and S. G. Vananda had one, the vote running the same all the way through for state officers, there being forty-four Republicans and one Democrat. For county officers there were forty-three votes cast for clerk of the courts, of which William Y. Crozier had thirty seven and B. B. Crego had six. For recorder, P. M. Moore had thirty-seven and C. Kirchner, Jr., six. The township officers elected were: Ellis George, clerk; Thomas Pucket and John Watts, justices of the peace; James Halstead and John Pickering, constables; J. L. Crozier, S. T. Collins and Thomas Pucket, trustees; John Watts, assessor; Richard D. Miller, road supervisor.

At this time the land which had all been subject to homestead and pre-emption was taken out of the market until the St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad Company could make their selection, which was every alternate section for ten miles on each side of their proposed line, as near as practicable on the 43d parallel, about four miles north of the township lines. When the Milwaukee road finally built the road through Spencer, many of the oldest homesteaders thought they were unjustly deprived of one-half of their homestead rights, by taking the road so far north and throwing the township outside of the railroad limits. However, every available claim was taken before the year 1868, and men seemed as anxious to file on eighty as one hundred and sixty acres. There was little stock raised at that time, and corn was nearly a failure, owing, perhaps, to the newness of the land. Wheat yielded from twenty-five to forty bushels per acre. What corn there was raised was of the early Yankee varieties, and the blackbirds were so troublesome that much of the corn was eaten by these pests. Gradually people began to experiment with other varieties, until today corn is the best crop. Stock raising also began to receive more attention, until now the farmer who has not all the stock he can handle is an exception. One need not go outside of the township to get thoroughbred stock of all kinds. Previous to the year 1879 almost all of the grain was hauled to Storm Lake, a distance of twenty-five miles, and during those years the streets of Storm Lake were many times lined with teams waiting to unload grain. Now stock raising and dairying have taken its place, and the inhabitants are largely indebted to the change for the progress they have made. The surroundings are all favorable for the production of stock and dairy products. With a climate admirably adapted to this business, with a soil in which grass grows with great luxuriance, and which with even slovenly and slipshod methods of cultivation produces all kinds of feed in marvelous abundance; with land so cheap that the yearly products of a single cow will pay for an acre of land in the most favorable locality; with water at every man's door; with all kinds of grain feed so cheap and abundant that it can be sent four thousand miles and then

fed with a profit; with transportation so rapid, we can lay down our product in a fresh condition in almost every market in the world, what more could be asked for than what the township already possesses?

LAKE TOWNSHIP.

Originally Lake was a part of Bridgewater and was set off as a congressional township in 1882. It derives its name from the number of lakes within its borders. It was early settled by an excellent class of citizens, who have been energetic and frugal, and tilled its soil to good advantage. It possesses some excellent farm and hay land, and is also a fine stock township. Among its first settlers were J. A. Anthony, who was subsequently followed in years by D. M. Green, Capener, Cutshall, J. G. Duncan and a host of others. Among its very first settlers was a German, who built a small cabin and lived there along in 1866 and 1867. In and around these lakes for many years was the constant habitation of Indians during the hunting and fishing seasons. There were a number of Indian relics found near these lakes, showing that it was a common rendezvous for wandering tribes. Mr. Anthony gives a description of a fort which he found in good condition upon his settlement on Lost Island lake. The game was plentiful at times, and the protection from storms and excessive heat very fair, and consequently the Indians found it a very comfortable place. The citizens of the township, some years since, were very confident that the Rock Island at no distant day would extend its branch northward from Ruthven and thus supply them with better railroad facilities. When this is accomplished there can be no doubt but what Lost Island and its surrounding lakes will be utilized for a summer resort, besides the land will greatly increase in marketable value.

John A. Anthony was born in Delaware county, New York, August 13th, 1818, and remained a resident of that county for eleven years, when he moved to Broome county, where he lived for a great many years. In 1869 he came to Palo Alto county, just across the line from Clay county, and located near the north end of Lost Island lake. He had seen these broad prairies when there was not a house within the range of his vision. He had seen it slowly and gradually rise from a vast and uninhabitable plain to a thriving and well populated township and county. When he first settled on the edge of this beautiful lake it was a perilous undertaking, as it was and had been a common camping ground for roving bands of Indians. But fortunately he remained undisturbed, and the few Indians that visited at this pleasant spot left him unmolested. During the first year of his residence, at times there was a feeling of loneliness at being separated so far from civilization, but his anxiety to improve his possessions and secure a comfortable home in time drove away these sad and desponding feelings. Then there was plenty of diversion. Game at that time was plentiful, fish in abundance, and many other amusements to turn the mind from the channel of sad or regretful thoughts. Mr. Anthony has given a most minute description of an old fort located about one and a half miles east of where he resided, which was in a good state of preservation when he arrived at the lake. He stated that a rifle pit was thrown up to a considerable height, and port holes were plainly to be seen. There were many evidences to indicate that

it had been in use at some previous period, from the scattered pieces found in and around it. His conclusions were that at some time a roving tribe of Indians, probably belonging to the Sioux, who were the more intelligent, had come to Lost Island Lake to spend the winter, and as there was a scarcity of timber and also a number of other hostile bands traveling through that section, it was decided to erect this fortress as a protection against the severe storms that prevailed, as well as a place of safety should some of their enemies attempt to attack them. This fort remained in existence for a number of years, and was quite a curiosity. Lost Island Lake is a large body of water, part of which is in Clay county. Its banks are gravelly, and it is surrounded by a plentiful supply of shade trees. This township is noted for its consolidated school, a description of which is given in another part of this work.

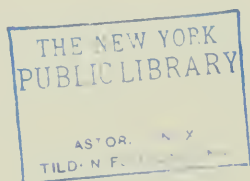
RIVERTON TOWNSHIP.

This township was organized July 7, 1874, by being set off from Spencer, to which it was formerly attached. The first settlement made in Riverton was by John and Stephen Calkins, "Father" Solomon Wells and his son Frank Wells, and Rev. R. A. Coates. Then came B. P. Hough and Wales Lamberton, all of whom settled on section 12 in this township. A year or two later Charles and James Carver settled two miles further west. John Calkins became one of the prominent men of the county. He was associated with J. H. Hale in laying off the town of Spencer, and was county supervisor for several years. His wife was especially active in church, Sunday school and educational work. The first religious service in this part of the county was held at her home. "Father" Wells was known for his religious enthusiasm. R. A. Coates, then a young man fresh from the army, was of fine intellect and active in many ways; he readily found an entry to the hearts of all who knew him.

When the board of supervisors set off Riverton, it authorized and empowered Major Cheney to call an election and swear in the judges of the election. Officers were duly elected, and the township was properly equipped and prepared to manage its own affairs as a township. Riverton has from that date borne an honorable part in the county's history. Its inhabitants have always been among Clay county's best citizens, and have had the reputation of being enterprising, honorable and prosperous. The township is most fortunately located, being watered by the Little Sioux and Ocheydan rivers and traversed by the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad. It borders Spencer on the west, in fact a part of the town of Spencer lies within the congressional township of Riverton. A visitor to this place cannot but be impressed with the general evidences of thrift, the pleasant and comfortable location of its farmers. There are quite a large number of farmers who give particular attention to stock raising. They have all classes and varieties of breeds. It is no disparagement to other townships to say that the land is of a most excellent character, and annually yields a large reward to its owners. The general condition of the soil and the favorable location of the township render it among the most favorable in the county. The township is therefore a prominent factor in point of wealth, resources, educational facilities, social advantages and political influences. Spencer and Everly are both easy of access, and the farmers of this township are therefore conveniently situated to take advantage of either market.



LOG CABIN STILL STANDING, FOUR MILES EAST OF SPENCER IN SIOUX
TOWNSHIP. BUILT BY EVAN JONES IN 1867



SUMMIT TOWNSHIP.

It was during the year 1872 that this township was created. Previous to that date it had been a part of Spencer, but it settled so rapidly that it was deemed advisable to give it the authority to govern itself in regard to local affairs. It belongs to the northern tier of townships, and with the exception of the townships containing towns, it is the wealthiest in the county. The soil is a rich loam and is well adapted for producing either grain or grass. It is none too high nor too low, but a happy medium between the two extremes, and is therefore able to withstand either the extreme droughts or rainy seasons. It is just sufficiently rolling to carry off a heavy fall of rain and yet to retain enough moisture during the dry times to grow good crops. The Little Sioux river courses its way in a diagonal direction through the township, while smaller channels coming from different directions empty into this common reservoir. The land is therefore rich and productive, and the amount of grain raised is simply immense. For grazing purposes few if any townships surpass or excel it, and for that reason it is the center of stock raising in the county. It goes without question that there is double the amount of stock owned by the farmers and dealers in Summit township than any other in the county. Some firms handle in the course of a year from two thousand to five thousand head. Its farmers are permanent, prosperous and pushing, and nearly every citizen is in well-to-do circumstances. Probably the first settlement made in that township consisted of such men, and their families, as Thomas Berry, Peter Nelson, G. W. Clark, Joseph O'Brien and others, who located in 1869. These were the beginners. During the next year there came James Anderson, Charles Justus, Mr. Emerson, Ole Berg, Martin Rassmussen, Frank Miller, James Peterson, Nels Sorrenson. The next year brought as settlers James Goodwin, W. H. Webb, Charles Tennant, I. B. Titus and quite a large number of others. Everything has tended towards prosperity in that township, with the exception of the grasshopper raids, which gave it a very bad setback. But with this single exception prosperity has attended its citizens. They have good citizens, energetic farmers, good local government, excellent school houses, taught by proficient instructors, and everything required to make living there pleasant and profitable.

FREEMAN TOWNSHIP.

This township is one of the more recently organized ones, having formerly been a part of old Bridgewater, which was divided, and out of this division grew three townships. It contains among its inhabitants some of the first settlers in the north part of the county. Among its citizens will be found some of the best, most prosperous farmers and business men in the county. It is, in point of wealth, among the first, and is constantly gaining. The little town of Dickens was started in 1886, and although still small, is gradually growing and gaining and now contains several stores, warehouses, a hotel, a school and church edifices. It also has representatives of a majority of the trades, and is destined to become a town of importance as a trading point. Its exhibit in the line of trade is quite flattering, and is annually increasing. It is located about equidistant from Spencer and Ruthven, and furnishes the people between

these two points a trading place. Its citizens are possessed of the usual amount of western enterprise, and with favorable crops will gradually spread in size and increase in the number of business houses. The land in this township is not dissimilar in fertility and general location to that in other parts of the county. The cultivation of the farms and the general appearance of the buildings indicate that its farmers are prosperous and diligent. Among some of its older settlers are such men as J. B. Wilson, R. J. Archer, George Bassett, the Culvers, Thomas Hagarth, R. E. Leach, Kinderdines, Monks, Broons, Reuben Somers and a host of others, who transformed the place from a bleak prairie to a finely settled township.

Lost Island Lake, one the most beautiful lakes in the county, extends into this township, and is bountifully supplied with many different kinds of fish. Its banks are lined with a sprinkling of timber, which adds to its beauty and attractiveness. The Chicago and Milwaukee railroad traverses the township near its center. Elm Lake also partly lies within its borders.

TOWN OF DICKENS.

Dickens is a very pretty little town of about three hundred inhabitants. The town was platted in the early '80's. The first merchant in the town was John Lawler. James E. Mills ran the first elevator, which was built by A. A. Flint, and Clarence Fish was the first blacksmith. The Dickinson brothers had a hay barn, built about the same time. The town has three elevators. They are run by J. E. Mills, J. J. Lawler and A. A. Flint. It has a volunteer fire department, which has a chemical engine and ample hose for fire protection. Dickens is not an incorporated town.

The Dickens Review is the latest paper to enter the county. Allen C. Flint is its editor. It was established October 21, 1908. In politics it is Republican. It is a seven-column folio, issued every Wednesday. This is the fourth paper to be started in the little town of Dickens. Its predecessors have all vanished. The first newspaper in Dickens was the Dickens Tribune, established by Henry Merritt in 1891. It then passed to C. A. Robison, who ran it one year. Robison sold the paper to R. A. and A. C. Somers, who merged it into the Dickens Senate about 1900. The Senate lasted until 1906, when it died a natural death, after going into the hands of Haven Flint. James E. Mills, one of the early settlers of the county, established the Dickens Leader in 1889, and placed it in charge of John Easterbrook, who continued the paper a few months and then left the plant and the village with the subscription book under his arm. Mr. Mills then removed the plant to his home, where he and his wife set up the type and gave the people of that vicinity the news for about five years. The plant was then sold to H. Flint, who took it to Greenville, where he issued a few copies of the Greenville Times, when it was sold and taken away.

Dickens lodge, I. O. O. F., No. 583, was organized about 1890, with about forty members.

The daughters of Rebekah was organized later, with about seventy members. There are also lodges of the Modern Woodmen and the Royal Neighbors.

T. J. Hurt leads the Dickens Cornet band. It is considered by the Dickens people to be a very fine musical organization.

The Central Hotel was built early in the history of the village and is now owned and presided over by Mrs. E. Symington.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The people in and around Dickens are a moral and upright class of citizens, and faithful attendants at divine worship. Until the establishment of the town of Dickens the people of that vicinity were accustomed to attend services at the Barlow and Drake schoolhouses. Various revivals had been held at these places and quite a religious sentiment created, and from this nucleus has grown the Dickens organization and church. The project of constructing a suitable place of worship was begun in 1887, and in a short time the present handsome and commodious edifice was built. Its dimensions are twenty-eight by forty-five feet, with a seating capacity of 225 persons, costing \$1,750 and free from any incumbrance. Among those who were instrumental in designing and prosecuting this good work to a successful finish were Rev. J. B. Morrow, J. D. Duncan, Noah Day, W. W. Scott, R. Somers and Gore Warren. They labored zealously and with a fidelity worthy of the noble cause of which they are true, tried and faithful members. The church is located on a prominent rise of ground in the north part of the town and has a commanding view of the surrounding country. It is neat and attractive, and is well lighted and seated. When services first began the membership numbered sixty persons, but after a successful revival, conducted by Rev. H. Hild, it increased, and now numbers about one hundred and sixty souls. Since its construction it has met with two accidents. It was blown from its foundation in 1888, and struck by lightning in 1889.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The Congregational church was organized October 14, 1894. Its first pastor was J. C. George. Some of its first members were Mrs. Agnes George, Miss Myrtie Symington, Carrie Symington, W. C. Holding, Mrs. Carrie Moore, Philip Corke, Mrs. Ida M. Corke, Henry La Brant, Mrs. Margaret L. La Brant, Mrs. Lillian La Brant, Marie La Brant, Albert G. La Brant, Paul La Brant, W. W. Culver, Mrs. S. A. Culver, Maude Culver, Mrs. Betsy B. Janes, Fred Janes, Mrs. Rosa Janes, Lorin P. Corke, Harlow A. Varney, Mrs. W. R. Rice, Mrs. Alexine Craft, Mrs. Della Cordray, Mrs. N. Baker, George Williams and Clara Hopson.

The church was erected in 1895, at a cost of \$2,000. A parsonage has since been built, at a cost of \$1,000. It has about fifty-three members and about forty in the Sunday school. They have a Ladies' Aid Society, Young People's Christian Endeavor and Junior Society. The pastors following Rev. George were A. J. Burton, three years; Charles G. Marshall, a little over a year; E. J. Grinnell, one year; C. W. Anthony, one year; C. G. Oxley, three years. J. T. Steele, the present pastor, came to the church in July, 1907.

HERDLAND TOWNSHIP.

This is one of the four southern townships of the county, and dates its existence as far back as 1873, and was at one time embraced in the township of

Douglas. Herdland has always been known as one of the early settled points in the county, having among its early settlers such men as John Kindelspyer, J. J. Duroe, George McClay, Samuel Mills, W. D. Brown, L. Gown, Henry Hughes, S. T. Collins, J. A. Mills, J. W. Ford and many others. These organizers and promoters of the township were sturdy pioneers and had implicit confidence in the ultimate growth and development of it. They had the satisfaction of seeing its sod houses vanish and handsome frame residences take their place. They have seen a thin and sparse settlement gradually grow and enlarge to great proportions. They saw its uncultivated lands transformed into fields of waving corn and wheat, oats and other grains. It was a source of great satisfaction to them to have been able in a measure to effect this great change. The land is good and almost all of it is tillable, and the majority of that which is not used for plow land is used for grazing and hay purposes. It is watered by the Little Sioux river, which in a serpent-like manner courses through the entire township. It has good schools, a good postoffice and is near Webb, the nearest and most convenient shipping point. It has all the natural resources and the necessary conveniences for great future possibilities. Among its farmers are some of the most prominent and influential citizens, whose interest in the county's prosperity and development has never flagged. It has supplied the county with a number of members of the board of supervisors, who have always proven themselves not only excellent business men, but shrewd and sagacious in working for the county's welfare.

Herdland had long been anxious for a railroad. This it is now blessed with. In fact two cross the township. The Minneapolis and St. Louis runs south along its western border and cuts into its southern corner. The Gowrie and Northwestern cuts across the township, entering at its northwest corner and leaving the township at about the center of its east line and midway north and south.

LINCOLN TOWNSHIP.

This was the fifth township created by the county legislature, and originally embraced several other townships. Its physical features are not unlike those of Douglas and Gillett's Grove, with the exception that the Sioux river does not touch its boundaries, nor is it supplied with native timber. Its soil is deep and rich, its prairie land yields richly, and its native grass is of a heavy growth and nutritious. Among its early settlers are such names as Josiah E. and John F. Chase, J. S. Brownell, Henry A. Bell, W. H. Arms, P. W. Madden, Isaac Fenn, Jonathan Green, A. Seibel, M. Rote, E. J. L. Merchant, C. D. Killam, the Davises, and a number of others. This township appears to have been settled up much more rapidly than others, as the names given in the list of inhabitants are in the main persons who have lived in the township for a great many years. The earlier life of the pioneers of this township was similar to that of those of adjoining ones. At first it was the sod house they were compelled to live in until they accumulated enough money to purchase lumber and build a frame dwelling, and when this was accomplished, then along came a pest in the form of grasshoppers, destroying their crops and almost all their

hopes of future success. But in time they recovered from this disaster, and are now a contented, happy and prosperous class of farmers. In time a post-office was established at the residence of Nathan Chase and later at the residence of J. S. Brownell on section 12, and he was made postmaster, which office he held a great many years, finally resigning, and Adolph Seibel was appointed. The postoffice was then moved to the residence of the latter, only a short distance from the former, being in fact on the same section. The name of this postoffice was designated "Annieville." The township was named in honor of the lamented president. A majority of the farmers were homesteaders, and have lived in the township a sufficient length of time to grow good groves and build substantial and comfortable homes. They have a number of schoolhouses, located in different parts of the township and within convenient distances from most of the homes. More than the ordinary amount of interest is manifested by the citizens in the education of the young, and the result is that they have good teachers and well conducted schools, which is but a reflex of the intelligence of its inhabitants. In point of wealth it stands in the middle class, but in point of industry and sterling worth of its farmers it stands among the first.

GARFIELD TOWNSHIP.

This township is one of the youngest in the county, having been set off as a separate body in January, 1889. Previous to this it constituted a part of Herdland. Its numerical strength is therefore limited. It embraces that portion of territory lying in the extreme southeast portion of the county and consists of thirty-six sections of very superior land. The land is somewhat rolling and produces very bountifully in certain localities. It has two bodies of water, known as Mud and Pickerel lakes, besides it is quite near the Little Sioux river. A majority of its inhabitants are of quite recent arrival, who are firm in the belief that Garfield, like its great namesake, is destined to development into a tower of strength and form an important factor in the composition and future legislation of the county. Being situated near Sioux Rapids and Marathon, it is thus in some respects fortunately located and cannot fail to increase its numbers. It is fairly supplied with trees, possessing quite a number of groves and one or two good sized bodies of timber. Besides the lakes, there are several small streams which give an abundant supply of water. As a whole, the location and natural advantages of Garfield are very superior and offer sufficient inducements to those seeking a home to in short time increase and multiply its present number of citizens. Gillett's Grove and Logan, which join it on the north, are both splendid townships and present good opportunities, either for speculation or permanent homes. The land is good and the prices for which it is selling are within the reach of those with limited means. They rank with other townships in every respect, except numbers, and there is no potent reason why their future is not as bright as any of the townships in the county. The people of Garfield are a progressive and upright class and are making excellent efforts to populate it with good citizens and stirring farmers. The first election of this township was held November, 1889, and while the vote was small, it was due to its recent civil organization.

LOGAN TOWNSHIP.

This lies on the eastern line or tier of townships in the county and embraces thirty-six sections or twenty-three thousand and forty acres of excellent land, the majority of it being tillable. It is not only productive, but constitutes one of the best townships for grazing and stock purposes in the county. In the main it is level, well watered and produces excellent and nutritious grasses. Besides Elk creek, its branches and numerous other streams, which afford a plentiful supply of water, it has numerous small groves which provide good shade and fire wood. This township was organized in 1882, having previously been a part of the township of Herdland. Its creation as an independent and separate civil organization has left it without the great or lengthy history which is attached to a number of its sister townships. It has not had any great rush of immigration or any particular boom, but its farmers are substantial, energetic and in the main successful. Some of the land within its borders is owned by non-residents, who appreciate its value and ultimate worth. With moral and upright citizens, a pushing and progressive class of farmers, excellent and well-taught schools, a good and efficient local government, productive lands, and possessing every natural advantage necessary for comfort and convenience, there is nothing to deteriorate it, but on the contrary, every opportunity to make one of the very best and leading of the townships in the county. During the first period after being set off it received but a limited accession, but in the last few years it has gradually grown.

WATERFORD TOWNSHIP.

Among the townships that have come into prominence, none has done so more rapidly than Waterford, and none has maintained its record more substantially or creditably. By an act of the board of supervisors, passed in 1884, all that part of Clay county embraced in 97, range 38 west, was set off and constituted as Waterford township, for civil, school and election purposes. It is true, at that time it only had the minimum number of voters and freeholders, but these were anxious for separate township. At first there were no spurts of immigration, but of late years there has been a gradual increase, and Waterford has asserted her importance and force in many of the affairs of the county in a very potent manner. There is a general unanimity of feeling and sentiment existing among the people in that section, as is powerfully attested at the county elections. A large proportion of its citizens are Germans, and in the main they are successful and enterprising farmers. They may not be as aggressive as in other townships, but the general results of their labor shows to a much better advantage than their more progressive neighbors. The soil in the township is most excellent, and the average yield of grain ranks most favorably with that in other parts of the county. It is well watered. The Ocheyedan river, a most beautiful stream with a gravel bed, clear and crystal-like, courses its way through the western portion, while a number of small streamlets and lakes in different parts of the township furnish all the necessary water and drainage needed. The township, in addition to its producing qualities, is largely adapted to stock raising. There are several very extensive stock farms in this section,

which are not only well farmed, but are proving very profitable to their owners. It is well located, being within easy approach of stations and railroad, and produces quite extensively. The trade of the people of this township is greatly sought after. Its farmers are frugal and industrious and are accumulating considerable of a competency for their labors. The moral character of its inhabitants is noteworthy, their enterprise and industry commendable and worthy of emulation. The small number of the earlier settlers infused and engendered a feeling of friendship, which time has not broken, and the consequences are that there is almost perfect accord prevailing among its people, which constitutes in the township an efficient and strong force in all public and personal matters. The grain, stock and dairying products from Waterford township form a considerable portion of shipments from this county. With all the necessary elements in its favor, there is every reason to conclude that Waterford's future is certainly bright and promising. Economical, businesslike in methods, sturdy rugged and industrious as its citizens are, there is nothing to prevent them from accumulating wealth, developing its soil, and making Waterford a record that will eclipse any of its neighbors in point of numbers, financial worth, and value of property.

CLAY TOWNSHIP.

This township is the remainder of the county, which was declared and designated by Judge C. C. Smeltzer as the civil township of Clay. All of the other townships, fifteen in number, were set off from the original Clay township, which leaves the present Clay township in No. 95, range 38. This is one of the creditable townships of the county and its citizens' prosperity will compare favorably with that of those of any other township in the county. It is made up of an industrious, frugal and enterprising class of men and women, and the farms show a high state of cultivation. The homes are comfortable and many are supplied with modern conveniences. It had two churches, the Maple Grove Methodist Church and the Bethel Church, the latter under the auspices of the Cherokee Association of the Congregational Church. The Bethel church was recently torn down and the material used for an addition to the Congregational church at Peterson.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTY.

The census of Clay in 1860 showed the population to be only fifty-two. Two years later it nearly doubled itself, there being one hundred persons. In 1865 the enumerators reported one hundred and seventy-five. In 1867 it had increased to three hundred and sixty-nine, more than doubling itself. During the next two years the immigration was not so rapid, as the population only numbered four hundred and fifty, but during the fall of 1869 and the spring of 1870 there was a great influx, and the number of persons ran up to one thousand five hundred and twenty-three. New life and energy was infused in those who had lived here so long, and had seen the years roll by with only a small increase annually. The next two years the county more than doubled itself and it was reported that there were three thousand five hundred and eighty-five souls in the county. In 1875 the number was three thousand five hundred and sixty-nine. The census enumerators of 1880 reported the number to be four

thousand two hundred and forty-eight, and in 1885, six thousand four hundred and thirty-eight. In 1890 the population was nine thousand three hundred and nine; in 1895, eleven thousand two hundred and seventy-seven; in 1900, thirteen thousand four hundred and one; in 1905, twelve thousand seven hundred and eleven. The next enumeration will occur in 1910, when, if the same proportion of increase is maintained, the total population of the county will probably reach fifteen thousand.

The population of Clay county in 1905 by townships, towns and villages was as follows:

Clay township	763	Meadow township.....	595
Douglas township.....	533	Peterson township.....	485
Freeman township.....	765	Peterson (town).....	482
Garfield township.....	472	Riverton township.....	478
Webb (town).....	166	Sioux township	471
Gillett Grove township.....	609	Spencer, 1st ward.....	1,011
Herdland township.....	515	Spencer, 2d ward.....	935
Lake township.....	415	Spencer, 3d ward.....	1,191
Lincoln township.....	615	Summit township.....	663
Logan township.....	358	Waterford township.....	391
Lone Tree township.....	398		
Everly (town).....	400	Total	12,711

FIRST DAYS IN CLAY COUNTY.

BY THE FIRST SETTLER.

J. A. and William Kirchner, who were the first settlers in Clay county, came and located on the hills just across the Little Sioux river, a little south of where the present town of Peterson now is located. They came from Albany, New York, to what is now East Dubuque by train and footed it from there to Cedar Falls. Here they purchased a light democrat wagon, a span of little ponies, and carried tents with them. The first stop they made after leaving Cedar Falls was at a place a little north of the present site of the town of Sioux Rapids. While there they learned of the beautiful groves on the Sioux river, a little farther on, so they determined to push on to this place.

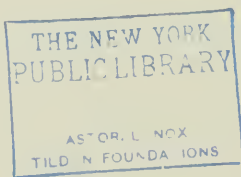
In the first place they had started for Spirit Lake, but they found this beautiful grove and plenty of good water for their horses near by, so they made up their minds to settle in the grove. So they put up stakes for their claims and then went back to New Hartford and stopped at Ambrose S. Mead's.

"The place on which we first landed, upon the hill," said J. A. Kirchner, "is now owned by Fred Eirhardt. There was nothing here at that time, and I saw that there was a spring down across the river and I pointed it out and said I wanted to live down there by the spring.

"We then went to Cedar Falls and bought wagons, teams, a plow and some other farm implements and came back again. We reached here the latter part of May, 1856, and began breaking up some of the land in June.



AN OLD PIONEER OF SPENCER



"John J. Bicknell came with us the second time, but did not stay. I went back to Albany, New York, and got my father and mother and brothers and sisters and they came back with me. While I was gone I left my younger brother and A. S. Mead to look after the new place. I brought my father and mother (Mr. and Mrs. Christian Kirchner), my brothers, John, Phil and Will. My oldest sister, Barbara, married Michael Springer in New York, but they afterward located in Fort Dodge. Mary married Henry Brockschink and located in Webster City. Lottie married Dr. M. S. Butler, of Cherokee. Lanie married Walter French and located in Sioux City. Julia married Hiram Hulburt, of Peterson; both are now deceased. Another sister, Dorothy, married a Mr. Schmidt and never came to Peterson.

"I located on section 33, Peterson township, and took one-half of the section. The center of the town is about the center of this section. I just squatted on the land, then railroad land, and afterward got title to it. The railroad company got it before we knew it, because we were so far away from any road and it took news so long to reach us. In the first place I bought the land of the county and paid for one quarter section, and they only gave me a quit-claim deed to it. My brother wanted part of the land, and so he paid me for it and we used the timber to build a log house with.

"It was a good many years after we located before anyone else came near us to locate on the land. But in the summer of 1856 Henry Waterman settled in O'Brien county, and the Gilletts at what is now Gillett's Grove. A Mr. Frink settled near Linn Grove, also Will Weaver and Mr. Bell and Esley Wilcox settled near the present site of the town of Sioux Rapids. Then we all tried to get as many as possible to come and settle near us, or in adjoining counties.

"In the year 1857 Charles Smeltzer and his brother E. Smeltzer started to organize the county.

"I was appointed the first postmaster in Clay county, and soon after that a postoffice was established at Spencer. I had the postoffice in my house and I made my own boxes for the mail. The mail was carried through on foot, from Sioux City to Mankato, Minnesota. The postage in those days was five cents. We got mail every week, once a week from the south and the next week from the north. We usually received about three or four papers and half a dozen letters. I was the postmaster here in Peterson for over fifteen years. I was appointed by Buchanan.

"The first religious services were held in the schoolhouse. In 1883 the Methodists and the Congregational societies both built small churches.

PETERSON MILLS.

"I built a saw mill on the river in 1869. This was the first mill erected in Clay county. I afterward converted this into a grist mill and ran this for a good many years. About eight or nine years ago I sold this mill to my son-in-law. The dam built by me for my mill was also the first dam built in Clay county. C. D. Marcellus built the next mill, at Spencer. When I first owned the mill I hired A. W. Miller to run it, and after a while I ran it myself.

"The first blacksmith shop in Peterson was conducted by Wilson Brown.

He came from Hardin county to Peterson about 1869 or 1870. 'Joe' Tatroe afterwards ran a shop here, and then Morgan Schull and James Hagerty.

"The first hotel was built by Oscar Rice, located on the corner of Front and Fourth streets. It is still standing on these lots. The next hotel was erected on Main street and is now occupied by Gaskin's agricultural implement house. The next hotel was built on Main street and is now the Commercial house. It was erected on Elm street, but was afterward moved to the corner of Main and Second streets, where it now stands.

"The Park hotel was built in two parts, the first part by 'Long' William Evans and the other part by Hilton Voigt. These two parts were afterward joined, but it is not occupied as a hotel at the present time.

"The Peterson waterworks were built ten or twelve years ago. They are of natural pressure. They are erected on a hill at the north end of Main street. The reservoir is twenty feet in diameter and about twenty feet deep. Peterson is now planning to put up another reservoir and we are also laying a main up Third street. The pressure from this height furnishes sufficient fire protection for the city. The water is of a very high quality, clear and cool. The water system has cost the town about \$2,500, not including the new contracts let in 1908. The well is just north of the depot and they pump this with a gasoline engine. The well is about 100 feet deep and has a six-inch pipe to the bottom.

"The city is lighted with large gasoline street lamps.

"The only buildings belonging to the town are the pump house and the scale office.

"The Good Templar's hall is the only public hall in the town, it is erected on North Main street.

"The Chicago and Northwestern is the only railroad in the town of Peterson. This was built in 1883. The first agent was George L. Hawn, who came and opened the station. He turned it over to E. Turner in a few months, who it still acting as agent for the company."

THE OLD COURTHOUSE.

"After the courthouse was abandoned by the county here, I purchased it and used it for a barn for twenty-five years or more, until a year or two ago, when it was used for a cement block factory. In the spring of 1908 I cut it in two, added some to it, and made two dwelling houses out of it. Soon after the county abandoned it as a courthouse it was used for a dwelling house, and several Pastors lived in it.

INDIAN VISITS.

"There was a tribe of Indians went through our little settlement in the early fall, who were on their way to Omaha to visit other tribes. They were very peaceful when they went down. They came in the fall of 1858, and returned February 16th and visited all the houses in the settlement. When they came to our house I went to the door, and when I opened the door our dog ran out and the Indian shot him; then he aimed his gun at me and I laughed at him. The chief of the tribe was standing by him and he touched the young fellow on the arm, when he put down the gun and wanted to be friendly with us. Then

the Indians came in and ate their dinner at our house and seemed to be all right. We cooked a kettle of meat for them and one of them went into the pantry and got a jug of molasses and poured it into the kettle and they ate all of this. Then they left our house and went up to Mead's, and my younger brother followed them, to see what they were going to do there. They had pitched their tents a little way from Mead's house. As soon as they saw us they came up and spoke to us and tried to make friends. My younger brother wrestled with several of the young boys and he succeeded in throwing them all. They called him brave paleface and they all laughed and clapped their hands at the sport. Of course they were his best friends from that time on. This was the next day after they had been to our house. When we went into the house we found out that they had taken the women out to their tents and kept them out all night the night before, and they came and took them again. I told them no; but I was not armed and there were sixty-three of them and they were mostly all of them armed. They took Mrs. Taylor, a settler's wife; Miss Harriet Mead, about twenty years of age, and Emma Mead, twelve years old. Mr. Mead was gone all winter and his two boys, Frank and Harrison, were left to do the chores, Harrison had accidentally shot his limb a few days before, and so I went up to help do the chores for them.

"After a while three Indians came to the door of the house and said that the white people were killing the Indians down in their camp, and that was the cause of all the noise. I said no, because there were no other white people around. Then one of the Indians led me outdoors and held a tomahawk over my head, and one Indian stood on one side of me with a bowie knife and one on the other side of me with a tomahawk. I had nothing to protect myself with. I told them no again, and they laughed at me and let me go. All they did this for was to see if there were any other white men in the house. I had a good gun in the house and they stole this and all they could find that they wanted. They had taken it once before and I gave them \$2.50 and bought it back from them. My brother did not have a gun, and one of the boys that he had thrown when they were wrestling took a liking to him and gave Jake a rifle. If an Indian sees a white man running away with a gun he will take after him and try to kill him. So this young Indian went nearly home with my brother and then told him to hurry and not let any Indian see him with the rifle. Jake kept this rifle a good many years and always prized it highly.

"The Indians stayed at Mead's for three or four days. Mead had about twenty good ponies, and they said they belonged to the Indians and so they took the ponies when they went away. We had two good horses and one of them they killed and the other they cut in the hip to see if it was fat. And of course we had to kill it also. They also shot and killed one cow. Then they all left Mead's with the ponies and nearly all the provisions they could find, and went up to Linn Grove, where they killed all the horses and cattle that Frink had, and then they went on to Sioux Rapids to Weaver's. When they got here about three or four of them went ahead to spy out and see what there was that they could steal from the settlers. They took a large supply of provisions from the Weavers and did other damage to their homes.

"Once in the early fall the Indians stole all the horses we had and a very

fine span of young horses belonging to Charles Smeltzer. Of course we were very busy and wanted to use our horses in the fields the next day. So, early in the morning, we started out to look-for them and we found a partially eaten ear of corn and some buckskin strings. Toward evening a heavy thunder storm came up and the horses all came home on the run but Smeltzer's nice team. He never got his good team back. Another time they stole every horse we had and took them up to Mankato, Minnesota. We heard through an Indian agent that they were there. So my brother Jake went up after them, and my other brother, Phil, went with him. They got the horses, and the Indian agent told them that the Indians were on the warpath and for them to get home as soon as they possibly could. One of my horses was lame, so they sold it in order to get home quicker.

"Another time I was gone to Sac City for a time and when I returned I went out to hunt for a cow and a young calf of mine. I never found the calf but found the cow a few miles away, where the Indians had killed her and took the best of the meat and left the remains. I hunted around and tried to find some further traces of the Indians, but could not.

"I had one horse that was always afraid of the Indians and it would always start the others for home when the Indians came near. These things happened in the years 1862 and 1863.

"One time while the soldiers were in camp at the old fort, two of them went to Sioux Rapids to do some trading; on their return, they were coming along past the place where the Alliance farm is now located, when their horses suddenly took fright. They heard several shots fired at them. The soldiers had nothing but their rifles and they had used up nearly all their ammunition, but nevertheless they took after the Indians. Mr. Whitlock, one of the soldiers, caught one of the Indians right back of the old barns. Of course by this time, he had nothing left to fight with but an empty gun. One of the Indians knocked him down and would have killed him if the other soldier had not ridden up just at this time. He helped Mr. Whitlock on to his horse and they hurried to the old fort, where they got more soldiers and hurried after the Indians, but they could not find them again."

AN EARLY INCIDENT.

Mr. Gillett, one of the early settlers of the county, for whom Gillett's Grove bears its name, visited friends in this county and the scene of his former home. During his visit he related an event which the hitherto had never made public. Mr. Gillett was quite aged and in a few years his race was almost run, and, as he said, "it was useless to keep it a secret any longer, as the participants had passed over the silent river of death. The story is substantially as follows: He, with his brother, came to Clay county in the fall of 1856, and located at what is, known as Gillett's Grove, which is a beautiful spot, filled with growing trees and through which courses the Little Sioux river. After deciding upon their location, they agreed to divide the grove equally, and one take the north and the other the south part. This being settled, they at once set to work and in a short time had constructed neat log houses and prepared themselves for winter. Being amply supplied with firewood and their log houses being built not alone with a view to convenience, but as well for warmth, they had no fears of suffering from the

storms or intense cold weather, which were notable at that time in this section. The only fears they entertained were from the Indians. But at that time the Indians did not make frequent visits to this particular section, for the reason that there was but little game, poor fishing and no settlements. The newly acquired property holders therefore felt themselves safe and comfortable from any intrusions of the wild savages, whose treachery they so much feared. Everything passed along quietly for several months, until one day a tribe, under Chief Ink-pa-du-tah, came and set up their tepees on the banks of Lost Island lake. The settlers, upon learning of their arrival and location, feared that the Indians would discover the location of their houses and visit them. Their fears were well founded, for in a few days several of the red skins paid them a visit. The white settlers treated them kindly and gave them provisions and they left for their camping grounds, expressing their friendship and thanks for the food given them. In a few days another lot of them came, headed by a stalwart brave, who had been with the others a few days before. After saying their "How," they were supplied by the whites and returned to the lake. During both visits it was noticeable that one of them—the one who led the second group—had his eyes fixed constantly in admiration upon Mrs. Gillett. Wherever she went, and whenever she moved, the Indian's eyes were upon her. In a few days he returned, this time alone. He was given a seat and provided with a meal. He went away, but two or three days later he came, and although saying nothing, his looks indicated his admiration for Mrs. Gillett. His visits grew so constant and frequent that they became annoying, not only to Mrs. Gillett, but the two families. He was constantly prowling around and appearing before them at the most unexpected moments, until he became a great nuisance. He was given to understand that his visits were not desired, but to these reminders he paid not the least attention. He was always fed and well treated, for the reason that the settlers did not wish to give any offense to the tribe, or incur their enmity. But becoming emboldened by the kind treatment that had been extended to him, he came one day in the absence of Mr. Gillett and, mastering all the English language he possessed, he made certain propositions to Mrs. Gillett, which she indignantly rejected and warned him to leave. He left the home in a short time, but had not gone a great distance, when Mr. Gillett returned home. His wife immediately informed him of what the Indian had proposed. The husband took down his rifle, and learning the direction the Indian had taken, set out after him. After a few minutes' walk he caught sight of him and drew up his rifle and fired. He did not wait to ascertain the result of the shot but returned to his log cabin and ate his supper. In the morning, in company with his brother, he visited the spot and there found a dead Indian. The brothers, after severing the head from the body—which they subsequently sent to an eastern college—placed it in a hollow tree. They at once packed up their belongings and started for Fort Dodge, knowing full well that the Indians would discover the absence of the young buck, knowing his fondness for Mrs. Gillett, would come there in search of him and finding no trace of him would suspect that they had killed him and would avenge themselves upon the white settlers. They therefore deemed it prudent to make their escape before the arrival of the searching party, which they did. Subsequently, they learned that the Indians did come,

and not finding him, set fire to the buildings and destroyed everything about the late homes of the Gillett's. In a short time they visited Okoboji lakes and their barbarous, inhuman treatment and cruelty, are matters of history.

RECOLLECTIONS OF A PIONEER.

Samuel Gillespie came to Peterson, Iowa, which was the county seat of Clay county at that time, in 1871. He came from California. The town of Peterson contained only three or four families. The county courthouse was there and the county officers formed the most part of the population. The courthouse was a small one-story building, consisting of three rooms, and the offices were doubled up into these three rooms and court was also held in them. Samuel Gonser was county auditor; Samuel Dubois, treasurer; J. G. Dodd, recorder; Joseph Crozier was clerk of the court, but Mr. Gonser was deputy, and did most of the business for him. Judge J. Snyder was from Humboldt county. The county had three supervisors at that time: J. J. Davis, J. C. Taber and J. F. Calkins. Charles Carner was county superintendent.

The town of Peterson was the only town in Clay county at that time and the people came from a long distance to do their trading there. The village had a grist mill and a blacksmith shop. J. A. Kirchner run the grist mill and had a fair patronage, owing to the large scope of country surrounding. The blacksmith shop was conducted by William Brown. There were two small general stores; one conducted by Thomas Bevin and the other by Robert Roberts, deceased. There were two or three residences and a small hotel. Mr. Gonser was an attorney and there was a Mr. L. M. Pemberton, also an attorney, who now lives at Beatrice, Nebraska, who has become district judge and is a very eminent jurist.

M. E. Griffin had his land and real estate office in the courthouse at Peterson. The same M. E. Griffin now of Spencer.

The county then, in 1871, contained about fifteen hundred people. With a very few exceptions they were people who had come here to locate on government lands. In the spring of 1871, most of the homesteaders erected sod houses and sod barns for their stock and broke up some of their land. Some of them planted wheat and oats on the breaking. The country was covered with a large growth of prairie grass, some of it as high as ten feet and most of it at least six feet high. In the following spring a fire started and burned the entire country over, carrying everything before it. Most of the frame buildings were burned, but those who had sod buildings did not suffer any loss.

Homesteaders continued to come in during the summer and built for the most part small sod houses, but some of them built frame ones. Most of them brought grain enough for their horses and enough to plant in the spring. Those who did not bring anything with them found it difficult to make a living here.

In the fall of 1871 a number of schoolhouses were erected in Clay county, mostly of sod. A number of these were erected in Clay, Lincoln and Peterson townships. There were more sod buildings at that time than any other. The sod buildings were erected by taking a breaking plow, going into the low land where the sod was heavy and plowing a furrow of sixteen to eighteen inches in width, and then cutting it into sections, eighteen to twenty inches long, and

laying them up like brick. The cabins usually had board floors in them. The roof was usually made of large rafters, covered with prairie hay or grass, and covered again with sod, making quite a tight roof, lasting for several years. Usually the structure had one door and one window, the latter about one-half size with glass in it. If they were carefully built they were quite comfortable houses, especially if a good fire was kept in them. Water would not freeze in them in the coldest of weather, even when the thermometer stood at 40 degrees below zero. Some of the schoolhouses were provided with patent desks but a number of them and perhaps most of them were made of large slabs bought at Peterson.

Several towns often constituted a school district in those days. The early pioneers were always willing to do anything to help along their schools. The revenue for school purposes was not very high at that time but was more than sufficient to keep them in running order.

The schools were of a very crude character and, consequently, good teachers were very scarce. The wages were not very large, but the teachers received more than enough for their labors. The average salary of the rural teacher was from fifteen to twenty-five dollars, according to the size of the school. It was often payable in warrants much below par. A good many of the schools were conducted in private houses. A director often employed his wife to teach the school in his own home, thereby securing fuel for his own use and for the school as well. This condition of affairs continued to exist up until the year 1880, when the railroad lands were opened up and more revenue for school purposes became available. The county was then divided into more uniform shape for school purposes. More and better buildings were erected and usually provided with better desks, seats and other useful and necessary things now found in the modern schoolroom. The first independent school district was established in Spencer in 1874, and was composed of about six sections, including the village of Spencer. This constituted the district when it was established. The schoolhouse was a frame building 16 by 24. After the establishment of the district an addition 16 by 30 was added to the south end of the old building. The first school teacher in Spencer was Miss Maggie Thompson. The above described building continued to do service until 1880. After the coming of the railroad a new four-room, two-story building was erected. This was quite a building for that time, but it was properly built and the first graded school was established in the county with M. M. Gilchrist as principal.

In 1882, the Chicago & Northwestern railroad came through Peterson and soon after that a very nice four-room school building was erected there. It was larger than needed at the time, but in two or three years an addition was necessary.

In 1882, the one school building in Spencer had been outgrown and it became necessary to erect another one on the east side. There were about twelve hundred inhabitants in the town of Spencer at that time. Only two rooms of the new building were occupied, but they were soon all in use. These two buildings continued to serve the town for school purposes until 1893, when the present west side building was erected, at a cost of about twenty-five thousand dollars, exclusive of furnishings. In 1902 an additional four-room brick build-

ing was erected on the north side and a one-room frame building on the south side. The schools at the present employ about twenty-four teachers and are maintained at an expense of approximately twenty thousand dollars per year.

REMOVAL OF THE COUNTY SEAT.

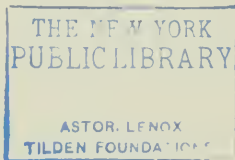
At the meeting of the board of supervisors, consisting of three members in 1871, it was voted to submit the removal of the county seat of Clay county from Peterson to Spencer. Peterson was in the southwest corner of the county, being within a half mile of the south line and two and one-half miles from the west line, thus making it necessary for a large part of the people to travel a distance of thirty miles to reach the county seat. A railroad had recently been surveyed about six miles north of the forty-third parallel and eight miles from the north line of the county and in the exact geographical center east and west with its more central location and probability of a railroad in the near future. It was finally decided to remove the seat of government to the new town. The latter part of October the last of the records were removed to the new town of Spencer, where the people of the town or village had provided a courthouse free of expense to the county. The new courthouse was a building about 20 by 40, two stories high. The first floor was subdivided into county offices and the second floor constituted the courtroom. This room was used for all public gatherings as well as all the court proceedings. The building was erected on lower Main street. This building continued to serve the county until 1882, when another two-story frame building was erected. This building was about 40 by 48 and was erected on the present courthouse site.

FIRST GRASSHOPPER INVASION.

The first grasshopper invasion occurred in June, 1873, when the pests came down in countless millions like so many snowflakes. They devoured the most of the crops and later devoured all the growing grain. They left nothing for the poor settlers for the winter food or the spring seed. In fact many of them were left in destitute circumstances and they found it necessary to appeal to friends in other states for aid. A great many aid societies were organized and solicitors sent to Illinois and Wisconsin, to solicit aid for the poor and destitute of the county. These people furnished the homesteaders with food and clothing for the winter; but what troubled the settler the most was the grain for seed for the next spring. They formed themselves into parties and drew up petitions and sent them to the legislature, asking for grain for the coming year. The legislature sent out men with the authority to distribute seed grain among the destitute people. The quantity of grain furnished to each family depended largely on the size of the family and the amount of land they had. The grain provided was sown in the spring of 1874, came up nicely and gave promise of a very good crop; but by the middle of May the grasshoppers began to appear and devour the coming crop. For a time it looked as if everything was lost; but the season being favorable, the grain came again and about the first of June the grasshoppers obtained wings and flew away. The farmers' crops were saved for that year at least.



CLAY COUNTY'S FIRST COURTHOUSE



SECOND GRASSHOPPER INVASION.

The second grasshopper invasion occurred the latter part of July, 1876, just as the wheat and oats were ripening and the corn coming into tassel and silk. The grasshoppers ate the heads off of the grain and settled down on the corn, until they broke it down with their weight, literally destroying all of the small grain. This was the most complete destruction ever known. The settlers began to abandon their homes, many of which were mortgaged heavily. Some of them turned their homes over to their creditors while others sold them for little or nothing and left the country. Some of them had their horses and other stock mortgaged, but they were leaving in such great numbers that the officers were powerless. There was great destitution the following winter, but kind friends again came to their aid and supplied the necessary food and clothing to the needy. Friends also supplied the necessary seed grain, and the settlers paid for the grain when the crop was harvested. The crops came up fine in the spring but the latter part of May the grasshoppers began again to devour the growing crops. They flew away, however, the early part of July. Many farmers, particularly on the border lands, lost all of their crops, while in some parts of the country the crops matured and were excellent. The oats went as high as one hundred bushels to the acre. Corn was also very good, averaging about thirty to thirty-five bushels to the acre, wheat about twenty-five bushels to the acre. That was the last grasshopper invasion and the country has never been troubled by one since.

THE TOWN OF SPENCER IS PLATTED.

In April, 1871, J. H. Hale, who then owned forty acres which constituted the original town of Spencer, conceived the plan of platting it and establishing a town.

The first two small general stores in Spencer were conducted by John W. Masten and M. M. Pесо. They were erected on the site of the present courthouse, which at that time was railroad land. There was a mill on the river about a mile below town, conducted by C. D. Marcellus. There was also a small blacksmith shop run by A. Tatroe. (Joe). It stood on the present site of the Clay County News office. The shop was a one-story low building, fifteen feet wide and about twenty feet long; for a long time it had no roof. It was constructed of sod. Tatroe had a rude forge, an anvil and such other tools as an early blacksmith used. There was another blacksmith shop erected later on, near the corner of Main and Fourth streets, by David Skinner.

Mr. Hale associated with him in the town enterprise J. F. Calkins, an enterprising homesteader, who had located near the present Spencer cemetery; his home being on the present site of Dr. Knight's fine residence. They proceeded to have the town platted, by John Edmands, surveyor. On the 10th day of May, 1871, the plat was filed for record. Lots were placed on sale and several of them on Main street were sold. The two general stores, then standing on the present courthouse site, were moved down to the corner of Main and Second streets. About the same time a small hotel was erected on the corner of Main and Second streets, now the site of Union Hall. A hardware store was also

erected about this time on the southwest corner of Main and Second streets. Another store occupied the corner of Main and Third streets, now the site of Union Block. A new frame store building was also erected on the corner of Main and Third streets, on the present site of W. B. Cruver's grocery. A drug store was also established, by Dr. S. J. Eggleston, on the west side of Main street, between Second and Third streets. This constituted the business portion of the town until 1871. Jacob Rood, deceased, and his son, W. I. Rood, erected a small building on the west side of Main street, between Third and Fourth streets, using it as a book store and a photograph gallery. About this time the building now occupied by Mack Bros. & McConnell as an office, was erected for a store. These buildings constituted the business houses of the town until the railroad came. The first residence on the original town site was erected by J. W. Masten, located on the present site of the residence now occupied by F. X. Maurer, on East Fourth street. Mr. Masten afterward sold this property to Julius H. Hale, the owner of the original town site, who continued to occupy it for a number of years. In 1871, after the town was platted, the first residence erected was that which is now occupied by L. A. Hammond, on East First street. It was erected by A. G. Martin. The second residence was erected on West Third street, by Henry B. Wood, the county's first representative in the legislature. This was a modest one-story, one-room building, which he continued to occupy for several years after. The present residence of Julia Wood now occupies the site. The third residence was that of Samuel Gillespie, who was associate editor and proprietor of the News, at that time. The next residence was that of John F. Ford, associate editor and proprietor of the News; this was just opposite Mr. Gillespie's residence. The fifth residence was erected by J. H. Stilson, who edited a paper known as "The Land Dealer." The first residence of any pretensions was erected on the south side of West Fourth street, about one block west of Main, in 1875, by J. H. Grout; it is now the home of A. G. Hardin. From that time until the railroad came no residences of any pretension at all were erected.

THE FIRST RAILROAD.

The first railroad entered Clay county about the middle of September, 1878, being an extension of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul from Algona. Its reaching Spencer was really an epoch in the history of the town. On the road entering Spencer, the town seemed to take on new life. The elevator, moved by Frank M. Tuttle from its site near the Milwaukee depot to a site near the Minneapolis & St. Louis depot, was erected, and the farmers from a distance of over thirty miles and often more began to market their grain and stock here. Now the larger store buildings were erected; larger and better stocks of goods were placed in them and, in less than a year, Spencer grew from a small village to a good sized town. It soon became a little city of about one thousand inhabitants.

The railroad land was placed on the market and it was bought up rapidly. New settlers came in and in less than three years from the coming of the railroad the population of the county had increased from about two thousand to more than six thousand, which all thought was pretty rapid development.

The first church erected in Clay county was in 1869, in Douglas township, and was known as the Welch Pioneer Baptist church. Their first pastor was Rev. Jones. It continued to be the only house of worship in Clay county until June, 1873, when the first church was erected in Spencer. This was the Methodist Episcopal church and it was erected on the present site of Frank Smith's residence, on the corner of Second and Mill streets. Their first regular pastor was Rev. C. B. Winter, who came to Spencer in the fall of 1871. He first held services in the little old schoolhouse, on the site of the present west side building, but later transferred to the courthouse hall on its completion. The Methodists continued to occupy the new building until February, 1877, when it was destroyed by fire. They had to go to other quarters to hold their services and this they continued to do until the coming of the railroad, when they erected a small frame building on the site of the new and elegant house of worship on the corner of Fourth street. They continued to occupy this building until about ten years ago, when they erected a commodious addition. The enlarged building served as a house of worship until the present brick and stone building was completed in the spring of 1908. The present building was begun in the spring of 1907, and completed about a year later, at a cost of over twenty-six thousand dollars, not including the fine new pipe organ, which cost about three thousand dollars. This was put in by the Estey Organ Company. It is one of the finest houses of worship in this part of the state.

This same denomination has churches in Peterson, Everly, Dickens and Fostoria and one or more country churches.

Speaking of the pioneer churches, the first church was occupied by the Welsh Baptists, and they continued to occupy it for a number of years, but it was finally outgrown and a new and better building was erected on the same lots occupied by their first building in Douglas township. They still occupy this building but the congregation is large and prosperous. It is the only church of the denomination in the county.

The Free Baptists were pioneers here, coming in 1866. There were two families came here by the name of Wills and Calkins and soon after they organized a society. Rev. D. N. Coats was their first pastor and he continued to serve them for five or six years, then his son, Rev. R. A. Coats, succeeded him. He continued here for a great many years, but he is now living in Maine, Minnesota. Their first services were held in private homes until the schoolhouse was erected, when they occupied that. Later they held services in the courthouse hall. They continued to occupy this hall until 1882, when was erected a small frame building on the site of their present church. They have added to their building from time to time until it is at present very comfortable and convenient.

The Christian church was organized here in 1883, and the first regular pastor was Rev. F. O. Fannen, now of St. Louis. The present house of worship was erected in 1885. It has also undergone changes and additions from time to time until it is quite comfortable and convenient.

The first Congregational minister to visit Clay county was Rev. David Wirt, of Fort Dodge. He came to Spencer, August, 1871, and preached for the few scattering Congregationalists in that part of the county. During the same

trip he visited Peterson and preached there. He was a man of fine education, pleasant appearing and left a good impression wherever he went. Early in 1872, the Congregationalists organized in Spencer, and held their services in the courtroom. Their first pastor was Rev. W. L. Coleman. In 1874 they erected their first church, located on the site of the present parsonage, on the corner of Mill and East Third streets. They continued to occupy this building until 1893, when their present commodious and fine building was erected. The old building was sold to the Friends, who moved it to a site on East Second street, but later to its present site on East Fourth street. Mrs. Coffin was the first regular pastor. Under her guidance the church grew and prospered, until it is one of the prominent religious bodies in Spencer.

The Episcopal church was organized in 1882, placing a small building on West Second street, about a block west of Main street. They continued to hold service here for a few years but owing to members moving away, it was found necessary to discontinue the regular services. About 1890 they erected their present building on East Fifth street. It is a very pretty and comfortable building. The church has grown considerably in numbers since the erection of its new building.

The Catholic Society has a very nice small building on West Fifth street. Services have been held here since in the seventies. The present building was dedicated in 1895.

The German, Danish and Swedish Lutherans have small churches in the north part of Spencer.

The German Methodist Episcopal church, on West First street, was established about 1895, and it has grown much in numbers and is now one of the important churches of the city.

The first birth in the little town of Spencer was in October, 1871. A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Peeso.

The first death in the town was that of a Mr. Polk, who was burned to death on a farm north of the town, by a prairie fire.

The present cemetery was established in 1885, by the town of Spencer.

As an illustration of the character of the Spencer people, there were no persons sent to the penitentiary during the first twenty years of the organization of the county. The first person sent to the penitentiary was a man by the name of Rasmuss Martin. He recklessly let a prairie fire get away from him and this was called criminal carelessness.

The first crime of any importance was that committed by George Elliott. He attempted to cash a check on Adams & Griffin's Bank some years ago and he was sent to the penitentiary for this.

Among the first comers to Spencer might be mentioned the following: J. W. Masten, deceased; M. M. Peeso, deceased; Tuttle, Goodwin & Co. The members of this company were Mark M. Tuttle, deceased; James Goodwin, deceased, and A. H. Wilburn, now of South Dakota.

Frank M. Tuttle, residing on North Grove street, is a son of Mark M. Tuttle, deceased.

A daughter of James Goodwin was married to W. H. Webb, who is now one of Spencer's leading men. She is also deceased. Mr. Roy Webb is a

grandson of James Goodwin, deceased; and he resides on the old homestead in Summit township.

Another business man of Spencer, in the earlier days was Horace Smith, who came here in 1871 from Wisconsin, and engaged in general merchandise. His son, H. W. Smith, is now residing in Milwaukee.

Another of Spencer's business men was M. S. Green.

Jacob Merritt, now deceased, came here from DeWrite, Wisconsin, and engaged in general merchandise. His son is now running the post card store on South Main street.

Another firm was that of Field Bros. They came here from Wisconsin in the early days. Henry Field is now on the road as a traveling salesman, and his brother, Charles, is living on a farm in southern Kansas.

James A. Bond came here from Algona early in 1872, and engaged in general merchandise. T. P. Bender was in partnership with him. Mr. Bond afterward moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, and Mr. Bender to California.

Jacob Rood, deceased, and his son, W. I. Rood, came here in the fall of 1871. They erected a building on South Main street and engaged in photography. He is still in the business at the old stand.

Dr. Egleston, from Wykoff, Minnesota, came here and established a drug store. He lived here for a great many years, when he finally moved to Santa Monica, where he still resides.

James Ward established the second drug store in Spencer. He continued here for a number of years and then sold his business to M. P. W. Albee, who became one of the prominent business men of the town. A few years ago he moved to Berkeley, California, where he now resides.

SPENCER AGAINST THE SALOON.

In the spring of 1881, the town of Spencer held its first city election. There were two parties at that time, one in favor of the saloon and one against it. Jacob Merritt was the candidate on the anti-saloon ticket, and W. C. Gilbreath was candidate on the ticket in favor of saloons. Mr. Gilbreath was elected by a large majority. This indicated that the little town was in favor of the saloon. The first two years the saloon-favoring candidates were elected. The third year they were badly defeated. E. E. Snow was elected as mayor and it was a splendid victory. The year following it was reversed and those in favor of the saloon were again in power. But the next year their candidate was badly beaten and affairs have always remained in this condition since. For over a quarter of a century there have been no saloons in the city of Spencer. The sentiment today is very decided against the saloon. In 1898 the last big fight on the question of saloon or no saloon was decided and the saloon element was badly defeated.

SPENCER WATERWORKS.

In the fall of 1886, the people of Spencer decided to establish the waterworks. This was done in the name of the city and it has always owned and operated them since that time, and they have always been very satisfactory to the people. The first organized system was to put down an artesian well.

It was put to a vote whether the city should control and operate these wells and it was carried. The city then issued bonds to the amount of six thousand dollars. Up to date the waterworks have cost the city upwards of twenty thousand dollars.

The first waterworks erected in Spencer was a large tank on lower Main street. There was an abundant supply of water obtained at a depth of about four hundred feet. This was utilized. This plant and fixtures cost the city about three thousand dollars. The town had a small office in connection with this, where a good fire burned in the winter time to keep the pipes from freezing and bursting. The building took fire and the tank and all were destroyed. This was quite a loss for the little town.

The next move was to change the location to where the present electric light plant is, just north of the Milwaukee & St. Paul depot. Here another large tank was erected, very much on the plan of the former one. They put down several large wells here. Things remained in this condition until 1906, when the present large steel tank, supported by other steel work, was erected. The system has three large wells, one nine feet in diameter, one sixteen feet and one thirty-three feet. They are sunk to a depth of about fifteen feet and an abundant supply of water is obtained. The water is of a very good character as it has been examined by good chemists. The Milwaukee road has had the water examined several times and found as good water at only one place on their road between the lakes and the Missouri river.

SPENCER FIRE DEPARTMENT.

There was a volunteer fire company established at the time the first waterworks was put in and it has always served the city well.

The fire company has always been a volunteer company but it has saved the town from a great many bad fires. There has never been but one real destructive fire and that occurred the next day after the waterworks burned. The entire street was swept by the flames, from Fourth to Fifth streets, on Main street. The loss was about twenty-five thousand dollars and this was only partially covered by insurance.

SPENCER HOTELS.

The first hotel in the town of Spencer was erected on the corner of Main and East Second streets in 1871. This building was a small two-story affair, containing about fifteen rooms, owned by W. H. Hunter. It was called the Hunter House. This hotel burned about three years later.

The next hotel in Spencer was known as the Sioux Valley House, on the present site of the First National Bank building. J. H. Robins was the proprietor. It was moved to make room for the present building.

The next hotel was what is known as the Commercial Hotel. The first part of this was built in 1872, but it has been added to at various times. Its first landlord was Dolph Edwards. Its present landlord is Frank Cady.

The first modern hotel in Spencer was the Earling, situated on North Main street, at the corner of Main and Pine streets. The first part of this was built

in 1886, by a stock company, mostly citizens of Spencer, but Mrs. Kaynor owned one-half of the stock. It is now owned by J. A. Beck, of Spirit Lake, Iowa.

The Merchants Hotel was built in 1890 by Mr. Franklin' Floete, situated on West Fourth street, near Main. It is now conducted by Judson A. Poole.

The Central Hotel was built about the same time as the Merchants. The Central is located on Main street between Fifth and Pine streets.

The Hay Press Manufactory was established about 1890 by F. X. Maurer for the manufacture of what is called the Maurer Press. This press is one of the best manufactured for the purpose in the United States. They employ about fifteen men the most of the time. They receive orders for these presses from all over the United States and Canada.

Straight Bros.' Brick & Tile Factory was established about 1900. They employ upwards of forty men. They turn out a great amount of very high grade brick and tile. It is often shipped out by the train load. Their factory is run by L. W. Peirson, and it is situated about one mile northeast of town.

The Hilliard Brick & Tile Works is situated northwest of town. They usually employ about twenty-five men. They also manufacture a fairly good grade of brick and tile.

The Cement Tile Factory is located at the east end of Fourth street and it is owned by Messrs. Kruse & LaGue. This was erected in 1907. They employ about ten men. They turn out a very good grade of cement tile. These cement tile are being used to drain the land a great deal more at the present time than the former poor grade of tile.

OFFICIAL ROSTER.

We herewith give a complete official list of the vote by years for all the county offices. There are two reasons for furnishing this in detail: First, That the reader may get an idea of the gradual growth of the county in numbers; and, secondly, that he may form some faint idea of the close and exciting elections held:

1858.

County Judge.

Charles C. Smeltzer..... 9

Superintendent of Schools.

Ambrose S. Mead..... 9

Treasurer and Recorder.

S. W. Foreman..... 17

Sheriff.

Henry Brockschink..... 18

Clerk of Courts.

Ezra M. Wilcox..... ..

Surveyor.

S. W. Foreman..... 5

Charles Oldfield..... 2

Coroner.

Christian Kirchner..... 18

Drainage Commissioner.

John Kindelspyer..... 17

Justice of the Peace.

John Kindelspyer..... 16

James Bicknell..... 13

Ambrose S. Mead..... 4

Township Assessor.

Eli Wilcox..... 9

John Kindelspyer..... 4

A. S. Mead..... 1

Constables.

Henry Wilcox..... 18

J. A. Kirchner..... 18

Township Trustees.

S. W. Foreman.....	18
J. A. Kirchner.....	18
John Kindelspyer.....	17

Township Clerk.

Harvey Gardner.....	18
---------------------	----

Road Supervisor.

A. S. Mead.....	18
-----------------	----

1859.

County Judge.

C. C. Smeltzer.....	10
---------------------	----

Treasurer and Recorder.

John Kindelspyer.....	10
-----------------------	----

Sheriff.

W. H. Bain.....	10
-----------------	----

Surveyor.

H. E. W. Smeltzer.....	10
------------------------	----

Coroner.

A. S. Mead.....	10
-----------------	----

Drainage Commissioner.

H. E. W. Smeltzer.....	6
------------------------	---

William Crozier.....	4
----------------------	---

County School Superintendent.

G. A. Kirchner.....	6
---------------------	---

W. R. Blain.....	4
------------------	---

1860.

Clerk of Courts.

H. E. W. Smeltzer.....	11
------------------------	----

William Crozier.....	9
----------------------	---

Erecting Courthouse.

For the proposition.....	14
--------------------------	----

Against the proposition.....	7
------------------------------	---

1861.

Representative.

C. C. Smeltzer.....	18
---------------------	----

A. S. Collins.....	4
--------------------	---

County Judge.

C. A. Clark.....	14
------------------	----

C. C. Smeltzer.....	3
---------------------	---

Treasurer and Recorder.

C. Kirchner, Sr.	16
-----------------------	----

John Kindelspyer.....	5
-----------------------	---

Sheriff.

Joseph Goodnow.....	18
---------------------	----

Coroner.

F. W. Brockschink.....	7
------------------------	---

A. S. Mead.....	3
-----------------	---

Superintendent of Schools.

Isaac Enders.....	21
-------------------	----

Surveyor.

H. E. W. Smeltzer.....	18
------------------------	----

Drainage Commissioner.

Jacob Kirchner.....	16
---------------------	----

1862.

Clerk of Courts.

J. A. Kirchner.....	7
---------------------	---

C. W. Clark.....	5
------------------	---

1863.

County Judge.

C. H. Brockschink.....	9
------------------------	---

Treasurer and Recorder.

C. Kirchner, Jr.	10
-----------------------	----

Sheriff.

R. B. Crego.....	8
------------------	---

Coroner.

J. W. Brockschink.....	9
------------------------	---

Drainage Commissioner.

Jacob Kirchner.....	10
---------------------	----

Superintendent of Schools.

J. A. Kirchner.....	10
---------------------	----

Surveyor.

F. W. Brockschink.....	10
------------------------	----

1864.

Clerk of Courts.

R. B. Crego.....	30
------------------	----

Recorder.

C. Kirchner.....	16
------------------	----

John Kindelspyer.....	13
-----------------------	----

C. H. Brockschink.....	1
------------------------	---

Surveyor.

William Crozier.....	16
----------------------	----

<i>Clerk of Court—(To Fill Vacancy).</i>	
--	--

Jacob Kirchner.....	11
---------------------	----

1865.

Treasurer.

J. J. Bicknell.....	19
---------------------	----

S. T. Collins.....	18
--------------------	----

County Judge.

J. L. Crozier.....	20
--------------------	----

D. W. Inman.....	17
------------------	----

Sheriff.

George C. Kindelspyer.....	33
----------------------------	----

Coroner.

J. W. Brockschink.....	17
------------------------	----

Surveyor.

J. L. Crozier.....	20
Jacob Kirchner.....	17

Drainage Commissioner.

H. H. Mead.....	16
-----------------	----

Superintendent of Schools.

N. L. Chesley.....	16
--------------------	----

1866.

Clerk of Courts.

R. B. Crego.....	51
William Y. Crozier.....	37

Recorder.

C. Kirchner, Jr.	52
P. M. Moore.....	37

Superintendent of Schools.

R. A. Coates.....	44
Ellis George.....	32

Drainage Commissioner.

R. S. Hough.....	35
------------------	----

County Judge.

P. M. Moore.....	56
J. L. Crozier.....	1

Clerk of Courts.

S. W. Dubois.....	42
Jesse Pickering.....	24

Treasurer.

D. N. Coates.....	35
J. J. Bicknel.....	31

Sheriff.

David Watts.....	61
D. Coates.....	11
Joseph Crozier.....	1

Superintendent of Schools.

R. A. Coates.....	65
-------------------	----

Surveyor.

P. M. Moore.....	66
------------------	----

Coroner.

J. L. Crozier.....	62
--------------------	----

Drainage Commissioner.

J. W. Brockschink.....	8
Alfred Van Norman.....	1
O. C. Potts.....	2
Joseph Crozier.....	1

1868.

Clerk of Courts.

S. W. Dubois.....	60
Jesse Pickering.....	14

Treasurer.

J. J. Bicknell.....	73
L. Smith.....	1

1869.

Treasurer.

S. W. Dubois.....	70
J. J. Bicknell.....	44

Auditor.

Samuel Gonser.....	68
Joseph Crozier.....	39
George Crozier.....	3

Sheriff.

T. C. Dodd.....	87
George M. Collins.....	24

Clerk of Courts.

Samuel Gonser.....	51
Joseph Crozier.....	27
George Crozier.....	3

Superintendent of Schools.

Charles Carver.....	81
---------------------	----

Surveyor.

P. M. Moore.....	51
------------------	----

Coroner.

J. W. Brockschink.....	96
P. M. Moore.....	1

1870.

Clerk of Courts.

Joseph L. Crozier.....	266
------------------------	-----

Recorder.

J. G. Dodd.....	267
-----------------	-----

Sheriff.

John Copper.....	262
------------------	-----

Coroner.

Thomas McCormick.....	258
-----------------------	-----

1871.

H. B. Wood.....	561
-----------------	-----

Treasurer.

M. E. Griffin.....	350
S. W. Dubois.....	232

Auditor.

L. M. Pemberton.....	415
C. K. Matteson.....	154

Sheriff.

Albert Wheeler.....	383
George F. Martin.....	193

Superintendent of Schools.

J. E. Chase.....	387
H. D. Parsons.....	179

Surveyor.

Mark Hunt.....	403
P. M. Moore.....	55

Coroner.

C. J. Wright.....	356
S. J. Egleston.....	36

For Location of County Seat.

Spencer	359
Peterson	200

1872.

Clerk of Courts.

Ackley Hubbard.....	385
J. L. Cline.....	257

Recorder.

John Copper.....	379
S. W. Dubois.....	261
J. L. Cline.....	3

Coroner.

Marshall Hines.....	639
Scattering	2

1873.

Representative.

H. B. Wood.....	412
C. W. Inman.....	118
L. G. Ireland.....	43

Auditor.

L. M. Pemberton.....	576
J. E. Chase.....	3

Treasurer.

M. E. Griffin.....	408
William Abbey.....	176

Sheriff.

Albert Wheeler.....	373
W. Hunter.....	204
W. Richards.....	4

Superintendent of Schools.

J. E. Chase.....	399
Mattie McPherson.....	172

Surveyor.

Mark Hunt.....	426
J. T. Painter.....	158

Coroner.

Charles McAllister.....	581
-------------------------	-----

1874.

Clerk of Courts.

Ackley Hubbard.....	447
---------------------	-----

Recorder.

A. H. Cheney.....	283
John Copper.....	208

Coroner.

Charles McAllister.....	443
M. E. Hines.....	4

1875.

Auditor.

L. M. Pemberton.....	387
J. M. Spencer.....	341

Treasurer.

M. E. Griffin.....	309
J. C. Tabor.....	328

Sheriff.

J. E. Francis.....	269
J. R. Patterson.....	208
J. G. Dodd.....	52
A. H. Wilber.....	104
W. H. Hunter.....	64

Superintendent of Schools.

J. E. Chase.....	255
D. W. Crouse.....	181
Mark Hunt.....	162
E. C. Green.....	118

Coroner.

J. Rood.....	292
E. E. Harris.....	152
Ezra Hockett.....	26
Scattering	16

Surveyor.

A. W. Drake.....	604
Winslow Abbey.....	77
John T. Painter.....	33
Mark Hunt.....	2

1876.

Clerk of Courts.

Harry Chamberlain.....	457
Charles M. Squires.....	201
Scattering	5

Recorder.

S. W. Dubois.....	504
Winslow Abbey.....	164

1877.

Representative.

Charles McAllister.....	609
-------------------------	-----

Auditor.

Ackley Hubbard.....	322
A. F. McConnell.....	302
R. A. Coats.....	5

Treasurer.

M. E. Griffin.....	363
J. Messenger.....	268

Sheriff.

J. E. Francis.....	342
J. R. Patterson.....	286

Superintendent of Schools.

Samuel Gillespie.....	394
George H. Williams.....	220
J. E. Chase.....	6

Surveyor.

A. W. Drake.....	330
E. N. Jencks.....	302

Coroner.

Jacob Rood.....	636
-----------------	-----

1878.

Clerk of Courts.

Harry Chamberlain.....	440
H. B. Wood.....	192

Recorder.

S. W. Dubois.....	450
J. P. Evans.....	187

1879.

A. T. McCargar.....	461
H. C. Brown.....	42

Treasurer.

P. E. Randall.....	787
Scattering	6

Sheriff.

J. R. Patterson.....	410
P. W. Madden.....	302
M. G. Shull.....	87

Superintendent of Schools.

Samuel Gillespie.....	419
Lottie Kirchner.....	379

Surveyor.

E. N. Jencks.....	656
A. W. Drake.....	127

Coroner.

J. Rood.....	781
E. A. Maker.....	11

1880.

Clerk of the Courts.

Harry Chamberlain.....	796
L. Sutherland.....	124

Recorder.

S. W. Dubois.....	386
A. F. Masterman.....	159
Charles Darrow.....	282
T. L. Bailey.....	93

1881.

Auditor.

H. B. Wood.....	703
Scattering	6

Treasurer.

P. E. Randall.....	713
--------------------	-----

Sheriff.

P. W. Madden.....	399
J. R. Patterson.....	394
E. A. Maker.....	120

Superintendent of Schools.

M. M. Gilchrist.....	392
O. W. Towner.....	314

Surveyor.

E. N. Jencks.....	515
J. T. Painter.....	153
A. W. Drake.....	40

Coroner.

A. K. Train.....	669
Scattering	92

1882.

Clerk of Courts.

Harry Chamberlain.....	893
------------------------	-----

Recorder.

Mrs. N. O. Dubois.....	830
J. E. Steele.....	45
Scattering	4

1883.

State Senator.

C. C. Chubb.....	806
Alexander Mitchell.....	331

Representative.

C. W. Fillmore.....	809
J. J. Condon.....	294
Z. A. Wellman.....	31

Auditor.

Henry B. Wood.....	916
L. Sutherland.....	219

Treasurer.

P. E. Randall.....	938
W. W. Scott.....	195

Sheriff.

P. W. Madden.....	947
Morgan Shull.....	184

Superintendent of Schools.

M. M. Gilchrist.....	790
Louis Lange.....	330

Coroner.

Jacob Rood.....	902
S. J. Green.....	229

Surveyor.

John T. Painter.....	803
E. N. Jencks.....	315

1884.

Clerk of Courts.

Harry Chamberlain.....	1367
------------------------	------

Recorder.

Mrs. N. O. Dubois.....	1359
Mrs. E. N. Dickinson.....	7

1885.

Auditor.

Henry B. Wood.....	940
George W. Anderson.....	369

Treasurer.

Peter E. Randall.....	989
Eben Bailey.....	331

Sheriff.

P. W. Madden.....	1072
S. J. Green.....	240
George Mann.....	1

County Superintendent.

George Mann.....	654
M. M. Gilchrist.....	613

Surveyor.

John T. Painter.....	989
S. B. Gould.....	333

Coroner.

Alonzo Chamberlain.....	940
John H. Lewis.....	373

1886.

Clerk of Courts.

A. H. Cheney.....	744
Harry Chamberlain.....	706
Scattering	8

Recorder.

Mrs. E. N. Dickinson.....	833
---------------------------	-----

Mrs. N. O. Dubois.....	643
Scattering	5

County Attorney.

A. C. Parker	1445
Scattering	2

1887.

Representative.

C. W. Fillmore.....	1023
S. Sturdevan.....	343

Auditor.

H. B. Wood.....	556
A. F. McConnell.....	467
E. C. Green.....	110
F. G. Alvord.....	254

Treasurer.

George E. Runyan.....	650
J. C. Tabor.....	135
J. H. Hale.....	254
J. S. Brownell.....	108
A. M. Jones.....	256

Sheriff.

P. W. Madden.....	1037
George Andrew.....	198
J. O. Hodgkin.....	66
J. S. Green.....	96

County Superintendent.

John Dolvin.....	493
George Mann.....	398
L. C. Ford.....	490

Surveyor.

John T. Painter.....	766
A. W. Drake.....	475

Coroner.

A. Chamberlain.....	1063
H. M. Clopper.....	284

1888.

Clerk of Courts.

A. H. Cheney.....	1671
Fanny Hagerty.....	37
Scattering	5

Recorder.

Mrs. D. N. Dickinson.....	1704
Scattering	10

County Attorney.

A. C. Parker.....	1692
Scattering	8

Board of Supervisors.

1871—J. F. Calkins, chairman; J. J. Duroe, J. C. Tabor.

1872—E. H. Puffer, Chairman; J. J. Duroe, J. C. Tabor.

1873—Wesley Gross, chairman; E. H. Puffer, J. C. Tabor.

The board during this year decided to increase the number to five members.

1874—J. C. Tabor, chairman; E. H. Puffer, Wesley Gross, William Harvey, C. H. Wait.

1875—William Harvey, chairman; Wesley Gross, C. H. Wait, J. C. Tabor, A. F. McConnell.

1876—William Harvey, chairman; C. H. Wait, A. F. McConnell, D. F. O. Cuttell, Eben Bailey.

1877—A. F. McConnell, chairman; Eben Bailey, D. F. O. Cuttell, H. S. Bender, J. F. Calkins.

1878—Eben Bailey, chairman; D. F. O. Cuttell, J. E. Calkins, H. S. Bender, J. D. McDonald.

1879—J. J. Duroe, chairman; John F. Calkins, H. S. Bender, J. D. McDonald. Charles Hunt was duly elected but failed to qualify and Jacob Merritt was appointed to fill the vacancy.

1880—James Goodwin, chairman; J. D. McDonald, J. J. Duroe, Horace Smith, Reuben Somers.

1881—J. J. Duroe, chairman; James Goodwin, H. Smith, John Dodge, Reuben Somers.

1882—T. P. Bender, chairman; James Goodwin, John Dodge, R. Somers, Hiram Watts. The latter resigned and J. G. Dodd was selected to fill the vacancy.

1883—John Dodge, chairman; T. P. Bender, James Goodwin, J. P. Mills, J. G. Dodd.

1884—J. G. Dodd, chairman; T. P. Bender, J. P. Mills, G. M. Smith, James Goodwin.

1885—J. P. Mills, chairman; J. G. Dodd, James Goodwin, T. P. Bender, J. W. Fairbanks. Mr. Fairbanks resigned and J. A. Kirchner was appointed.

1886—T. P. Bender, chairman; H. J. Taber, R. B. Jones, J. A. Kirchner, J. G. Dodd, (resigned), John Mates, (appointed).

1887—T. P. Bender, chairman; R. B. Jones, H. J. Taber, John Mates, R. A. Stewart.

1888—T. P. Bender, chairman; H. J. Taber, John Mates, R. A. Stewart.

1889.

Board of Supervisors.

T. P. Bender, chairman; Weis, Vincent.

Representative.

James Mercer.....	1089
C. P. Buckey.....	2
E. Boyer.....	1
M. H. Richards.....	6
A. W. Sleeper.....	11

Auditor.

George E. Phelps.....	939
J. M. Davis.....	614
Henry B. Wood.....	3
Scattering	14

Treasurer.

George E. Runyan.....1599

Sheriff.

P. W. Madden.....1036

Elizah Pickering..... 589

Superintendent of Schools.

John Dolvin.....1570

Scattering 12

Surveyor.

John T. Painter.....1590

A. W. Drake..... 2

Coroner.

Jacob Rood.....1587

Scattering 18

*Board of Supervisors.**(Fourth District.)*

P. C. Blackmer..... 199

Ed. Sitz..... 90

J. B. Lamb..... 1

1890.

District Judge.

George H. Carr.....1072

Clerk of District Court.

A. H. Cheney.....1046

T. G. Alvord..... 494

E. H. Parish..... 1

Recorder.

Mrs. D. N. Dickinson..... 934

John Andrew..... 345

Peter Flannigan..... 268

County Attorney.

A. C. Parker.....1039

J. E. Steele..... 367

L. Gowan..... 3

*Supervisors.**(For Douglas, Harland and Garfield.)*

George Ross..... 94

L. Gowan..... 85

(For Spencer and Meadow.)

T. P. Bender (received total vote

cast) 329

1891.

State Senator.

A. B. Funk.....1335

C. C. Painter..... 751

Representative.

James Goodwin.....1135

E. Boyer..... 786

G. A. Capstic..... 86

Scattering 2

Treasurer.

George E. Runyan..... 858

Geo. W. Anderson..... 490

C. E. Blondel..... 478

E. H. Crandall..... 212

J. H. Walsh..... 3

Superintendent of Schools.

John Dolvin..... 718

Harlin Buck..... 706

L. C. Ford..... 486

J. Lamar..... 143

Sheriff.

P. W. Madden..... 969

T. C. Dodd..... 629

Wm. Mincer..... 418

Frank Smith..... 40

Surveyor.

A. W. Drake.....1341

Eben Bailey..... 4

Coroner.

S. J. Green..... 917

Scattering 7

*Supervisors.**(First District.)*

J. B. Wilson..... 211

Thos. Kenderdine..... 72

(Third District.)

A. W. Sleeper..... 349

John Wilburn..... 99

1892.

Judge District Court.

Lot Thomas.....1538

Auditor.

George E. Phelps.....1552

M. Tell, Jr..... 641

A. J. Rowley..... 142

Clerk District Court.

A. H. Cheney.....1534

G. E. Cooper..... 659

J. R. Ketcham..... 143

Recorder.

T. P. Powell.....1273

Fannie E. Hagerty..... 712

John Copper..... 1

County Attorney.

A. C. Parker.....	1450
Guy H. Martin.....	789

Sheriff.

J. B. Lewis.....	1531
August Steigleder.....	671
C. L. Shultz.....	142

*Supervisors.**(Fourth District.)*

P. C. Blackmer.....	254
W. W. DeWitt.....	147

1893.

Representative.

W. W. Cornwall.....	1349
Joseph Schenk.....	515
J. C. Baker.....	183

Treasurer.

C. E. Blondell.....	1353
Geo. E. Cooper.....	512
George Jones, Sr.....	172
George E. Runyan.....	2

Superintendent of Schools.

George E. Reed.....	1413
Mabel Andrews.....	477
John Dolvin.....	1

Sheriff.

John B. Lewis.....	1440
M. G. Shull.....	446
F. A. Hiser.....	163
John Hopkins.....	1

Surveyor.

P. M. Moore.....	1387
A. W. Drake.....	54

Coroner.

H. Shipley.....	1411
James Livingston.....	176
J. E. Green.....	1

*Supervisor.**(For Second District.)*

J. F. Lundy.....	446
E. H. Tryon.....	178
Frank Riley.....	27

On the question, Shall a poor house be established and erected at a cost not to exceed \$8,000.

For 987

1895

State Senator.

A. B. Funk..... 1274

T. J. Hughes..... 340

Scattering 3

(For Fifth District.)

J. A. Platt.....	136
J. L. Eckley.....	134

Judge District Court.

William B. Quarton.....	1438
C. E. Cohoon.....	682

Auditor.

G. E. Phelps.....	1474
C. P. Buckey.....	453
A. J. Livingston.....	226

Clerk District Court.

C. H. Staples.....	1233
C. E. Johnson.....	554
George Capstic.....	314
William Barnes.....	42

Recorder.

T. P. Powell.....	1466
Wirt Bronson.....	437
Mary Riley.....	229

County Attorney.

Guy H. Martin.....	1431
Vernon D. Buck.....	564
Fred Kirkpatrick.....	2
Scattering	1

County Attorney to Fill Vacancy.

Guy H. Martin.....	1190
Vernon D. Buck.....	21
Fred Kirkpatrick.....	2

Superintendent of Schools.

Ellen Reed.....	1968
Scattering	1

*Supervisor.**(First District.)*

Thomas Kenderdine.....	213
W. H. Moore.....	105
G. G. Buck.....	26

(Third District.)

A. W. Sleeper.....	284
W. H. Webb.....	146

Representative.

W. W. Cornwall.....	1288
A. J. Rowley.....	102
Scattering	10

Treasurer.

C. E. Blondell.....	1330
Charles Prichard.....	338
G. G. Beck.....	241
Scattering	1

Sheriff.

J. B. Lewis.....	1334
T. D. Griggs.....	330
G. W. Jones.....	235
Scattering	2

Superintendent of Schools.

Ellen Reed.....	1716
Scattering	6

Coroner.

John Andrews.....	1283
William Battin.....	365
Jacob Rood.....	241

Surveyor.

Frank Austin.....	1291
Charlton Bailey.....	399
F. A. Gossman.....	211
Scattering	1

*Supervisor.**(Fourth District.)*

P. C. Blackmer.....	232
Scattering	3

1896.

Judge of District Court.

Lot Thomas.....	1905
W. W. Cornwall.....	1

Auditor.

William Barnes.....	1903
H. S. Parker.....	930

Clerk of District Court.

C. H. Staples.....	1884
C. H. Woodruff.....	937

Recorder.

T. P. Powell.....	1896
F. J. Crane.....	931

County Attorney.

Guy H. Martin.....	1683
Frank Richardson.....	1143

*Supervisor.**(Second District.)*

J. F. Lundy.....	618
H. Walker.....	258

(Fifth District.)

Charles Gillmore.....	249
J. W. Cook.....	114

1897.

Representative.

W. W. Cornwall.....	1183
Ed. Anderson.....	1017
C. W. Gillmore.....	1

Treasurer.

Jasper Messenger.....	1513
G. G. Buck.....	660
George Jones.....	49
Scattering	3

Sheriff.

J. B. Lewis.....	1516
G. F. Martin.....	652
J. L. Rowley.....	52

Superintendent of Schools.

Ellen Reed.....	1509
Mrs. J. W. Lauck.....	659
F. J. Crane.....	50
Scattering	2

Surveyor.

P. M. Moore.....	1490
J. A. Griffin.....	669
John Phillips	53
Scattering	1

Coroner.

John Andrews.....	1473
E. Hallock.....	680
C. T. Ressel.....	54
Scattering	1

*Supervisor.**(First District.)*

Thomas Kenderdine.....	309
------------------------	-----

(Third District.)

A. W. Sleeper.....	235
Ed. Moeller.....	215

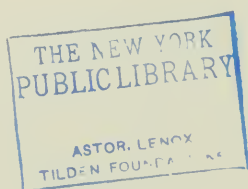
1898.

Judge District Court.

W. B. Quarton.....	1359
F. H. Helsell.....	1235
J. W. Sullivan.....	671
C. E. Cohoon.....	770



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, SPENCER



Auditor.

William Barnes.....	1526
George H. Moeller.....	526

Clerk District Court.

Chas. S. Weaver.....	1556
Wm. A. O'Donnell.....	502

Recorder.

T. P. Powell.....	1279
John Lawler.....	783

County Attorney.

Robt. M. Bush.....	1510
A. O. Russell.....	540

*Supervisor.**(Fourth District.)*

H. H. Powell.....	212
Eben Bailey.....	195

1899.

State Senator.

E. W. Bachman.....	1599
Vernon W. Buck.....	658

Representative.

E. P. Barringer.....	1348
H. S. Parker.....	887

Treasurer.

Jasper Messenger	1667
A. M. Jones.....	620

Sheriff.

J. B. Lewis.....	1647
T. D. Griggs.....	638
John Andrew.....	1

Superintendent of Schools.

Ellen Reed.....	1672
Miss Berry Buck.....	606
Mrs. C. C. Little.....	3
Orville A. Hammond.....	1

Surveyor.

P. M. Moore.....	1661
C. J. Madsen.....	602

Coroner.

S. J. Green.....	1909
Wm. O'Donnell.....	631

*Supervisor.**(Second District.)*

A. F. McConnell.....	634
H. R. Brownell.....	180

(Fifth District.)

Charles Gillmore.....	203
Lewis Lewis.....	1

1900.

Judge of District Court.

A. D. Bailie.....	2309
I. W. Bane.....	777

Clerk of District Court.

C. S. Weaver.....	2350
Paul M. Miller.....	746

Recorder.

W. L. McCown.....	2333
Eugene Slowey.....	762

Auditor.

William Barnes.....	2328
Ed Moeller.....	761

County Attorney.

Robt. M. Bush.....	2330
Vernon W. Buck.....	758

*Supervisor.**(First District.)*

J. H. Walsh.....	327
J. W. O'Neil.....	182

(Third District.)

John Adams.....	339
Charles King.....	259

1901.

Representative.

A. H. Cheney.....	1283
H. A. Powers.....	296

Treasurer.

Jasper Messenger	1277
C. Welch	301

Sheriff.

John H. Price.....	1276
P. A. Clark.....	298

J. B. Lewis.....	1
------------------	---

Superintendent of Schools.

H. F. Fillmore.....	1274
Eben Bailey.....	304

Surveyor.

P. M. Moore.....	1265
Frank Smith.....	304

Coroner.

S. J. Green.....	1283
John Stuhr.....	1

T. H. Johnson.....	1
--------------------	---

Earl Bronson.....	1
-------------------	---

A. Jones	1
----------------	---

M. W. Page.....	1
-----------------	---

Supervisor.

(Fourth District.)

H. H. Powell..... 242

F. W. Walker..... 1

1902.

Judge of District Court.

Wm. B. Quarton..... 1398

L. Scharenberg..... 1

Clerk of District Court.

Charles S. Weaver..... 1443

J. S. Walker..... 365

Recorder.

W. L. McCown..... 1417

L. Koechert..... 369

Auditor.

Wm. Barnes..... 1423

E. F. Slowey..... 376

County Attorney.

Robt. M. Bush..... 1414

Vernon W. Buck..... 380

Coroner.

(To Fill Vacancy.)

John Andrew..... 1415

A. M. Jones..... 1

Supervisor.

(Second District.)

A. F. McConnell..... 565

H. R. Buck..... 135

(Fifth District.)

Charles Gillmore..... 188

1903.

State Senator.

George Kinne..... 1345

Lewis Stuehman..... 349

A. J. Rowley..... 1

Representative.

A. H. Cheney..... 1344

O. E. Johnson..... 351

A. E. Wells..... 1

John Cory..... 1

Treasurer.

John McWhirter..... 1335

George B. Bender..... 346

Nathan Pickering..... 72

Sheriff.

John H. Price..... 1334

Wm. Marlow..... 355

A. W. Duboise..... 68

C. W. Mills..... 3

Superintendent of Schools.

H. F. Fillmore..... 1342

Thomas Dunn..... 344

B. F. Ellsworth..... 66

Surveyor.

P. M. Moore..... 1343

A. R. Claxton..... 357

Coroner.

John Andrews..... 1332

H. O. Green..... 375

Supervisor.

(First District.)

J. H. Walsh..... 198

Wm. McCurdy..... 15

(Third District.)

John Adams..... 226

R. H. Knight..... 1

1904.

Judge of District Court.

A. D. Bailie..... 2151

J. A. Reid..... 2

H. J. Buck..... 1

T. J. O'Donnell..... 1

Auditor.

E. F. Marker..... 1377

Frank L. Brodgate..... 1254

Clerk of District Court.

C. S. Weaver..... 2151

Harry Dunn..... 489

J. E. Rubes..... 1

Recorder.

W. L. McCown..... 2142

Erick M. Horner..... 497

County Attorney.

Fred Kirkpatrick..... 2139

A. R. Claxton..... 495

Coroner.

(To Fill Vacancy.)

A. S. Mack..... 2094

Wm. A. O'Donnell..... 509

Supervisors.

(Fourth District.)

H. H. Powell..... 938

W. A. Gehring..... 2

A. W. Hunter..... 1

Morriss Lacey..... 2

Judge of District Court.

Dannie F. Coyle.....	1531
Scattering	1

Representative.

Benj. F. Felt, Jr.....	1510
Hiram O. Green.....	1414

Auditor.

E. F. Marker.....	1484
Fred Plagman.....	500

Treasurer.

John McWhirter	1538
George Broon	424

Clerk District Court.

C. S. Weaver.....	1624
Frank Huss	375

Sheriff.

C. M. Pinneo.....	1154
J. H. Price.....	942

Recorder.

W. L. McCown.....	1578
Wirt Bronson	423

County Attorney.

F. Kirkpatrick	1530
A. R. Claxton.....	387

Superintendent of Schools.

Mary Riley	1693
H. F. Fillmore.....	108

Surveyor.

P. M. Moore.....	1539
John Stuhr	371

Coroner.

A. S. Mack.....	1591
-----------------	------

*Supervisor.**(First District.)*

C. F. Johns.....	224
A. M. Jones.....	216

(Second District.)

J. P. Mills.....	519
H. S. Parker.....	129

(Third District.)

John Adams	227
George W. Moeller.....	152

(Fourth District.)

H. H. Powell.....	272
Robert Fisk	78

(Fifth District.)

Charles Gillmore	188
------------------------	-----

POWERS AND DUTIES OF COUNTY OFFICERS.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

The board of supervisors at any regular meeting shall have the following powers, to wit:

To appoint one of their number chairman, and also a clerk in the absence of the regular officers;

To adjourn from time to time as the occasion may require;

To make such orders concerning the corporate property of the county as they may deem expedient;

To examine and settle all accounts of the receipts and expenditures of the county, and to examine, settle, and allow all just claims against the county unless otherwise provided for by law;

To build and keep in repair the necessary buildings for the use of the county and of the courts;

To cause the county buildings to be insured in the name of the county, or otherwise, for the benefit of the county, as they shall deem expedient, and in case there are no county buildings, to provide suitable rooms for county purposes;

To set off, organize, and change the boundaries of townships in their respective counties, designate and give names thereto and define the place of holding the first election;

To grant licenses for keeping ferries in their respective counties as provided by law ;

To purchase for the use of the county, any real estate necessary for the erection of buildings for county purposes, to remove or designate a new site for any county buildings required at the county seat, when such removal shall not exceed the limits of the village or city at which the county seat is located ;

To require any county officer to make a report, under oath, to them on any subject connected with the duties of his office, and to require any such officer to give such bonds, or additional bonds, as shall be reasonable or necessary for the faithful performance of their several duties ; and any such officer who shall neglect or refuse to make such report or give bonds within twenty days after being so required, may be removed from office by the board by a vote of a majority of the members elected ;

To represent their respective counties, and to have the care and management of the property and business of the county in all cases where no other provision shall be made ;

To manage and control the school fund of their respective counties as shall be provided by law ;

To appoint commissioners to act with similar commissioners duly appointed in any other county or counties, and to authorize them to lay out, alter, or discontinue any highway extending through their own and one or more other counties, subject to the ratification of the board ;

To fix the compensation of all services of county and township officers not otherwise provided for by law and to provide for the payment of the same ;

To authorize the taking of a vote of the people for the relocation of the county seat as provided by law ;

To alter, vacate, or discontinue any state of territorial highway within their respective counties ;

To lay out, establish, alter, or discontinue any country highway heretofore or now laid out, or hereafter to be laid out through or within their respective counties as may be provided by law ;

To provide for the erection of all bridges which may be necessary, and which the public convenience may require within their respective counties, and to keep the same in repair ;

To determine what bounties, in addition to those already provided by law, if any, shall be offered and paid by their county on the scalps of such wild animals taken and killed within their county as they may deem it expedient to exterminate. But no such bounty shall exceed five dollars ;

To purchase for the use of the county any real estate necessary for the erection of buildings for the support of the poor of such county and for a farm to be used in connection therewith ;

To have and exercise all the powers in relation to the poor given by law to the county authorities ;

To make such rules and regulations, not inconsistent with law, as they may deem necessary for the government of their body, the transaction of business and the preservation of order ;

The board of supervisors shall constitute the board of county canvassers.

COUNTY AUDITOR.

The county auditor shall: Record all the proceedings of the board in the proper books provided for that purpose;

Make full entries of all their resolutions and decisions on all questions concerning the raising of money, and for the allowance of money from the county treasury;

Record the vote of each supervisor on any question submitted to the board, if required by any members present;

Sign all orders issued by the board of supervisors for the payment of money and record in a book provided for the purpose the reports of the county treasurer of the receipts and disbursements of the county;

Preserve and file all accounts upon by the board, with their action thereon, and perform such special duties as are or may be required of him by law;

Designate upon every account on which any sum shall be allowed by the board, the amount so allowed and the charges for which the same was allowed;

Deliver to any person who may demand it a certified copy of any record or account in his office on payment of his legal fees therefor.

The auditor shall not sign or issue any county warrant except the recorded vote or resolution of the board of supervisors authorizing the same, except for jury fees, and every such warrant shall be numbered, and the date, amount and number of the same, and the name of the person to whom issued, shall be entered in a book to be kept by him in his office for the purpose;

Whenever the auditor of any county shall receive from the state auditor notice of the apportionment of school moneys to be distributed in the county, he shall file the same in his office and transmit a copy thereof before the board at its next regular meeting;

The county auditor shall have the general custody and control of the courthouse in each county, respectively, subject to the direction of the board of supervisors;

The county auditor shall report to the secretary of state the name, office, and term of office of every county officer elected or appointed, within ten days after their election and qualification, and the secretary of state shall record the same in a book to be kept for that purpose in his office;

In order to enable the clerk of the district court properly to comply with the provisions of section two hundred and three of the code, it is made the duty of the county auditor to report to said clerk, before the first day of November in each year, the expenses of the county for criminal prosecutions during the year ending the thirtieth day of September preceding, including, but distinguishing, the compensation of district (county) attorney;

The clerk of the district court and county recorder shall each be eligible to the office of county auditor, and may discharge the duties of both offices;

The offices of the county auditor and county treasurer shall not be united in the same person. The auditor and his deputy are prohibited from acting as attorney, either directly or indirectly, in any matter before the board of supervisors.

COUNTY TREASURER.

The treasurer shall receive all money payable to the county, and disburse the same on warrants drawn and signed by the county auditor and sealed with the county seal, and not otherwise; and shall keep a true account of all receipts and disbursements, and hold the same at all times ready for the inspection of the board of supervisors.

When the warrant drawn by the auditor on the treasurer is presented for payment, and not paid for the want of money, the treasurer shall indorse thereon a note of that fact and the date of presentation, and sign it, and thenceforth it shall draw interest at the rate of six per cent; and when a warrant which draws interest is taken up, the treasurer is required to indorse upon it the date and amount of interest allowed, and such warrant is to be considered as canceled and shall not be reissued.

County treasurers are hereby authorized to issue calls for outstanding warrants at any time he may have sufficient funds on hand for which such warrant was issued; and from and after such calls have been made, public interest shall cease on all warrants included in said call.

County treasurers shall publish said notice twice in the newspaper having the largest circulation in the county in which such publication is made, and each notice shall designate the warrants called.

The treasurer shall keep a record of the number and amount of the warrants presented and indorsed for non-payment, which shall be paid in the order of such presentation. When there are funds in the treasury for their payment to an amount sufficient to render it advisable, he shall give notice to what number of warrants the funds shall extend, or the number which he will pay, by posting a written notice in his office, and at the expiration of thirty days from the date of such posting, interest on the warrants so named as being payable shall cease.

When a person wishing to make payment into the treasury presents a warrant of an amount greater than such payment, the treasurer shall cancel the same and give the holder a certificate of the overplus, upon the presentation of which to the county auditor he shall file it and issue a new warrant of that amount, and charge the treasurer therewith, and such certificate is transferable by delivery, and will entitle the holder to the new warrant, which, however, must be issued in the first drawee's name.

The treasurer shall keep a book, ruled so as to contain a column for each of the following items in relation to the warrants drawn on him by the auditor: The number, date, drawee's name, when paid, to whom, original amount, and interest paid on each.

The treasurer shall keep a separate account of the several taxes for state, county, school and highway purposes, opening an account between himself and each of those funds, charging himself with the amount of the tax, and crediting himself with the amounts paid over severally and with the amount of delinquent taxes when legally authorized so to do.

The warrants returned by the treasurer shall be compared with the warrant book, and the word "canceled" be written over the minute of the proper numbers in the warrant book, and the original warrant be preserved for at least two years.

The treasurer is required to make weekly returns to the auditor of the number, date, drawee's name, when paid, to whom paid, original amount, and interest, as kept in the book before directed.

A person re-elected to or holding over the office of treasurer, shall keep separate account for each term of office.

COUNTY RECORDER.

The recorder shall keep his office at the county seat, and he shall record at length and as speedily as possible all instruments in writing which may be delivered to him for record, in the manner directed by law.

The same person may be eligible to and hold the office of county recorder and county treasurer; provided, the number of inhabitants in such county does not exceed ten thousand.

No person shall be disqualified for holding the office of county recorder on account of sex.

COUNTY SHERIFF.

The sheriff shall, by himself or his deputies, execute according to law, and return all writs and other legal processes issued by lawful authority and to him directed or committed, and shall perform such other duties as may be required of him by law.

His disobedience of the command of any such process is a contempt of the court from which it issued, and may be punished by the same accordingly, and he is further liable to the action of any person injured thereby.

He has the charge and custody of the jail or other prison of his county, and of the prisoners in the same, and is required to receive those lawfully committed, and to keep them himself, or by his deputy or jailer, until discharged by law.

The sheriff and his deputies are conservators of the peace, and to keep the same, or to prevent crime, or to arrest any person liable thereto, or to execute process of law, may call any person to their aid, and, when necessary, the sheriff may summon the power of the county.

The sheriff shall attend upon the district (and circuit) courts of his county, and while either remains in session he shall be allowed the assistance of such number of bailiffs as either may direct. They shall be appointed by the sheriff and shall be regarded as deputy sheriffs, for whose acts the sheriff shall be responsible.

No sheriff, deputy sheriff, coroner, or constable, shall appear in any court as attorney or counsel for any party, nor make any writing or process to commence, or to be in any manner used in the same, and such writing or process made by any of them shall be rejected.

No sheriff, deputy sheriff, coroner, or constable, shall become the purchaser, either directly or indirectly, of any property by him exposed to sale under any process of law, and every such purchase is absolutely void.

Sheriffs and their deputies may execute any process which may be in their hands at the expiration of their office, and, in case of a vacancy occurring in the office of sheriff from any cause, his deputies shall be under the same obligation

to execute legal processes then in his or her hands, and return the same, as if the sheriff had continued in office, and he and they will remain liable therefor under the provisions of law as in other cases.

Where a sheriff goes out of office, he shall deliver to his successor all books and papers pertaining to the office, and property attached and levied upon, except as provided in the preceding section, and all prisoners in the jail, and take his receipt specifying the same, and such receipt shall be sufficient indemnity to the person taking it.

If the sheriff die or go out of office before the return of any process then in his hands, his successor, or other officer authorized to discharge the duties of the office, may proceed to execute and return the same in the same manner as the outgoing sheriff should have done, but nothing in this section shall be construed to exempt the outgoing sheriff and his deputies from the duty imposed on them by section three hundred and thirty-seven of this chapter (472), to execute and return all processes in their hands at the time the vacancy in the office of sheriff occurs.

On the election or appointment of a new sheriff, all new processes shall be directed to him.

If the sheriff, who has made a sale of real estate on execution, die, or go out of office before the period of redemption expires, his successor shall make the necessary deed to carry out such sale.

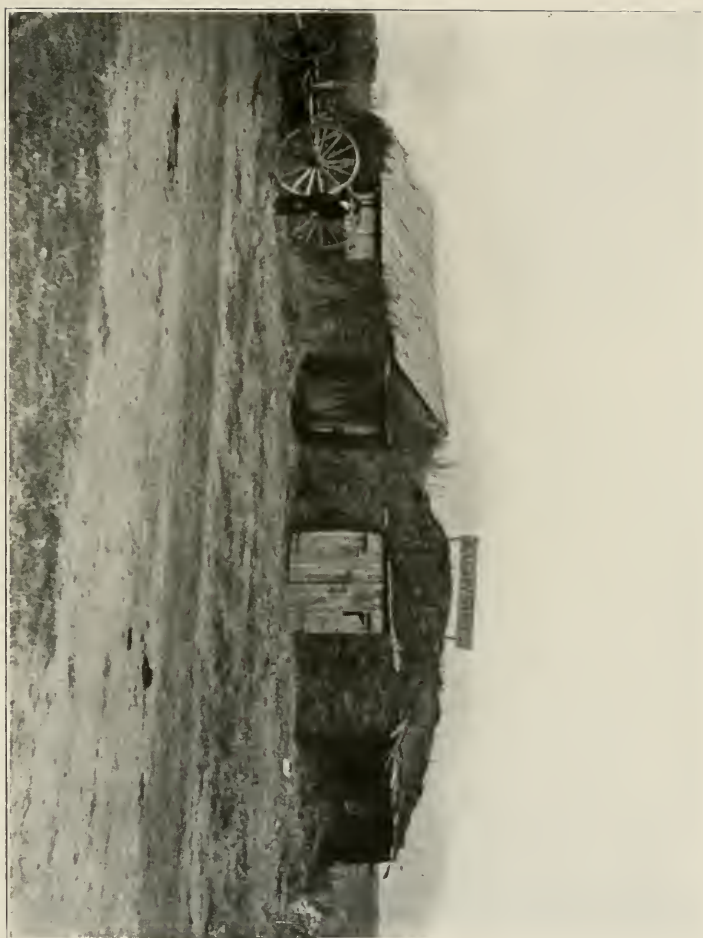
COUNTY CORONER.

It is the duty of the coroner to perform all the duties of the sheriff when there is no sheriff, and in cases where exception is taken to the sheriff as provided in the next section.

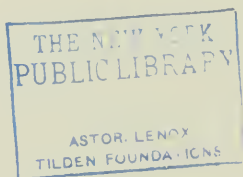
In all proceedings in the courts of record where it appears from the papers that the sheriff is a party to the action, or where, in any action commenced or about to be commenced, an affidavit is filed with the clerk of any court stating that the sheriff and his deputy are absent from the county and are not expected to return in time to perform the service needed; or stating a partiality, prejudice, consanguinity or interest on the part of the sheriff, the clerk of the court shall direct process to the coroner, whose duty it shall be to execute it in the same manner as if he were the sheriff.

Where there is no sheriff, deputy sheriff or coroner qualified to serve legal process, the clerk of the court may, by writing under his hand and the seal of the court certifying the above fact, appoint any suitable person specially in each case to execute such process, who shall be sworn, but he need not give bond, and his return shall be entitled to the same credit as the sheriff's when the appointment is attached thereto.

The coroner shall hold an inquest upon the dead bodies of such persons only as are supposed to have died by unlawful means. When he has notice of the dead body of a person supposed to have died by unlawful means, found or being in his county, he is required to issue his warrant to a constable of his county, requiring him to summon forthwith three electors of the county to appear before the coroner at a time and place named in the warrant.



FIRST WAGON SHOP IN SPENCER



The constable shall execute the warrant and make return thereof at the time and place named.

If any juror fails to appear the coroner shall cause the proper number to be summoned or returned from the bystanders, immediately, and proceed to impanel them and administer the following oath, in substance:

"You do solemnly swear (or affirm) that you will diligently inquire and true presentment make, when, how, and by what means the person whose body lies here dead came to his death, according to your knowledge and the evidence given you."

The coroner may issue subpoenas within his county for witnesses, returnable forthwith or at such time and place as he shall therein direct, and witnesses shall be allowed the same fees as in cases before a justice of the peace, and the coroner has the same authority to enforce the attendance of witnesses and to punish them and jurors for contempt in disobeying his process as a justice of the peace has when his process issues in behalf of the state.

An oath shall be administered to the witnesses in substance as follows:

"You do solemnly swear that the testimony which you shall give to this inquest concerning the death of the person here lying dead shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth."

The testimony shall be reduced in writing under the coroner's order, and subscribed by the witnesses.

If the inquisition find that a crime has been committed on the deceased and name the person whom the jury believe has committed it, the inquest shall not be made public until after the arrest directed in the next section.

If the person charged be present, the coroner may order his arrest by an officer or any other person present, and shall then make a warrant requiring the officer or other person to take him before a justice of the peace.

If the person charged be not present, and the coroner believes he can be taken, the coroner may issue a warrant to the sheriff and constables of the county, requiring them to arrest the person and take him before a justice of the peace.

The warrant of a coroner in the above case shall be of equal authority with that of a justice of the peace, and when the person charged is brought before the justice such justice shall cause an information to be filed against him, and the same proceedings shall be had as in other cases under information and he shall be dealt with as a person held under an information in the usual form.

The warrant of the coroner shall recite substantially the transactions before him and the verdict of the jury inquest leading to the arrest, and such warrant shall be a sufficient foundation for the proceeding of the justice instead of an information.

The coroner shall then return to the district court the inquisition, the written evidence, and a list of the witnesses who testified material matter.

The coroner shall cause the body of a deceased person which he is called to view to be delivered to his friends if any there be, but if not, he shall cause him to be decently buried and the expense to be paid from the property found with the body, or, if there be none, from the county treasury, by certifying an

account of the expenses, which, being presented to the board of supervisors, shall be allowed by them if deemed reasonable, and paid as other claims on the county.

Where there is no coroner and in the case of his absence or inability to act, any justice of the peace of the same county is authorized to perform the duties of coroner in relation to dead bodies, and in such case he may cause the person charged to be brought before himself by his warrant, and may proceed with him as a justice of the peace.

In the above inquisition by a coroner, when he or the jury deem it requisite, he may summon one or more physicians or surgeons to make a scientific examination, who, instead of witness fees, shall receive such reasonable compensation as may be allowed by the county board of supervisors.

COUNTY SURVEYOR.

The county surveyor shall make all surveys of land within his county which he may be called upon to make, and his surveys shall be held as presumptively correct.

The field notes and plats made by the county surveyor shall be transcribed into a well-bound book under the supervision of the surveyor when desired by a person interested and at his expense.

Previous to making any survey he shall furnish himself with a copy of the field notes of the original survey of the same land, if there be any in the office of the county auditor, and his survey shall be made in accordance therewith.

He is required to establish the corners by taking bearing trees and noting particularly their course and distance, but if there be no trees within reasonable distance, the corners are to be marked by stones firmly placed in the earth, or by mounds.

In the resurvey and subdivision of lands by county surveyors, their deputies, or other persons, the rules prescribed by acts of congress and the instructions of the secretary of the interior shall be in all respects followed.

The county surveyor shall, when requested, furnish the person for whom the survey is made with a copy of the field notes and plat of the survey, and such copy certified by him, and also a copy from the record, certified by the county auditor, with the seal, shall be presumptive evidence of the survey and of the facts herein required to be set forth, and which are stated accordingly, between those persons who join in requesting it and any other person then concerned who has reasonable notice that such a survey is to be made and the time thereof.

The board of supervisors is required to furnish a substantial, well-bound book, in which the field notes and plats made by the county surveyor may be recorded.

The plat and record shall show distinctly of what piece of land it is a survey, at whose personal request it was made, the names of the chainmen, and that they were approved and sworn by the surveyor, and the date of the survey, and the courses shall be taken according to the true meridian and the variation of the magnetic from the true meridian stated.

The necessary chainmen and other persons must be employed by the person requiring the survey done, unless otherwise agreed, but the chainmen must be disinterested persons and approved of by the surveyor and sworn by him to measure justly and impartially to the best of their knowledge and ability.

County surveyors, when establishing defaced or lost land corners or lines, may issue subpoenas for witnesses and administer oaths to them, and all fees for service of officers and attendance of witnesses shall be the same as in proceedings before a justice of the peace.

COUNTY JUDGE AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

C. C. Smeltzer remained county judge until 1862, when he was succeeded by C. A. Clark. Following him came C. H. Brockschink, J. L. Crozier and P. M. Moore, the last named serving until the office was abolished in 1869. In the meantime, however, in 1861, the board of supervisors was created, and to them was delegated most of the authority which had been held by the county judge, so that after 1861 the office of county judge was an unimportant one.

When the board of supervisors was first created it consisted of one member from each township in a county, no matter how many there might be. The first meeting of the board for Clay county was held on January 7, 1861, when C. H. Brockschink was made first chairman. The following is a list of the various gentlemen who were members of the board during the time the law providing for a representative from each township remained in effect: C. H. Brockschink, F. W. Brockschink, Isaac Enders, Jacob Kirchner, Thomas Puckett, Jacob Hale, John F. Calkins, John C. Tabor, H. D. Rice, J. W. Brockschink, J. J. Duroe and John Evans.

During the year 1870 the law was changed, and in accordance with the change the board was thereafter to consist of three members, there being a proviso that the number could be increased to five members by submitting the question to the voters. This was done and in 1873 the membership of the board of supervisors was increased to five.

EXTRACTS FROM COUNTY JUDGE SMELTZER'S MINUTE BOOK.

The following extracts from the minutes of Charles C. Smeltzer, the first county judge, may be of interest and perhaps amusing to the general reader. They are given verbatim et literatim:

State of Iowa, Clay County.

April Term.

On this the fourth day of April, 1859, I considered the matter of remuneration for hauling County Books from Des Moines & Fort Dodge and allowed for the same delivered in Clay County, Iowa, forty dollars—in the county warrants also two dollars and fifty cents for seal for county use.

In witness, I have hereunto set my hand and seal the year and day above written.

Chas. C. Smeltzer, County Judge.

Office of the County Judge of Clay Co., Iowa.
August Term.

It is hereby ordered that a county warrant be issued to pay Post Master at Spencer one dollar, it being the amount of postage due on county papers sent out of the office at Spencer.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand officially.

February 2nd, 1860.

Upon this day the salary of the County Judge for 16 months was assigned to H. E. W. Smeltzer, amounting to 66 dollars and 66½ cents and for the same warrants in his favor were drawn on the County Treasury.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand officially the year and day above written.

April Term.

Monday second 1860.

Upon this day commenced an action against Woodbury County Iowa in the name of Clay Co Iowa to recover money due Clay Co on the taxes collected by Woodbury for the year 1858 on land in Clay Co. Iowa. The court employed J. A. Kasson as Attorney in behalf of Clay Co. at a fee of 75 dollars certain and one hundred and fifty in the event of Clay Co. gaining her cause and getting judgment for the amt. an agreed case being made up it was submitted to the proper court for adjudication.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand the day and year first above written.

This claim was settled and J. A. Kasson was paid \$130, for his services.

December 15 1860.

Upon this day J. Kindelspyer, Treasurer and Recorder of Clay Co Iowa made a full report of his doings in his office during the year from Jan 1st 1860 to Dec 15th 1860. Report filed away and in substance as follows—said report embracing only monies received on the taxes from 1858 & 1859.

State tax	\$580.50	
County tax	1850.44	Said amount being paid over in Co warrants.
School tax	757.25	
Road tax	841.75	paid over in Road warrants
Bridge tax	301.33	paid over in Bridge warrants
District tax	842.37	

\$5173.34

Recording deeds, 24.50 Paid out applied on Treasurers salary——

Said report has been received as so much of Each Kind of tax to be applied to the Credit of the Treasurer in the cases where the Court has received the proper vouchers——

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of Dec A. D. 1860.

Jan 5th 1861.

Issued an order upon this day to Hedges Bros for the sum of ten dollars for candels furnished By order of the Court.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand officially the day and year above written.

THE BENCH AND BAR.

In 1851, by an act of the general assembly, county courts were established and the office of county judge was created. By the same act the office of probate judge was abolished, as were the offices of county commissioners, the duties of these several officers devolving upon the county judge. The county of Clay not being organized until 1858, after the passage of this act, had no probate judge or county commissioners. The first county judge was Charles C. Smeltzer, who was elected on the organization of the county, October 12, 1858. Upon him devolved the duty of perfecting the organization of the county, dividing it into townships, and such other work as was necessary to perfect a system of government. He held this office until October, 1862, when he was succeeded by C. A. Clark. That same year he was elected to represent the county in the state legislature.

Judge Smeltzer was a man of more than ordinary ability. He was intensely interested in Clay county and all of its affairs, as will be shown by a glance at his minute book as county judge. He was a man of splendid stature, over six feet in height; his hair was black, had dark, piercing eyes, and his general makeup was pleasing to the observer. He was a man who made a host of friends. After retiring from office he remained in Peterson for some years and then removed to Fort Dodge. There he engaged in the banking business, and died there about twenty years ago.

In 1867 the county court was abolished and in 1869 the circuit court was established and took control of the probate business, and to it was given the jurisdiction over all cases of appeal from inferior courts, such as justices', mayors' and other tribunals of that nature.

Judge J. M. Snyder held the first term of court in Spencer in 1871. He was a young man at that time, of great attainments, and made his home at Humboldt. He now lives at Chattanooga, Tennessee. Prior to that time actions were brought in the courts of Woodbury county. The first action in the district court of that county from Clay county was a case in equity, by Ambrose Mead against John A. and Christian Kirchner, for the partition of a tract of land held and claimed by the Kirchners. This land was known as "Long Grove." These parties made a claim thereon April, 1856, and with their families came to the county in the summer of that same year. The land in dispute was finally divided between the litigants. The court decided that the parties were tenants in common of the land in dispute.

At that time there was both a circuit and a district court. Judge Ford, of Sioux City, presided at the district court, which had jurisdiction over all criminal cases and equal jurisdiction with the circuit court over all civil cases. At that time the judicial district had what was known as the district attorney. He had charge of all criminal trials. The office of district attorney was eventually abolished and each county was given its county attorney. The first session of the district court, as shown by the records, was on the 22d of June, 1865. Judge Isaac Pemberton, of Sioux City, presided.

The duties of the lawyer were not so great in the early days as to occupy his whole time, and often he indulged in other lines of business to make a living for himself and family. At the present the people demand their services

and they are glad to accommodate the people. Today the profession stands at the head almost over all others, and a good lawyer must always be a brilliant scholar, an able and eminent lawyer and a credit to society. He must always be an honor to the profession and to society and to the entire county. The first attorney in the county was Samuel Gonser. He came from Indiana and located at Peterson. He was a man of wide range of investigation and a civil leader. He was a good advocate and a great reader. He left Clay county in 1877 and went to Des Moines. He lived there about three years and then removed to Guthrie Center, where he died about 1885.

The courts of Clay county have never been called upon to adjudicate any great civil cases, although its records show litigation that has been of importance to the parties interested therein. The class of people settling the county has been of the very best; hence but few cases under the criminal law have appeared. Clay county has never had a murder committed within its borders since its courts were organized, and that fact has prevented anything of a sensational order coming before its courts. Minor offenses against the law have been few and far between, and to sum it all up, the general proceedings of the Clay county courts have been prosaic and lacking in that interest that usually draws the morbidly curious.

Ackley Hubbard came to Spencer early in its history, and practiced there until about 1884. He was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, in 1849, and lived there until he reached the age of eighteen. He then removed to Monroe county, where he lived about a year and a half, when he removed to Clay county and subsequently came to Spencer and entered the cabinet trade, at which he had worked previously. He obtained his education in the schools of New York. Being possessed of more than ordinary ability and being a great reader and a close, keen observer, the early schooling he received served him as the foundation for a deeper, broader and more practical education than he could have received in the classic colleges of today. Although but a resident of the county less than three years, he was in the fall of 1872 elected to the responsible office of clerk of the courts, a position he filled so satisfactorily that he was re-elected. During his incumbency he devoted himself to the study of law. Being an apt and close student and, as clerk of the courts, familiar with the practice, he soon mastered the necessary studies, and after a careful examination was admitted as an attorney in 1876. As soon as his term of office expired he opened an office and began to practice. But so signally satisfactorily had he filled the office of clerk that in 1877 he was elected to the office of auditor, which he held two years, declining a second term. At the expiration of his auditorship he again devoted his attention to his legal business, which, while holding office, had gradually grown, although unsolicited. In 1878 he formed a partnership with F. C. Danforth, and the firm enjoyed a good practice. In 1879, in company with Mr. Lovewell, he purchased forty acres of land adjoining the original town plat on the west and laid it out in lots and placed them on the market. There was a great demand for them, and in a short time this forty-acre lot was covered with some of the finest residences in Spencer. The addition is known as Lovewell and Hubbard's addition to Spencer. Upon the retirement of Mr. Danforth, Mr. E. C. Hughes was admitted as a partner, and

their practice became remunerative and extended. In 1884, owing to failing eyesight, Mr. Hubbard was compelled to retire from the practice of law. Previous to his retirement, however, he had formed a partnership with A. Woodruff in the furniture business, and as soon as he disposed of his interest in the legal line he at once devoted all his time and attention to the furniture trade, with which he was thoroughly conversant. As a lawyer Mr. Hubbard was eminently successful. He had an excellent knowledge of the law and its applicability. He had quick, analytic perception, strong logical powers, and a tenacious memory. As a pleader he was plain, terse and forcible. After three years he embarked in the banking business and was the assistant cashier of the First National bank. He removed to California and engaged in the banking business there. He returned to Spencer and again became president of the First National bank, after which he was cashier of the Citizens National bank and the Citizens State bank. In 1907 he removed with his family to Sioux City, where he is at the present time president of the First National bank.

L. M. Pemberton, now of Beatrice, Nebraska, came to Spencer about 1869. He was one of the best lawyers of the Clay county bar. He at one time was county auditor. He left Spencer about 1880 for Beatrice, where he now sits upon the judicial bench.

E. C. Hughes was one of the early lawyers in Spencer. After his admission to the bar at Sac City he came to Peterson with the intention, in conjunction with his brother, Senator Hughes, to engage in banking in connection with his legal business. But after a short stay he abandoned the idea and came to Spencer and went into partnership with Ackley Hubbard. Later he purchased Mr. Hubbard's interest and for a time was alone. In 1884 he was tendered the presidency of Carthage College, an institution noted for its prominence and power throughout the state of Illinois. This great honor he declined, because of his great desire to remain in the profession and in which he has had great success. In 1886, at the urgent request of his many friends in several counties, he was a candidate before the judicial convention for the nomination for district judge. The convention was composed of the leading men of the Fourteenth judicial district and was one of the most noteworthy and protracted ever held in the northwest. There were seventy-two delegates and five candidates. Three hundred and twenty-three ballots were taken before a selection was made. In every selection except the three hundred and twenty-third Mr. Hughes led and only required three votes of receiving the nomination. By a combined effort another received the prize. Like Grant's followers at Chicago, his friends stood by him until the last. Although a staunch and unflinching Republican, Mr. Hughes was appointed special district attorney under President Cleveland's administration. Upon a change in the political administration he was again appointed by the attorney general as special district attorney, in a case which involved an immense amount of money, namely, to declare a forfeiture of the Sioux City and St. Paul Railway Company and recover back to the United States twenty-one thousand acres of land in O'Brien and Dickinson counties, which was patented to the state and now claimed. Mr. Hughes left Spencer about ten years ago to make his home in Seattle, Washington, where he is now practicing law.

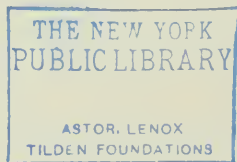
Harry Chamberlain came to Clay county in 1871, from Winnebago county, Illinois, and located on a homestead. His education was obtained in the Rockford schools. He taught several terms of school in that state and also in Clay county. In 1876 he was elected clerk of the courts and was re-elected again in 1878, 1880 and 1882. The last two terms without opposition. He was a candidate in 1886, but was defeated by only thirty-eight votes. In 1885 he was admitted to practice law and upon his retirement from the clerk's office he formed a partnership with E. C. Hughes, but withdrew from active practice in 1888, on account of failing health.

W. H. H. Hastings came to Spencer in 1883, from Danville, Illinois. He first worked as a farm hand in the summer and taught school in the winter. This he repeated for five years. His ambition was to enter the legal profession, but how was the question. There were many obstacles in the way. But the determination was firmly fixed in his mind and he resolved to surmount every barrier and reach the goal of his ambition. During the pleasant winter evenings he came to Spencer, his school being in the country, and burned the midnight oil in pondering over his law books. In May, 1888, the object which he sought was reached and he was permitted to practice. His admirable pluck and fixedness of purpose are evidences of what can be accomplished by a strong and determined mind. He began at the lowest round of the ladder, without money or influence, and by his natural ability and a large stock of energy and perseverance won a place in the ranks of his profession. He left Spencer some years ago.

Perhaps the most prominent lawyer of the Clay county bar was A. C. Parker. He came to Spencer in company with A. R. Claxton and opened a law office June 10, 1879. Mr. Parker was born in Zenor, Indiana, in 1857, and received his education in the public schools of Buchanan county. Having made law the choice of professions, he entered the Iowa Law School, where he studiously employed his time for two years, mastering the intricate points of the law and storing his mind with the varied and multifarious rules of practice. After some time Mr. Claxton retired from the practice, and in 1882 Frank Richardson was admitted as a partner. Mr. Parker is a man of wonderful mental force. He possesses in a large degree indomitable pluck, and is extremely tenacious of purpose. He is what is commonly called a legal fighter. He prepares his cases with scrupulous care, is cautious in every preparation, and then searches for the law and examines it most minutely, and selects that which has a direct and forcible bearing upon them. With all his labor, when his causes are called he is fully and ably equipped for the legal contest. In the heat of the legal arena he is at his best. Possessing a striking familiarity with the law and an excellent and retentive memory, he is ever ready to meet his opponent. He is a clear and logical speaker, rather crisp, hews straight to the line and is not at all given to many words or rhetorical flourishes. He is a lawyer of conservative views, of sound judgment, and careful in giving a decision. These qualities have served him admirably and have enabled him to gain the confidence of his clients, the esteem and respect of the court, and have placed him in the front rank of his chosen profession. For some years past he has been a resident of Des Moines and is considered one of the ablest lawyers of the state of Iowa.



GRAND OPERA HOUSE, SPENCER



Frank Richardson came to Spencer in 1883 and formed a partnership with A. C. Parker. Mr. Richardson read law in the office of Hon. J. J. Morgan, of Independence, and was admitted there to the bar. He was a clear, logical lawyer, a brilliant counselor, a close student and gifted with a good voice. He was elected city recorder in 1888. He has since removed from Spencer.

E. E. Snow became a resident of Spencer about 1871 and practiced law there until about 1890, when he retired and went to New Jersey. He accumulated large tracts of land in Clay county and has visited Spencer in late years. Mr. Snow had entered into partnership with his younger brother, Sumner S. Snow, who died in the summer of 1892. The latter's widow is the wife of Franklin Floete, one of the most prominent business men in Spencer.

One of the present members of the Clay county bar to attain prominence here is John W. Cory. He was born in Linn county, Iowa, February 21, 1855. In 1871 he graduated from Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa. He taught several terms of school and at one time was principal of the Estherville public schools. He was admitted to the bar in 1873, and lived in Estherville until 1874, then he removed to Spirit Lake and began the practice of his profession. He removed to Spencer October 1, 1896. He is an able lawyer and has a large practice, both in Clay county and Dickinson county, where he maintains an office at Spirit Lake. His practice extends into other counties of northern Iowa.

The present members of the Clay county bar are as follows: Fred Kirkpatrick and Harlan J. Buck, members of the firm of Buck & Kirkpatrick (Mr. Kirkpatrick is the present county attorney); W. W. Cornwall, now Supreme Court reporter; John W. Cory; George A. Heald, who came to Spencer in 1907; W. E. Barnhart; Orville A. Hammand; W. S. Bemis, retired, and J. E. Steele.

Guy H. Martin was county attorney and practiced in Spencer about ten years and was in partnership with J. E. Steele about two years. He became a very fine trial lawyer. He removed to Spokane, Washington, in 1907. He is now living at Sand Point, Idaho, where he is practicing his profession. Sketches of other attorneys of Spencer will be found in the biographical section of this work.

THE CENTRAL HOTEL.

The Central Hotel has been in operation for several years. It is conveniently located on Main street, near the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul depot, and has good patronage. The Commercial Hotel is another one of Spencer's well-kept hostelries, as is also the Merchants. Spencer is well supplied with good hotels and restaurants, which are liberally patronized.

SPENCER FOUNDRY.

This branch of industry is one of great value and is almost indispensable to Spencer. It not only gives employment to a number of artisans, but transforms the rude and crude material into articles of utility. While it is true that it does not rank with many institutions of a similar kind in the state, and has not all the necessary machinery required, notwithstanding all this, the work it does turn out is of a superior kind. Messrs. Maurer are men thoroughly conversant with

the business and are skilled mechanics. They give their time and personal attention to all work done, and are endeavoring to build up a reputation by the character and durability of it. They have produced some work which for quality and workmanship cannot be excelled in the state. They are now manufacturing a number of hay presses, machines for making fences and are filling numerous other orders.

SPENCER MILITARY BAND.

Spencer has a brass band of which its people are proud. It was organized in January, 1906, with the following officers: President, D. A. Thompson; secretary, Benjamin Martin; treasurer, Robert Anderson; manager, E. M. Horner; leader, Peter Sarlette. Members: D. A. Thompson, Arnold Anderson, E. R. Pruitt, cornet; E. M. Horner, H. Johnson, G. Taylor, clarinet; A. C. Schuneman, Thoral Thompson, Gust Strondberg, bass; Peter Rhode, Robert Anderson, Arthur Anderson, slide trombone; Julius Bicksen, Leonard Stair, F. Buck, Archie Ewing, alto; Charles Carter, small drum; Harry Pinneo, bass drum.

THE NEW COURTHOUSE.

In 1900 it was decided by the people of the county to erect a new courthouse—a temple of justice—and one that should evidence the character of the community and its wealth and progress among the many great commonwealths of the state. To further this end bonds were issued and bids advertised therefor; and to show the importance of Clay county and her financial standing, it may here be stated that many money centers bid on the bonds and they were finally sold—\$50,000 worth—to a Cincinnati, Ohio, firm, at a premium of \$1,117. These bonds draw four per cent interest and the last series of \$6,000 become due in 1910.

The old frame courthouse had long outlived its usefulness and capacity for the growing needs of official business. It was of frame material and had become an eyesore to the provident but progressive farmer and business and professional man. They felt the need of a better, more modern and convenient courthouse, and but few, if any, criticised the amount expended for the beautiful edifice that took the place of the old one.

The new courthouse was completed and the first term of court held in the beautiful court room in September, 1901. There were no frills or flourishes in the way of dedicatory exercises. The doors were simply opened, the office rooms were tenanted by the various officials, and the precious records and moneys of the county placed in the fireproof vaults prepared for them. That was the dedicatory exercises of the new courthouse of Clay county.

The building is massive and sits in the center of the beautiful plot of ground formerly the site of the old courthouse. It has an imposing, majestic appearance and is a credit not only to the bailiwick but to the great state of which it is an integral part. And when the layman views it critically and when he sees the handsome and substantial appointments in the interior, with the labor-saving devices and fireproof arrangements, the wonder to him is that but \$60,000 was expended for it all.

The front of the building faces on Fourth street and while the architecture

is not elaborate, it gives one the idea of harmony in its general appearance. The most noticeable features are the four immense columns of Portage Entry red stone, capped with terra cotta capitals. These support a beautiful architrave, in the center of which is a bronze tablet from which an American eagle stands free with outstretched wings, in a laurel wreath circlet. On either side of the national bird of freedom is a bunch of six arrows and two American flags. Approaching the building is a cement walk, from which one notices a flat dome at each corner of the roof of the building. These are covered with bronze, as is the tall central dome. The front steps, constructed of stone, are of immense width, and lead above the basement to the first floor. There are two entrances to the building, the main one facing on Fourth street and the other at the east side.

On the first floor the northwest corner room is occupied by the clerk of the district court; in the southwest corner is the recorder's office; the treasurer's office is in the southeast corner of the building, and midway between the clerk's and the auditor's offices is the board of supervisors' room. The whole west half of the second floor is consumed by the court room, while on the remainder of this floor are rooms for the county superintendent of schools, county attorney, the judges' chamber, witnesses, grand jury and trial jury rooms. In the basement the sheriff has his office, and three rooms are made use of by the Woman's Relief Corps of the Grand Army of the Republic. Here also are the excellent heating apparatus and coal bins, also fireproof vaults for overflow of documents.

The wood finishings of the interior are of oak. The floors of the hall on the first floor are tiled, as are also portions of the offices on this floor. The steps in the building are of slate and the wainscoting about the hall and stairways is of Italian marble. The cost of the slate and marble alone was \$3,000.

The court room is very pleasing to the eye. The walls are of rough plaster finish, frescoed with plaster of Paris decorations. The ceiling is dotted with these decorations, while in the center of it are allegorical figures done in oil. The beautiful effect is added to by delicate tinted paint. The seating capacity of the court room, outside the rail or inclosure for the members of the bar, is two hundred.

This edifice in its entirety is second, scarcely, to any built for a similar purpose in the state of Iowa, outside of the largest county seats, and stands in its splendor as a monument to the progress and the prosperity of Clay county and her people.

THE COUNTY JAIL.

The county really has little use for a jail, and the size of the present building devoted to malefactors is equal to the demand upon it. Constructed of wood, with iron cells, it looks like the calaboose usually in vogue in the country towns. But as diminutive as it is, it more than fills the requirements of such institutions. For months at a time the jail is devoid of a tenant. In fact, during the summer of 1908 there was not one prisoner within its walls. Nothing could go farther to show the character of the people of Clay county. With not a saloon in the county, and a law-abiding, moral and cleanly people, this condition, almost perfect, is made possible; and the better element is so strong, numerically,

in the county that the probability is this condition of things will be made permanent. That, at least, is the intention and determination of the present generation.

THE COUNTY INFIRMARY.

The old saying that "The poor ye have with you always" applies to Clay county as well as to other communities, but luckily, not so much so, to use an expression. Humanity, with its frailties, improvidence and misfortunes, always pleads for and secures the sympathies of the more fortunate and those whose benefits are substantial and means of livelihood secure are called upon to lend the helping hand to the poor and needy. The county, has its poor, its aged and decrepit, its freaks of nature (human), and mentally weak. These become a charge on the community, and it is well that a fitting home and asylum be provided for their comfort and welfare out of the public funds. Such a home was established in Clay county in 1895.

The supervisors of Clay county bought a tract of land, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, in 1881, of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Company, paying for the same \$7.50 per acre. This land was intended for a "poor farm." Later, in 1895, twenty acres purchased of Herman Kraus, were added to the original tract.

No attempt was made to erect buildings on this farm until 1894, and in the meantime sundry persons attended to the needs of the indigent and were reimbursed by the county, on presentation of their bills. Before the building was erected the farm was rented by the year "on such terms as shall seem for the best interests of the county, the party taking said farm to keep the poor who are a county charge."

In 1894 provisions were made for the erection of suitable buildings on the farm. But the board of supervisors struck a snag in the way of the county attorney's opinion, the same being that the board had failed to take the necessary legal steps to establish a "poor farm" and that nothing could be done in that regard, nor could buildings be erected for that purpose, except by a vote of the people of the county. So the matter was deferred until the fall election of 1894, when the question, "Shall a poor house be established and erected at a cost not to exceed \$8,000?" was voted upon. The answer of the taxpayers of Clay county was strongly in the affirmative, the vote being: For the proposition, 987; against, 382.

On April 1, 1895, the contract for the buildings was let to S. B. Taylor for \$4,175, and J. A. Platt, A. W. Sleeper and J. F. Lundy were appointed the building committee. September, 1895, saw the completion of the poor house, at a cost of approximately \$8,000. J. H. Eckley was the first steward. He was succeeded by J. H. Doty, and for the past six years Earnest Goedicke has been the incumbent of that responsible office.

The buildings are of frame, but modern, and have many of the conveniences of similar institutions in other counties. The farm is fertile, well kept and productive, and for some time past a herd of shorthorn cattle has been a chief feature of the farm. In October, 1906, a dispersion sale of these animals was held and forty-seven head were sold, bringing an average of \$92.62 a head. The total sum was \$4,355.

FREE RURAL DELIVERY OF MAIL.

For several years past Clay county has had a free delivery of mails. This is a blessing and a convenience not dreamed possible of attainment at one time. It gives the farmer his mail at his gate or crossroad almost as soon as the merchant receives his in the town, and as a consequence, the daily paper in the rural districts has now become the vogue as much as the weekly. One can easily reason from this that the farmer can now keep abreast of all that is going on in the world, as the news of each day comes to him before the day is gone. And when you consider that he has the telephone and not unlikely an automobile and the means to maintain it, who can say but that the Clay county farmer is prosperous and enjoying the comforts and many of the luxuries of a fruitful soil and persistent energy and industry bring forth.

TELEPHONE FACILITIES.

Clay county is abreast of her neighbors in the matter of rapid means of communication. There are three telephone companies doing business in the county and the patronage of these concerns is of such extent that one can easily reach almost any farm, residence or place of business in the county with the expenditure of a little time and expense. The companies now owning lines in the county are: The Western Electric Telephone Company, the Iowa and Nebraska Telephone Company, and the Spencer Telephone Company. Recently telephone companies have been organized at Peterson, Webb, and one in Meadow township—a farmer's line, entering Spencer.

ASSESSED VALUE OF LAND AND PERSONAL PROPERTY FOR 1887.

As a matter of course, the personal property and the value of the real estate would necessarily increase in a degree in proportion as the population increased. We have, therefore, prepared a tabulated statement of the assessed valuation of personal and real property for the years 1887 and 1907, thus showing the wonderful increase in the past twenty years.

1887	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Property	Value of Lots
Herdland	\$163,935	\$19,238	.....
Douglas	111,802	20,170	.....
Ind. District of Peterson.....	44,442	25,238	.....
Peterson	20,186	24,661	.....
Clay	22,523	25,033	.....
Lincoln	21,910	19,816	.....
Gillett Grove	21,812	17,029	.....
Logan	25,972	4,438	.....
Freeman	20,417	40,587	.....
Lake	19,290	10,372	.....
Meadow	21,723	19,262	.....
Spencer	19,297	35,173	.....
Ind. District of Spencer	3,438	102,013	\$154,499
Riverton	20,618	45,676	.....
Lone Tree	21,807	39,196	7,108
Waterford	22,439	3,997	.....
Summit	21,882	35,217	.....

ASSESSED VALUE OF LAND AND PERSONAL PROPERTY FOR 1907.

	No. of Acres.	Value of Land.	Value of Personal Property
Lake	20,360	\$ 548,092	\$ 54,420
Meadow	21,689	906,800	90,100
Meadow lots .....	.....	9,196	.....
Summit	22,077	903,500	147,624
Summit lots .....	.....	24,904	.....
Waterford	22,279	856,728	97,496
Lone Tree	18,560	727,986	74,536
Everly (Ind.)	2,917	106,476	12,744
Everly (Inc.)	506	30,276	101,944
Everly lots .....	.....	41,168	.....
Riverton	20,481	818,536	102,796
Sioux	19,185	725,688	84,844
Spencer (Ind.)	2,399	110,872	15,088
Spencer (Inc.)	658	84,340	456,976
Spencer lots .....	.....	1,241,868	.....
Freeman	20,471	687,900	84,216
Dickens (Ind.)	2,463	110,412	60,012
Dickens lots .....	.....	39,008	.....
Logan	22,502	760,392	72,716
Gillett's Grove	22,373	831,360	135,426
Gillett's lots .....	.....	32,552	.....
Lincoln	22,316	880,796	138,984
Lincoln lots .....	.....	18,272	.....
Clay	19,983	802,580	103,088
Royal (Ind.)	2,434	98,716	54,836
Royal lots .....	.....	165,880	.....
Peterson	19,657	767,544	75,320
Peterson (Ind.)	2,163	83,808	7,616
Peterson (Inc.) .....	.....	.....	127,032
Peterson lots .....	.....	152,172	.....
Douglas	22,215	884,220	121,488
Herdland	17,422	623,044	69,284
Herdland lots .....	.....	3,540	.....
Garfield	14,170	514,620	46,812
Webb (Inc.)	257	11,780	35,808
Webb lots .....	.....	376	.....
Webb (Ind.)	12,076	441,592	41,620

DRAINAGE DISTRICTS.

The drainage of swamp and overflowed land has come into vogue but quite recently, and in the western states especially, the husbandman is awakening to the fact that money expended in tiling and in big drainage ditches is well spent and the returns more than compensate for the outlay.

Vast tracts of land have been reclaimed, in recent years, in Illinois and Iowa, that were considered worthless. By the system of establishing drainage

districts and assessing the land benefited by the drains or ditches, swamps and overflowed land, to the extent of millions of acres—lands looked upon with contempt—have been drained by the building of big ditches and now make the most fertile fields in the communities where the drainage districts have been established. In one county in Illinois, Ford county, within the past ten years, over \$600,000 has been spent in drainage canals. This vast sum of money is but a mere bagatelle, however, when compared to the millions of dollars added to the appreciation in the value of the land reclaimed.

In 1905 a movement—the initial one—took place in Clay county, to establish a drainage district. Henry Achenback and others were the prime movers in a petition for drainage district number one, to be established in Sioux and Riverton townships. Immediately following this petition came one from John Adams and others for the establishing of drainage ditch number two, in Waterford, Lone Tree and Riverton townships.

These ditches, or canals, have been completed, at a comparatively small outlay of money, probably \$10,000, but the benefits derived, both from a commercial and sanitary viewpoint, more than compensate those who were called upon to pay the cost.

Drainage districts are established under a law passed by the Thirtieth general assembly, the first section of which reads as follows:

"Section I—The board of supervisors of any county shall have jurisdiction, power and authority at any regular, special or adjourned session, to establish a drainage district or districts, and to locate and establish levees, and cause to be constructed as hereinafter provided any levee, ditch drain or water course, or to straighten, widen, deepen or change any natural water course, in such county, whenever the same will be of public utility or conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare, and the drainage of surface waters from agricultural lands shall be considered a public benefit and conducive to the public health, convenience, utility and welfare."

GRAIN AND FRUIT.

The soil and climate are well adapted to the production of wheat, oats, rye, barley, corn, flax, buckwheat, potatoes and other vegetables. In an early day, and in fact for a number of years, wheat was the principal crop, but of later years it has not produced so well. Farmers have, therefore, turned their attention to other cereals. Flax has yielded well and being easily cared for and a crop that can be realized on in a short time, besides always commanding a good price and is such an excellent thing for new land, that acres upon acres have been seeded in years past. It is never a drug on the market and brings a handsome sum. It has been demonstrated that tame grass does well, especially timothy, and there are a large number of acres seeded down to it. There are a number of orchards in the county which have been yielding for a number of years and others planted later which give promise of future success. A great deal of attention is paid to fruit culture. There are several farms where a large amount of ground is taken up with small fruit such as blackberries, raspberries, strawberries, currants, and they are growing luxuriantly and producing excellent varieties. Very few sections are giving more attention to horticulture than

the farmers of Clay county. There is a healthy rivalry existing, each determined to raise the very best. The dry pure air of the climate gives to trees and plants a healthy growth and the fruits and vegetables are solid and delicately flavored. The productiveness of Clay county is noteworthy, notwithstanding the fact that there have been many detractors. The average yield of corn is from thirty-five to forty bushels to the acre; average yield of wheat, ten to fifteen; average yield of flax, twelve to twenty bushels. This is with fair cultivation, seasonably sown and properly cared for. No fancy farming but just plain and careful attention. Oats, for years past, has been one of the principal crops of the Clay county farmer, and on which he can, as a rule, expect a splendid return. The season of 1908, in all crops, oats, corn, and hay, was especially gratifying, and the prices being greater than at any time since the war, the Clay county husbandman's bank account was considerably swollen. For the past ten years every product of the farm has brought a top price and a ready market has been eagerly waiting to consume all that might be offered for sale. Cattle, horses, hogs, sheep, and wool, rarely at any time before, have brought the farmer such magnificent returns on the labor and expense of their raising and preparation for the market.

STOCK.

Perhaps few if any counties in northwestern Iowa excels Clay in character and class of stock raised. Some counties may have a larger number of head, but none better bred or a greater number of them. It has been the aim and object of a number of breeders to purchase the very best blooded stock that could be had, and if Clay surpasses her sister counties in this respect it is because she has men who are willing to invest in this kind of animals. A well-bred animal always commands a greater value than a poorly-bred one. Farmers appreciate this fact and are raising the grade of their stock. Stock raising is yearly increasing as it succeeds well. The country being unsurpassed for pasturage and hay, stock can be kept with very little expense and grow sleek and fat on the nutritious grasses.

The wild grass, known as blue-joint, is sweet and the best for food for stock. With an abundance of grass, hay and corn, it is not marvelous that stock growing is a prolific source of revenue.

There are a number of fine herds of cattle of the Short-Horn, Jersey and Holstein breeds and a large number of grades of these various classes. In the horse line there is everything from the Shetland pony to the large and powerful Norman. Hogs and sheep are also of the very best breeding. There has been a large growth in the numbers of head of stock during the past ten years, particularly in cattle.

MORALS OF THE COUNTRY.

The moral and upright class of people that Clay county is inhabited by is well attested by the fact that the records show that there have been but few bad and dishonest characters. Up to 1885 there were none of any consequence. There was, of course, the usual amount of technical violations of the law, but no particular overt acts committed. During that year A. B. Van Dee, an

excitable man, and D. C. Palmer had a little difficulty over a piece of land. They met one day when, without a word of warning or a word passing between them, Van Dee took from his wagon a shotgun and fired upon Palmer. The wounds inflicted necessitated the amputation of a limb. Van Dee surrendered to the sheriff, and, pending his trial, was adjudged insane and sent to an asylum. Beyond this there have been no criminal cases worth mentioning. Litigations have been infrequent and criminal cases few, demonstrating that Clay county's citizens are peaceable, quiet and respectors of the law and have the fear of God, man and the powers that be before them.

CLAY COUNTY SCHOOLS.

Twenty million dollars does not cover the amount invested in the state of Iowa on school buildings and equipment, and the annual expenditure for the support of these schools reaches the stupendous sum of over \$10,000,000. This gives proof of a loyalty to the cause of education that is beyond question. In addition to this vast outlay for the benefit of more than 540,000 children enrolled annually in the public schools of the state, may be added the money spent in the support of numerous parochial schools, academies, business colleges, private normal schools, colleges and universities—institutions employing in the aggregate 2,000 professors and teachers and enrolling annually more than 40,000 students. Vast as is the amount spent annually in supporting the schools of the state, of all classes and grades, no retrenchments would be tolerated. The problem before each of the 4,948 school boards of Iowa is not how to run the school with the fewest dollars, but how the school can be made the most efficient.

"No common school system," says Horace Mann, "can ever succeed, where the compensation is so meager as to encourage only those of the most ordinary talent and attainments to embark in it." The wages in many schools are too low to attract and hold the best teaching talent. Indeed, the advance in teachers' wages in recent years, has outrun but little the increased cost of living, and has barely kept pace with the advance in wages in other lines of work. So many remunerative occupations are now open to promising young men and women, that many whose services are sorely needed in the schools can not be induced to enter the teaching profession. The loss of men from the teacher's ranks is particularly noticeable. Forty years ago thirty-nine out of every one hundred teachers employed in Iowa were men; twenty years ago thirty-one out of every one hundred were men; while for the year just closed there were but fourteen males out of every one hundred Iowa teachers. For the United States as a whole the percentage of male teachers had decreased from 48.8 per cent. in 1880, to 28.8 per cent. in 1900.

The advantages of the children of the pioneer, in the way of securing an education, were very meager, indeed, when a comparison is made in that regard with the bounteous provisions for teaching the present generation, it calls out the amazement and admiration of every one interested in the subject.

The early settler came to the county to better his condition, and, in many instances, it was a struggle on his part, from the very beginning, to make both ends meet from one end of the year to the other. If his children were large

enough they were put into the field, to help cultivate and gather the crops; and when winter appeared, the country was so sparsely settled and the elements so severe, as to prevent anyone going any great distance from home. It was not long, however, before schoolhouses made their appearance and the children eagerly took advantage of their opportunities. Teachers were scarce and the payment far from commensurate with their services; but improvements rapidly took place in these essentials and today Clay county has scarcely a rival among her sister commonwealths, in the opportunities she offers to her youths to lay the foundations for a higher education.

In Clay county there are one hundred and twenty-five subdistricts and one hundred and thirty-one schoolhouses. For the school year ending June, 1908, two hundred and sixty-one teachers were employed, two hundred and thirty-four of them being females and twenty-seven males. The former received for their services on an average, forty dollars and twenty-seven cents; the latter, fifty-nine dollars and ninety-nine cents. A total of fifty-five thousand four hundred and thirty-five dollars and thirty-five cents was paid them for the year mentioned. The number of children of school age enrolled was three thousand five hundred and twenty-two.

THE CONSOLIDATED RURAL SCHOOL.

Some years ago educators came to a full realization of the fact that the country children were not being treated equally with the children of the graded schools of the towns, and the idea of consolidating the schools of a township into one central school building in the township, met with quite general favor among those who had given the matter more than a passing thought.

In 1903 Moss Mason, of Lake township, long a member of the Lake township school board, became enthused and very much interested in the plan of having one central, graded school in a township and went to work vigorously and valiantly to put the plan into operation in the township of Lake. Those he approached on the subject were either as enthusiastic as himself or indifferent; others opposed the proposition as being impracticable and too expensive. But, in 1903, a vote was taken on the proposition in Lake township and it carried by a most gratifying majority; thanks to the efforts of its promoter, Moss Mason, and his able assistants, C. M. Varney, J. Cook, J. Chapman, and others.

The old school buildings were abandoned. In the exact geographical center of the township a commodious and modern frame building, consisting of four rooms, was erected, at a cost of three thousand two hundred dollars. The frame building that stood on the site of the central school house, was set apart for the drivers of the wagons or conveyances for the children. Of these wagons eight were especially constructed for the purpose, each having a stove for winter use and each having a capacity of fifteen children. Bids were offered for teams and drivers, which went to the citizens of the township, and the big boys of the contractors, as a rule, became the drivers. These omnibuses each morning are driven forth from their respective places and the first child called for by the driver at about 7:30; the last child to be taken home after school, as a rule, reaches there about 6 in the evening. This Lake township school has nine grades and a splendid corps of teachers; and in the school year ending June, 1908, there were

one hundred and five pupils enrolled. For their transportation it cost one thousand nine hundred dollars and fifty cents. The average cost per month for the tuition of each pupil was three dollars and thirteen cents. The annual salary of the principal of the schools was four hundred and twenty dollars, for seven months. The school has thus far been closing at the end of February, on account of the poor condition of the roads.

The following is a report of John F. Riggs, superintendent of public instruction, which will give a fair idea of the working of the consolidation plan:

LAKE TOWNSHIP.

On January 10, 1905, in company with County Superintendent H. F. Fillmore, I visited the Lake township central school. The day was very cold, mercury registering ten degrees below zero. Our visit was unannounced and unexpected. We found ninety-eight pupils present out of a total enrollment of one hundred and nineteen.

The school is located at the geographical center of the township, and the nearest building of any description is three-fourths of a mile distant. The schoolhouse, erected at a cost of three thousand two hundred dollars, is the only building in the township of a public character, there being no church, hall, shop, or store of any description. This school is in its second year. The children are conveyed to and from their homes in hacks. Three of these are provided with stoves and the others have blankets and robes. All are completely covered. The average cost per team for transporting pupils is twenty-eight dollars per month. Two young men attending school are among the drivers.

As one of the direct results of consolidation in Lake township may be mentioned the fact that this winter four miles of excellent gravel road have been made—the first attempt in that part of Clay county at this class of improvement. The work was mostly done by farmers gratuitously. They expect to continue the work next winter, and it will be but a few years until this township will have excellent roads, and the value of every acre of land in the township will be enhanced thereby. Last year the roads were so bad that transportation was next to impossible for a considerable time, but the people of Lake township have staying qualities, and they are proving the practicability of consolidation in the one township of all others in Clay county most unfavorable for the undertaking.

Church and Sunday school are held there in the school building on Sundays and the hacks used to carry the children during the week are used to some extent to carry the people to church on Sunday.

The eight drivers furnish their own teams and hacks, and are under written contract.

The different routes are indicated on the map appearing in this report.

The first child called for on Route No. 1 must ride 6 miles.

The first child called for on Route No. 2 must ride $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

The first child called for on Route No. 3 must ride 6 miles.

The first child called for on Route No. 4 must ride 6 miles.

The first child called for on Route No. 5 must ride 7 miles.

The first child called for on Route No. 6 must ride $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

The first child called for on Route No. 7 must ride 9 miles.

The first child called for on Route No. 8 must ride 6 miles.

The driver for Route No. 1 receives \$40.00 per month.
 The driver for Route No. 2 receives 20.00 per month.
 The driver for Route No. 3 receives 28.00 per month.
 The driver for Route No. 4 receives 30.00 per month.
 The driver for Route No. 5 receives 31.00 per month.
 The driver for Route No. 6 receives 20.00 per month.
 The driver for Route No. 7 receives 30.00 per month.
 The driver for Route No. 8 receives 25.00 per month.

For the purpose of comparison, I give the following table showing enrollment, attendance, etc., in Lake township for the years indicated, the first four under the old district plan and the last under the consolidated plan:

Years.	Enrolled.	Average Daily Attendance.	Total Paid Teachers.	Paid for Fuel Repairs and Janitor.	Month's School.	Average Compensation Teachers.	
						Males.	Females.
1900....	126	62	\$1,479.00	\$150.00	8	\$27.12	\$27.45
1901....	120	55	1,639.00	120.00	8	.....	29.23
1902....	107	64	1,650.00	150.00	8	.....	28.92
1903....	96	70	1,102.10	380.00	5.5	28.00	29.60
1904....	116	101	803.25	150.00	8	50.00	37.50

The figures given in the above table are from the annual reports of the county superintendent of Clay county. Evidently the amount for the year 1904 for the amount paid for teachers' hire should be \$1,000 if all the orders were paid.

It will be seen from the above table that the average daily attendance was sixty per cent. greater in 1904 than the average in the township for the four preceding years.

In 1905 the principal received \$50 per month and the grade teachers \$40 each per month.

The cost per month of maintaining the Lake township central school at present is:

Teachers' salaries.....	\$130.00
Transportation (eight teams).....	224.00
Fuel and janitor service (estimated).....	20.00
Total.....	\$384.00

The assessed valuation of the township is \$178,000. On the present basis of cost the levy for teachers' and contingent funds combined for eight months of school would be but 17.2 mills.

For the year 1902, when eight months of school was maintained in the seven separate districts, the levy was 10 mills (assuming that the assessed valuation was the same as now). But for the year 1902 the average daily attendance in the township was but sixty-four, whereas it is now over one hundred. The people are spending more in dollars and cents, but they are getting more for the money spent.

Pupils are transported this winter from forty-one homes. To each of these homes I sent a letter requesting answers to the following questions:

1. Do you regard the school now being conducted in Lake township as being better than the school you had previous to consolidation?
2. When the schools of this township were consolidated did you favor consolidation or oppose it?
3. Are you now in favor or opposed to consolidation in this township?
4. Give reasons to your answers to question 3.
5. What advantages, if any, have resulted from consolidating the schools of this township?
6. What disadvantages, if any, have resulted from consolidating the schools of this township?

Thirty-two answers were received. Of these twenty-six patrons say the school is better than formerly, most of them say much better. Fourteen of the thirty-two were opposed at first, and ten are still opposed.

THE BENEFITS CLAIMED.

Those favoring the central school were very positive in their opinions. Mr. J. P. Livingston, a director in the township for eight years, answers the six questions submitted as follows:

1. Yes, far ahead of it.
2. Yes and no, because the roads were not fit.
3. In favor.
4. Better school. Better teachers. Better roads. Children like to go better and advance more in one year than in two the old way. Children go ahead instead of standing still as they oftentimes did the old way. Also better attendance.
5. The roads have become better. Property is worth more and a better feeling all around.
6. It has cost more so far. I don't know of any other disadvantage. Hope the good work may go on.

The following are the principal arguments offered by others in defense of the new way as opposed to the old:

Children attend more regularly.

The pupils are learning better in every respect.

Better attendance.

Bad weather doesn't interfere with attendance.

Inexperienced teachers are eliminated.

Better classification.

Pupils learn more in the same length of time, six months in the consolidated school being worth more than nine months in the district school, which means less relative expense.

Pupils have a graded school.

No pupil ever tardy.

Larger classes.

Country children get equal advantages with city children.

Parents know where their children are during the day.

More rivalry for excellence.

No exposure of children to inclement weather.

Better teachers.

Only slight advance in cost, cheaper per pupil considering work done.

Gives teachers time for individual work.

Fits children to enter high schools.

One schoolhouse only to keep up.

Better teachers and fewer of them to pay.

More interest in school work.

Causes improvement of roads.

Children can be educated without being sent to city.

Many go that would not go to district schools, among larger children.

THE OBJECTIONS URGED.

Those who still oppose the plan of having but one school in the township urge the following objections:

"It makes all the school in winter and none in summer and it does not give the small children any advantage. I am also opposed to boys driving the bus. (Two of the young men students drive hacks in this township). It also makes too long a day, starting at 7 o'clock and not coming home until 6 p. m. The disadvantage of the consolidation are poor roads, and also raising the school tax almost double."

"It is too hard on children from six to ten years of age. Some must start before daylight and do not get home until after dark, and ride ten miles. It makes most of the school in cold weather. About the only advantage is getting a better grade of teachers and it doesn't take as many. It costs too much money for transportation."

"The school is better, but in wet time the scholars can not be transported on account of the bad roads, there is no place for the drivers to stay during the day, the cost is double the district plan and the house is located in a frog pond. But the scholars never are tardy, they have the benefit of a graded school, and are transported in a warm bus."

"If a good teacher were hired the district school is the best. The graded school is an advantage, but the district is better, figuring expense, and the long ride of pupils. The disadvantage is the great expense."

"I think it is a damage to the township. There are no advantages over the old way. It costs us more."

"It is too far away for little children in cold weather. Don't like some of the men they have for drivers."

"Too expensive and too far away from patrons on the out-edge of the township."

"The children are obliged to start about 7 o'clock and do not get home until 5:50. They can not have time to help at home at all when they are going to school."

"It makes taxes one-half higher. I opposed it for the reason that I am not located right. My children leave home at 7:15 to 7:30 a. m. and do not get back until 5:40 to 6 p. m."

To show the comparative cost of maintaining the old plan schools with the consolidated plan, the following figures, levies made for school purposes for Lake township, for the years indicated, are here given:

For 1902—Teachers' fund, 7 mills; contingent fund, 7 mills; schoolhouse fund, 6 mills.

For 1903—Teachers' fund, 6 mills; contingent fund, 11 mills; schoolhouse fund, 6 mills.

For 1904—Teachers' fund, 5.5 mills; contingent fund, 11.5 mills; schoolhouse fund, 6 mills.

For 1905—Teachers' fund, 6 mills; contingent fund, 12 mills; schoolhouse fund, 6 mills.

For 1906—Teachers' fund, 5 mills; contingent fund, 12 mills.

For 1907—Teachers' fund, 1.2 mills; contingent fund, 11.5 mills.

It can be seen that in inaugurating the new system the expense was quite heavy. This consisted in the building of a new schoolhouse, at a cost of \$3,200, and to convey the children to and fro. To meet these outlays the succeeding levies became heavier than in the preceding years, but the levy for 1906 shows most of this initial expense had been wiped out and the levy for 1907 indicates the drift of the cost for the maintenance of the consolidated school, as compared to the cost of the subdistrict school plan.

The present county superintendent of schools is Miss Mary E. Riley, who is eminently fitted for the position, possessing not only experience but culture and great energy. She has manifested great interest in the schools and her standing is high among educators for thoroughness and effectiveness. This statement in regard to Miss Riley is in no sense derogatory to her predecessors, who, without exception, made excellent records and performed their duty with fidelity to the cause of education. They were men and women possessing broad and liberal ideas and were instrumental in making the schools of Clay county what they are today—the best in the west.

Among those holding this important office were: Ambrose S. Mead; G. A. Kirchner followed him and the latter was succeeded by Isaac Enders, J. A. Kirchner, N. L. Chesley, R. A. Coates, Charles Carver, J. E. Chase, Samuel Gillespie, M. M. Gilchrist, George Mann, John Dolvin, George E. Reed, Ellen Reed and H. F. Fillmore.

CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL AT WEBB.

An independent school district has been in operation one year at Webb and has proven entirely successful and satisfactory. Webb is in Garfield township, on the west border of it, midway between its north and south lines. The district embraces part of the west third of the township and a portion of the east third of Herdland township. This school has an eight months' term and is presided over by a principal and two subordinate teachers. There are twelve grades and the enrollment of pupils for the school year ending June, 1908, was one hundred and sixteen. When this school was organized two subdistrict schools were discontinued, and the number of pupils received from the schools was thirty-one. The average cost per month per pupil for tuition for the year above indicated, was \$3.12. The number of hacks employed for the transportation of children,

four; and the amount paid for transportation was \$1,111. The average daily attendance was seventy-six.

FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

For a number of years past the farmers of Clay county have been holding annual institutes, where they assemble and discuss subjects of interest to the tiller of the soil. A marked interest has always been maintained by the members of the society and the progress of the Clay county farmers, in the effort to obtain the highest efficiency and greatest results in husbandry, is ample evidence of the benefits secured from these perennial meetings.

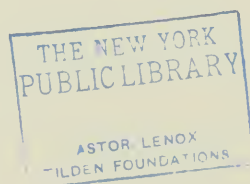
In 1907, the "Short Course" of the State Agricultural College was taken up by the institute and professors, thoroughly versed in scientific farming, appeared before the institute and taught their theories to willing students—men and women who were born and bred on the farm. At these meetings, for some years past, exhibits have been given of farm products, even to "showing off" the fine horses, cattle, sheep and hogs that abound in the county. To this may be added the annual poultry show, which always attracts the people and engenders great interest in all. For some time past the farmers of the county and even the business men, have felt the need of a permanent place to hold these meetings. To obtain this, several enterprising and energetic men started a movement to secure a suitable site and building for the purpose of a hall. In 1907, B. F. Felt, H. H. Hoberg and others started a subscription list for the securing of shareholders in a proposed company to secure and maintain a hall. The company took the title of Union Hall Association, which was capitalized at \$3,000. The shares were all sold, at \$10 per share, and the organization was completed by the selection of the following officers: President, B. F. Felt; vice president, M. M. Austin, of Meadow township; secretary, A. E. Wells, Spencer; treasurer, Homer Pitcher. The board of directors is composed of B. F. Felt, M. M. Austin, J. H. Graham, A. E. Wells and H. E. Pitcher.

In the spring of 1907 the association purchased of the Methodist Episcopal church people the old church building, a structure in a splendid state of preservation, paying for the same on the ground, \$800. This building was moved to a conspicuous and convenient site, on the corner of Main and Second streets, which had been purchased for \$600. Here the building was set upon a high cement foundation, in which are large windows, and remodeled to suit the taste and requirements of the society. The basement was arranged for the exhibition of stock and poultry and the main floor was given a stage and seats and is used for lectures and entertainments. The building, when completed, cost \$3,300, together with the ground it stands on. The first meeting in this handsome and commodious hall was held in the winter of 1908, when an institute and "Short Course" brought the farmer, his wife and children, and the business man and his family to the entertainments, which were not only instructive, but beneficial, in a high degree, to the people of Clay county. Mention should be made of the fact that many of the stockholders in the Union Hall Association are business and professional men.

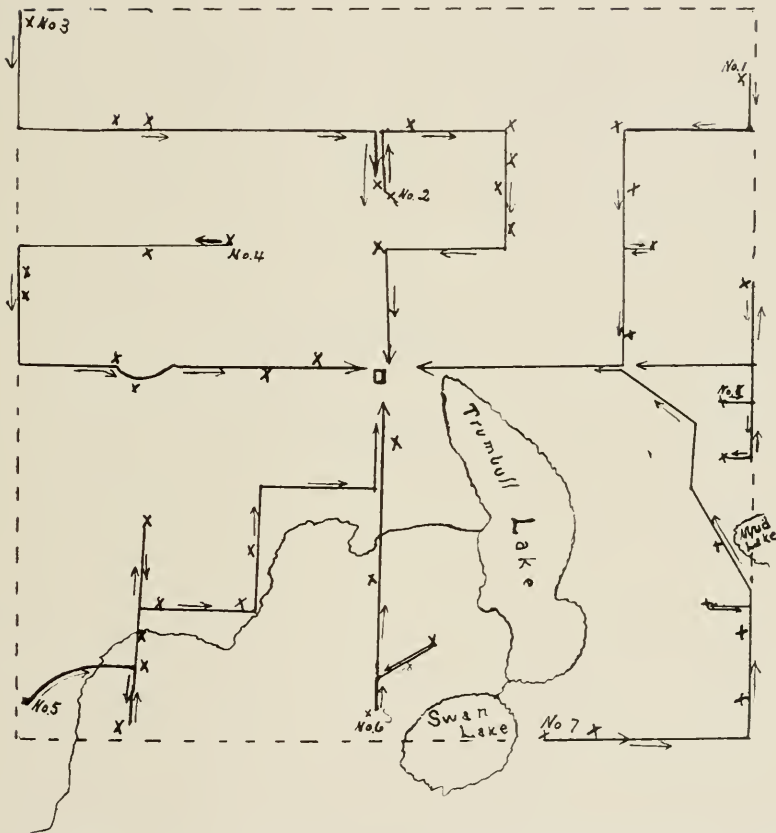
Below is given the law under which the "Short Course" of instruction is now held annually in this county:



CENTRAL SCHOOL, LAKE TOWNSHIP

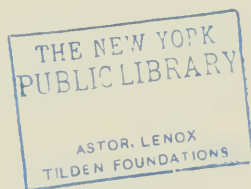


LAKE TOWNSHIP, CLAY COUNTY.
TRANSPORTATION ROUTES.



Map of Lake Township, Clay County, showing transportation routes. The numbers indicate where each wagon starts and the arrows show the direction taken.

- X. Homes from which children are transported.
- Central school.



AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WORK.

An Act to provide for agricultural extension work by the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts and making appropriations therefor. Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

That the Iowa College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts is hereby authorized to continue and to extend the system of agricultural extension work, authorized by the Thirty-first general assembly. Under this system, the said college shall be authorized to conduct experiments in the various portions of the state and to give instructions in agriculture wherever, in the judgment of the college authorities, it shall be advisable, with reference to the various lines of agricultural work maintained upon the college grounds at Ames, Iowa. The college authorities are authorized to give instructions in corn and stock judging at the agricultural fairs, institutes and clubs, and to aid in conducting short courses of instruction at suitable places throughout the state; to give lectures and demonstrations on the growing of crops and fruits, on stock raising, dairying, land drainage and kindred subjects, including domestic science. This work shall be so planned as, in the judgment of the college authorities, is best calculated to carry to the communities remote from the college, the benefits of the instruction given by the teachers in the state college and the results reached in the work of the experiment station.

For the purpose of carrying out the provision of this act, there is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of twenty-seven thousand dollars (\$27,000), annually for the agricultural extension work; said appropriation to be available on and after the first day of July, 1907; to be paid quarterly upon the order of the board of trustees of the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts.

Approved April 13, A. D. 1907.

CLAY COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Clay County Agricultural Society was organized in 1879. Although the prime movers met with many discouraging elements and reverses, yet through the indomitable energy and perseverance displayed by a few, they succeeded in inducing the people to take hold of it and, finally, saw their efforts crowned with success and believed it had done great good in advancing the cause of farming and creating a praiseworthy rivalry among the breeders of good stock. Exhibitions were held annually. The association had thirty acres of land inclosed, handsome grounds, which were supplied with stalls for horses and stock; judge's stand, floral hall, pens, amphitheater and a good half-mile track. As the county grew older, there had been more or less interest manifested in the annual exhibits of stock and other products of the farm, but in its infancy it was a struggle to awaken the people to a full realization of the importance of the annual county fair. The first officers of this society were: T. P. Bender, president; W. C. Gilbreath, secretary; M. E. Griffin, treasurer; Dr. Charles McAllister, J. B. Edmunds, A. T. McCarger, and James Goodwin, directors. For a few years the society held on to life, but eventually it passed out of existence.

There is no enterprise of a public character that should receive the support and coöperation of the people more generally than the county fair. Why in Clay county it is not done remains an enigma. A good fair is a correct index of a county's prosperity and healthy financial condition. It brings the people together from all sections of the community, giving them the opportunity of renewing old acquaintances and comparing notes for the year. It gives to the live, wide-awake, enterprising and ambitious farmer, an incentive to do better than his neighbor in the corn, wheat, oats, hogs, sheep, cattle and horses he raises. And the neighbor seeing this, puts forth the best that is in him not to be excelled in this regard. This means that the contestants must have the best variety of seed and blooded stock to "make good" at the annual exhibit, and it still further means that the county at large is benefited in many ways. Its reputation goes abroad in the state and other states, of its fine agricultural products. This increases the demand for these things and, consequently, the price. And at the modern county fair the management, when of an enterprising spirit, arranges for the amusement of the crowds. If the association conducts its meets on proper lines, good purses will be offered, in order to bring to the track a commendable string of horses. The races break the monotony of the exhibitions of the farm products and other things and creates just the kind of excitement looked for on such occasions.

For the past three or four years another effort has been made by prominent citizens of Spencer to organize a fair association, and the project now seems on a fair way to its fruition. Under a law passed at the last session of the legislature, the promoters of the proposition see their way toward ultimately shaping things so that in a short time Clay county will have its annual fair and be abreast of her neighboring counties in that regard. Those taking the initiative in this project are E. L. Dickey, Harry Walters, B. F. Felt, Jr., and C. P. Buckey, cashier of the First National Bank. Their plans are for the county to buy the necessary land, and then the association will do the rest. Two locations have been considered: A tract of land in the neighborhood of the tile factory, on the east boarder of Spencer, and land belonging to Frank Tuttle, in the northwest part of town.

To further the wishes of a number of citizens the board of supervisors at its meeting held in September, 1908, passed a motion and "decided to submit the proposition of making an appropriation of \$5,500, under the statute, for the purpose of buying a tract of land, to be used for agricultural fair purposes, to a vote of the electors of Clay county, at the general election to be held November 3, 1908. Said sum to be raised by a special levy on the taxable property in the county."

The law under which this appropriation can be made reads as follows:

"The board of supervisors are further authorized to purchase real estate for county fair purposes, in sums exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), providing, however, that the board of supervisors shall first have submitted to the legal voters of the county a proposition therefor, and voted for by a majority of all persons voting for and against such proposition at a general or a special election; notice to be given as provided in section four hundred twenty-three (423) of the supplement to the code. And the board of supervisors shall

not exceed in the purchase of real estate when purchased to be taken in the name of the county, and the board of supervisors shall place such real estate under the control and management of the incorporated county fair society, as long as an annual county fair is maintained by such corporation on said real estate. And said corporation is authorized to erect and maintain buildings and make such other improvements on said real estate as is necessary, but the county shall not be liable for such improvements, or the expenditures therefor. The right of such county fair society to the control and management of said real estate may be terminated by the board of supervisors whenever well conducted agricultural fairs are not annually held thereon."

In effect. This act, being deemed of immediate importance, shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Register and Leader and Des Moines Daily Capital, newspapers published at Des Moines, Iowa.

Approved March 27, A. D. 1907.

PETERSON.

This historical place is located on section 33, of Peterson township, and is in the extreme southwestern portion of the county. It is situated on a declining hill, which is of just sufficient undulation to afford excellent drainage. On the south and west flows the Little Sioux river. On the north and east sides are heavy bluffs, rendering the place most picturesque. On the south side of the river are also heavy bluffs, covered with a full and thick growth of timber. All these add attractions to the place, in view of the fact that the northwest is not noted for an extra abundance of timber. The residence portion of the village surrounds that of the business part on all sides. Added to its general location, its excellent protection from storms, its immense bluffs, which encompass it, splendid water power and abundance of timber, there are other reasons for making this a point of interest. The first settlement ever made in Clay county was there, and it has the further honors of having had the first postoffice; the first dwelling, the first school taught and the first schoolhouse; the first courthouse; the first store; the first and only fort; the first saw and grist mills; the first place of attack, when the Indians made their raid through the county; the first polling place; the first town in the county; the first hotel; the first newspaper and the first place where religious services were held. These facts and incidents make it one of the most interesting of towns and around which clusters the memory of the days of "Auld Lang Syne."

The first settlement was made in the spring of 1856, when the Kirchmers and Ambrose Mead came and located a little north of where the old mill now stands. The house was subsequently sold to Mr. Bicknell and the Kirchmers moved on the east side of the river, where they erected a house within the present corporate limits of Peterson. Among the settlers who came after John and J. A. Kirchner and Ambrose S. Mead were Messrs. C. Kirchner, the Smeltzers, Crego, Oldfield, Bicknell and a number of others. These formed the nucleus for Peterson. After the pioneers had been here two years they deemed it advisable to secure, if possible, a postoffice. A petition was drawn up setting forth the disadvantages under which they were laboring in obtaining their mail,

the distance the nearest office was from them and asking the department to create a route and establish a postoffice and to appoint J. A. Kirchner postmaster. This was duly signed and sent to Washington. In this petition they designated the place as Howard, in honor of the gentleman who drew and circulated it. After the lapse of a few weeks a letter was received from the government officials at Washington, stating that the petitioners' request had been granted, with the exception that they found it impossible to name it Howard, as there was already an office in the state bearing the name, and they had christened it Peterson. If the Washington officials desired to honor any person or thing by thus giving it this name none of the earlier settlers was aware of it. Mr. Kirchner held the position for several years.

Among the first dwellings were those of C. Kirchner, J. A. Kirchner, Henry Rice, now the property of Thomas Bevans. The latter's was originally built for a tavern, but later it was used for a private dwelling. The first school taught here was by H. E. W. Smeltzer, using the kitchen of Christian Kirchner, as a schoolroom. He was followed by Milton Smith, who instructed the few pupils that lived in the vicinity. In 1860 a small school building was erected, which answered the purposes for some twenty-six years. In 1886 the present building was erected, which affords plenty of room to accommodate the large number of pupils now in attendance. The building complete cost three thousand dollars and is in every way an excellent structure.

During the year of 1860 the county seat was moved from the north part of the county and located at Peterson. The contract for erecting the building was let to C. H. Brockschinks, who immediately set to work, and in 1861 it was ready for occupancy.

The Indians, during the years of 1861 and '62, became quite troublesome to the white settlers along the western borders of the frontier, and eventually put on their war paint and declared open warfare upon the frontiersmen. In Minnesota several massacres occurred and it required a large force of troops to quell and put an end to their blood-thirsty intentions. Peterson, at that time, was one of the frontier places, and its inhabitants were to a great extent without any protection from roving bands of these cruel savages, who were wont to make their appearance at the most unexpected moments and were known to be lying in stealth in different parts of northwestern Iowa. It was therefore deemed advisable, by the authorities, to extend the necessary protection to the settlers and prevent a massacre. Northwestern Iowa was at that time under the immediate command of Colonel James Sawyer, who commanded a regiment of cavalry. He, accordingly, detailed one company of cavalymen to go to Peterson, build a fort, scout the country in and around there and to keep a constant lookout for the Indians. As soon as he arrived he selected the place where the fort should be built. This particular spot is on or near the intersection of Second and Park streets and also includes part of the lots on which the residence of W. E. Ellis stands. After suitable ditches were made, huge trees were felled and a large stockade was constructed. It was in shape of a triangle. The logs used were twelve feet in length and stood on end, extending about eight or nine feet above the ground. Port holes were made and places for sentries constructed. The stockade was a most substantial and solid structure and gave ample protection

for the soldiers, as well as the settlers, and was a safe refuge from the attacks of the Indians. Inside and on the north side of the stockade was built suitable living quarters and with these equal care and caution was taken to make them secure and perfectly safe against any attacks of the enemy. After the arrival of the soldiers and the construction of the fort the settlers' fears were greatly removed and they were no longer in constant dread lest the Indians should swoop down upon them, burn their homes, run off their stock and take their lives.

At first an entire company was stationed there, but as time passed on and there were no more open outbreaks, or many discovered prowling parties in the immediate vicinity of Peterson, the force of troopers diminished, by details being made and sent to other points, until there only remained a squad of men under command of Sergeant William Whitlock. It was during this time that an incident occurred which came near costing the brave sergeant his life. Having occasion to go to Sioux Rapids, a trading point about twelve miles distant, he set out one bright morning to make the journey. He was accompanied by a private, William McKinley, of his company, and after a few hours' ride reached the place of safety. After transacting the business and giving their horses a few hours' rest, they mounted and started on their return to the fort. While riding and quietly conversing, all unmindful of any lurking danger, they were suddenly startled by the report of a number of rifles, the whistling of as many bullets in close proximity to their ears, and the frightful yells of their adversaries. For a moment or more their horses were unmanageable, but in a short time they were brought under control, and the two brave men dismounted and began preparation to sell their lives as dearly as possible. It did not require any one to tell them who the attacking party was, for they knew that they were none other than a hostile band of Indians, who probably had seen them leave the fort and knowing that they would return over the same route they had previously traveled, had lain in ambush and awaited their coming. From the manner of the firing and their marvelous escape from so many whizzing bullets, they attributed their escape to poor marksmanship and the desire of the Indians to kill them and thus secure their horses, for when they fired they were only a short distance from the two soldiers. But time then was too precious to give this any consideration, for it was now either life or death and they preferred the latter to falling into the hands of the despicable and tortuous foe. No sooner had the two dismounted than on came their foe. Drawing their revolvers, which they had taken the precaution to see were in good working order before starting out on their ride, they took deliberate aim and fired, and two of the foremost fell pierced by the bullets of their trusty revolvers. The Indians halted, and as is their custom, gathered their killed and to the surprise of the soldiers beat a hasty retreat. They at once started in hot pursuit, firing as they ran, but not so effectively as at first. They, however, succeeded in killing two or three of them, as they were seen to require the assistance of some of the others. After traveling some distance, the Indians became fearful of a fire in the rear and so, when they reached a place of some protection, they halted and began preparation to resist the attack. The two brave men, however, were undaunted; their blood being up to fever heat they determined to face Mr. Lo in his own quarters. They

therefore rushed in behind the place the Indians had sought and then began a hand-to-hand contest. As the sergeant, who was a little in advance of his companion, rushed at them, one of the Indians came at him with a large knife. Then began a struggle for life. The sergeant was a large and powerful man, while the Indian was not much his inferior in strength. The struggle lasted for several moments but at last the sergeant, by a quick and dexterous movement, wrenched the deadly weapon from the savage's grasp and as quickly buried it in the Indian, disemboweling him. The brave fell a corpse and as he did so, another Indian approached the sergeant from behind, and with the butt end of his rifle, dealt him a stunning blow on the head, which felled him senseless to the ground. The Indian, seeing his advantage, drew up his rifle to deal the prostrate man a final blow. In the meantime McKinley had, like his companion, been busily occupied, and had wounded several of the redskins. At last, finding that the soldiers were strong, daring and determined, they began a retreat. As the last foe, in front of McKinley, made his departure, he turned to see what had become of the sergeant, when he beheld him lying at the mercy of an Indian, who was in the act of raising his gun to give the death blow. He at once sprang to his assistance and drawing his revolver, took deliberate aim, and killed the savage. The timely arrival of McKinley was none too soon, for a moment's delay would have resulted in the sergeant's death. After discovering that the Indians would no longer give them any further trouble, McKinley placed the unconscious sergeant on his horse and with great difficulty succeeded in reaching the fort, where, for two long weeks, the brave soldier lay with his life hanging upon a brittle thread. He finally recovered and will not as long as he lives forget his trip to Sioux Rapids.

After J. A. Kirchner built the saw mill several frame houses were built in and around Peterson. This enterprise was well received by a large patronage. During the fall of 1870, J. A. Kirchner began building a grist mill, which was completed in 1871. This was a grand thing for the farmers who had previously had to draw their grain many miles to have it converted into flour. This mill is still in operation, under the management of Ed Sitz, and is one of the best equipped mills in the county and manufactures an immense quantity of a superior quality of flour.

The first religious services were conducted by Revs. Wright and Oldfield, the former a Methodist and the latter a Baptist. There are now two commodious churches in Peterson, under the control of the Methodist Episcopal and Congregational denominations.

The first newspaper enterprise that made its appearance in the town was the Peterson Democrat. It was very short lived, as the only object for removal of the necessary printing material to Peterson was to secure the publication of the delinquent tax list. This object, having been accomplished, the further publication of it was abandoned and the material sent back to its former place. Subsequently, J. F. Ford and Samuel Gillespie, in 1870, established the Clay County News, but upon the removal of the county seat they took their outfit to Spencer. For a number of years the place was without a newspaper, but eventually E. J. Helms started the Peterson *Patriot*, which he continued several years; finally he sold it to other parties.

Previous to 1881, Peterson's growth was very slow, and mainly retarded by its lack of railroad facilities. The only outlet was by means of teams and the nearest railway station several miles. This tended to keep it back, and without this important and necessary adjunct there was little or no hope of its future development into a town other than name. During the year 1881, the great Chicago & Northwestern railroad sent out a surveying party and laid out the grade for this line of road. As soon as these facts were known, Peterson at once sprang into importance as a trading point. J. A. Kirchner, who owned the most of the land on which Peterson stood, at once platted it and placed the lots on the market. At once they were in demand, and the embryo town and quiet place immediately assumed an air of activity. Buildings were erected, dwellings built, and the year of 1881 saw a wonderful change in the place. The railroad arrived in 1882, and from that date Peterson has been a busy and bustling little town, with fair prospects of considerable commercial development. The Chicago & Northwestern railroad has performed a good act for the little town of Peterson, and has been instrumental in transforming it from a town in name to one of business activity. Its citizens are moral and upright; its business men sagacious and enterprising, and the town a pleasant and delightful place to dwell. Besides many social organizations, there are two churches, and several secret societies, all in a healthful state of prosperity and well attended.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The Peterson circuit was organized August 22, 1855, by Rev. Orange S. Wright, who preached a part of that year, once in every two weeks. Then Rev. T. D. Adams followed. Rev. Seymour Snyder formally organized a Methodist Episcopal class of eight members in the fall of 1863, which class has been continued up to the present time. The following is the list of preachers, in their order, who have served on this charge. The dates show the time of service: Rev. R. B. Hawks, 1864-65; Rev. William Malory, 1865-67; Rev. Thomas Whitley, 1867-68; Rev. C. W. Clifton, 1868-70; William R. Pitt, 1870-71; Rev. G. W. Lothian, 1871-73; Rev. Walter Drake, 1873-74; Rev. Forbs, 1874-75; Rev. A. S. R. Grooms, 1875-76; Rev. C. W. Gardner, 1876-78; Rev. Frank E. Drake, 1878-80; Rev. G. E. Cheesbrough, 1880-81; Rev. Beigler, 1881-83; Rev. D. M. Yetter, 1883-84; Rev. C. A. Hawn, 1884-85; Rev. C. Artman, 1885-86; J. M. Wollery, 1886-88; Rev. F. A. Morrow, 1888-90; Rev. R. Hild, 1890-92; Rev. G. W. Barnes, 1892-94; Rev. W. W. Cook, 1894-95; Rev. H. L. Smith, 1895-96; Rev. W. S. Cannon, 1896-98; Rev. George O. Kidder, June, 1898-99; Rev. C. F. Kirk, 1899-1900; Rev. F. B. Stafford, 1900-02; Rev. W. S. Cannon, 1902-06; Rev. F. W. Wilson is the present pastor. They have at the present time a membership of about one hundred and thirty-five, including the out appointment of Maple Grove. They have a Sunday school of eighty-five members.

The charter members of the Methodist Episcopal church are as follows: R. B. Crego and wife; Jacob Hale, wife and daughter; Mrs. Collins; Hannibal Waterman and wife; making a total of eight faithful members.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The first Congregational church of Peterson was organized by Rev. J. B. Chase, April 30, 1882. Its first membership consisted of J. W. Coombs, L. H. Coombs, Mrs. L. H. Coombs, Edwin F. Coombs, Mrs. Celia Coombs, Mrs. E. E. Pinkerton, Mrs. Carrie F. Voigt, Mrs. J. P. Martin and Mrs. Elizabeth Kirkwood.

The first Sunday school was organized in 1883.

The first church building was erected in 1883, and the cornerstone was laid with fitting ceremonies. The first church was worth about \$2,000. The pastors of the church were as follows: J. B. Chase, A. M. Beeman, R. E. Helms, J. C. Stoddard, J. F. Horn, O. L. Corbin, M. H. Galor, W. G. Lichleiter, J. S. Morris, J. B. Salter, J. W. Williams, Rev. Deacon, E. E. Reed and C. Oxley, the present pastor.

At the present time they are building an addition to the church, which is 32x36.

BAPTIST SOCIETY.

The Baptist Society was one of the earliest societies in the county. This society was organized in 1871. They held their meetings in the old courthouse and the Good Templars' Hall. The Bicknells, the Bevans and the Hurlburts were the original Baptist families. When the railroad came through the Methodist Episcopal and the Congregational churches were organized and then the Baptists went to these other churches and did not attempt another organization.

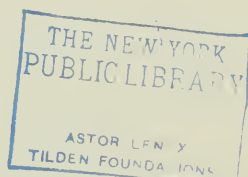
PETERSON BANKS.

The Peterson Bank was established in 1888 by C. W. Fillmore and H. S. Parker. These gentlemen continued the bank until 1902, when they sold their business to J. F. Turner, F. H. Helsell, G. C. Allison and Frank Steckmest, who are now conducting the concern with marked success. They do a general banking business, have a neat one-story modern brick building, erected in 1894, on Main street. The officers of the bank are as follows: President, J. P. Farmer; vice president, F. H. Helsell; cashier, G. C. Allison; assistant cashier, Frank Steckmest. Its capital is \$20,000, deposits about \$200,000.

The First National Bank was organized in 1881 by A. S. Weir, H. A. Brandon, David McMillan, E. H. Ellis, Frank Steckmest, James Kennedy, C. W. Pinkerton, J. P. Farmer, G. C. Allison, W. E. Bertram, William Kirchner, K. Buland, F. E. Crippen, F. H. Helsell and others. Its officers were as follows: J. P. Farmer, president; A. S. Weir, vice president; G. C. Allison, cashier. In 1892 A. S. Weir became president and continued as such until his death, which occurred March 2, 1908. Mr. Weir came to Peterson from Trayer in 1882. He was fifty-seven years of age at the time of his death. Mr. Allison remained cashier until 1902. The present officers are as follows: E. L. Mantor, president; William Kirchner, vice president; Charles H. Staples, cashier. The bank has a capital of \$50,000, a surplus of \$10,000 and deposits of \$150,000. They do a general banking business. The bank building was erected in 1898, on the corner of Main and Second streets. It is of pressed brick and has a fifty-foot frontage on Main street.



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, PETERSON



PETERSON LODGES.

Peterson lodge A. F. & A. M. was organized June, 1895. Its charter members were A. S. Weir, R. B. Tillinghast, William Esser and twelve others. It now has a membership of sixty-four.

Peterson lodge, No. 234, A. O. U. W., was organized 1882. Among its charter members were G. Shnay, W. H. Skellenger, W. E. Ellis, M. C. Willis, E. F. Coons, C. W. Pinkerton, L. Voigt, J. Shnay, J. J. Ulrick and G. G. Whisler.

Log Cabin camp, Homesteaders, was organized September 18, 1906, by Frank Steckmest, A. S. Chatterton, G. E. Allison and John Baier and thirty-nine others.

Peterson lodge of Yeomen was organized February 28, 1899, by J. S. Chatterton, H. S. Parker, E. F. Turner and thirty-six others.

Modern Woodmen of America was organized January 24, 1896, by Charles Fillmore, William E. Blackburn, William Boge Waret, H. A. Brando and twenty-eight others.

EASTERN STAR LODGE.

The Eastern Star lodge was organized in Peterson in March, 1897. There were only fifteen members when the lodge was organized, but now they have a membership of over eighty. The first officers of the lodge were: Worthy patron, A. S. Weir; worthy matron, Mrs. Allison; secretary, Iona Hulburt. The first members of the lodge were as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Allison, A. S. Weir, Frank Steckmest, Miss Lulu Turner, Miss May Kirchner, Miss Iona Hulburt, Mrs. Tibbits, Mrs. Lulu Kinyon, Mrs. DeWitt, Mrs. Pyer, Mrs. Ed. Sits, Mrs. O. W. Long, Mrs. O. W. Towner, Mrs. Dr. Chatterton.

The present officers are as follows: Dr. Chatterton, worthy patron; Mrs. Will Kirchner, worthy matron; Lulu Turner, secretary; Mrs. Mantor, treasurer.

CITY MAYORS.

H. S. Parker, Charles Fillmore, Herbert Towner, Frank Steckmest, L. Rogers and Charles Staples, the present mayor.

Charles Fillmore built the waterworks, but there have been additions made recently to the plant.

THE PETERSON PATRIOT.

The Peterson Patriot was established April 19, 1882, by E. J. Helms and E. G. Blackhurst. The paper was a nonpartisan, seven-column folio. The next editors, in their order, were James Kennedy, George Long, and Jay Smith, who succeeded A. G. Warren. Mr. Warren was followed by Ray Gleason, and Mr. Gleason by Grant E. Hirleman. Then came R. Gleason again, who continued as editor until 1906, when its present editor, Archie Evans, took charge.

Mr. Evans now conducts a five-column quarto. It is issued weekly, is Republican in politics and is a good all-around sheet.

THE PETERSON DISPATCH.

About two years ago the Peterson Dispatch came out under the editorship of Ray Gleason. It was a Republican sheet, but it only lasted about two months in Peterson, and the plant was then moved to Minnesota.

CLAY COUNTY TIMES.

The above named paper was established about 1898, by C. H. Leichleiter. This was a Democratic organ, which lived about six months. The plant was moved to Larchwood, Iowa.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Peterson has a volunteer fire department, which was organized in 1902. There are fourteen members at present, and John Gelattly is the chief. The fire apparatus consists of two hose carts, several hundred feet of hose and several long ladders, etc.

GOOD TEMPLARS' HALL.

Peterson has not as yet a distinctive hall for amusements. For several years the Good Templars' hall has been used for this purpose, for political meetings and lectures.

EVERLY.

When the town of Everly was surveyed and platted in 1884 there was no well defined purpose in the minds of its projectors other than to afford the few people in the western part of the county a way station. The selection was not due either to the physical conditions prevailing or to accommodate any great number, as there were but few people living in that section at that particular time. Evidently the only purpose was to induce immigration. If this was the motive that prompted the establishment of the town, the object has been most successfully obtained. Everly is located on the southwest quarter of section 3, in Lone Tree township. The town proper is on a rising piece of ground that is of sufficient height to afford excellent drainage for the main and business portion of the village. When the station was established it was in the midst of unbroken prairie, with little encouragement or hope of a town of any considerable size. It was platted in 1884, by Griffin & Adams, of Spencer. This firm owned considerable land contiguous to the place, and perceived in this an opportunity to enhance the value of their property and induce settlers to locate in that section. Soon after its being platted they disposed of it to I. P. Rumsey, a Chicago capitalist, who had already invested in Clay county real estate. Mr. Rumsey at once perceived that the townsite was admirably chosen, and if the surrounding country was populated, Everly was destined to become an excellent marketing point and place of no small note in the county. In company with A. W. Sleeper, who had purchased an interest in the land designed for the town, and a man who had had large experience in northwestern Iowa, he at once set to work with a will and determined energy to make it what they knew it could be made. The first year the progress was slow, but the foundations were being laid solidly and substantially. The next year their labors began to bear fruit, people began to come; on adjacent land farm houses sprang

up; there was a demand for town lots; carpenters were sought after; the lumber yard was a common resort; comfortable residences were erected; store houses were built; elevators and warehouses constructed, and the entire place was the scene of busy activity. The tide had turned, and the bleak and dreary station was shortly surrounded by a large number of buildings, owned by a busy, moving and active class of citizens, who had come to stay and cast their lot in this "goodly heritage." The good work commenced has been constantly kept in motion, and while the village has not rapidly increased in numbers, it has been adding slowly but steadily to its population and wealth. As a trading point it leads in proportion to the number of its inhabitants. Its business men are shrewd and always on the alert, and are determined, if within their power, to make Everly the most important market place in the county. The immense quantities of grain, hay, stock and produce they have handled during the past year is a true index to their push and progressiveness and demonstrates that they are making rapid strides toward attaining the distinction of shipping out more products from Clay county than any other town in it. These elements in the shippers are to be admired, and are destined ultimately to give the town such an impetus that her rivals may be stirred to redouble their diligence and vigilance or lose the honor of being the largest town in the county. Everly is young, but with the most excellent record she has made and the present live and strenuous efforts being put forth by her citizens, she is sure to develop into one of the leading towns along the line of the Chicago and Milwaukee railroad in northwestern Iowa. She has equal railroad facilities with the surrounding towns, excepting Spencer, being on the Chicago and Milwaukee railroad and in the center of the most fertile and fruitful agricultural region of Iowa. She possesses excellent advantages and opportunities for transacting a large and annually increasing business. The farmers in the territory of Everly are a prosperous and industrious class and among the largest producers of grain and stock in the county.

The Everly bank is a private concern and was organized in 1905, by C. P. Buckey and Dr. McAllister, as a branch of the First National bank of Spencer. It is capitalized at \$10,000 and has deposits of \$72,000. The present officers are as follows: Dr. Charles McAllister, president; C. P. Buckey, vice president; Frank N. Wood, cashier.

The Farmers and Mechanics bank was a private concern, organized by A. W. Sleeper, Louis Scharnberg and Peter Kettleson January 2, 1905, and was merged into the First National bank July 13, 1905. This bank was organized by A. W. Sleeper, Peter Kettleson, Louis Scharnberg, H. H. Moehler, Ness Lorensen and John Stuhr. A. W. Sleeper, president; Peter Kettleson, vice president; Louis Scharnberg, cashier; W. H. Sleeper, assistant cashier. The board of directors are. H. H. Moehler, Ness Lorensen, John Stuhr, A. W. Sleeper, Louis Scharnberg and Peter Kettleson. Capital, \$20,000, and deposits, \$70,000.

The Methodist Episcopal church was organized in 1886 and was first a mission church. In 1888 a church edifice was erected at a cost of \$1,500. Up to that time they had occasional preaching. The first missionary was L. A. Downe, 1886-1888; M. B. Keister, 1888-1890; H. W. Howe, 1890-1892; R. Hild, 1892-1894; C. J. Messenger, 1894-1896; H. J. Case, 1896-1898; Charles

E. Anderson, 1898-1899; E. M. Glasgow, 1899-1900; A. M. Tainter, 1900-1903; H. L. Hastings, 1903-1904; Irvin Green, 1904-1907. F. P. Calkins came to the church in September, 1907, and is the present pastor. Members of the church, forty-four; and the Sunday school, about sixty.

St. Mary's Catholic church was organized about 1898. It has a membership of about thirty families. Rev. B. A. Hunt, of Spencer, supplies this charge.

The German Lutheran was organized June, 1907, by C. H. Peterson, Peter Kettleson, J. Stuhr, Christian Peterson, Otto Theil, Louis Weise, D. P. Peterson, Fritz Whede. The first pastor was Rev. W. Siefkes. He was followed by Rev. Gutschoff, who is the present pastor. The membership is about twenty souls and there are forty in the Sunday school. The present place of holding meetings is in the Christian church. This church was organized in April, 1897, by Rev. J. M. Hoffman, who was succeeded by W. H. Rust. The next pastor was H. M. Gregory, then S. W. Hall. The last pastor was J. W. Ellis. This church was dedicated about 1906. The church property is valued at \$3,500. The organization dwindled so in numbers that no church meetings have been held for some years.

The German social society of the Unter Haltungs Verein, composed of men, women and children, was organized in Everly in 1901. It has three hundred and forty-one regular members and their families. Its present officers are: Fritz Whede, president; Jergen Schmidt, vice president; N. J. Hennings, secretary; Louis Scharnberg, treasurer; John Stuhr, J. Peterson and C. H. Peterson, directors. The hall is over the Everly bank, where the society holds its meetings and where entertainments, lectures and all public meetings are held.

Columbia lodge A. F. & A. M., No. 560, was organized February 7, 1899. The first members were S. P. Striker, J. W. Devnell, Thomas Corns, J. P. Baker, A. M. Erickson, W. C. Davis, F. J. Plondke, U. G. Morris, O. A. Shaffer, F. J. Coleman, John H. Peck, C. P. Phelps, M. G. Shull, A. S. Roberts, C. H. Staples. The first officers were: S. S. Striker, G. M.; S. W. Devnell, S. M.; Thomas Corns, J. M.; F. J. Coleman, treasurer; U. G. Morrison, secretary; J. P. Baker, S. D.; M. G. Shull, S. S.; A. M. Erickson, J. S.; J. H. Peck, tyler.

ROYAL LODGE.

U. D. lodge was organized March, 1908.

EVERLY LODGE.

Everly lodge, No. 641, I. O. O. F., was organized in 1897. W. G. Swain, A. W. Sleeper, Mike Fell, Peter Wohlenberg, G. E. Hirleman were the first officers of this lodge. It has about forty members.

Lone Tree camp, No. 1592, M. W. A., was organized in 1892. William W. Ahrens, Edward L. Clark, William Day and Peter Erickson were among its first members.

The Yeomen organized in 1897. They gave up their charter in 1906.

The first house built in Everly was a frame structure, sixteen by twenty-four, erected by O. C. Seaverson in 1883, for a residence and section house. The

second one was built in 1884, by Reimer Mundt. O. C. Seaverson and family and a brother were the first residents of Everly.

In 1884 twenty-four families came to Everly and Lone Tree township from Benton county, Iowa. Some of the first settlers in Everly and Lone Tree township were Reimer Mundt, Moses Jesmer, William Day, Louis Scharnberg, John and Charles Scharnberg, H. W. Moehler, Peter Steuben, George Schoerns, Hans Peterson, W. Ahrens, W. Peterson, N. J. Hennings, John Krumbeck, John Tischer, Mell Green, R. Ericksen and A. W. Sleeper. Some of those who came about the same time and settled in Everly were John Adams, Nicholas Schroeder, the Rhode brothers, Deltz and Herman, and Louis Tischer. The same year M. Jennings and Will Day erected the first store building. J. P. Parker was the first mayor of Everly, George Nugent followed him, then A. T. Jones, and Mike Fell, who is the present mayor. The town has four hundred inhabitants.

The first hotel in Everly was conducted by William Hatch; however, this was only a small boarding house. The first real hotel was run by Charles Brooks and is the present Columbian Hotel, which was built in sections. The first part of the present Columbian House was built in 1892.

The Everly News was established September 18, 1897, by Edward McBride. He was succeeded as editor by Allen Clossen. A Mr. Bardon was the next editor, and after him came Frank Bowman. The present editor, George Nugent, took the paper in October, 1901. The paper is a five-column quarto. Independent in politics and published every week.

EVERLY CEMENT TILE.

This organization came into being in 1906, when Louis Scharnberg, Peter Kettleson, F. F. Ruge, John Huch and Peter Hildt formed a company for the purpose of making cement tile. A large plant was erected in 1906, and now employs about twenty men. This concern is in a flourishing condition.

Everly has a good cream market and also a splendid market for hogs, cattle and sheep. It has three elevators on the right of way of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad.

OTHER TOWNS IN THE COUNTY.

In the past few years other towns have sprung up in the county which make good trading points for the communities surrounding them.

There is Cornell, in Herdland township; Webb, in Garfield township; Gillett's Grove, in Gillett's Grove township; Greenville, in Gillett's Grove township; Rossie, in Lincoln township; Royal, in Clay township; Langdon, in Meadow township; Fostoria, in Summit township. These villages are all growing and prosperous.

SPENCER.

The seat of government of Clay county contains a population of three thousand five hundred and is a most interesting town. There is on every hand clear and distinct evidences of thrift, prosperity and individual enterprise. Its social and business condition is in a most healthful state, and a harmonious feeling for the future prevails. The topography of the place is excellent and it possesses every advantage for business and manufacturing purposes. Since

it was first established it has been inhabited by a class of people who were public spirited, high minded and successful, and have made the name of Spencer synonymous with push, pluck and prosperity.

The survey of the original plat of Spencer was made in 1871, by P. M. Moore, county surveyor, for J. H. Hale. In April, 1873, and in October, 1881, Byron Hough made two additions on the northwest. In December, 1875, S. J. Egleston added to the townsite by platting his land on the eastern side of the village. In June, 1879, Lovewell & Hubbard made a third addition, theirs being on the west side. There still being a demand for town lots, L. C. Burgin in 1881 laid off a piece of land into lots, just east of the Egleston addition. The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railway platted their additions, one in 1880 and two in 1883. Griffin & Adams in November, 1884, platted and made the ninth addition. Since then there have been several other additions to the town of Spencer, namely, College addition, Tuttle's addition, and Huttenlocher's addition.

Spencer is but a short distance from the geographical center of the county and is therefore admirably located. The railway facilities are furnished by the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul and the Minneapolis and St. Louis railroads. A branch line of the former road furnishes excellent communication to Okoboji and Spirit lakes, two great pleasure resorts, and south to Des Moines.

Spencer is most happily and fortunately located. On the south the Little Sioux river courses its winding way toward the great Missouri, furnishing excellent drainage and good, pure water. One cannot but be impressed with the fine appearance of the town and the many natural advantages it in an eminent degree possesses. Its central location in the county makes it the leading trading point for a large territory unsurpassed in fertility, and when the county's resources are developed it cannot fail to make Spencer a point of even greater importance. With good railroad facilities, surrounded by a prosperous, wide-awake class of farmers, what is to prevent it becoming one among the most important cities in the Northwest? It has never gone through the booming process, although its growth during the past decade has been fairly satisfactory, having been through the result of private enterprise rather than in consequence of a combined and systematic effort to herald its advantages. From a hamlet of less than forty years ago, possessing a few frame and log houses, it is now a thriving town in which a majority of the heads of families own their own homes. There are no fictitious values placed upon real estate. The people are contented to live and let live. They are industrious, frugal, happy and contented in the belief that the possession of property in Spencer is valuable and destined to become of greater value.

Scarcely had the people of Spencer got fairly settled on the new townsite than they began to agitate the question of a railroad. They saw the natural advantages of the town and county and as they looked into the future they pictured a bright and prosperous city, surrounded by waving fields of grain, immense herds of cattle and live stock, a county populated by a teeming, industrious class of people. They saw all this and of course thought others could see it as well. They talked and sent their representatives abroad to present and impress their ideas upon those in authority. But oftentimes their agents

returned with anything but encouraging words, and so often was this repeated that there seemed but little hope of realizing their great desire. But in a few short months the chances of success would again fill their minds and another attempt would be made. It was true that at times they grew greatly discouraged and many were upon the point of leaving and would have done so had they not been persuaded by the more hopeful and determined ones. And well might they be discouraged. The nearest railroad point was forty miles away, and over these long miles of road the merchandise must be transported by teams. The trip could not be made in less than three days and the cost of transportation was very great, and the merchant must therefore add this to the cost of his goods, which of necessity made the price of all classes of merchandise much higher than they would have otherwise been. The farmers therefore had in a measure to pay this extra expense, and it is not to be wondered that they were anxious to see the day when Spencer should have a railroad. They were tireless workers, not alone in Clay but in adjoining counties, and the day came when their labors were at last crowned with success and the great Milwaukee road, with its far spreading branches, came to Spencer. It was a day of rejoicing and the hearts of those who had waited and watched so long were filled with gladness. The arrival of the railroad marked an important epoch in the history of Clay county. Slowly but gradually Spencer and the county put on a new appearance. It was like the budding of winter into spring. Houses sprang up on every hand; new arrivals came on every train; trade was given a fresh impetus; farmers were made happy by receiving better prices for their stock and produce. The change was marked and great. The prospects for Spencer grew brighter than ever before in its history. The many struggles, trials and untiring efforts had at last brought forth their legitimate fruit, and from this time forward unparalleled prosperity had attended it.

The moral, religious and social standing of Spencer is most excellent and it points with pride to the class of citizens that make up the town. To this in a measure it owes its permanent growth and prosperity.

Nearly every religious denomination is represented by an organization. Its public schools are all that could be asked for, and its social conditions are among the best and most elevated in their tone. In addition to its social clubs, literary, benevolent and other societies, there are a Masonic chapter and lodge, an encampment and subordinate lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, two orders of the United Workmen, a lodge of the Knights of Pythias and uniform rank, the Woodmen, a Grand Army post, and others of similar character.

INCORPORATION.

Although Spencer was platted in 1871, it was not until the year 1880 that it was incorporated. In 1880 a petition was presented to Judge Duffie, then district judge, for authority to call an election to vote upon the question for or against incorporation. The petition was granted and the judge appointed Theodore Secor, J. B. Edmunds, W. C. Gilbreath, A. C. Parker and J. Merritt commissioners, with authority to call an election, name the day and act as judges. The election day arrived and there was a very close and heated contest, but the "fors" won by a fair majority. Subsequently an election was called for the 26th

day of March, 1880, to select a mayor and five trustees. There was much friendly rivalry displayed at this election. Whether it was the novelty of the office or a desire to be one of the first officers of Spencer remains today a mystery. The election resulted as follows: Mayor, W. C. Gilbreath; recorder, J. F. Ford, who resigned and C. S. Penfield was chosen to fill the vacancy; trustees, M. P. W. Albee, T. P. Bender, M. E. Griffin, J. Rood, E. E. Snow and C. M. Squire. John Annett was selected as marshal. This board immediately drafted and passed a number of ordinances. But it was far from being an easy task to enforce them, as the people of the town were unaccustomed to such restraints as these ordinances imposed, and there was frequently a clash between the citizens and the town officials. In time they grew to respect the laws of the town, and today it would be difficult to find a place where the laws are more rigidly enforced, observed and upheld by the people than in Spencer. They have respect for them and believe that their strict enforcement will result advantageously and contribute to good order and citizenship. Subsequent boards have in many instances made a number of material changes to some of the original ordinances, and have added a large number as time and necessity required. It has been the policy of all the councils to pursue a careful and economical course, and the people have demonstrated their wisdom in the selection of their council. It is not the intention to review the work done by the respective councils. It would be useless. It is only necessary to point to its streets, sidewalks, city hall, electric lights and waterworks. These are monuments to the good work accomplished by the trustees of Spencer. The following named gentlemen have held the office of mayor since the date of its incorporation:

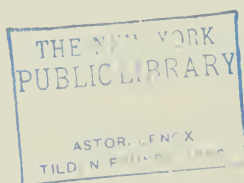
W. C. Gilbreath.....	1880-81	H. Chamberlain.....	1895-96
J. B. Edmunds.....	1881-82	M. S. Green.....	1896-97
E. E. Snow.....	1882-83	M. S. Green.....	1897-98
M. P. W. Albee.....	1883-84	E. H. Crandall.....	1898-99
John Thayer.....	1884-85	E. H. Crandall.....	1899-00
S. Gillespie.....	1885-86	G. W. Patterson.....	1900-01
C. S. Penfield.....	1886-87	G. W. Patterson.....	1901-02
L. Whitney.....	1887-88	H. J. Buck.....	1902-03
S. S. Snow.....	1888-89	H. J. Buck.....	1903-04
J. Q. Adams.....	1889-90	G. F. Martin.....	1904-05
H. N. Smith.....	1890-91	G. F. Martin.....	1905-06
Thomas McQueen.....	1891-92	John Painter.....	1906-07
H. Chamberlain.....	1892-93	John Painter.....	1907-08
H. Chamberlain.....	1893-94	A. E. Wells.....	1908
H. Chamberlain.....	1894-95		

CITY CLERKS.

S. S. Snow.....	1892-1893	Harry E. Glover.....	1899-1900
Harlan J. Buck.....	1893-1894	Vernon W. Buck.....	1900-1901
Harlan J. Buck.....	1894-1895	Vernon W. Buck.....	1901-1902
Harlan J. Buck.....	1895-1896	Vernon W. Buck.....	1902-1903
Harry E. Glover.....	1896-1897	O. A. Hammond.....	1903-1904
Harry E. Glover.....	1897-1898	A. W. Taylor.....	1904
Harry E. Glover.....	1898-1899		



PETERSON, IOWA, TAKEN IN 1901



Mr. A. W. Taylor died while in office and was succeeded by his son, Roy Taylor, who is the present incumbent.

CITY MARSHALS.

John Andrew.....	1892-1900	Frank Smith.....	1904-1905
C. E. Baldwin.....	1900-1901	Frank Smith.....	1905-1906
C. E. Baldwin.....	1901-1902	Henry Green.....	1906-1907
Frank Smith.....	1902-1903	Lester M. Baldwin.....	1907-1908
Frank Smith.....	1903-1904	Lester M. Baldwin.....	1908-1909

INCORPORATED ORGANIZATIONS.

There have been a number of associations and organizations incorporated in Spencer. Some of them have been very successful in carrying out the object of their incorporation, while others have met with signal failure.

On the 11th of July, 1871, articles of incorporation were filed in the recorder's office to build the Spirit Lake and Sioux Valley railroad. The incorporators were R. S. Wilcox, Orson Rice, C. M. Squire, J. F. Calkins, H. S. Bailey, D. C. Thomas, S. Olney, Jr., T. S. Seymore, Samuel Gonser, J. B. Edmunds and others. At that time Clay, as well as the adjoining counties, would have been greatly elated to have had any kind of a railroad.

The "Pioneer Baptist Church" was incorporated in April, 1870, with William C. Roberts, David and William Evans, John W. Jones and D. C. Thomas incorporators.

The Methodist Episcopal church was incorporated January 3, 1872, with C. B. Winter, W. W. Scott and M. M. Peeso signing the articles. A neat and cosy church building was constructed but was subsequently destroyed by fire.

In December, 1871, John Lawler, Henry Ford and Lindsay Seals filed articles of incorporation. The purpose of this organization, they alleged, was to construct a line of railroad to be known as the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Union Pacific Railway Company. They also proposed constructing, owning and operating roads, railroads, bridges, ferries and ferry boats, stores and storehouses, warehouses and elevators in the state of Iowa. Spencer was to be the headquarters. The plan and purpose was conceived with a very broad foundation. But whether the undertaking was too great or the scheme was too heavily loaded is today unknown. At any rate this herculean and extensive project was never carried out by the incorporators.

The Congregational church was duly incorporated in September, 1872. Edward Prunyn, H. B. Coryell and Peter M. Moore were the incorporators.

The incorporators of the Free Baptist church were G. D. Marcellus, R. A. Coats, J. F. Calkins, P. E. Randall and others.

The first Clay county agricultural society dated its organization from May 21, 1873. It, however, was short lived, giving but one exhibition.

The Co-operative Council of Patrons of Husbandry was in existence from the early part of 1875 until the beginning of 1878, when it went the way of all things earthly. For a time it was a potent factor not only in business matters but in political circles. It was well officered, but, like many organizations of a

similar character, it did not prove either profitable or beneficial generally, and the members gradually dropped out and it became a thing of the past. The officers were: President, J. M. Spencer; secretary, A. W. Green; treasurer, Eben Bailey; superintendent, S. W. Dubois; trustees, J. W. Ford, J. R. Ward and W. W. Scott.

The Iowa and Montana Live Stock Company came to be known in 1883. For a time this organization, which was composed of some of the wealthiest citizens of the county, did a large and extensive business. They purchased several thousand head of cattle and horses, which they shipped to Montana, where for a few years the investment made bid fair to yield immense profits. Unfavorable weather, extremely low prices for cattle and the great cost for railroad transportation all combined to entail a loss and cost that ultimately caused the investment to prove unprofitable to the investors. Among those in this county who were original stockholders were Marcus Tuttle, John Thayer, M. E. Griffin, James Goodwin, J. E. Francis and Franklin Floete.

In 1884 a number of gentlemen living at Peterson, after discussing the question from day to day, decided that there was coal underneath the soil in and around that town. The more the subject was discussed the more convinced they became of it being a fixed fact. They became so satisfied and convinced that they formed a stock company, sent for an expert, and at once began sinking a shaft in search of the "dark and dusky diamonds." After digging down some distance the expert reported growing signs of coal. The stockholders became jubilant. The news was spread broadcast, and the excitement became intense. The work was prosecuted with great vigor and the quantities of soil, rocks, etc., raised made a small mountain. The expert reported brighter and better signs and the people no longer doubted that in a short time huge quantities of coal would be ready for sale. The confidence in the ultimate success of the project became so great that a large number of companies were immediately organized. The first one was called the Fairbanks Coal and Mining Company, after the main projector. The officers were as follows: President, Hon. Isaac S. Struble; Lewis Voight, secretary; J. W. Fairbanks, treasurer. Then there were the G. F. Strait Coal and Mining Company, the Jones Coal and Mining Company, the Peterson Coal and Mining Company, and a host of others. The whole project came to naught and the incorporators were out of pocket several thousands of dollars. There may be coal there, but these companies failed to obtain it in sufficient quantities to make it profitable.

The Spencer and Southeastern Railway Company was organized in 1884. The object of this company was to construct a line of railroad running through Clay county in a southeasterly direction. The officers were A. W. Miller, James Goodwin, J. Q. Adams, C. S. Penfield, J. D. McDonald and Ackley Hubbard. The first movements of this company gave evidences of ultimate success and probably would have resulted in securing a railroad had not the farmers and others refused to aid it in voting a tax. Failing to secure a majority of the townships through which the proposed road was to run, the organizers abandoned their plans.

THE FIRST HOTEL IN SPENCER.

Captain W. H. Hunter, a veteran of the Civil war, came to Spencer early in its history and built its first hotel. He was not permitted long to be its landlord. He erected the building in the spring of 1871 and in the spring of 1873 it was completely destroyed by fire. This building stood at the corner of Main and Second streets, now the site of the Farmers' Institute. On another page is shown the building as it stood at that time.

The first band in the town of Spencer was known as the Spencer Cornet Band, and was led by Major A. H. Cheney.

The first petition for a road to be opened in Clay county was filed with the county judge on the 25th of March, 1859. This was for a road running from section 32, township 96, range 78, by Spencer, thence to the north line of the county.

John William Brockschink, a native of Prussia, was the first one to be given naturalization papers in Clay county. He secured them in 1859.

On August 20, 1859, Andrew Hood, surveyor of the city of Fort Dodge, was appointed surveyor for the county of Clay, by Judge Charles C. Smeltzer. Mr. Hood had shortly before that time entered into a contract with Clay county to locate and survey the swamp lands allotted to the county under the "Swamp Land" act.

THE CITY HALL.

The town hall was built in 1883. Previous to this Spencer was without a public building. The council had from time to time leased different rooms, but none of sufficient size to accommodate any public gathering. It was therefore decided to construct a building of sufficient dimensions to meet these wants. After due deliberation it was agreed to bond the town for \$3,000 and put up the building, which was done, and the town now has a neat two-story building, twenty by fifty feet. The lower floor is used for the hook and ladder outfit and the hose cart, while the second story is divided into two rooms, one being used for a council room and the other for public purposes. The lot on which the building stands was a donation from the late Alexander Mitchell, president of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company, to the town. The facts in regard to this gift are these: In the spring of 1882 a number of young men, being fired with a military spirit, decided to organize a militia company. A meeting was called, which was largely attended. A paper was drawn up which set forth the object of the organization, and after being circulated among those gathered and others, some fifty signed their names and signified their willingness to unite. As soon as the proper officers were elected, semiweekly drills were held in the building later occupied by Ackley Hubbard. In a short time Mr. Hubbard gave the company notice that he intended to occupy the building and it must seek other quarters. There being no building of sufficient size, it was decided to build one. A subscription paper was handed around, and nearly one thousand dollars was at once subscribed. The project had all the evidences of success and the matter was referred to a committee to select a site and report at the next meeting. Alexander Mitchell, Jr., at that time a resident of the county, a member of the company and a member of the committee, volunteered to go

to Milwaukee and interview his uncle, Alexander Mitchell, and endeavor to induce him to donate a lot. That he succeeded is unquestionably true. In the meantime the members and officers of the company had lost their interest and military zeal, and the matter, like many other projects, fell through. The "next meeting" was never called; that committee on a site has never reported, but the town has the lot just the same.

THE SPENCER PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The first school house in Spencer was a little sixteen by twenty-four, built in 1869. It was the only schoolhouse in the township at a time when the school township comprised five congressional townships. Besides doing service as a school building, this primitive structure answered the demand for a church and Good Templars' hall. The first teacher was Charles Carver. Here Frank W. Calkins, one of the contributors to the *Youth's Companion*, went to school.

In the fall of 1874 the independent school district of Spencer was organized, with practically the same boundaries as at present. An addition, eighteen by thirty-two, was built, and George Mann was selected principal and Augusta Smith assistant. The first board of education was M. Hines, H. B. Wood and Horace Smith.

In the fall of 1879 the old building gave place to a new two-story frame building, forty-eight by fifty-eight, containing four rooms and heated by a furnace. The building cost \$4,000, and fixtures \$800. M. M. Gilchrist was made principal. He laid out the first course of study and thoroughly graded the school.

In 1881 the public schools of Spencer had an enrollment of three hundred pupils. J. T. Lamar was principal and was assisted by Miss L. Parker, Miss E. Bean, Miss ——— Cowan and Miss Olivia Woodruff. The board of education consisted of T. P. Bender, President A. W. Miller, J. C. McCoy and Ackley Hubbard.

In 1882 the present four-room frame building was erected on the east side. This building was overhauled in 1907, after twenty-five years of continuous service, and a commodious basement constructed, modern water closets added, and the walls and ceilings tinted. At this writing grades one to six, inclusive, are housed here.

In 1887 a one-room building was erected on the north side, but in 1902, this building was moved down to the site of the West school, to make room for the handsome four-room brick building which was erected in that year.

In 1893 the Spencer high school building shown in the picture was erected at a cost of \$24,000. It is ninety by ninety-four and contains an assembly room thirty-five by seventy-five and four recitation rooms on the upper floor, five grade rooms on the first floor, two recitation rooms, steam plant, water closets, coal bins and storeroom in the basement. Bonds for the erection of this building were voted in 1892, and it is said that had they been floated immediately, five per cent bonds would have brought a premium, but in 1893 the panic came on and it was found almost impossible to float the bonds at any price. Over two hundred letters were written to various financial institutions in Chicago, New York, Boston, San Francisco and other cities throughout the country, but without avail.

Finally Mr. S. Gillespie went to Chicago, and after spending several days upon the street, succeeded in floating six per cent bonds at ninety. In order to get in the heating plant, which cost \$2,100, a local party was persuaded to take warrants upon the schoolhouse fund drawing six per cent and discounted ten per cent. At this time the board of education consisted of S. Gillespie, H. Chamberlain, A. H. Cheney, F. T. Verharen, M. P. W. Albee and George Starr. The building was constructed by S. B. Taylor and J. C. McCoy.

In 1901 a one-room frame building was erected on the south side. The first three grades are housed here.

In 1902 a handsome four-room two-story brick building was erected on the north side at a cost of \$8,000. It is heated by hot air, but has neither city water nor sewer connections. The first five grades and the seventh are housed here.

At this time Spencer has a school population of eight hundred and sixty pupils, over seven hundred of whom are in school. The pupils are housed in five different buildings and instructed by twenty-three teachers. A. H. Avery is superintendent, and the board of education consists of A. W. Green, President A. C. Perine, M. E. DeWolf, S. Gillespie and Charles Weaver.

A full five-year course of study is laid out for the high school and graduates are conditioned for sophomore in college. The high school has an enrollment of one hundred and ninety-two students, twenty-three of whom will graduate this year. Eight teachers do the work, as follows: D. M. Odle, principal, geometry; John A. Larson, physics, chemistry and geology; Lodema Willis, English; W. J. Moir, Jr., history; Gertrude Ingalls, Latin and German; Laura Benson, science and algebra; Florence Hall, Latin and English; A. H. Avery, economics. First year classes are segregated. The following is the course of study:

Eighth grade, A class: Arithmetic, grammar, history, physical geography.

Ninth grade: Latin, algebra, rhetoric, physiology, botany.

Tenth grade: Cæsar, geometry, American literature, ancient history.

Eleventh grade: Cicero, or geology and zoology, geometry, English literature, modern history.

Twelfth grade: Virgil or chemistry, German, algebra and civics, United States history.

Thirteenth grade: Physics, German, economics and arithmetic, English literature, including English grammar.

The Spencer high school has two literary societies, the Alpha, a girls' society, whose membership is limited to fifty, and the Athenian, a boys' society, whose membership is limited to forty.

The Spencer high school has a library of fifteen hundred volumes, consisting largely of books of reference, histories, biographies, science and literature. The history department is especially strong, there being over two hundred volumes of the very best. The library has been accessioned and card catalogued according to the Dewey decimal system, and the books are made as accessible to the school as it is possible to make them.

In the fall of 1901 the Spencer high school became a member of the Iowa High School Declamatory Association. Since then the following have carried off silver medals from the district contests: Ralph McWhirter, Clare Horner,

Wilson Cornwell, Leonard Reed; and the following gold medals from the state contests: Ralph McWhirter, Wilson Cornwall and Leonard Reed.

The following is a complete list of the graduates of the high school:

Class of '87: Ella Bowman, Burton Calkins, Charles Jones, Carrie Randall and Blanch Watson.

Class of '88: C. C. Bender, Harry Glover, Curtis Cruver, Irving Townsend, Mattie Knight, Florence Claypool, Myrtle Gifford, Frank O'Brien, Carrie Fay, Archie McCoy, Mabel Mann, Nellie Kirkpatrick, Lorena Varney.

Class of '90: Zada White, A. J. Cuttall, Belle Hulling, Allie Myers, Hattie Cnttall, Nellie Green, Lena Verharen, Bessie Smith, Carrie McConnell Lizzie McElhiney.

Class of '92: Alice Hubbard, Minnie McConnell, Bessie Knight, Mark Taylor, Charles Kirkpatrick, Rose Davison, Oma Evans.

Class of '94: G. C. Albee, Susie Barrett, Jessie Bender, O. A. Hammond, Edna McConnell, Melvin Stephenson, Lulu Purdy.

Class of '95: Jay Goble, Florence Steele.

Class of '96: Edith Brande, Edna Brande, Marion Bruntlett, Alonzo Chamberlain, Jennie Claypool, Fred Crandall, Ida Dubois, Arthur Greaves, Frank Hendricks, Minnie Hurinton, Forest Hirleman, Florence Hubbard, Lulu Verharen, Ethel Wyatt, Gertrude Robbins, May Tryon.

Class of '97: Edith Archer, Olive Archer, Homer Coffin, Bessie Cotterell, Bessie Crawford, Lena Fuhr, Zelma Goldsworthy, Adelaide Hewitt, Dasie McConnell, Harry Oliver, William Paterson, Arthur Verharen, Avis Wescott, George White.

Class of '98: Jennie Austin, Lenora Barry, Mary Burgin, Grace Gregory, Nina Hewitt, Gertrude Ingalls, Ella Jones, Inez Palmer, Amanda Palmquist, Will Robison, Victor Tryon.

Class of '99: John Ackenback, Leigh Gillespie, Clinton Green, Roy Sherbondy, Lorne Smylie.

Class of 1900: Edna Ryerson, Stella Kimball, Ennice Hockett, Grace Walsh, Edna Dubois, Ruth Francis, Edna Green, Stella Gregory, Floyd Hiser, Elsie Kellogg, Jessie Miller, Minnie Bowman, Irene Montour, Margie Perine, Cordelia S. Treat, Emma Robinson.

Class of '01: Elizabeth Crandall, Basil Dean, May Dull, Sadie Goble, Clara Green, Edna Mattson, Lucy Starff, Emma Steigleder, Bessie Van Denburg.

Class of '02: Mabel Ackenback, Mabel Hay, Beulah Hendershott, Vilhelmine Jespersen, Audrey Livingstone, Aleck McAllister, Hazel 'Painter, Margaret Steigleder, Mabel Treat, Blanch Watts, Mortimer Weaver.

Class of '03: Gertrude O'Brien, Henry Hubbard, May Nettleton, Maude Gillespie, Josephine Francis, Blanches Goldsworthy, Ricka Larson, Mae Thomas.

Class of '04: Maud Fraher, Susie Goble, May Ketcham, Flora Belle Mack, Ruby Montour, Emma Miller, Mary Perine, Grace Symington, Thomas Thomas, Frances Wade, Mildred Yates, Cecile Buck, Clare Horner, Leo Mather.

Class of '05: Emma Ackenback, Fanny Blondel, Flora Mitts, Charles Colleston, Oran D. Jones.

Class of '06: Mildred Morgan, Lena Bjornstad, Agnes Gillespie, Mabel

Kingsley, Verne McCown, Barbara Cornwall, Charles Royce, Ethel Weaver, Elsie Scholer.

Class of '07: Elsie Ackenback, Lyle Baker, Helen Black, Royal Burgin, Marie Dickinson, Lisle Goldsworthy, Ethel Knight, Edna Livingstone, Zella Palmer, Zora Parrott, Theodore Scholer, Eva Spencer, Alfred Thomas, Bertha Walters.

Class of '08: Wilbur Bailey, Edna Brown, Mabelle Claypool, Wilson Cornwall, Avery Constant, John Cory, Harold Horner, Lilly Knight, Floy Mather, Ralph McWhirter, Leonard Reed, Donald Wooliscroft, Etta Taylor, Iona Wilson, Bennie Wilson, Dale Youde, Cass Youde.

The Spencer Public Library Association was organized in 1883 by a few ladies who were willing to give their time and means that Spencer might have the best advantages possible at that time in the way of books, which meant hard work, much time and sacrifice on their part.

Officers were selected, Mrs. Ackley Hubbard being chosen as the first presiding officer.

The beginning was made with a few books and a few from the W. C. T. U., of which they wished to dispose. Mrs. Dr. Crary gave the use of her parlor as a library room, acting as librarian for a time, the ladies taking turns in looking after the library. A plan was made for raising money to carry on the work and buy books, also for regular subscribers, who, by paying the sum of \$1, were entitled to the use of the library books for one year, non-subscribers paying at the rate of five cents per week. Fairs were held, suppers given, and money raised by many legitimate means.

After seven years of untiring effort the ladies were able to purchase a small frame building for library purposes, paying \$500 for it, which they then occupied. To keep this in repair, pay insurance and other incidentals necessary, added so much to the expense that the ladies found it too great a burden, so offered the town council the property, on condition that they levy a tax for the maintenance of the library, which proposition was accepted and a tax voted by the people, as provided by the state law.

The property, then valued at \$1,000, was turned over to the city, the ladies still having charge of it and taking all responsibility, which did not materially lessen their work. The name was changed to Spencer Public Library, and a librarian employed at a small salary. For three years a tax of one mill was received, then one and one-half for a time.

In the spring of 1902 Harlan J. Buck, an attorney and old resident of Spencer, was elected mayor, and soon after he procured letters from prominent congressmen, cabinet officers and judges urging Mr. Andrew Carnegie to make a donation of \$10,000 for a library building, which letters, together with a certified copy of a resolution adopted by the city council July 18, 1902, pledging the city council and its successors to levy such a tax for library purposes as would produce a sum of at least \$1,000 per annum, were forwarded by the mayor, together with his letter of application, to Mr. Andrew Carnegie, of New York City.

On January 13, 1903, the mayor received the following letter:

“Andrew Carnegie,
2 East 91st Street,
New York.

Mayor, Buck.

13th January, 1903.

Spencer, Iowa.

Dear Sir: Responding to your communications in behalf of Spencer, if the city agree by resolution of council to maintain a free public library at cost of not less than \$1,000 a year and provide a suitable site for the building, Mr. Carnegie will be glad to furnish \$10,000 to erect a free public library for Spencer.

Respectfully yours,

JAS. BERTRAM,

P. Secretary.”

At the time the library books were turned over to the city by the Spencer Public Library Association they also conveyed a lot on Main street, together with a small wooden building located thereon, to the city, this having been the home of the library for many years; and after the receipt of the letter from Mr. Carnegie steps were taken to procure a new site for the library, it being thought that the old site was not suitable in many respects.

Dr. Charles McAllister offered to deed the present library site to the city in exchange for the lot and building on Main street, which offer was accepted by the board of library trustees and the city council April 6, 1903, and subsequently deeds were exchanged.

The city council on September 18, 1903, adopted a resolution pledging the city to levy an annual tax upon the taxable property within the city sufficient to produce the sum of \$1,000 to maintain the free public library when the library building shall have been built, also expressing appreciation to Mr. Carnegie for his magnanimous offer to the city, and the city clerk was directed to send Mr. Carnegie a certified copy of the resolution.

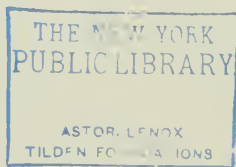
In 1904 the present library building was erected. The structure is quite a novelty in architecture and pleasing to the eye. The exterior is beautiful and the arrangements are the acme of perfection for convenience and the comfort of its patrons. Almost four thousand volumes of a varied selection of books are on the shelves of this Carnegie library and from year to year the most desirable of new publications are being added to the list.

SPENCER POSTMASTERS.

R. A. Coats was the premier postmaster of Spencer, taking the office in 1869 under General Grant's administration. Mr. Coats was one of the early settlers of the county and was a member of the famous “Spencer Pioneer Band” of early comers. His homestead was what now constitutes land belonging to A. S. Mack and Frank M. Tuttle, northwest of the city limits. He at one time was county superintendent of schools and for a number of years was the pastor of the Free Will Baptist church. Rev. Coats left Spencer about a quarter of a century ago and now makes his home at Maine, Minnesota, although he occasionally visits Spencer and renews old acquaintances.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SPENCER



R. A. Coats was succeeded by Miss Eliza Gannett, who was a daughter of E. Gannett, a homesteader who came to Clay county in 1870, from Wisconsin, and located one mile southwest of Spencer. Miss Gannett held the office until 1874, when she resigned to become the wife of Charles Carver, an early settler of Riverton township. In less than a year after his marriage, Mr. Carver lost his life in a windstorm. The house in which he was sleeping was blown over and his lifeless body taken from the debris. His widow about four years later became the wife of David Skinner, who died about four years ago. Mr. Skinner was a blacksmith and plow maker and owned the Skinner block, on Main street. Mrs. Skinner is now living with relatives in Missouri.

The next postmaster of Spencer was Peter E. Randall. He was appointed to the office to fill out Miss Gannett's unexpired term and was his own successor for another term of four years. Mr. Randall came to Clay county in 1870, from Wisconsin, and took up a homestead two miles southwest of Spencer, in Riverton township. He afterward resigned from the postoffice to assume the duties of county treasurer, to which office he had been elected. Mr. Randall died in Spencer in 1905.

The next incumbent of the office of postmaster was J. H. Hale, who held the position until the beginning of the first Cleveland administration. It was for Mr. Hale that P. M. Moore, civil engineer, laid out the town of Spencer, in 1871.

C. P. Buckey, the present cashier of the First National Bank, of Spencer, was Mr. Hale's successor as postmaster, serving four years under Grover Cleveland's first administration. Mr. Buckey came to Clay county in 1874, from West Virginia. He is a native of Frederick, Maryland. He located in Spencer and went into the Clay County Bank as bookkeeper.

A. F. McConnell received the appointment as postmaster, and assumed his duties as such under Harrison's administration, in 1889. Mr. McConnell has long been a resident of Spencer and is now engaged in real estate and the buying and selling of live stock.

The successor of A. F. McConnell was Earl Bronson, who came to Spencer in 1891 and established the Spencer Herald. He entered the postoffice as its chief when Grover Cleveland became president the second time, and held the position four years. Mr. Bronson is now engaged in editing the Spencer Herald, one of the most creditable newspapers of northwestern Iowa.

Mr. Bronson was followed as postmaster of Spencer by the present incumbent, Charles C. Bender. Mr. Bender was born in Algona and was but a child when his parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Bender, arrived in Spencer, in 1872. At that period the elder Mr. Bender engaged in general merchandise, but when the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad began operations in Spencer, an elevator was built and he bought and sold grain. He is now living in Los Angeles. Postmaster Bender is now serving his third term and performing the duties of his office to the entire satisfaction of the postal department and his constituency. In fact, the same may be said of all who held this responsible position.

November 1, 1908, Spencer took on metropolitan airs and from the postoffice issued men in uniform, with mail sacks strapped to their shoulders. These were mail carriers—city mail carriers—and today Spencer has the same privilege

and convenience in the distribution of mails as any city in the state—a free delivery.

THE SPENCER REPORTER.

The Spencer Reporter made its first appearance in 1878, and for a short time was under the management of M. E. Griffin and Samuel Gillespie. J. F. Ford in August of that year, returned from California and purchased the plant. He conducted the business for some three years, when he sold it to A. T. McCarger. In January, 1882, the Barnard brothers purchased the concern and run it for several years. Others have owned the Reporter. In September, 1904, E. S. Randall, J. R. McKee and F. W. Randall took possession and since that time have given their constituency a live, up-to-date newspaper, that is continually growing in favor and usefulness. The Reporter is a six-column quarto and is issued every Wednesday. It is republican in politics and at this time the official organ of the county.

THE SPENCER HERALD.

The Spencer Herald is the democratic organ of Clay county and one of the best edited weekly newspapers in northwestern Iowa. The paper dates its birth from the advent of its founders into Spencer, which took place in the summer of 1891. At that time there came from Manchester, Iowa, the place of their birth, two ambitious and enterprising young men, Earl and Wirt Bronson, sons of Charles E. Bronson, now deceased, one of Manchester's pioneers and most prominent lawyers. Forming a partnership, these young journalists established the Spencer Herald, which at once took a firm anchorage in the business affairs of the county and became, as it is today, a reliable, truthful and progressive weekly distributor of both foreign and local news. The Herald is partisan in its politics. No one can question the democracy of its editor. The Herald is a six-column quarto, published weekly, has a liberal advertising patronage and a wide circulation. In 1902 Wirt Bronson retired from the firm; since then Earl has been going it alone. He finds in his wife, however, an able assistant.

THE CLAY COUNTY NEWS.

The News, Clay county's first permanent newspaper, was started at Peterson in January, 1871, J. F. Ford being the editor and proprietor. Mr. Ford was a young man possessed of more than average mechanical skill and a fair share of literary ability. The following spring he was joined by Samuel Gillespie, who assisted in both the mechanical and editorial work. Peterson was then a small village and contained not to exceed fifty people. The business of the town included two small general stores, a grist mill, a hotel and a blacksmith shop. The people of both the village and the surrounding country welcomed the new enterprise and gave it hearty support. The News, when first published, was a seven-column folio, two pages of which were printed in Chicago and two at home. Matters moved along pleasantly until the early fall of 1871, when the proposition to remove the county seat from Peterson to Spencer became a live issue. Peterson was a half mile from the south line of the county. Situated as the town was in the extreme southwestern corner of the county, the News could

not justify itself in advocating the retention of the seat of government at a point so inequitable. It also became evident, early in the campaign, that Spencer, a town on the newly surveyed line of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway, would win in the contest. It was likewise evident that a town the size of Peterson, with the county seat lost and twenty-five miles to the nearest railway, was not an inviting point at which to conduct a newspaper. Remembering the hearty welcome that had been accorded and the substantial help extended, it seemed ungrateful to leave, while to stay meant destruction. The law of self-preservation prevailed and the latter part of September, 1871, the News moved to Spencer, where several business houses and two small residences had been erected on the newly platted town site.

On leaving Peterson, the News lost a considerable number of its subscribers in that part of the county; but the business men of Spencer came to the rescue with a liberal amount of advertising, and many subscriptions were forthcoming from the homesteaders then settling in large numbers on the vacant government land.

The news made very satisfactory progress from the time of coming to Spencer until the early summer of 1873, when the first invasion of the grasshoppers occurred. The grasshoppers, or Colorado locusts, as some called them, lit down in myriads and destroyed the growing crops. This calamity, for calamity it was, destroyed the hopes not only of the farmers, but men of other lines of business as well. So complete was the destruction of the crops and so serious was the loss to the farmers, that it became necessary to seek aid from the more fortunate friends to the south and east. It was also thought best to petition the state legislature for an appropriation, with which to buy seed-grain for the unfortunate farmers of the northwestern part of the state. Representatives and state senators from this part of the state brought the matter to the attention of the general assembly, and that body appropriated the sum of \$50,000 with which to purchase seed-grain for such farmers in the stricken region as were unable to purchase it for themselves. This aid enabled the farmers to make a new start, and for the next two years there was a gleam of hope; but the summer of 1876, just as the crops were ripening for the harvest, the second grasshopper invasion occurred, when corn, wheat, oats, garden crops, and everything in the line of vegetables excepting the prairie grass, were destroyed. The second calamity so discouraged the farmers that many of them decided to abandon their homes and seek places in more favored lands. Many of the farmers' teams were mortgaged, but the incumbrance did not deter them from loading their household goods into their wagons, to which they hitched their horses and drove away, generally leaving at night. This exodus cost the News, perhaps, one-third of its subscribers. Were it not for the fact that both members of the firm were practical printers, did about all the work, and were fortunate enough to own their office building and printing material, free of debt, it is difficult to understand how they could have survived the trying ordeal.

Soon after the second grasshopper invasion an opportunity to sell the property occurred, and the junior member of the firm being in very poor health at that time, it was decided to make the sale. A. T. McCarger, a practical and successful journalist, was the purchaser. He conducted the business successfully

until the spring of 1878, when he sold to McAllister & Albee. These gentlemen, after managing the paper a couple of years, sold it to W. C. Gilbreath, who conducted it about a year, and sold to C. M. Whitman. Mr. Whitman sold a half interest to Jacob Merritt, and a little later disposed of his remaining interest to his partner. Mr. Merritt continued to conduct the business until the spring of 1884, when W. C. Gilbreath again bought the property. Mr. Gilbreath, after a period of two and one-half years, sold to P. E. Randall, who about a year later, sold to M. H. Richards, who continued the publication up to September 1, 1895, when the present proprietors, Randall & Gillespie, acquired the property and have continued in control slightly more than thirteen years. During its almost thirty-eight years of existence, the News has encountered and survived many severe storms, has seen many of its neighbors and some of its rivals go down to early deaths, and has itself been taxed about to the limit, yet it still lives. The paper is a six-column quarto, republican in politics and is issued weekly.

LODGES AND ASSOCIATIONS.

These organizations in this county are in a most prosperous condition and have not only a large membership but a goodly attendance at each of their regular stated meetings. Good fellowship and a fraternal feeling prevails among the members. Each lodge is well officered and equipped and has its rooms well furnished. Visiting members will always receive a warm welcome when they visit any of these lodges in Clay county. The following is a list of the lodges, together with a complete roster of the first officers:

Evening Shade Lodge, No. 312.—A. F. and A. M. Was organized January 24, 1872. The charter was granted June 8, 1872. The charter members included S. Lacove, S. F. McDonald, A. Wright, J. W. Christ, S. B. Christ, E. J. Marvine, H. H. Wilber and William Harvey, none of whom reside in Spencer. The membership of the lodge now numbers about one hundred and fifty and is gradually growing. Its hall is handsomely furnished, and everything is done to make the gatherings pleasant and agreeable to the members. The monthly meetings are held on Monday evening on or before the full moon.

Spencer Lodge, No. 247, I. O. O. F., was instituted October 17, 1872, and has sustained a prosperous growth since its first organization. Its members have proven themselves faithful and fervent to their vows and have helped their needy, cared for their sick and attended their dead with such fidelity and sincerity that it has grown and developed into a lodge of prominence and power. Their good works will live and be remembered after the members have passed to "that bourne from whence no traveler returneth." The good deeds of this lodge and its individual members will not be soon forgotten. Its charter members were H. N. Smith, A. B. Kline, J. F. Ford, A. G. Hardin' and W. I. Rood. Its first officers were A. S. Kline, N. G.; H. N. Smith, V. G.; W. I. Rood, R. S. The lodge has all the necessary paraphernalia and lodge furniture to make its meetings pleasant and entertaining. The right hand of warm fellowship is always extended to those who visit this noble order of men. The present membership is quite large.

A. O. U. W., No. 201.—Came into existence in 1879, and was organized with a large membership. Its object is to combine mutual as well as individual

benefits. The great and permanent good it has done is attested by hundreds of widows and orphans, who, by this noble and beneficent organization, were kept from want and privation. Its first officers were: W. C. Gilbreath, P. M. W.; A. T. McCargar, M. W.; M. P. W. Albee, Foreman; C. P. Buckey, Recorder; I. F. Constant, Financier; W. L. Bender, Receiver; J. P. Evans, Guide; E. Pickering, G. W.; J. M. Hagerty, I W.; T. P. Bender, M. E. Griffin and M. S. Green, Trustees.

Spencer Lodge, No. 282, A. O. U. W.—Known among the workmen as belonging to and under the jurisdiction of the "Loyal Grand Lodge," was organized in 1887. Like its namesake, or "Dissenters," it has for its purpose a noble object. Its first officers were: Ackley Hubbard, P. M. W.; B. F. Horner, M. W.; W. S. Bemis, Foreman; T. C. Meyer, Overseer; Guide, Frank Gifford; Recorder, J. Boehm; Financier, C. E. Taylor; Receiver, J. M. Holmes; I. G. David Metts.

Harmony Lodge, No. 188, K. of P.—This organization dates its existence from February 16, 1888, and from the very first start has rapidly grown and increased in members. It was a worthy organization and deserved the prosperity that attended it. Its first official list was constituted as follows: P. C., H. Kunath; C. C., John Andrews; V. C., William Clopper; Prelate, P. W. Madden; K. of R. and S., L. M. Cummock; M. at A., J. B. Stamp; M. of E., M. H. Wearer; M of F., G. B. Bender; I. G., Dr. Charles McAllister; O. G., John Watts. This lodge has been out of existence for some time past.

The Spencer Building and Loan Association—Is one among the most beneficial organizations in the place, pecuniarily speaking. It has been the means of assisting many persons to obtain homes who would otherwise have been deterred from so doing. Like other institutions of a similar character, the funds are raised on the assessment plan and the profits are shared.

THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF SPENCER.

Spencer women have all shown themselves progressive and, when the wave of club organization swept over the west in the early '90s, they were quick to grasp the meaning of the movement and its significance to the community.

In the fall of 1894 the Spencer Woman's Club was organized, having for its avowed aim, culture and mutual helpfulness. Its first officers were: President, Mrs. Ackley Hubbard; secretary, Mrs. Dr. Bois; treasurer, Miss Mattie Bowman.

In pursuit of its first aim, the club has successively taken up the study of many nations and has embraced a wide range of subjects, including child study and household economics; some of the most successful seasons having been devoted to literary programs. In the year 1896 the club joined the Iowa State Federation of Women's Clubs, and in 1901, became a member of the General Federation. Throughout its history loyalty to the federation idea has been a marked feature of the Spencer Woman's Club; delegates have been sent to all district meetings, to five state biennials and to three national conventions. The club has furnished to the state a district chairman, a vice president and, for two terms, chairman of the household economics committee.

In 1903 the clubs of the eleventh district were entertained by the Woman's Club and a successful convention held here. The invitation recently extended, to meet again in Spencer in 1909, met with an enthusiastic acceptance.

The social element has entered largely into the club life, picnics, receptions and suppers have all had their turn; one pleasant feature has been the annual reception offered to the ladies attending the Farmers' Institute. In connection with the latter the club has, on three successive years, given a silver spoon, as a prize for the best essay on some household topic written by a girl under fifteen years of age.

When the Carnegie library was built, the Woman's Club furnished the assembly room and, on two occasions since that time, two book showers have been given, resulting in the addition of eighty volumes to the library. Two art exhibits have been held, and on several occasions lecturers have been engaged to address the club and invited friends.

State-wide movements for the benefit of the home, such as the state library commission, the compulsory education, child labor and pure food bills, have received the hearty support of the club by means of petitions and letters to legislators and persons of influence. Through its committee on civic improvement some untidy corners have been cleaned up.

In 1905 the management of the M. G. M. lecture course was tendered to the Woman's Club and accepted. Since that time six high-class entertainments have been given each winter with good success.

Undoubtedly this organization, whose members at one time numbered seventy-five, has had its silent influence in the development of the home. The breadth of thought, purity of aim, deep interest in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the home, have been felt in the community and which has been bettered for what was in the hearts and in the discussions of its women.

The officers for the present year are as follows:

President, Mrs. Kirkpatrick; vice president, Mrs. Steele; second vice president, Mrs. Horner; recording secretary, Mrs. Gillespie; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Cruver; treasurer, Mrs. Leach; librarian, Mrs. Fee. These officers, ably supported by the following standing committees: program, social, printing, room, special study and educational, will carry out the high aims and the earnest purposes of the founders of the club.

THE GRAND OPERA HOUSE OF SPENCER.

The Grand Opera House is the piece de resistance in the general make-up of the business center of Spencer. The building was erected in the summer of 1900 by John Copper. It is three stories in height and has a frontage on Main street of seventy-five feet. The structure is made of Twin City buff brick, trimmed with red stone, which gives it a substantial and imposing appearance. The ground floor is given over to business rooms. The second floor front has office rooms, while the rear of this story and the rear of the third story make the auditorium, gallery and stage of the theater. The seating capacity is about eight hundred. The people of Spencer are proud of their place of amusement and, from the fact it is suited to the requirements of traveling artists of the stage, it has made Spencer what is called by "professionals," a good show town.

ANNETT POST.

Annett Post, G. A. R., No. 124.—Was duly organized at Spencer and officers installed February 10, 1883. They were: Commander, Cyrus McKay; S. V. C., E. Boyer; J. V. C., B. P. Huff; Adjutant, J. N. Andrew; Sergeant Major, G. H. Deggins; Chaplain, I. L. Foster; Q. M., A. T. McConnell; Officer of the Day, W. B. Davidson; Guard, J. P. Evans. It has a membership of about seventy-seven.

The Post was organized with forty-three charter members, as follows: W. R. Davidson, E. Boyer, B. P. Hough, Henry Green, D. C. Gillespie, William T. Fizell, M. H. Marshall, Edward Files, W. J. Salisbury, C. W. Hoxie, C. B. Fairbanks, A. H. Miner, J. J. G. Knowles, T. H. Jones, J. N. Andrews, Perry Hodge, James B. Barry, James Fred, G. M. Smith, E. Pickering, Cyrus McKay, T. O. Phelps, H. J. Goodell, J. P. Evans, H. K. Frain, A. B. Walters, George H. Diggins, C. E. Case, A. F. McConnell, Charles Gould, Peter Kress, A. H. Cheney, H. C. Crary, Scott Case, L. M. Rood, Walter Bedford, W. A. Stone, J. C. Tabor, John Andrews, P. E. Randall, R. A. Coats, I. L. Foster and George Andrews.

The following are the names of the deceased soldiers interred in Riverside cemetery, Spencer, Iowa.

W. H. Roth, G. W. Stephenson, A. Fuhr, Peter Bergeman, D. Faulkner, S. C. Bascome, J. M. Carr, Walter Bedford, J. Wade, C. E. Waste, U. S. Waste, H. S. Bender, Charles Carver, S. J. Reynolds, J. B. Annett, S. A. Haines, S. K. Purdy, C. Dalley, A. W. Miller, W. C. Savage, R. B. Jones, A. Woodruff, J. N. Andrews, C. D. Hendershot, A. S. Hatch, H. S. Woodard, R. Roberts, J. Hovey, A. Hovey, W. M. Deane, L. M. Marr, J. Cottrell, H. D. Parsons, W. W. Been, S. Wilson, W. J. Dailey, J. W. Stebbins, D. T. Jaynes, J. P. Evans, Delos Secor, A. M. Dye, M. M. Smith, D. F. Janes, T. P. Doty, W. R. Tubs, Alpius Adams, Ashley Smith, P. E. Randall, Chris Green, Thomas Smock, M. L. Marshall, F. P. Kress, C. G. Tinkham, Adam R. Wheeler, W. H. Austin, T. C. Dood, George Bassett, P. F. Marker, Jasper Messenger, J. C. Barry, John McConnell and Henry Thurier; making a total of sixty-two.

PAST POST COMMANDERS.

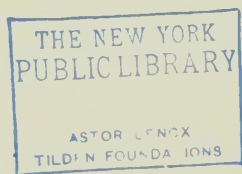
Now living	Time of Service	Now living	Time of service
E. Boyer.....	1885	T. H. Jones.....	1893
J. P. Evans.....	1886	L. Whitney.....	1894
A. F. McConnell.....	1887	N. T. Wilcox.....	1899
W. T. Fizell.....	1888	J. C. McCoy.....	1901
W. P. Bowman.....	1889	J. S. Ade.....	1904
A. H. Cheney.....	1890	J. P. Mills.....	1906
Thomas McQueen.....	1891		

LIST OF MEMBERS OF ANNETT POST, NO. 124, G. A. R., DEPARTMENT OF IOWA.

W. T. Fitzell—Enlisted Aug. 21, 1862; Co. K, 29th Wis. inf. Discharged June 22, 1865. Close war.
T. H. Jones, Priv.—Enlisted Aug. 14, 1862; Co. H, 22d Wis. inf. Discharged Sept. 7, 1863. Disability.

- A. F. McConnell, Sergt.—Enlisted Aug. 21, 1862; Co. B, 23d Wis. inf. Discharged July 14, 1865. Disability.
- W. E. Rose, Priv.—Enlisted Jan. 4, 1863; Co. F, 34th Iowa inf. Discharged August, 1865. Corp.
- W. H. H. Clark—Enlisted 1861; 3rd Iowa battery. Discharged Oct. 23, 1864. Disability.
- James Ashborn—Enlisted Aug. 17, 1862; Co. G, 6th Iowa cavalry. Discharged Oct. 17, 1866. G. O.
- J. Tindall—Enlisted May 7, 1864; Co. C, 145th Ill. inf. Discharged May 20, 1866. Close.
- N. C. Harvey—Enlisted Dec. 24, 1863; Co. H, 2nd Wis. Discharged July 16, 1865. Corporal.
- J. H. Peck, Priv.—Enlisted May, 1864; Co. D, 45th Wis. inf. Discharged Sept., 1864. Exp. of term.
- Scott Case, Priv.—Enlisted Aug. 26, 1861; Co. C, 11th Wis. inf. Discharged Aug. 19, 1863. Loss of left leg.
- E. Boyer, Priv.—Enlisted Oct. 11, 1864; Co. E, 52nd Ind. inf. Discharged July 21, 1865. Close.
- A. Seibel, Corp.—Enlisted Sept., 1861; Co. F, 8th Iowa vol. Discharged June 18, 1865. G. O. No. 19.
- C. W. Hoxie, Priv.—Enlisted Oct. 7, 1864; Co. I, 13th Wis. inf. Discharged July 25, 1865. Close.
- J. O. Jackson—Enlisted Sept. 7, 1861; Co. D, 12th Wis. inf. Discharged June 3, 1865. Close.
- N. T. Wilcox, Priv.—Enlisted Oct. 20, 1861; Co. D, 102nd N. Y. inf. Discharged Dec. 24, 1864. Exp. of term.
- H. B. Paige—Enlisted Nov. 27, 1861; Co. K, 7th New Hampshire. Discharged June 5, 1863. Serg. Cirt.
- J. C. McCoy, Priv.—Enlisted Sept., 1861; Bat. I, Wis. L. A. Discharged Oct. 22, 1864. Sergt.
- John Andrews, Priv.—Enlisted May 9, 1864; Co. A, 46th Iowa inf. Discharged Sept. 23, 1864. 100 days.
- D. C. Palmer, Priv.—Enlisted 1864; Co. D, 35th Wis. Discharged 1866. Corp.
- C. L. Hayes, Sergt.—Enlisted Aug. 26, 1862; Co. F, 157th N. Y. inf. Discharged June 20, 1865. Wounds.
- Dr. J. C. Collister—Enlisted May 7, 1864; Co. F, 138th Ill. inf. Discharged July 14, 1865. Close.
- L. Whitney—Enlisted Aug. 30, 1864; Co. C, 146th Ill. inf. Discharged July 7, 1865. Close.
- J. T. Ade—Enlisted July 4, 1863; Co. A, 43d Ohio. Discharged May 16, 1866. Close.
- D. L. Ryder—Enlisted Sept. 3, 1864; U. S. N. Discharged Aug. 26, 1865. Close.
- John Watts, Priv.—Enlisted July 4, 1862; Co. H, 21st Iowa inf. Discharged July 15, 1865. Close.
- D. M. Green—Enlisted May, 1861; Co. E, 34th N. Y. Discharged Sept. 20, 1865. Close.





- J. W. Phelps—Enlisted 1863; Co. I, 20th Iowa inf. Discharged July 15, 1866.
Close of term.
- A. Paddock—Enlisted Aug., 1862; Co. D, 96th Iowa inf. Discharged May 12, 1865. Close of term.
- J. W. Hartman—Enlisted Jan., 1864; Co. B, 46th Ill. inf. Discharged 1865.
Close of term.
- Alex. Hayman, Priv.—Enlisted Aug. 30, 1862; Co. K, 105th Ill. inf. Discharged May 12, 1865. Close of term.
- D. F. O. Cuttall, Priv.—Enlisted Aug. 9, 1862; Co. A, 24th Iowa inf. Discharged Nov. 7, 1863. G. S. wounds.
- George Kindelspire, Priv.—Enlisted June 24, 1861; Co. H, 7th Mo. inf. Discharged June 16, 1863. G. S. wounds.
- J. Wamsley, Priv.—Enlisted Aug., 1862; Co. B, 94th Ill. inf. Discharged Sept., 1864. Disability.
- E. D. Chamberlin—Enlisted Sept. 2, 1864; Co. H, I. H. art. Discharged June 15, 1865. G. O. 53.
- P. W. Madden—No description.
- S. L. Cutshall, Priv.—Enlisted Oct. 1, 1863; Co. B, 4th Iowa cav. Discharged Aug. 8, 1865. Close.
- A. M. Jones, Corp.—Enlisted Sept. 3, 1864; Co. G, 211th Pa. inf. Discharged June 2, 1865. Close.
- E. Wetherby, Priv. Enlisted May 10, 1864; Co. D, 47th Ill. inf. Discharged Sept. 24, 1864. Close of term.
- W. W. Culver, Corp.—Enlisted Aug. 2, 1862; Co. A, 33d Wis. inf. Discharged Aug. 9, 1865. Close of term.
- John Riley, Priv.—Enlisted Feb., 1862; Co. C, 12th Ill. cav. Discharged Sept., 1865. Close of term.
- William Steel, Priv.—Enlisted Dec. 3, 1863; Co. A, 1st Wis. cav. Discharged July 19, 1865. Close of term.
- M. E. Griffin, Priv.—Enlisted Aug., 1862; Co. F, 21st Iowa inf. Discharged June, 1865. Close.
- Jos. O'Brien, Priv.—Enlisted Aug. 6, 1862; Co. K, 187th Pa. inf. Discharged Aug. 3, 1865. Special Order.
- Ira Sargent, Priv.—Enlisted Oct. 17, 1864; Co. D, 4th Iowa inf. Discharged July 24, 1865. Close.
- J. A. Alexander, Priv.—Enlisted Aug., 1862; Co. K, 22nd Wis. inf. Discharged June, 1865. Close.
- Luke Becket, Priv.—Enlisted June 16, 1865; Co. D, 10th Iowa inf. Discharged Sept., 1865. Close.
- Charles O. Harriss—Enlisted Nov., 1861; Co. I, 16th Wis. inf. Discharged Dec. 25, 1865. Close.
- B. F. Lowrie, Priv.—Enlisted Oct., 1862; Co. K, 56th N. Y. inf. Discharged Oct. 16, 1865. Exp. of term.
- Edgar Miner—No description.
- A. H. Cheney, First Lieut.—Enlisted Sept. 1, 1862; Co. E, 10th Vermont. Discharged Sept. 30, 1865. Major.

- D. C. Gillespie, Priv.—Enlisted June 16, 1864; Co. E, 12th Wis. Discharged July 16, 1865.
- G. M. Bisbee, Priv.—Enlisted July 21, 1861; Co. A, 6th Kan. vol. Discharged July, 1865. Close.
- W. W. Claypool, Priv.—Enlisted Sept. 4, 1861; Co. G, 5th Mo. cav. Discharged Nov. 11, 1864. Exp. of term.
- Thomas McQueen, Priv.—Enlisted Aug. 27, 1862; Co. A, 100th Ill. inf. Discharged June 16, 1864. G. S. wounds.
- George W. Wright, Priv.—Enlisted May 7, 1864; Co. H, 132nd Ill. inf. Discharged Oct. 17, 1864. 100 days.
- W. P. Bowman, Priv.—Enlisted Oct. 19, 1864; Cos. K, I, H, Wis. art. Discharged June 28, 1864. G. O. 28.
- John Patton, Priv.—Enlisted Jan. 4, 1864; Co. W, 6th N. Y. H. A. Discharged Jan. 22, 1865. Wounds.
- D. H. King, Priv. Enlisted Dec. 19, 1862; Co H, 33d Wis. inf. Discharged Sept. 4, 1865. Close.
- H. Green, Second Lieut.—Enlisted May 19, 1861; Co. F, 49th Wis. inf. Discharged Oct., 1865. Close.
- William Yates—Enlisted May 9, 1864; Co. E, 40th Wis. reg. Discharged Sept. 16, 1864. Close of term.
- J. S. Fadden, Priv.—Enlisted Sept., 1861; Co. B, 10th Wis. inf. Discharged Dec., 1864.
- J. H. Morgan—No description.
- John Adams, Priv.—Enlisted June 10, 1864; Co. A, 9th Iowa inf. Discharged July 18, 1865. Close.
- J. D. H. Wright, Priv.—Enlisted Aug. 6, 1862; Co. I, 1st Drag. Discharged Jan. 30, 1865. G. O. 83.
- L. E. LaBrant, Priv.—Enlisted June 16, 1864; Co. C, 17th Ill. cav. Discharged Nov. 24, 1865. Sergt.
- J. S. Ada—Enlisted Sept. 1, 1861; Co. H, 17th Ohio inf. Discharged July 20, 1865. Sergt.
- Frank Wright, Priv.—Enlisted Feb. 1, 1865; Co. F, 147th Ill. inf. Discharged 1866. Close.
- D. J. Logan—Enlisted March 1, 1864; Co. G, 145th Pa. inf. Discharged 1865. Close.
- J. P. Mills, Priv.—Enlisted Aug. 27, 1864; Co. E, 43d Wis. inf. Discharged July 6, 1865. Close of war.
- J. H. Doty—Enlisted Feb. 22, 1864; Co. C, 12th Reg. Wis. inf. Discharged July 15, 1866. G. O.
- J. B. Walters, Wagoner—Enlisted Oct. 22, 1861; Co. M, 4th Iowa cav. Discharged Aug. 8, 1865. G. O. 3.
- George Tercy, Priv.—Enlisted July 4, 1861; Co. C, 17th Iowa inf. Discharged Jan. 25, 1865. Close.
- T. P. Powell—Enlisted March 1, 1865; Co. K, 55th Wis. inf. Discharged July 1, 1866. Close.
- B. B. Offine—Enlisted March 2, 1864; Co. G, N. Y. inf. Discharged Jan. 18, 1865. Close.

- G. R. Warde, Priv.—Enlisted Feb. 24, 1864; Co. B, 29th Iowa inf. Discharged Aug. 1, 1865. Close.
- D. C. Gillespie, Priv.—Enlisted June 6, 1864; Co. E, 12th Wis. inf. Discharged July 16, 1865. Close.
- A. J. Goodell, Priv.—Enlisted Aug. 11, 1862; Co. E, 113th Iowa inf. Discharged June 20, 1865. Close.

THE PRESENT OFFICERS OF ANNETT POST.

J. S. Fadden, Commander; L. E. LaBrant, Sen. Vice Commander; T. H. Jones, Jun. Vice Commander; T. P. Powell, Chaplain; Dr. J. C. Collister, Surgeon; George W. Tercy, Officer of the Day; J. B. Walters, Officer of the Guard; J. P. Mills, Quartermaster; George Kindelspire, Quartermaster Sarg.; D. F. O. Cuttall, Adjutant; Thomas McQueen, Sergt. Major; Thomas McQueen, Patriotic Instructor. There is a total of seventy-seven members.

THE SPENCER FREE BAPTIST CHURCH.

The Spencer Free Baptist church was organized August 10, 1867. The charter members were as follows: Solomon Wells and wife, Caroline Wells, David Nelson Coats and wife, Betsy E. Coats, Romanzo A. Coats, who afterward became the pastor. Also his wife, Lephy Coats, Frank M. Wells and wife, Susan; John F. Calkins and the wife of Stephen Calkins.

Rev. David Nelson Coats was the first regular pastor, who was here a little over five years. His son, R. A. Coats, who succeeded him, remained seven years. The charge was supplied by J. H. Moxom, three months, and by E. L. Tibbets four months. F. P. Augir was pastor from 1880 to 1882; R. A. Coats, May 5, 1883, to May 7, 1887; H. J. Brown, October 2, 1887, to December 13, 1892. He died while pastor of this charge. He was succeeded by G. B. Hopkins, who remained for two years; J. E. Abramson, April, 1895, to October, 1898. He was succeeded by Rev. T. O. Comstock, October 23, 1898, who remained until 1903. Rev. E. E. Evans became pastor in April, 1904, and is serving the charge at the present time.

June 3, 1882, they held the first meeting in their new church, with fourteen members present; they were as follows: Rev. F. P. Augir, H. D. Parsons and wife and May and Edward Parsons; F. Vanauken, G. D. Marcellus, Mrs. Caroline Tuttle and daughter, Anna; Deacon Britton, Carrie Baker, R. A. Coats and wife and Kate M. Cray. Out of this nucleus formed in the early days grew the present flourishing church of about one hundred and thirty members.

The organization consisted of ten original members, who met for covenant and business and religious meetings in private houses, until August 7, 1869, when they met for the first time in the new schoolhouse, the first frame building put up in Spencer.

In April, 1871, the membership had increased to fifty-three.

In February, 1872, Rev. D. N. Coats resigned as pastor and Rev. R. A. Coats, his son, was elected pastor, and the church was moved from the schoolhouse to the courthouse hall.

June 7, 1873, the church took out papers of incorporation under the name of the "First Free Will Baptist Church of Spencer, Clay County, Iowa," with

G. D. Marcellus, J. F. Calkins, Wales Lamberton, J. E. Robbins and D. N. Coats as trustees. (Said papers are recorded on page 43 of Book of Incorporation among the county records).

At the same time it was agreed to move their meetings from the courthouse hall to the new Methodist Episcopal church that they had assisted to build with the ultimate understanding that they should occupy it alternately with the Methodists. In May, 1875, the church again returned to the courthouse hall, and February 1, 1879, moved to Merritt's Hall and thence to the courthouse hall again in October, 1881, and from there to their own church on the corner of Fifth and — streets, June 3, 1882, where they now worship in a commodious, nicely finished church edifice.

SPENCER CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

The Church of Christ was organized January, 1881, by a small body of earnest Christian men and women, numbering twelve. The meetings were held in the courthouse for quite a period and afterwards for a time in the Baptist church. Among the first members can be remembered Mrs. Eliza Carver, Addie McCormick, and Mrs. Kate Page, wife of H. B. Page. Rev. H. H. Hawley was the first pastor and remained with the charge about two years, when he retired and went to California. Rev. Summers followed Rev. Hawley and was the pastor about one year. He was followed by F. O. Fannon, who remained two years and after an absence of six months returned and remained another year. Then came Rev. R. A. Thompson from Missouri. He was pastor one year and then returned to the border state. John Van Kirk succeeded Rev. Thompson, coming to Spencer from Ruthven. He remained with the charge one year and was followed by J. Will Walters, a divinity student of Drake university. Mr. Walters remained in Spencer two years and then returned to the university. Granville Snell was the next pastor. After administering to the flock eighteen months he returned to Missouri. J. R. McIntire was the pastor in charge the following three years, coming from Oskaloosa, and his successor was Rev. E. T. Jeffries, who only remained three months. He came from Rock Rapids. Then Samuel Magee came in response to a call and was the pastor for one year. He then left for Missouri. His successor was J. M. Hoffman, who filled the pulpit acceptably for two years and then went to Des Moines. Then came J. E. Seaton from South Dakota, who stayed two years and was followed by Fred D. Macey, from Drake university. Three years was the duration of his pastorate. Loren Howe followed Mr. Macey, and he was succeeded by B. L. Kline. The former remained one year and the latter eighteen months. Edward Wright was the next pastor, and his incumbency lasted one year, as did also that of his successor, Gerald Bohannon, who came from Osceola. The present pastor is E. N. Spafford, who took up his labors in Spencer the fall of 1908.

In May, 1883, the present church was erected. October 3, 1883, it was dedicated by Rev. D. R. Dungan, of University place, Des Moines. In 1900 the interior of the church was remodeled. During the pastorate of F. O. Fannon, in 1898, the parsonage was built. The present value of the church property is \$10,000. Membership, one hundred and forty-two; membership of Sunday school, one hundred.

BAPTIST CHURCH.

Was organized January 7, 1874, with David Skinner, Catherine Skinner, J. A. Bowman, W. M. Davis, S. Hayes, L. Chapin, J. J. Ayers and L. F. Miller. The first officers were: D. Skinner, deacon; L. F. Miller, clerk; J. A. Bowman, treasurer; D. Skinner, J. A. Bowman and W. M. Davis, trustees. The first pastor was T. H. Judson.

This society eventually ceased its organization and sold its property to the Seventh Day Adventists, who now conduct services there regularly.

FRIENDS CHURCH.

This church was organized in 1890, by Rev. Jacob Hinshaw, who at the time lived at Lake Okoboji. Among the earlier members of the society may be mentioned Mrs. Nellie Osborn, L. C. Ford and family, and Mrs. Bettie Davis. In the summer of 1891 the old Congregational church building was purchased and moved to the east part of the town; subsequently it was again disturbed and now rests upon its foundation on the corner of Fourth and Mill streets. After some improvements and remodeling, the society now has a very comfortable and pretty little place of worship, which, with the building site, cost the modest sum of \$2,000.

For a time the Friends church had a large membership. It is said the membership in 1903 was all of three hundred. This has now dwindled down to ninety, many of the communicants moving away and being scattered all over the United States.

The first pastor of the church was Jacob Hinshaw. He remained with this charge until the fall of 1893, and was succeeded by Mrs. Emma Coffin, who came to Spencer from Minneapolis. Mrs. Coffin was pastor of the church about five years and was followed by Miss Mary Barrett and ———— Wager, both of Cleveland, Ohio. They were succeeded by Ellis Wells in about one year. Mr. Wells came from Carmel, Indiana, and remained in Spencer about two years. His successor was Alexander Anderson, who came from Oskaloosa, and was succeeded by William I. Kent, of Marshalltown, Iowa. Mr. Kent remained three years, and in the fall of 1908 Mr. and Mrs. Chester Harris came on from Collins, New York, and the latter took up the pastorate where Mr. Kent left off.

THE GERMAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The German Methodist Episcopal church was built in 1901, and dedicated June 2d of that year. The building was erected at a cost of \$1,600, and not a penny of debt remains unpaid. It is a pretty little house of worship and is a satisfaction to those who made the donations towards its completion.

The German Methodist Episcopal church of Spencer was organized by H. B. Fiegenbaum in 1868. Prominent among the first members were Adam Fuhr, William Gaulke and August Hein. Rev. Fiegenbaum remained as pastor of the church until 1870; he was succeeded by the following: H. Achenbach, 70-71; E. W. Henke, 71-72; Gottlieb Haefner, 72-73; August Westphal, 73-74; A. W. F. Krienke, 74-75; C. Mauer, 75-78; John Kruse, 78-79; J. A. Lempke, 79-81; William Kopp, 81-82; H. Zimmermann, 82-83; W. J. Suckow, 83-84;

Henry J. Schmidt, 84-87; John A. Lempke, 87-89; F. Rohrich, 89-91; H. W. Ballert, 91-92; H. R. Schmidt, 92-94; W. H. Klaus, 94-95; W. J. Loeck, 95-97; F. W. Schaefer, 97-1900; William Hein, 1900-04; G. E. Kienly, 04-06; John A. Lempke, 06, the present pastor, who is now serving his charge for the third time. The parsonage was built in 1897, during the pastorate of Rev. William Loeck. The church has a membership of fifty; there are thirty-two children in the Sunday school.

SACRED HEART CHURCH.

This parish began holding services in Spencer in 1879. The society was ministered to by Father Smith, of Emmetsburg. In 1882 Father Norton assumed the pastorate. For a number of years the society held services in Merritt's hall. In 1883 ground was broken for the new church, which was completed and dedicated in 1884. It is a pleasant and comfortable frame building and is located on Fifth street. This society has a good membership and is gradually growing under the present ministrations of Rev. Father B. A. Hunt.

The church was first served from Spirit Lake, and among the early priests who officiated was Father Tierney. His predecessor took up his residence here and also served the missions of Milford and Everly. The successors of Father Tierney were Revs. J. L. Kirby, M. J. Quirk and J. Hetherington.

The present priest of this church was appointed to the charge and took up residence in Spencer September 1, 1908, coming to Spencer from Sac City.

The church is in a very prosperous condition and the parish numbers forty-four families members of the church. In 1897 a rectory was built on ground adjoining the church building at a cost of \$4,000. It is one of the most substantial and architecturally pleasing residences of Spencer.

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SPENCER.

About the year 1880 Rev. Hale Townsend, rector or missionary at Trinity church, Emmetsburg, began to pay visits to Spencer and held church services. Occasional services may have been held a few years before this, but of such services nothing definite can be learned at this time. After a year or so of these visits by Mr. Townsend the Rev. Mr. Johnston was appointed resident missionary at Spencer. Service was held in what is now the old rectory, the house then serving for a chapel and rectory, and located on West Third street, about one block west of Main. Mr. Johnston appears to have remained about two years. No records have been made of these services, nor of any official acts of his, such as confirmations, marriages, etc. After Mr. Johnston's removal there were occasional services for a short time, followed by a long interval of many years during which few, if any, services were held. The property fell into decay and the mission was practically defunct. During this period some of the communicants removed from the town, some died, and others united with other religious bodies.

By the year 1894 several church families had come to Spencer, among them Dr. William P. Woodcock, a retired physician, a gentleman of considerable wealth and a very devout churchman. The revival of the services was deter-

mined on and the services of a missionary were procured. The Rev. R. M. Doherty removed to Spencer and began the work February, 1885. The services were held in the Baptist church, on West Third street, adjoining the parsonage property. Mr. Doherty remained fifteen months.

A worship guild was organized and good congregations attended the services. Twenty-six baptisms were administered and eleven persons confirmed during Mr. Doherty's ministry here.

In May, 1896, Rev. F. F. Bowen, of Estherville, was appointed missionary. Services were then held in the A. O. U. W. hall, Crawford's hall and in the Baptist church.

On September 28, 1896, the Right Rev. Bishop Walker, of North Dakota, made a visit and confirmed six persons. During the summer of 1897 steps were taken looking toward the building of a church. Plans were prepared by E. S. Hammett, of Davenport, Iowa, for a church to cost about \$3,500, exclusive of furniture. The contract for the building was let to S. B. Taylor, contractor and builder, and that year warden of the mission. The first stone for the foundation was laid on the Feast of St. Bartholomew, August 24th. The corner stone was laid by the Rev. S. H. Cornell, of the Sioux City convocation on September 14th, assisted by the local lodge of the Free Masons and by the Rev. W. T. Jackson, Ph. D., of Emmetsburg; R. A. Crickmer, Spirit Lake, and Rev. F. F. Bowen, missionary at Spencer. The cost of the church, including the furnishings, was \$4,700. Of this amount, \$2,834.43, including the lot on which the church stands, was donated by Dr. and Mrs. W. P. Woodcock. The money for the windows was furnished by Mary A. Astor Woodcock, of Bedford, New York, a sister of Dr. W. P. Woodcock. The American Church Building Fund of New York gave \$150, and the balance was given by church families and the citizens of Spencer. The bishop's chair, the prayer desk, were bought with money obtained at a concert given by the boys of the Sunday school. The cottas and cassocks for a choir of thirty voices were made by the Woman's Guild.

The church was used for the first time on Christmas day, 1897, and on St. Stephen's day following.

The church was dedicated to St. Stephen, the martyr, and is known as St. Stephen's parish.

The consecration services were held on the Monday following, or April 11, 1898, Bishop Perry being the consecrator. A class of eight persons was confirmed.

In May, 1898, the mission asked permission from the ecclesiastical authority to organize as a parish, which was granted and the necessary steps thereto were taken. At a meeting held on June 1st the organization was effected. The following persons were elected vestrymen: Dr. William P. Woodcock, H. N. Smith, John W. Cory, Ackley Hubbard and W. L. Schultz. At the first meeting of the vestrymen they elected Dr. W. P. Woodcock and H. N. Smith wardens; John W. Cory, treasurer; W. L. Schultz, secretary. The missionary, F. F. Bowen, was elected as rector, on a salary of \$800 and the use of the rectory.

The parish was admitted to union with the Convention November 30, 1898. On Easter day, 1901, the women of the Guild placed an oak pulpit in the church. Easter day, 1902, Henry F. L. Brooks placed a brass lecturn in the church, in memory of his wife, Margaret Robertson Brooks.

In 1905 a large altar rail, built by Spaulding & Company, Chicago, was placed in the sanctuary. The plate thereon reads, "Erected to the glory of God and in loving memory of W. P. Woodcock, New York, by Mary A. Astor Woodcock and Dr. W. P. Woodcock, Spencer, Iowa." Very soon afterwards a large altar cross was placed on the altar, made by the same company, with the following beautifully engraven: "Bessie Lenore Free. Born 1874. Died 1906."

Dr. and Mrs. Woodcock, September of this year (1908) ordered from the Burlington Pipe Organ Company, of Burlington, Iowa, a pipe organ, which is now in process of construction. When placed in the church, which will be Christmas, 1908, it will bear this plate: "Erected to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mary Anita Astor Woodcock, of Bedford, New York."

The present rector, W. D. Morrow, D. C. L., was appointed November 16, 1903. On Easter Monday of each year the vestry and officers of the church are elected by the parish. The present officers are as follows: Secretary, Dwight L. Dickey; treasurer, Clarence P. Buckey; wardens, Dr. W. P. Woodcock, M. D., and C. P. Buckey; vestrymen, J. O. Birdsall, D. R. Dickey, E. L. Dickey and Dr. A. W. Leard.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Spencer circuit was formed in September, 1871. At first the membership was quite small, but under the ministrations of Rev. Charles B. Winter, the pastor, the congregation grew and the number of members increased. The first services were held in the courthouse hall, but as the church in time increased so rapidly numerically, it was decided to build a place of worship. Subscriptions were solicited and in 1872 a sufficient amount had been subscribed to justify the trustees in letting the contract for building the church. The trustees at this time were John Hood, president; M. M. Peeso, secretary; J. H. Hale, treasurer; A. M. Calkins, W. W. Scott, R. Hough and H. B. Wood. The building progressed rapidly and by June was ready for occupancy. On the 18th of June, 1873, it was formally dedicated by Rev. J. W. Clinton. It was a neat and convenient church and an ornament to the town. The zeal and earnestness displayed by Rev. Winter, ably assisted by the trustees and others, was untiring, and it was a source of pride and rejoicing when the church was completed and ready for divine worship. It was well seated, provided with an organ, and was in every way a model church edifice. It was, unfortunately, destroyed by fire. The cause of the fire has never yet been ascertained. The church was therefore without a place of worship, but in time the members went back to the courthouse hall, where services were conducted until 1880. Under the ministrations of Rev. E. C. Warren the society succeeded in raising \$2,000, and built a good frame church on the corner of Fourth and State streets. It was dedicated in 1880 by Bishop Warren, and its entire indebtedness was provided for on the day of its dedication. In 1881 a parsonage was built, sixteen by twenty-four,



CHRISTIAN CHURCH, SPENCER



at a cost of \$700. This was given several additions and was a comfortable and cosy dwelling. In 1903 a new parsonage was built at a cost of \$4,000. The church building was a substantial frame structure of sufficient seating capacity and one of the best constructed church buildings in Spencer. The membership of this society, when first organized, was forty-six, but it has grown until its membership is now three hundred and fifty. It has a well organized Sabbath school, numbering at least two hundred pupils. The present pastor is Orville M. Bond.

METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY.

By a Pioneer.

Dr. S. Snyder, if the writer is correctly informed, was the first minister to carry the glad tidings to the people of Clay county. That was back in the later '50's. Mr. Snyder's home at that time, we believe, was at Boone, Iowa. From the settlements along the Des Moines river at and near Boone he crossed the great waste of uninhabited prairie until he struck the settlement on the Little Sioux at Sutherland, where he preached the first sermon ever delivered in that section of Iowa. Working his way up the Little Sioux, he afterward preached at Correctionville, Cherokee, Peterson and Sioux Rapids. Spencer was not in existence at that time, the only settlements in the county being near the southern border, along the Little Sioux. So few and so scattering were the settlers that there were no organized churches with regular services until about 1869 or 1870. The first church building in the county was erected by the Welsh Baptists in Douglas township in 1869, and was known as "Pioneer" church. About that time a Methodist Episcopal church was organized in Peterson and Rev. C. W. Clifton, a zealous, earnest young man, placed in charge. Mr. Clifton preached in Peterson each alternate Sunday morning, and devoted the remainder of his time to outlying settlements, as homesteaders by that time had begun to come in and occupy the land.

In 1866 the first settlement in this part of the county was made, when the Calkinses, Coatses, Wellses and others settled near what is now Spencer. Among these settlers was D. N. Coats, a Free Baptist minister. The settlers soon organized themselves into a church society and Mr. Coats preached to them, the meetings being held in the settlers' cabins. From the nucleus then formed grew the present Free Baptist church of Spencer.

Soon after the establishment of religious services by the Free Baptists the Methodists began work in the same field. Among the pioneer Methodists to preach here was Rev. John Webb, a man of much energy and considerable ability. A little later a couple of young men named Todd preached here. Although having the same name, the two Todds were not related. One of the Todds was a very tall man and was commonly designated as "Long Todd"; the other was a rather short man and was generally alluded to as "Short Todd." Each of the Todds had ability and each became a presiding elder before drifting from this conference. "Long Todd" was an eloquent, forceful speaker, who could almost hypnotize his audience. He was a master at story telling, and could be somewhat "sporty" when out with the "boys." "Short Todd," on the other hand, was a quiet, serious man, who indulged in no levity. He was

scholarly, and a ready, pleasing speaker. His sermons were characterized more by their careful preparation and good thought than by their eloquence.

Other prominent pioneers in this part of Iowa were Rev. Bennett Mitchell, now retired and living at Morningside, a suburb of Sioux City, and Elder Brown, often called "Big Brown," to designate him from another minister of the same name, but smaller of stature. Both these men had splendid ability, coupled with energy and persistence.

In May, 1871, the village of Spencer was platted, and by fall quite a little group of homes had been built. Up to that time a sixteen by twenty-four schoolhouse, standing on the present high school site, was the only place available for a house of worship, and was used on alternate Sundays by Free Baptists and Methodists. That same fall Spencer charge was established by the Methodist Episcopal annual conference, and Rev. C. B. Winter was sent here as pastor. In addition to Spencer, he was given two country appointments—one in Riverton and one in Meadow—and known as Spencer circuit. The new minister thus became both pastor and circuit rider. Mr. Winter had never seen the inside of a theological school, practically his entire education having been acquired in the Register office, Des Moines, where he earned the well-merited reputation of being a first class printer. He was a sincere, earnest man, and prepared plain, practical sermons, well adapted to conditions at that time. He could see humor where the average person would never suspect any existed, and his talent for seeing funny things was present in the pulpit as well as out of it. He rode on horseback to his country appointments on an antiquated equine which he called "Socrates," and when mounted, the "boys," all of whom were his friends, would refer to him as the circus rider; and in truth it was little less entertaining than a real circus to see him on horseback. He was very timid of horses and soon disposed of his old steed, after which he made his country appointments on foot, unless some thoughtful brother furnished transportation. He was popular and drew large audiences. Soon after coming to Spencer the old courthouse—still standing on lower Main street—was finished, and he held his services in the court room until the first Methodist Episcopal church building in Clay county was completed, which was in June, 1873. It stood where Frank Smith's residence now stands, on East Second street, and was a modest frame structure, thirty by forty-five feet, and in those days made quite an imposing appearance. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. J. W. Clinton, of Cedar Rapids, who delivered an able discourse. Mr. Clinton was a fine story teller, and after the sermon proceeded to prepare his audience for the money raising event to follow. The deficit was large, but things looked prosperous, and pledges enough to cover all indebtedness were secured. But soon after the dedication the grasshoppers, in untold millions, descended upon the country and destroyed the farmers' crops, and instead of the liberal surplus expected, a large part of the settlers were compelled to accept aid from their friends, while the state donated grain for seed for the following year's crop. Owing to this calamity, a large part of the church pledges were never paid, and eventually the building was sold at sheriff's sale to satisfy the claims of a number of dealers for material furnished. During the year following the sale the church trustees made a loan and paid the lumber dealers' claims,

and the building continued available for services. In February, 1877, the final blow came, when the building took fire one Sunday night after services and was completely consumed.

From then until 1880, when a part of the building just moved to the corner of Main and East Second streets was erected, where the new fine church now stands, services were held in rented rooms in different parts of the town. Those who are enjoying the comforts and luxuries of the church as they abound today little realize the tribulations through which the church people of early days here passed.

The new Grace Methodist Episcopal church was dedicated on April 5, 1901, with all costs for the same provided for. The structure cost \$25,000, and the pipe organ, which was installed later, cost \$2,100. It is an Estey organ.

At the dedicatory exercises it was expected that Bishop McDowell, of Chicago, would be present; but at the last moment he was taken sick and sent as a substitute Dr. James Roe, superintendent of the mission and church extension work of that city. At first the people were much disappointed, but this disappointment was only temporary. Dr. Roe certainly preached a most excellent sermon and the people were greatly pleased with him. After this Dr. Trimble, a former pastor, took the platform and announced that it would be necessary to raise \$8,000 to provide for the church debt. It took only a few minutes to raise \$2,500 by \$500 contributions, and in less than an hour \$7,000 was raised.

At the evening meeting Dr. Trimble informed the people that there was some money yet to raise, and he proceeded by asking Dr. Lewis (now bishop), president of Morningside college, to do it. It only took a short time to raise the rest of this money.

The dedicatory services were conducted by Dr. Gillies, district superintendent. The ministers in attendance were Rev. Gillies, of Sheldon; Rev. Seward, of Sanborn; Rev. Alberson, of Sioux Rapids, and Rev. Batho, of Fostoria.

Rev. Gillies paid the following high tribute to the work of Rev. O. M. Bond, pastor of the church: "In the completion of this handsome edifice and the management of the finances and of all details incident to the dedication, the pastor, Rev. O. M. Bond, has proven himself to be perfectly fitted for the work and to my mind I have never found a more competent, unselfish and consecrated pastor."

The building just completed is undoubtedly one of the most convenient and most beautiful houses of worship in Iowa. Others are larger and more costly, but none is more beautiful or better adapted to the needs of the people.

The building is sixty-one by ninety-three feet in dimensions and is composed of pressed brick and stone, and it is built in a workmanlike manner.

The basement contains a spacious ladies' parlor, gentlemen's class room, large dining room and a large kitchen, provided with a range and many cupboards, shelves and both hot and cold water, in fact all the comforts of an up-to-date kitchen.

The main floor is divided into two principal parts—the main auditorium and the Sunday school room. The auditorium occupies the front and is fifty by

sixty feet, and with the balcony, will seat eight hundred people. The floor, which is on a slight incline, is of polished hard maple. The pews are of antique oak and are very comfortable.

The charm of the auditorium is in the splendid decorations, which are exceedingly beautiful. The decorators drew largely from nature, and the harmony and beauty displayed show that they were workmen of no mean order.

At the rear of the main auditorium is the Sunday school room, which embraces the greater part of the remainder of the main floor. It is connected with the main room by a hoisting partition, so that these two rooms can be thrown together when necessary to accommodate a large crowd. There are ten separate Sunday school rooms, and these are separated from the main Sunday school room by means of folding partitions. The Sunday school decorations are but little less artistic than those in the main auditorium. The pastor's study is also on the main floor, just to the rear of the pulpit platform.

A splendid feature of the building is the lighting, which is by numerous large windows of the very highest class of art glass. Among these windows is an immense memorial window on the west side of the main auditorium, a gift of Mrs. Noll, in honor of her husband, the late Adam Noll. Another window is in memory of Anton Hanson, an earnest and devoted member of the church, who passed away a few years ago. Another feature of the building deserving mention is the elegant and fine electrical fixtures which, at night, when the current is on, illuminate every corner and part of the entire edifice. The whole building is heated by steam. In designing and constructing this building nothing which could contribute to the comforts, convenience and beauty of the same appears to have been overlooked.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SPENCER.

The first Congregational church of Spencer was organized March 17, 1872, with a membership of eleven. At this time Spencer had a population of about two hundred people. The Free Will Baptist and Methodist Episcopal churches, each having about fifty members throughout the county, were the only church organizations in the place at that time. The village was rapidly increasing in population and the need was felt by some earnest souls of a church of the Congregational faith.

The first recorded step in the formation of the church was a written covenant of eighteen members, entered into under date of January 13, 1872. They agreed to work and assist each other in securing the regular preaching of the gospel and the establishment of a Congregational church society, to the end, as stated in their covenant and agreement, that intelligence, morality, good order and happiness be promoted in the community, and to advance the interests of true religion. Nearly all of these persons subsequently became charter members of the church.

On the written invitation of thirteen residents of Spencer, the Rev. David Wirt, a Congregational minister, of Fort Dodge, Iowa, came and held services in the courthouse hall, on the evening of March 14, 1872. At the close of the services those interested in the establishment of the church remained and took steps to effect an organization. A committee of three, consisting of A. W.

Miller, L. C. Burgin and E. Pruyn, was appointed to draft a constitution and articles of faith and covenant and present the same at a meeting to be held on the following day. The report of this committee was presented at the appointed time and was accepted and adopted. It was also voted to organize into a Congregational Church of Christ.

After the regular services of Sunday, March 17, 1872, eleven persons united to constitute the church, signing the constitution and assenting to the articles of faith and the covenant.

The following names appear as signers of the original constitution and as charter members: L. C. Burgin, Edward Pruyn, A. W. Miller, P. M. Moore, Mary S. Moore, H. B. Coryell, Clarissa Van Epps, Clarissa Snyder, Ira Laughlin, P. L. Graves and Helen M. Graves. Of these original members, only L. C. Burgin, P. M. Moore and Clarissa Van Epps remain with the church, the others having died or removed from Spencer.

If there is any class of people in the history of the church who deserve to have their names perpetuated and revered, it is these early pioneers who banded themselves together to organize and build up the church. Their sacrifices, struggles and final achievements redound to their credit and to the glory of God. To their faith and efforts is due in a large part the church organization and the influence it has exerted upon the life of the community in promotion of morality and true religion. We cannot too much appreciate the work of these sowers of the seed who have made possible the bounteous harvests.

June 29, 1872, Rev. W. L. Coleman was elected pastor of the church. He came under the auspices of the Home Missionary Society, which bore a part of his expenses. Services were held in the court room of the old courthouse building on South Main street, the pulpit being occupied during the forenoon of each Sabbath by the Baptist and Methodist ministers alternately, and in the evening by the Congregational pastor. All of the services, however, were practically union services, and all church people attended without reference to denominational preferences. After the arrival of Mr. Coleman the church and Sunday school became fully organized, elected its officers, and the church proceeded to incorporate. One of the present members—L. C. Burgin—was one of the first deacons of the new church. P. M. Moore was the other deacon.

In September, 1874, the church determined to build a house of worship. Messrs. Charles McAllister, L. C. Burgin and A. W. Miller were appointed a building committee. The committee purchased the lot at the corner of Third and Mill streets, lying directly west of the present parsonage building, and in the fall of 1875 the church building was completed.

The American Congregational Union gave \$400 towards the cost of the building. The entire cost amounted to about \$2,400. The lumber for the church was hauled from Sibley, Iowa, that being the most convenient railroad point, a distance of about fifty miles. Considering the small membership of the church, the difficulties encountered and the general hard times of this period, the building of such a church was no light task.

After a pastorate of seven years, owing to feeble health Rev. Coleman resigned. During these years the growth of the town and country adjacent was not rapid, and accessions to the church were not numerous. The foundation,

however, was laid for future growth. Twenty-seven were received into membership during Mr. Coleman's pastorate.

In August, 1879, Rev. J. M. Cumings accepted the pastorate, and continued with the church for three years. During this time forty-six were received into membership, and quite extensive improvements were made on the parsonage and church building. Much work of a foundation character was wrought, and the church experienced a period of rapid growth and increasing influence in the community.

In September, 1883, Rev. G. G. Perkins accepted the call of the church and entered upon a pastorate of about seven years. During this period ninety-eight were received into membership, and baptism administered to forty adults and children, the parsonage enlarged, two lots diagonally across the street from the present site of the church building were purchased, and all indebtedness against the parsonage building was paid. The membership of the church at the close of Mr. Perkins' pastorate was ninety-seven.

April 9, 1891, Rev. J. O. Thrush accepted the call of the church and entered upon its pastorate. May 7, 1891, the erection of a new church building was decided upon, to cost not less than \$6,000 and not more than \$10,000. A. W. Miller, M. C. Stephenson and A. C. Perine were elected as a building committee and the work of construction proceeded with. The total amount paid on account of the new church building, as shown by the treasurer's report of June 8, 1893, was \$6,466.09. The amount of the loan from the Congregational Church Building Society on account of the building was \$1,500. The old church building was sold to the Friends church society and was removed to a site on East Second street: from there it was later moved to the corner of Fourth and Prairie streets, where it now stands with but little change in its exterior appearance.

March 11, 1899, Rev. Thrush resigned, to accept a pastorate at Webster City, Iowa. During his pastorate of nearly seven years the membership of the church increased to one hundred and eighty-two in number, and the beautiful church home was erected and largely paid for. The church appears to have been remarkably blessed in a material way and to have experienced in a special manner the grace and favor of God.

Rev. Thrush was succeeded by Rev. Glen A. Taylor, who continued in the ministry of the church until August, 1902. During his pastorate the church debt was reduced to \$1,100, and the church maintained a healthful and prosperous condition. During Mr. Taylor's pastorate a furnace was put into the parsonage and other repairs and improvements made. The membership of the church at the close of this term was one hundred and eighty-three.

Rev. Earnest E. Day was called from Open Door Congregational church, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, to the pastorate of the church September 26, 1902, and entered upon the ministry October 1st of that year. Eighty persons have united with the church during Mr. Day's pastorate. In 1903 the old standing debt of the church, amounting to the sum of \$1,100, was wiped out completely. In 1904 the rooms in the basement of the church were finished and completed at a cost of \$1,566.16. All of these expenses have been paid. At the present time cement walks have been completed at a cost of \$110 at the parsonage and at

the east side of the church, and the same have been paid for by voluntary subscriptions.

The present membership of the church is two hundred and thirty. Its Sunday school numbers about two hundred. It also has auxiliary aids, a Woman's Missionary Society, the Christian Endeavor Society, and a Ladies' Aid Society, the latter of which has been very helpful in the financial work of the church.

In this brief sketch mention should have been made of many choice spirits who have labored in the upbuilding of the church, but space has not permitted. They will, however, receive their rewards according to their works, and though their memories fade, their works will live and honor them for all time. The present pastor of the church is Rev. Earnest Elsworth Day.

THE NEW CHURCH EDIFICE.

The new church edifice was commenced in 1892 and dedicated June, 1893. It stands diagonally across the street from the first site of the other church.

It is composed of pressed brick and the greater part of the building is of frame.

The main floor contains the auditorium, lecture room, study (which is used by the infant class in Sabbath school), the lower room, where stairs lead to the floor below.

The auditorium is nearly octagonal in shape.

There are four beautiful memorial windows in the church, bearing the names of J. K. Andrew, A. W. Miller, Laura McAllister and Adelia West. In the upper part of the north wall a handsome window was placed by the King's Daughters.

The seating capacity of the main floor, including the lecture room, is about four hundred.

On the lower floor are found a kitchen, two cloak rooms, a spacious dining room, and a social room. These rooms were furnished and finished in 1904 at a cost of \$1,600. The cost of the entire church was about \$6,500.

THE LADIES' AID SOCIETY.

In 1874, thirty-four years ago, the women of the church and congregation met at the home of Mrs. Snyder, a widow living on East Third street, just east of where Dr. McAllister's residence now stands, and organized the Ladies' Aid Society. About fifteen women were present, among them being Mrs. Van Epp and Mrs. A. W. Miller, now residents of Spencer. There were also present Mesdames Hubbard, Garfield, McCoy, Davis, Eggleston, Sands, McAllister and Miss Mattie Bowman. A membership fee of one dollar was collected, and the dues were fixed at twenty-five cents per year. The new church, which is the one now owned by the Friends society, was built that fall and winter, and the ladies held a bazaar and gave a supper in it before it was completed. They had given one supper before this one, on the second floor of the Thorine building on Main street.

There was no parsonage at this time, but Mr. Coleman lived on Grove street.

When Mr. Cumings' pastorate began the aid society was reorganized. This was in the fall of 1879. As now recollected by the older members, the meeting for this purpose was held with Mrs. T. P. Bender on West Third street. A large number of the ladies were present, among them being Mesdames Allen, Verharen, Andrews, Cumings, Morrison, Purdy and Secor, besides most of those present at the first organization. Mrs. Cumings was made president. The society at this time met from house to house, and often did sewing for charitable purposes. They also furnished supper, to which the gentlemen were also invited.

Mrs. Theodore Secor succeeded Mrs. Cumings as president. She was the wife of Dr. Secor, who recently moved to Minneapolis.

Beginning in June, 1887, and continuing for several years, the society held its business meetings and gave its suppers in the library rooms on Main street.

When the present house of worship was erected the society furnished \$1,500. The total amount turned over to the church building account since 1892 is \$4,673.46, and the total receipts of the society since 1887 amounts to \$8,457.53. A list of the presidents of the society since the administration of Mrs. Secor, as disclosed by the records, is as follows: Mrs. Secor, Mrs. J. G. West, Mrs. C. E. Adams, Mrs. G. G. Perkins, Mrs. A. C. Parker, Mrs. C. E. Blondel, Mrs. M. C. Stevenson, Mrs. W. P. Ward, Mrs. J. N. Andrew, Mrs. C. E. Leach, Mrs. Emma Ingalls, Mrs. Charles McAllister, Mrs. B. F. Felt, Mrs. B. W. Doty and Mrs. G. H. Martin.

HISTORY OF WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

At a meeting held March 2, 1888, at the parsonage, a missionary society to be called the Woman's Missionary Society of Spencer Congregational Church was organized.

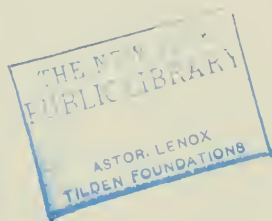
Mrs. Perkins, wife of the pastor, was elected as president of the society; Mrs. Verharen, vice president; Mrs. A. A. Flint, secretary; Mrs. C. E. Taylor, treasurer.

The names of the seventeen charter members are as follows: Mrs. A. C. Perine, Mrs. Charles McAllister, Mrs. William Morrison, Mrs. M. C. Stephenson, Mrs. Frank Barnard, Mrs. L. M. Snow, Mrs. J. N. Andrew, Mrs. John Francis, Mrs. C. E. Adams, Mrs. S. S. Snow, Mrs. Frank Kimball, Mrs. J. G. West, Mrs. Clarissa Van Epps, Mrs. A. C. Parker, Misses Minnie Perkins and Hattie Goodell. It was provided that each lady should pay not less than \$1 per year or ten cents a month. Gentlemen were to be made honorary members by the payment of \$1.

The meetings were held the first Friday of each month, at 2:30 p. m., until October 10, 1890, when it was voted to hold them the last Friday of the month, on account of the publications used for help, they coming in from the first to the middle of the month. The annual thanksgiving was collected by members of the society, as Mrs. J. I. Adams could testify. Mrs. Perkins held the office of president until the fall of 1890.



SPENCER HIGH SCHOOL



Officers elected April, 1891, were: President, Mrs. Verharen; vice president, Mrs. E. H. Crandall; secretary, Mrs. J. O. Thrush; treasurer, Miss Flora Oliver; collector, Mrs. L. M. Snow. These held office until 1893, with the exception of Mrs. A. C. Parker, who was chosen vice president.

In 1894 Miss Hattie Goodell was made president; Mrs. C. E. Adams, vice president; Mrs. J. O. Thrush, secretary; Miss Flora Oliver, treasurer; for five months, making the Thanksgiving meeting the last meeting of the year. At this meeting Mrs. Andrew was elected president.

The society was held together by the earnest and faithful persistence of these few women until 1895, when Mrs. Thrush was made president. She established a new method of raising money and of increasing interest in the missionary work. A committee of three was appointed to furnish and serve a ten-cent supper each month, at the different homes. This proved very satisfactory, from \$3 to \$9 being added to the treasury at each meeting. She also outlined a plan of study for each meeting during the year, having programs printed. Mrs. Thrush held the office of president during her stay in Spencer, until March, 1899, when, to the regret of all, Mr. and Mrs. Thrush moved to Webster City. By her strong personality and intense interest the standard of the missionary work was raised beyond the expectation of the most hopeful, the membership being three times as large as at its beginning.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

Historical Sketch.

The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor was organized March 10, 1889. The following officers were elected to serve the society: President, Miss Minnie Perkins; vice president, Miss Fannie M. Baldy; secretary Miss Hattie Goodell; treasurer, Miss M. A. Albee. These, with Misses Mary Garfield and Maggie Henry, were the charter members of the organization.

June 2d of the same year the first of a series of joint meetings with the Young Ladies' Missionary Society was held.

April 20, 1891, the society was reorganized, a new constitution adopted, and growth in numbers followed.

October 30, 1892, the society had on its roll the names of thirty-seven active members and thirty-two associate members. The society since that time has had a somewhat checkered career.

It has been on the whole a means of promoting the interests of the kingdom in our church work. At present it has some thirty members, maintains a prayer meeting which meets every Sunday evening, and contributes yearly to the benevolent societies of our church.

WILLIAM LEWIS COLEMAN.

In the early summer of 1872, Rev. W. L. Coleman entered upon his labors as the first pastor of the church. The church was fortunate in securing a man of good education and wide experience as its first pastor.

Mr. Coleman was a native of New York, born in Mt. Hope, November 14, 1817, and received both his college and professional training at Oberlin. Shortly

after his graduation from Oberlin Theological Seminary, in 1846, he married Temperance Little, at Middletown, New York.

The following spring he came to Bellevue, Iowa. Here he remained nine years as pastor of the Congregational church. In 1856 he took charge of the Congregational church at Stacyville, Iowa. After seven years of service he was called, in 1863, to the Congregational church at Mitchell. It was nine years after this that he occupied the pastorate at Spencer. Three years before his departure from Mitchell his wife died, leaving three sons.

The first son died in infancy at Bellevue. In 1871 Mr. Coleman married Electa Abernathy. A year later he began his work in Spencer, with a church of eleven members. His was the task of laying the foundation—of working and waiting.

After leaving Spencer Mr. Coleman was pastor of the Congregational church at Big Rock for one year. In 1881 he moved to Grinnell to enjoy the advantages of a college town. After eleven years' residence in Grinnell he went to Portland, Oregon. Here he spent the remainder of his life. His death occurred at Portland, November 10, 1900. Mrs. Coleman died three years later. Mr. Coleman was the father of eight children, four of whom survive him. W. G. Coleman, Terrill, Iowa; Charles H. Coleman, White Bear, Minnesota; Fred a Coleman, London, England, and Lewis C. Coleman, Portland, Oregon.

REV. J. M. CUMINGS.

Rev. J. M. Cumings was called to succeed Mr. Coleman as pastor of the church. Like his predecessor, he was educated at Oberlin college and Theological Seminary.

In his childhood his parents moved from South Amherst, Ohio, where he was born in 1848, to Tabor, Iowa. Here he later prepared for college.

Shortly after graduating from Oberlin Theological Seminary he began the work of the first pastorate at Exira, Iowa. Two and a half years later he accepted a call to become the pastor of the Congregational church at Spencer. He came to this field with his wife, Carrie Briggs Cumings, in November, 1879, and remained three years.

For a few years the growth of the town was rapid and the church doubled its membership. The west half of the parsonage was built, the church assumed self-support and a bell was purchased. These were prosperous years for the Spencer church. The success was due in great measure to the painstaking efforts of a consecrated pastor and his energetic wife. During the first year at Spencer Mr. Cumings spent one Sunday at Emmetsburg. The church was reorganized, a frame building erected and the membership increased to twenty new members.

Mr. Cumings' subsequent pastorates were at Anita, serving for five years, at Dunlap for six years, at Baxter for one year, and at Denmark for four years.

In December, 1903, Mr. and Mrs. Cumings were called upon to mourn the loss of their elder daughter, Edith Louise, who died at Grinnell. She was a member of the senior class of Iowa college, and her life was full of hope and promise. A second daughter, Irene, born at Anita, Iowa, April 16, 1885, is living at home in Denmark.

GEORGE GOODWIN PERKINS.

George Goodwin Perkins, the third pastor of the church, was born in Pittsfield, New Hampshire, from which place his parents removed when he was a child, to Exeter, New Hampshire. Here for more than a half a century his parents resided. This was his home until he became of age and went into Massachusetts for study and work.

He was educated in the schools and in an academy of his native state. Later he pursued literary and scientific studies in Middleboro, Massachusetts. He also studied theology in Massachusetts. His first ministerial work was of a home missionary character in the counties of Worcester and Franklin, in Massachusetts. He was ordained at East Douglas, Massachusetts, March 27, 1857, by the Wesleyan Methodist Conference. In 1860, he united with the Massachusetts Plymouth Association of Congregational Ministers. The following is the record of his time and place of ministry:

Pastor at Lakeville, Massachusetts, 1861-63; pastor at East Taunton, Massachusetts, 1863-66; pastor at Kidder, Missouri, 1866-71; pastor at Hamilton, Missouri, 1871-75; pastor at Ames, Iowa, 1875-80; pastor at Avoca, Iowa, 1880-83; pastor at Spencer, Iowa, 1883-90; pastor at Rock Rapids, Iowa, 1890-93; pastor at Blair, Nebraska, 1893-97; pastor at Rodney, Iowa, 1897-99; pastor at Rogers, Arkansas, 1899-1902.

At the beginning of Mr. Perkins' pastorate in Spencer the parsonage was enlarged to about double its original size. The house of worship was too small, especially for the Sunday school. At this time the planning, toiling and sacrificing for the new building began. No definite action was taken except to secure lots upon which the church now stands.

Before the close of Mr. Perkins' work the debt upon the parsonage was removed, and improvements were made of the parsonage property. During the latter part of his ministry Mr. Perkins preached occasionally at the Harmony schoolhouse.

Since leaving Rogers, Arkansas, his last charge, Mr. Perkins has lived at Moline, Illinois, having completed nearly half a century in active work of the ministry. Such as he can look back upon an active, useful life, spent in faithful, loving service.

In March, 1856, Mr. Perkins married Emily A. Cleveland at Princeton, Massachusetts. There have been eight children, six of whom are living: Mrs. William Kimball, Lincoln, Nebraska; Mrs. W. H. Kennedy, Chicago, Illinois; Mrs. C. H. Ainsworth, Moline, Illinois; Mr. S. A. Perkins, Tacoma, Washington, Emily M. Perkins, Moline, Illinois; Mrs. C. C. St. Clair, Marshalltown, Iowa.

JOHN OLIVER THRUSH.

Rev. John Oliver Thrush, the fourth pastor of the church, was born on a farm near Keyser, Mineral county, West Virginia. At the age of sixteen years he began his studies in normal school at Fairmont, where he graduated two years later. He then entered Lebanon Valley college, taking and completing the classical course. In the fall of 1885 he entered the divinity school at Yale, graduating at the end of three years.

He then became pastor of the Congregational church at Postville, Iowa, where he was ordained September 20, 1888. He was pastor of the Congregational church at Postville for a little more than two years, when he resigned to take a year of post-graduate study at Johns Hopkins university.

In February, 1891, Mr. Thrush accepted a call to become pastor of the Congregational church in Spencer, which position he filled for a little over eight years. In April, 1889, he accepted a call to the First Congregational church of Webster City, where he is still pastor.

In the early years of Mr. Thrush's ministry in Spencer a new church was built at a cost of about \$6,000. The work of the church building was commenced in 1892. A year later came the completion of a beautiful and commodious house of worship, which was dedicated early in June.

Then followed the era of large congregations, a flourishing Sabbath school and general prosperity. During Mr. Thrush's pastorate one hundred and seventy names were added to the church roll. The church found in him an impressive speaker, an able leader, and an earnest Christian. In 1899 his resignation was reluctantly accepted.

Shortly after coming to Spencer Mr. Thrush was united in marriage with Ada E. Brown, of Rockford, Iowa. Their three children are Waldo Brown, Carol and Marion.

GLEN A. TAYLOR.

Glen A. Taylor, who succeeded Mr. Thrush as pastor of the church, was born in Denmark, Iowa, July 7, 1860. He united with the Denmark church—the first Congregational church in Iowa—at the age of twelve years.

His preparation for college was made at Denmark academy, and he entered Williams college in the fall of 1881, graduating with the class of 1885. Following his graduation from Williams, he spent one year at Chicago theological seminary. He later entered Yale divinity school, from which he graduated in 1889. After a year of post-graduate work at Andover Mr. Taylor began his first pastorate in Stuart, Iowa. Previous to this time he did several years of home missionary work in Nebraska.

He was ordained in Stuart, Iowa, November 19, 1890. Here he remained as pastor for nine years, when he received a call from the Congregational church at Spencer. Three years later he was called to the Congregational church at Emmetsburg. Here he remained two years. Failing health compelled him to close his work in October, 1904, much to the regret of his entire church. He is now living on a farm in Denmark.

During Mr. Taylor's pastorate in Spencer needed improvements were made on the church property. The interior of the church was beautifully frescoed and the exterior repainted. Cement walks were laid in front of the church and the parsonage repaired. In three years sixty-nine members were received into the church.

Mr. Taylor is a scholarly man of great ability, who is thoroughly devoted to his work. He has spent a number of vacations studying at Chicago university and Harvard divinity school.

In 1890 Mr. Taylor married Flora Wetmore, a graduate of Iowa college and

of Wesley college in music and languages. They have two daughters, Miriam, born in 1891, and Esther, born in 1898.

ERNEST ELLSWORTH DAY.

Ernest Ellsworth Day was born at Mazeppa, Wabash county, Minnesota.

He prepared for college at the preparatory department of Carleton college, at Northfield, Minnesota, entering the fall of 1888. He spent his freshman year at Carleton, after which he spent a few months at Williams college, at Williamstown, Massachusetts. Returning to Minnesota, he entered the state university, graduating in 1895. After a year spent in the pastorate at Lyle, Minnesota, he entered Yale divinity school, graduating from that institution in 1899. August 1st the same year he began work as pastor of the Open Door Congregational church in Minneapolis. He had supplied a number of various pulpits in Minnesota during his vacations.

He was ordained to the gospel ministry October 24, 1889.

September 20, 1900, Mr. Day married, at Denver, Colorado, Miss Florence M. Coleman.

In the fall of 1902 he accepted a call to the Congregational church of Spencer, beginning work October 1st of that year. Since that time the Congregational rooms have been finished and furnished, the kitchen equipped with all modern improvements, the parsonage and grounds improved, and the sidewalk enterprise of 1905 carried out. Mr. Day is an inspiration to the church in all its departments, and is maintaining the high ideals of Christian living.

SPENCER'S SEWERAGE SYSTEM.

No community can have a perfect system of water works without sewerage, and this fact became apparent to the citizens of Spencer within the past few years. Sanitation alone demanded sewerage, if for no other reason; but there were many other reasons for the improvement, and today Spencer has a splendid system of twenty-two thousand one hundred and thirty-one feet, not including laterals, which cost the taxpayers \$32,352.56. The money has been well spent, and as the demand arises more will be constructed. The sewerage system, with the splendid waterworks system of the city, gives to Spencer a character abroad that tends to her ultimate benefit. Those looking for a residence city always make inquiries in regard to these things. The city that has a good waterworks and sewerage system, first class schools and a moral, intelligent, progressive people is the place the most sought after by the parents who have children to rear properly, and who not only enjoy but demand these modern blessings.. Such a place is Spencer. and her citizens are proud of it.

STREETS AND SIDEWALKS OF SPENCER.

The citizens of Spencer are proud of their town and there is a spirit abroad among them to build wisely and well. This is shown by the number of substantial modern and costly business blocks, the handsome new courthouse, beautiful residences and well kept streets. In the matter of sidewalks the city excels. There are now laid in Spencer two hundred and thirty blocks of cement walks, and so

well laid and constructed that no expense need be expected on them for many years to come. Added to the walks should be the one hundred and twenty-three crossings, made of cement and substantially laid.

SPENCER ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT.

To be up with the times and meet the urgent demands of business men and residents of Spencer, an electric light plant was deemed not only essential but an imperative necessity. Oil lamps at the street corners did not fill the bill, nor did the people want gas. Electric lights were considered the only modern illuminant, and a number of public-spirited citizens determined to make a move for the attainment of their desire. Chief among these was A. W. Miller, at the time president of the First National bank. In 1891, with Franklin Floete, Ackley Hubbard, Dr. Charles McAllister, T. P. Bender, W. L. Bender and eighty-eight others, a stock company was organized and incorporated for the purpose of building and conducting an electric light and power plant. At the time of the incorporation the capital stock was set at \$8,000; in 1894 this was increased to \$14,000, and later further increased to \$25,000. The officers of the company were as follows: President, Ackley Hubbard; vice president, A. W. Miller; secretary, S. S. Snow; treasurer, H. N. Smith.

The work of building the plant was at once commenced. The powerhouse, constructed of brick, was located just north of and along the track of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad and facing on Main street. Engines and other machinery, of the best modern construction, were installed, and one arc and one incandescent dynamo set up in their places. Poles were erected and wires strung, and before the end of the year the people of Spencer were no longer in darkness, but were supplied with a light equal to the best.

While the lights gave eminent satisfaction to the patrons of the company, the latter, or the stockholders, reaped no benefit. For them there was no profit and, it is said, when the property was eventually disposed of to the city, the stockholders lost all they had invested in the enterprise. In 1901 the electric light plant went into the possession of the city of Spencer, the remuneration therefor being \$16,698.63. Since then a number of improvements have been made, new dynamos installed and many new patrons of the utility secured. Today the concern is more than self-sustaining and the product of the plant is second to none in the state. In 1908 a continuous service was inaugurated, so that the light is obtainable at any time, day or night.

WATERWORKS.

After an expenditure of several thousands of dollars Spencer has succeeded in securing good water supply and is well protected in this respect in case of fires. At first a well of large dimensions was sunk to a great depth. A wind pump of commodious size and strength was placed over the well and a large reservoir of the most substantial character, fully enclosed with large wooden timbers, was constructed, capable of holding thousands of gallons of water. The connection was made by a large water main leading through the principal streets, placed at such a depth that sufficient pressure was given to afford good fire

service and throw a stream of good size a distance of over a hundred feet. Smaller mains were laid and a number of patrons used the water in their buildings, drawn from the mammoth well. It was of sufficient capacity to meet all the needed requirements and was regarded as a good protection against any ordinary fire.

As the city increased in population, the demand for water kept pace with its growth. This necessitated the laying of new mains and many connections. It became apparent that the capacity of the works was not sufficient to meet the demands made upon them. New wells were dug, and in 1907 a steel tank of sufficient capacity was erected on high steel supports. The height of the tank gives sufficient pressure to the water to more than reach the top of any building in the city. For emergency purposes a large reservoir has been constructed. The water is pumped into the tank and the reservoir at the electric light station. The Spencer waterworks as now constructed and completed affords to the city splendid fire protection.

COMPARATIVE PROPERTY LIST.

The following list shows the property owned by the city of Spencer, with the actual values April 1, 1906, and also April 1, 1907, after deducting reasonable depreciation and including all repairs and additions for the year:

	April 1, 1906.	April 1, 1907
Electric light plant (not including cash on hand or bills receivable)	\$16,552.96	\$16,976.72
Waterworks:		
Pipe	\$10,215.02	\$10,210.80
Tank		4,800.00
Wells	1,500.00	1,500.00
Cover on wells.....	665.00	631.75
Building	500.00	500.00
Pump	1,056.00	960.00
Hydrants	441.00	409.50
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	14,377.02	19,012.05
Lot 12, blk. 32, C., M. & St. P. Ry. Add. (City Hall) ..	1,300.00	1,300.00
Lots 3-4, block 18, College Add. (Pest House).....	600.00	550.00
Lots 14-15-16, blk. B., Orig. Plat (Public Library, including fixtures).....	12,890.88	13,019.88
Lots 4-5, blk. I., Harrisburg (Gravel Pit).....	250.00	200.00
South hose cart house.....	105.00	100.00
City Scales, including building.....	300.00	300.00
Riverside Cemetery (unsold lots).....	11,133.00	10,569.00
Riverside Cemetery (tools and improvements).....	840.00	798.00
Fire apparatus	2,000.25	2,004.64
Street Commissioner's tools.....	200.00	180.00
Books in Library.....	2,668.92	2,668.92
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total.....	\$63,218.03	\$67,672.51

STATISTICAL INFORMATION.

The city had, on April 1, 1907, 4,748 feet of 4-inch, 9,045 feet of 6-inch, 400 feet of 8-inch and 14,613 feet of 10-inch water mains and twenty-one fire hydrants.

Out of a total of 237 blocks of walk in the city, 209 are already cement and about one-half of the balance have been condemned and will be put in during the summer.

There are forty-six cement alley crossings and seventy-seven cement street crossings (including approaches), already laid, and arrangements have been made to lay fifty more street crossings with approaches this season.

The city had 418 electric lights and 162 water consumers, with prospects for several more the coming season.

There is 18,681 feet of sewer system valued at \$28,948.16, with about 1,700 feet to be put in this season.

The public library contains 2,901 volumes besides 500 state and government books and innumerable magazines and periodicals.

FARMERS' ELEVATOR COMPANY.

The farmers of Clay county had long been satisfied in their own minds that the grain buyers were not giving them a "square deal" in handling their grain. They felt positive the elevator companies were making profits to the loss of the producer and it was concluded, after a number of meetings had been held, to form a cooperative company, the members to be farmers of the county, for their mutual benefit and protection. Hence, in 1907, the Farmers' Elevator Company was organized and incorporated at Spencer and capitalized at \$25,000. The purpose of the company was the buying and selling of grain, coal, binding twine and hogs; the profits, after all expenses were paid, to be credited pro rata to the members of the company. About one hundred and seventy entered the enterprise as stockholders and the following officers were selected: President, F. H. Black, of Summit Township; vice president, L. E. LaBrant, of Spencer, a retired farmer; secretary, P. N. Larson, of Meadow Township; treasurer, William F. Torbett, of Riverton Township; Andrew Anderson, of Spencer, manager.

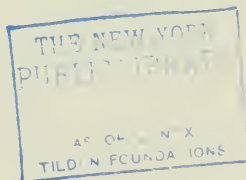
July 1, 1907, business commenced by the new cooperative concern in the elevator standing near the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul depot at Spencer, which the company had purchased of the Hunting Elevator Company, of McGregor, Iowa, and from the start the concern has been encouraged to continue its endeavors to save for its members the profits on corn, wheat and hogs that would otherwise go into the pockets of the elevator companies. The start has been a good one and the manager in plain terms gave the writer to understand that the business of the company is bringing in a satisfactory return, both to its officers and members.

SPENCER MILLS.

The Marcellus mill, built by Garrett D. Marcellus, stood on the bank of the Little Sioux River and was run by water power. A large dam was built across the river, but it finally became untenable owing to quicksand. And then, also, the city began thinking of and planning a sewage system and this dam was a



GRACE M. E. CHURCH, SPENCER



menace to the proper drainage of the city so, after E. H. Tryon and James Bruntlett had purchased the mill and dam, the city authorities bought of them the dam and destroyed it. At this time the Bender Bros. Company was conducting a milling and elevator business, in a mill just south of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad track, on the east side of Main street. The Benders and the other members of the company, which included Tryon and Bruntlett, then organized the Spencer Grain Company. This company continued business in the new mill, to which part of the machinery of the Marcellus mill had been taken, for some time, when the Benders retired, and the members of the concern continued the business under the name of the Spencer Milling Company, which was organized in 1891. Before this, part of the members separated from the concern, and went to Minneapolis, taking with them all interests the grain company had in the elevators belonging to it. Those prominent in the organization of the Spencer Milling Company were James Bruntlett, A. W. Miller, Jr., Mrs. J. P. Evans, and others, members of the former company. The Spencer Milling Company was capitalized at \$25,000. Wirt Bronson is the manager. The Spencer Milling Company also built a sixty-barrel mill at White Lake, South Dakota. The main purpose of this mill is to secure the best quality of hard, winter wheat for the Spencer mill.

The mill of this company is a large four-story frame building, 32x64 feet. The capacity is 150 barrels per day. The mill is equipped with good machinery and seven double stands of rollers. The popular local brand of flour turned out is "The Royal." The company has two representatives on the road and sends its product over the states of Iowa and Wisconsin.

SPENCER ELEVATORS.

Clay county has been and is today one of the banner grain counties of the state and Spencer, consequently, for years past has been a splendid market for cereals. This is evidenced by five large elevators, three on the M. & St. L. railroad and two on the C., M. & St. P. railroad. At the latter road is the Farmers' Cooperative Elevator and that of the Reliance Elevator Company. At the M. & St. L. are the elevators belonging to the DeWolf & Wells Elevator Company, Skewis & Moen Elevator Company, and the third one is conducted by F. M. Tuttle.

For the past few years these elevators have not been doing the business of former times. The amount of grain brought to them has decreased from year to year and it is now asserted two elevators are all that are necessary. One reason for this is given in the statement that a great amount of grain is now fed on the farms and used in dairying.

SPENCER FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

The Iowa Mercantile Mutual Fire Insurance Company was organized in Spencer in 1895 by A. W. Green, Ackley Hubbard, William Flindt, F. A. Hiser, D. E. Knight and others, and the following officers were selected: A. W. Green, president; C. W. Coffin, secretary; William Flindt, treasurer. The present

officers are: A. W. Green, president; W. H. Golly, of Zeoring, Iowa, vice president; D. L. Ryder, secretary; William Flindt, treasurer.

This is one of the flourishing concerns of Clay county. It now has about \$4,000,000 in risks on a purely mutual plan. The concern insures nothing but mercantile risks and town dwellings and makes a saving, according to its statement, on mercantile risks of 25 per cent. and on dwellings of 50 per cent.

EARLING HOTEL.

In 1887 a stock company was organized for the purpose of erecting a hotel building which would be in keeping with the general prosperity and growth of Spencer, and as a result the present handsome and commodious Earling hotel was completed, at a cost of something less than \$20,000, including furniture. The Earling is the leading hotel and is thoroughly furnished throughout, and is an ornament and great advantage to Spencer. There are many reasons why a first-class hotel is a benefit to a town. The first thing a stranger or traveling man wishes to know on entering a place, is the name and locality of a good hotel, whether he wants simply a meal or intends to stay a day or a week or even longer. And in many cases a stranger is either favorably impressed with a town by the class and character of its hotels, or unfavorably impressed with them. Fortunately, Spencer is well provided in this respect. The Earling was built to supply the wants and demands of the traveling public. It is a commodious three-story building with basement, most admirably and conveniently arranged with the latest and most modern improvements. It is heated with steam, provided with electric bells in every room, and supplied with new furniture, carpets and dining room essentials. It is pronounced by the traveling public to be one of the neatest, most substantially constructed and best arranged hotels in the northwest. The first manager and principal stockholder, J. B. Stamp, had, from many years' experience in the hotel business, acquired the faculty of making the guests feel as if they were friends rather than strangers, and at home rather than in a public house. He was one of the most hospitable of hosts, his pleasant manner and general agreeableness making him many warm and lasting friends.

The Earling Hotel is now in the possession of E. B. Stouffer & Co.—the Misses Lulu and E. B. Stouffer, and J. A. Beck, nonresidents of Spencer.

INSURANCE.

Clay county has two organized insurance companies, which are doing a most excellent business, and are greeted with favor in all parts of the county. We herewith give a somewhat lengthy detailed account of what they are and what they are doing, in order that the readers may have an idea of their general plan of doing business.

The Farmers' Fire and Lightning Insurance Association was organized December 3, 1888, and began business February 1, 1889. It is conducted on the mutual plan, and is more economical than the old line insurance. Only small fees are allowed the officers and agents, and the greatest of care is taken in the risks they insure. A brief comparison of the record of the "stock companies," and the expense entailed, with that of the "mutual companies," will demonstrate very

clearly that the latter costs far less. For the year 1888 the average cost to the farmers of Iowa who were members of the "mutual company" was 16 cents on every \$100 covered by their policies. During that same time the "stock companies" received from the people of Iowa \$4,279,023.34, and returned as payment for losses \$1,109,555.77. Another feature of the mutual is that it is prompt. The adjustor can be on the ground soon after the fire, and at once ascertain the loss, if any. So far, this company has not had many losses by fire since its organization. The first loss by lightning occurred June 19, 1899, when five head of steers were killed. They were valued at \$90, and within ten hours the adjustor was notified of the loss, and it was paid in full.

Another most satisfactory feature of this company is that it is secure. It is secure because every man who becomes a member is personally responsible for the losses, and every policy issued has, for a faithful performance of what it claims it will do, the backing of the real estate and personal property of the aggregation of farmers who belong to the association. Experience has clearly demonstrated that the farmers who belong to the mutual are prompt and honorable in the payment of their assessment.

There is another commendable and important factor in the composition of this organization, and that is it is equitable. Their motto is even-handed justice to all. No quibbling, but promptness in the payment of a just and honest debt. The farmers of Clay county should avail themselves of the easy terms of the company, and insure in it and thus keep their money at home.

The association is ably officered by strong, substantial and wealthy farmers, who are noted for probity and judgment. The following list of officers is for the year 1889: President, A. W. Green; secretary, E. H. Crandall; treasurer, Fred Lachner; directors, J. L. Eckley, J. C. Winset, R. J. Archer, James Goodwin, F. A. Hiser and A. J. Livingston.

The present officers are as follows: J. P. Mills, president; J. H. Graham, vice president; A. W. Green, secretary; W. H. Mincer, treasurer. Including the officers the board of directors consists of J. L. Lowe, J. B. Wilson, G. W. Moehller, C. L. Halthoues, and G. H. Schuneman.

The risks for this company for 1908 were \$2,420,574. The average cost to the insured per \$1,000 each year for the past five years was \$1.98. Which is about the general average for the twenty years of existence.

The company completed its chartered life December 3, 1908, and was again reorganized with practically the same list of officers.

CLAY COUNTY ABSTRACT COMPANY.

The Clay County Abstract Company was organized in 1906 by J. W. Cory, W. S. Bemis, J. E. Steele, Harlan J. Buck, Fred Kirkpatrick, W. E. Barnhart and Guy H. Martin, all of whom, prior to the consolidation, owned sets of abstract books of the county. The gentlemen named, all members of the bar, entered into an agreement to turn all abstract records over to the company, at a certain price for each set, and it was agreed that the capitalization of the company should be \$8,000. The firm of Buck & Kirkpatrick undertook to do the abstract business for the company, at a fixed percentage, and the balance of all fees to go into the company treasury. J. W. Cory was selected for president; H. J. Buck, secretary;

J. M. Oliver, assistant secretary and stenographer; J. H. McCord, treasurer. The official title of the concern is the Clay County Abstract Company.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF SPENCER.

The First National Bank is regarded as one of the leading banking institutions of the northwest and has become a useful and important factor in promoting and fostering the interests of the community. That it has attained a degree of prominence and the confidence of the public is evidenced by the fact of its immense and increasing business. It began business August 23, 1888, and in its sworn report to the comptroller of the treasury July 12, 1889, showed that its deposits had reached \$44,271.79, and its resources aggregated \$122,275.90, a most creditable and healthful state of financial prominence and prosperity. Its first officers were the following: President, A. W. Miller; vice president, T. P. Bender; cashier, P. E. Randall; directors, A. C. Perine, David Painter, E. C. Hughes, T. P. Bender and A. W. Miller. Its paid up capital was \$50,000. When the First National consolidated with the Clay County Bank, its capital stock was increased to \$100,000. The present officers are: President, Charles McAllister; vice president, H. N. Smith; cashier, C. P. Buckey. This bank has a surplus fund of \$20,000; deposits of \$280,000.

THE PEOPLE'S SAVINGS BANK OF SPENCER.

The People's Savings Bank was organized in 1891, and has a paid up capital of \$25,000, although its authorized capital is \$50,000. Its deposits amount to \$230,000. The bank was organized by J. L. Nicodemus, Edward Nicodemus, Franklin Floete, W. L. Bender, S. S. Snow, J. W. Cory, W. S. Bemis, and S. E. Burley. Its first officers were: President, J. W. Cory; vice president, Edward Nicodemus; cashier, S. S. Snow. Board of directors: Edward Nicodemus, Franklin Floete, W. L. Bender, S. S. Snow and J. W. Cory. Its present officers: H. N. Smith, president; J. L. Nicodemus, vice president; Charles L. Howe, cashier.

M. E. GRIFFIN'S BANK OF SPENCER.

This bank was established in 1880, by M. E. Griffin and J. Q. Adams, both of whom were large land dealers. Some years ago Mr. Adams retired from the firm. Mr. Griffin does a general banking business. For an extended sketch of Mr. Griffin see another page of this work.

Connected with the Griffin bank is E. G. Morgan, who has been the general manager and right hand man of Mr. Griffin for the past twenty-six years. E. Taggart has been bookkeeper for some time.

THE CITIZENS' NATIONAL BANK OF SPENCER.

The Citizens' National Bank of Spencer is an offshoot of the Citizens' State Bank of Spencer. The State Bank was organized in March, 1897, and capitalized at \$50,000.

The Citizens' National Bank was organized in September, 1903, and capitalized at \$50,000. Franklin Floete was the first president; Andrew R. Smith, vice president, and Ackley Hubbard, cashier. The present officers of the bank are as

follows: Franklin Floete, president; A. R. Smith, vice president; J. H. McCord, cashier; P. J. Cilley, assistant cashier. The bank's deposits will reach \$200,000.

THE CITIZENS' SAVINGS BANK OF SPENCER.

The above named bank was organized in 1900. Capitalized at \$10,000 and deposits, \$75,000. The first president was Ackley Hubbard; vice president, W. L. Bender; cashier, Alice Hubbard. The present officers are: President, J. H. McCord; vice president, W. L. Bender; cashier, P. J. Cilley.

CLAY COUNTY BANK.

This was one of the first banks in the county, having been established in the spring of 1876 in Spencer. It had been so long and prominently identified with the county and had been so liberal in its dealings with its depositors and patrons that it was regarded as one of the solidest institutions in the northwest. It was noted for the helping hand it extended, not alone to the people but to the county, whose credit it was largely instrumental in maintaining, at a period when it was necessary that the county's warrants should be received and passed for one hundred cents on the dollar.

The bank was organized in 1876, with J. L. Nicodemus as president and A. W. Miller as cashier. A small frame building was erected on Main street, near the old courthouse building, where they transacted its business until 1882, when they moved in their handsome two-story, double brick building on the corner of Main and Fourth streets. Mr. Nicodemus, who was a heavy capitalist of Maryland, who had previous to opening the bank made a number of loans in the county, came west and after looking over the country decided to open a bank at Spencer. In company with A. W. Miller, who had been a resident of the county several years, he established the Clay County Bank. From a small beginning its growth was steady and substantial, until it was not only the oldest but the strongest financial banking institution in this section of Iowa. Its capital and surplus aggregated \$175,000. The loans amounted to an immense sum and its exchange business was proportionately large. In 1901, it was consolidated with the First National Bank.

FOSTORIA BANK.

The Citizens' Savings Bank of Fostoria was organized in 1902. It is a private bank, and was organized by Ackley Hubbard and others. They have a capital of \$10,000, and deposits of \$77,500. Ackley Hubbard was its first president, but he was afterwards succeeded by Franklin Floete; A. R. Smith is the vice president and the cashier is George W. Anderson.

GREENVILLE BANK.

The bank at Greenville was established in 1901 by J. P. Farmer, F. H. Helsell and H. L. Farmer. These gentlemen are the present officers of the bank.

GILLETT'S GROVE SAVINGS BANK.

This bank was established in 1908. S. Ferguson is president; Anton Bargloff, vice president, and Frank A. Lahr, cashier. They have a capital of \$10,000.

WEBB BANK.

The Citizens' Savings Bank of Webb was organized in 1902. The first officers were Ackley Hubbard, president; Franklin Floete, vice president; R. S. Davis, cashier. They have a capital of \$10,000, deposits of \$45,000. Ackley Hubbard was succeeded by J. H. McCord as president.

ROYAL BANK.

The Citizens' Savings Bank of Royal was organized out of a private bank, owned by Ackley Hubbard and others, which was called the Citizens' Bank. The Citizens' Savings Bank was organized in 1902, with Ackley Hubbard, president; William Flindt, vice president; O. B. Scott, cashier. Its capital is \$10,000, and deposits \$80,000. J. H. McCord succeeded Mr. Hubbard as president.

BANK OF DICKENS.

The Exchange Bank of Dickens was organized January, 1892, by F. M. Tuttle and P. E. Randall. It is a private concern. The present officers are Charles McAllister, president; A. C. Perine, vice president; E. P. Flint, cashier; C. H. Walsh, assistant cashier.

BIOGRAPHICAL







Digitized by Microsoft®
Chas. W. Miller

BIOGRAPHICAL

CHARLES McALLISTER, M. D.

The name of Dr. Charles McAllister has come to be regarded as synonymous with business development and progress in Clay county, for he is not only a most able and successful physician and surgeon, but is also president of the First National Bank of Spencer, president of the Exchange Bank at Dickens and president of the Everly Bank. He thus figures prominently in financial circles and throughout his entire life has directed his efforts where mature judgment and sound discrimination have led the way. Among those who have achieved prominence as men of marked ability and substantial worth in this section of the state Dr. McAllister occupies a prominent position.

A native of New England, he was born at South Lee, Massachusetts, on the 1st of February, 1840, and is of Scotch lineage. His grandfather, Alexander McAllister, was born in the land of hills and heather, of crag and plain, of lowland heath and highland. He was of the Presbyterian faith and both he and his wife lived to a ripe old age, the latter being more than ninety years when called to her final rest. Their children were Daniel, Archibald, Alexander, Charles, Mary and John McAllister.

The last named became the father of Dr. McAllister. He was born in Columbia, New York, and gave his attention to general farming in South Lee, Berkshire county, Massachusetts. He wedded Cynthia Heath, a daughter of George Heath and a representative of one of the old Puritan families of the Bay state. Her father was a native of Massachusetts and was a farmer by occupation. He died at the age of sixty-five years, while his wife passed away when about seventy years of age. Their family numbered one son and eleven daughters. The home of Mr. and Mrs. John McAllister was blessed with three sons and one daughter: George, deceased, who was a surgeon of the Civil war; Mary, who died when about sixteen years of age; Charles, of this review; and Henry, deceased. The parents have also passed away, the father's death occurring in 1874 when he was seventy-four years of age, while his wife died in 1875 at the age of seventy-four. The former was of the Scotch Presbyterian faith, while the mother was a member of the Methodist church.

Dr. Charles McAllister, now the only living representative of the family, was reared upon the home farm in Massachusetts and supplemented his preliminary education by a course in Williams College, which he completed as a member of the class of 1863. He had engaged in teaching for two winter seasons prior to that time and after finishing his literary course he took up the study of medicine and was graduated from the Berkshire Medical College in 1865. He then located for practice in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, where he was accorded an enviable patronage. In 1870 and 1871 he resided at Dixon, Illinois, after which he traveled through the northwest and in 1872 took up his abode in Spencer, where he has since remained as an active representative of the profession. He did not regard his professional education completed when he finished his course in medical college but has always remained a student of the principles of the medical science and through his perusal of the latest medical literature has kept in touch with what the world is doing in the line of his profession. He is quick to adopt any new idea or method which he believes will have real value, in professional service and yet he does not hastily discard old and time-tried methods of practice, the worth of which has been proven in years of experience. He is very careful in the diagnosis of his cases and his ability is demonstrated in a large practice. His brethren of the medical fraternity have accorded him prominence in electing him for several terms to the office of president of the Clay County Medical Society. He is also a member of the Upper Des Moines Medical Association, the State Medical Association, the American Medical Association and the Association of American Railway Surgeons. At the present writing he is president of the pension board of examiners and he has been surgeon for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad for thirty years.

Aside from his professional interests Dr. McAllister has figured prominently in the public life of Spencer and Clay county. He is the owner of a valuable farm of six hundred and forty acres in Riverton township and has other desirable real estate. In 1887 he built the McAllister block in Spencer and has always taken an active interest in encouraging the development of various business industries and the general improvement of Spencer. Since 1897 he has been president of the First National Bank and has gained a notable place in banking circles in this part of the state, being also president of the Exchange Bank at Dickens and of the Everly Bank. His knowledge of the banking business is comprehensive and exact and to the solution of difficult financial problems he has brought keen discernment and penetrating sagacity.

On the 1st of January, 1869, Dr. McAllister was married to Miss Laura McAllister, the adopted daughter of his uncle, Charles McAllister. Three sons were born unto them: Charles, who died in 1878 at the age of two years; Charles, the second of the name, who passed away at the age of fifteen years; and Alexander, who is a graduate of Williams College of the class of 1906 and is now living in Los Angeles, California. The wife and mother passed away in April, 1892, at the age of forty years. She was a member of the Congregational church and her many excellent traits of character endeared her to those with whom she came in contact. On the 28th of December, 1898, Dr. McAllister was married to Miss Fannie E. Spencer, a graduate of Grinnell College and a daugh-

ter of J. A. Spencer, of Alden, Iowa. Both Dr. and Mrs. McAllister hold membership in the Congregational church and are greatly interested in its work and the extension of its influence. He is now serving as church trustee and has been chairman of the board for many years.

In fraternal lines Dr. McAllister is connected with Evening Shade Lodge, No. 312, A. F. & A. M., Clay Chapter, R. A. M., Esdraelon Commandery, K. T., and the Mystic Shrine. His name is also on the membership rolls of the Spencer lodge of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Encampment and Estherville Lodge, No. 528, B. P. O. E. Recognized as one of the leaders in republican circles, he has ever given stalwart allegiance to the principles in which he believes and represented his district in the seventeenth general assembly in 1877-8. His is a well rounded character, not so abnormally developed in any direction as to become a genius and yet with that strength of purpose and ability that has enabled him to accomplish what he has undertaken. Broad-minded and liberal in his views, he has wrought along the lines of the greatest good to the greatest number and Clay county has profited by his efforts in various fields of endeavor. His unbending integrity of character, his fearlessness in the discharge of duty in every relation in which he has been found and his appreciation of the responsibilities that have rested upon him have made him a citizen whose worth is widely acknowledged.

ARCHIE HILLIARD.

The home of Archie Hilliard is just outside the city limits of Spencer in Section 1, Riverton township, and the opportunities and advantages of the city are therefore easily obtainable while the comforts of country life are also to be enjoyed. The life of Mr. Hilliard has been a most busy and useful one and various commercial interests have been promoted and successfully conducted by him. He is now extensively engaged in the manufacture of tile, brick and cement blocks, his factory being near Spencer. He is one of Iowa's native sons, his birth having occurred in Webster City, July 17, 1863. His father, Ira Hilliard, was a native of New Hampshire, born at Colebrook, where he remained until twenty-five years of age. He then removed to Pennsylvania and in the meantime had become familiar with the business of manufacturing brick. At Wilkesbarre Pennsylvania, he was married to Emily Carr, a native of that city. While residing in Pennsylvania he engaged in the manufacture of brick, but believing that still better opportunities might be enjoyed in the new but rapidly growing west, he made his way to Iowa and became one of the pioneer residents of Webster City. There he established a brick yard and engaged in the manufacture of brick for a quarter of a century. He was very successful in his undertaking, for he placed before the public a very marketable commodity, the excellence of his output and his fair dealing securing to him an extensive and lucrative patronage. In 1882 he removed to Clay county and established a brick yard here. He also carried on business in this county for twenty-five years and made brick for all the public buildings and for many of the private residences of Spencer and this

part of the state. His enterprise and business activity constituted forces in the commercial development here of different locations in which he lived, while his energy and industry brought to him merited success. He died here in 1906 and is still survived by his wife. While in Webster City he owned and operated a machine shop and also invested extensively in land near that place. In Clay county he owned two hundred and forty acres and upon his farm erected a good brick residence and substantial outbuildings.

Archie Hilliard, whose name introduces this review, was reared in Iowa and pursued his education in the schools of Webster City, passing through consecutive grades until he became a high school student. After completing his studies he joined his father in Clay county, and for two years was his assistant in the operation of the brick yard. Later he went to South Dakota and established a brick yard at Mitchell, where he carried on a successful business for four years. On the expiration of that period he returned to Iowa and was here married, in 1887, to Miss Lelia S. J. Horner, a native of Oswego county, New York, where her girlhood was largely passed. The young couple began their domestic life at Mitchell, South Dakota, where they remained until about 1889, after which Mr. Hilliard disposed of his place there and removed his machinery to Spencer. Here he joined his father as a partner but assumed the entire management of the business, which he carefully conducted. For a number of years he was here engaged in brick-making and in 1894 removed to Michigan, where he pursued a course in a school for training nurses at Battle Creek. For about two years he followed the profession and was then obliged to give it up on account of ill health. At that time he removed to Toledo, Ohio, where he established a bakery business which he conducted for two or three years, and then sold out and returned to Battle Creek, Michigan, where he engaged in the manufacture of cereal coffee. He devoted three years to that business, at the end of which time he disposed of his interest in Michigan and again came to Spencer in 1900. Here he bought out his father's business and for about three or four years engaged in the manufacture of brick. He then extended the scope of his undertaking by beginning the manufacture of tile. He has been manufacturing and shipping on an average of from two to three carloads of tile per day. He has erected a large four-story brick building for the conduct of the business, has four large kilns and his factory is thoroughly modern and up-to-date in every particular. He has installed the latest improved machinery and in addition to the manufacture of brick and tile his output also includes building blocks. His industrial interests are of an important nature and constitute one of the chief features among the productive industries of Spencer. Mr. Hilliard also conducts farming interests, owning and operating eighty acres of rich and productive land that constitute one of the well improved farms of the neighborhood. It is situated on section 1, Riverton township, and upon the farm are found all modern accessories while the home is a commodious and attractive brick residence.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hilliard have been born eight children: William I. and Harry E., who are students in Union College, at College View, Nebraska; Isabelle, who is a student in a private school in Spencer; Blanche; Edith; Calleen; Leona; and Corliss. The parents are members of the Seventh Day Adventist church of Spencer. Mr. Hilliard is acting on the official board and both he and

his wife take a helpful interest in the church and sabbath school work, he having served for several years as sabbath school superintendent. His political allegiance is given to the republican party. He is active in advancing the interests of the county along many lines of development and upbuilding, gives his hearty cooperation to many movements for the good of Spencer and is now at the head of one of its leading productive industries, while his enterprise, indefatigable energy and business probity are the salient features of his career.

ALBERT GRUCHOW.

When pioneers make their way into a new and hitherto undeveloped region, necessarily the first step which they take is the development of farms, for the production of those crops which are useful as foods. Gradually, as the country becomes more thickly settled, so that markets supply almost everything demanded by the people, the farmer's work becomes somewhat more diversified and today those who are occupying homes on the best farms of Clay county are busily, extensively and successfully engaged in raising stock. It is to this work that Albert Gruchow gives much of his attention, being well known as a dealer in Aberdeen Angus cattle. He owns one hundred and sixty acres of valuable land adjoining the corporation limits of Spencer, and this constitutes a neat and well-improved farm, upon which he has resided since 1881. Germany numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred on the 15th of August, 1864. When a little lad of five summers he was brought by his parents to the new world, the family home being established in La Salle county, Illinois. His father, John Gruchow, was also a native of Germany, where he was reared and educated. In that country he married Hannah Westfall, who was likewise born in the fatherland, and they became parents of four children ere they came to the United States. On reaching La Salle county, Illinois, the father secured a farm, which he cultivated and improved for twenty-two years. In 1881 he removed from that state to Iowa and purchased land in Riverton township, becoming the owner of two hundred acres, on which he resided until his death in 1903. His wife still survives him and is a resident of Clay county. Their family numbered nine children, five sons and four daughters, all of whom have reached mature years and married with the exception of the two youngest. The others are all residents of this county.

Albert Gruchow was reared in La Salle county, Illinois, upon the old home farm and, after attaining his majority, started out in life on his own account, choosing as his life work the occupation to which he had been reared. The year 1881 witnessed his arrival in Iowa and, selecting Clay county as the place of his residence, he here engaged in farming on a tract of rented land. For some years he continued to rent the place and then purchased it and it remains his present place of residence. He has since erected a new dwelling, has built two barns and has also erected very substantial outbuildings, while a grove of forest trees and an orchard of fruit trees have been set out by him, adding to the value and attractive appearance of the place. He employs the most modern methods in car-

rying on his farm work, uses the latest improved machinery, practices the rotation of crops and makes a close study of the properties of the soil and the food demands of the different crops he raises. He is also raising and feeding stock and is today the owner of some fine Aberdeen Angus cattle and high-grade hogs. He breeds and deals in Aberdeen Angus cattle and has a herd of fifty-two head of pure-blooded and high-grade stock.

On Thanksgiving Day, in 1888, Mr. Gruchow was married in this county to Miss Anna Reamer, who was born in Germany but spent her girlhood days in La Salle-county, Illinois. This union has been blessed with four children, George, Wester and Harry, all yet at home, and Mabel, who died at the age of five years. The parents are members of the German Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Gruchow is serving on the official board. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party, but while he is public-spirited in citizenship, he does not seek office as a reward for party fealty. He is interested in everything pertaining to the town's progress in the material, intellectual and moral lines and movements for the public good never seek his aid in vain. Moreover, in his business career, he has demonstrated the value and worth of unflagging perseverance, unfaltering determination and unsullied business integrity, and he enjoys in full measure the trust and confidence of those with whom he has been associated through business or social relations.

JAMES PETER HENDRICKSEN.

James Peter Hendricksen, a well-to-do and progressive agriculturist of Royal, this county, was born in Zeeland, Denmark, March 4, 1853, a son of Hans and Mary Hendricksen. His father, also a native of Denmark, came to Waushara county, Wisconsin, in 1863, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits, clearing the timber on eighty acres of land, upon which he constructed a small log cabin, and here resided until the spring of 1870, when he located in Clay county, Iowa. He took up a claim of eighty acres on section 24 in Clay township, later selling his claim and removing to Lincoln township, where he remained until eighteen years ago, when he removed to Spencer, where he still resides. His career has been one of remarkable success and he is known throughout the community on account of his financial worth and is in every sense a substantial and representative citizen. The mother, who was also a native of Zeeland, Denmark, was married there but departed this life in Lincoln township in June, 1889, and her remains were interred in the Spencer cemetery. She was the mother of five children, namely: James Peter, our subject; Mary, wife of Martin Johnson, of Royal; Stina, who became the wife of Peter Christensen, an agriculturist of Clay township; Hans, deceased; and Lars, farmer of Lincoln township.

James Peter Hendricksen attended the common schools of his native country until he was ten years of age, when he was brought to the United States and, his parents having located in Wisconsin, he worked there with his father clearing off land and making it ready for cultivation. He remained in Wisconsin until he was seventeen years of age, when his parents removed to Clay county, Iowa.

and he continued to work for his father until he was united in marriage, when he rented a farm, but the first year met with the misfortune of having his crops eaten by grasshoppers. He has since resided in this county and part of the time has worked out to secure means to pay for his small farm, but he finally succeeded in clearing the land of debt and built a comfortable dwelling, after which he gradually met with success sufficient to enable him to supplant the old dwelling with his present beautiful residence. His farm consists of two hundred and forty acres which at the time of his purchase was in a wild state without a tree and with the ground all untilled, but by his untiring efforts he soon transformed the raw soil into fertile fields from which he has since been reaping lucrative harvests. His land is highly improved, being not only provided with an excellent residence but also with barns, outbuildings, machinery and all conveniences which are used in farming by modern methods. He engages in general agricultural pursuits and stock raising, and before the railroad passed through the county did teaming in connection with his other interests. His farm lies in Lincoln and Clay townships and the attention which Mr. Hendricksen has devoted to it has made it one of the finest and most desirable in the county.

In 1876 Mr. Hendricksen was united in marriage to Miss Hannah Elleston, a native of Jutland, Denmark, and to this union have been born four children, namely: W. H., a lumber dealer of Royal; Cena, who became the wife of Hans Hagadorn, an agriculturist of Lincoln township; Mary, and Louie Albert. Mr. Hendricksen gives his political support to the republican party, to which he has always been loyal, and he has served the township efficiently as school director and road supervisor. He takes a deep interest in religious affairs and is a member of the Danish Lutheran church, in which he is an ardent worker and a large contributor and of which his wife is also a member. He is well known throughout the county and his straightforwardness and enterprising spirit have gained him the respect of the entire community.

JULIUS LAMMERS.

Land is constantly rising in value as the country becomes more thickly settled and there is greater demand for property in this part of the state. Moreover, the advancement in price is also largely due to the substantial improvements which are being made by the farmers. The agriculturists of Clay county largely constitute a class of progressive business men, who see and utilize the opportunities for advancement, and are thus contributing to general prosperity as well as to individual success. Julius Lammers is a worthy representative of the type of men who are not content to accept things as they are but realize that from every vantage point a forward step can be made. He is now the owner of four hundred and forty acres, constituting a valuable farm on section 23, Lone Tree township. A native of Iowa, he was born in Scott county on the 15th of June, 1869, a son of Hans Lammers, who was a native of Germany, where he spent his youthful days. As a young man he came to the new world and established his home in Scott county, Iowa. There he married Christina Hansen, also a native of Ger-

many, who had been brought to the United States when thirteen years of age. Their son, Julius Lammers, was reared in Scott and in Tama counties, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that usually fall to the lot of the agriculturist. The district schools afforded him his early educational privileges and later he attended the Vinton high school. On the 27th of February, 1895, he made preparations for having a home of his own through his marriage in Tama county to Miss Ella Ruge, who was born in Muscatine, Iowa, but obtained her education in Tama county.

Soon after their marriage the young couple took up their abode upon the farm on section 23, Lone Tree township, where they still reside. Mr. Lammers has added to and remodeled the house and has put up a number of buildings upon the place. A good barn, sheds, a corn-crib, granary, wind-pump and waterworks are among the modern features of the place, which indicate his progressive spirit and practical, effective methods. He began here with two hundred and forty acres of land, but subsequently purchased more property from his father, and his place now comprises four hundred and forty acres. With farming he raises and feeds stock, shipping from two to three carloads of fat cattle each year and one hundred and twenty-five head of fat hogs. He is a stockholder in the First National Bank of Everly and also owns stock in the Farmers' Elevator at Moneta, of which he is one of the directors.

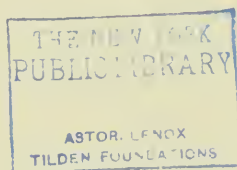
Mr. and Mrs. Lammers have one son, Elmer, who is now under the parental roof. The parents belong to the German Lutheran church and Mr. Lammers holds membership in Everly Lodge, A. F. & A. M. He is a worthy exemplar of the craft, which is based upon mutual helpfulness and brotherly kindness. His political support is given to the democracy and he desires its success, although he never seeks office for himself. Indefatigable energy is perhaps his strongest characteristic and it has led him forward in his business relations to a prominent place among the successful farmers of the township.

CHANDLER AUGUSTUS DUNWELL.

Chandler Augustus Dunwell, at the age of eighty-five years, is still an active factor in the world's work. He makes his home in Spencer, where he is engaged in making chattel mortgage loans, and furthermore, has personal supervision over his extended landed interests. He is one of the largest landholders of the county, his farm property comprising eleven hundred acres, while realty in Spencer also returns him a substantial annual income. His record may well serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement, showing what may be accomplished by individual effort when intelligently directed, for it has been through his own labors that Mr. Dunwell has gained the prominent position which he now occupies as a business man in Clay county. He was born in the town of Arcadia, Wayne county, New York, February 11, 1824, and comes of New England ancestry, traced in a more remote generation to England. His grandfather, Stephen Dunwell, was born in England and became a sailor. Arriv-



C. A. Dummell



ing in America in colonial days, he espoused the cause of the colonies at the outbreak of the Revolutionary war and did active military duty under General Washington. His wife was Deborah Dunwell, and both lived to a good old age, rearing a large family.

William Schuyler Dunwell, father of C. A. Dunwell, was born in Massachusetts and was a carpenter by trade. Early in the nineteenth century he removed to New York and was engaged on the construction of the Erie canal. He first located at Arcadia, where he lived for a number of years and in 1831 removed to Solon, Ohio, where he made his home for twenty years. In 1855 he became a resident of Illinois and settled in Cherry Valley, Winnebago county, where his remaining days were passed. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Sophronia Catlin, was also a native of Massachusetts, as was her father. The death of the father occurred in Winnebago county, Illinois, when he was seventy-eight years of age, and his wife, surviving him for some years, died at the age of eighty-five. Both were loyal to the teachings of the Methodist church, in which they held membership. Unto Mr. and Mrs. William S. Dunwell were born twelve children, but only four are now living, namely: Chandler A., of this review; Sophia, the widow of James White, and now residing at Champaign, Illinois; Frances, the widow of James Sutherland, of Fairdale, Illinois; and Emma, the wife of Thomas Norman, also of that state.

Chandler A. Dunwell was a young lad at the time of the removal from New York to Ohio and in the latter state he was reared, aiding his father in clearing several farms there. His youth was passed in a pioneer district where there were few advantages, but he made the most of his opportunities in the district schools, and when nineteen years of age began teaching, which profession he followed for a number of terms. He was one of three of that locality who voted for the old Liberty party in the spring of 1845 at a time when such a course was unpopular. In the spring of 1851 he became a resident of Cherry Valley, Illinois, and continued to follow general agricultural pursuits through the summer seasons, while in the winter months he engaged in teaching. His fellow townsmen called him to the office of justice of the peace and he acted in that capacity for twelve years, his decisions being strictly fair and impartial. He was next called to the position of supervisor and continued in that office by reelection for twelve years. He was likewise proprietor of a hotel and owner of a livery stable, and was thus actively connected with the business interests of the community. During the twelve years in which he presided over the justice court he read law, was admitted to the bar and engaged in practice for a long period. In 1878 he came to Spencer and was admitted to practice in the Iowa courts. However, he did not follow the profession but turned his attention to farming and the chattel mortgage loan business. These interests have since claimed his attention and through the improvement of opportunity for judicious investment he has become the owner of eleven hundred acres of rich and valuable land in Clay county and also a number of houses and lots in Spencer. His realty holdings are very extensive and constitute him one of the prosperous residents of Clay county.

In 1847 Mr. Dunwell was married to Miss Cordelia Richmond, a daughter of Edmund Richmond. Unto them was born a daughter, Emily Ann, who became the wife of Rufus Ingalls, of Spencer, by whom she has two daughters, Clara and

Gertrude. Mrs. Ingalls is somewhat prominent in community affairs and was president of the board of library trustees. The death of Mrs. Cordelia Dunwell occurred in the spring of 1852, and in 1853 Mr. Dunwell wedded Miss Eliza Hannaford, a daughter of Reuben Hannaford. She passed away in 1860, and in 1863 Mr. Dunwell married Mrs. Elizabeth Hanson, nee Pike. She was a widow and was a representative of an old family of Maine. By this marriage there were born two sons, James and Augustus, both now deceased, and a daughter, Lizzie M., who is the wife of Robert Koch, and has two children, Gladys Olive and Marguerite. Mrs. Koch is also well known in the social circles of the city and is leader of the choir in the Congregational church.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Dunwell are Baptists in religious faith. Politically he has always been a republican, unfaltering in support of the principles of the party since its organization, and in addition to the offices which he filled in Illinois he has served as justice of the peace in Spencer for two terms. He has ever been a busy man and his active, useful life has gained him notable and enviable success, while at the same time he has won the confidence and good will of his fellow men by reason of the honorable, straightforward policy he has ever followed.

EDWIN F. MARKER.

Edwin F. Marker has been a resident of Clay county since 1887, and after acceptably filling the position of county auditor, retired therefrom in January, 1909. He has also been the incumbent in other offices and at all times has been faithful, prompt and efficient in the discharge of his duties. His birth occurred in Grundy county, Iowa, May 28, 1870, so that he is a western man by birth as well as training and preference. His parents are Peter F. and Charlotte (Scott) Marker, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of England. The paternal grandfather of our subject was born in Pennsylvania. The maternal grandfather, Darius Scott, was a native of England and engaged in merchandising in that country. Coming to America he located in Ohio and his death occurred in 1906, when he reached the very venerable age of ninety-two years. He was married three times.

Peter F. Marker, father of Edwin F. Marker, devoted his entire life to the occupation of farming. On leaving Ohio he removed westward to Grundy county, Iowa, becoming one of its early settlers. Here he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, making his home thereon until March, 1887, when he came to Clay county and secured a farm in Herdland township. With characteristic energy he began its cultivation and development, making it his home until 1894, when he was called to his final rest at the age of fifty-seven years and six months. His wife still survives him and lives in Spencer. She is a member of the Methodist church and a most estimable lady, having many warm friends in this city. At the time of the Civil war Mr. Marker responded to the country's call for aid and enlisted as a member of Company F, Sixteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for six months as a private. Unto him and his wife were born ten children, seven sons and three daughters: Emery H., who is

now living in Seattle, Washington; Clara M., the deceased wife of C. S. Forrest, of Enid, Oklahoma; Alvin D., also living in Seattle, Washington; Cora B., the wife of G. S. Streeter, of Sioux Rapids, Iowa; Edwin F., whose name introduces this record; Leland L., who is living in Deuel county, South Dakota; Joseph M., also a resident of that county; Charles F., who is located in Spencer; Lillie B., the wife of William Ruby, of Deuel, South Dakota; and Dell S., who is also living in Spencer.

Edwin F. Marker was reared in Grundy county, Iowa, to the age of seventeen years, spending his boyhood and youth on the home farm, where he early became familiar with the task of tilling the soil. He also attended the district schools and supplemented his early educational privileges studying in the Nora Springs Seminary. At the age of seventeen years he came to Clay county, where he carried on farming until 1901. He was then appointed deputy sheriff and filled that position for three years, on the expiration of which period he was elected county auditor in November, 1904, and entered upon the duties of the position in January, 1905. He was reelected in 1906 but in 1908 failed of renomination at the primaries. As a public officer he made an excellent record, characterized by the utmost loyalty to duty, while the work of the office was discharged in a systematic, methodical manner.

On the 30th of November, 1892, Mr. Marker was married to Miss Jennie E. Allebaugh, a daughter of Daniel and Amanda (Bender) Allebaugh. Mrs. Marker was born six miles south of Spencer, her parents having been early settlers of Clay county. They are now residents of Delta county, Colorado. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Marker have been born two sons, Rush L. and Darrel A. In addition to his home in Spencer Mr. Marker owns one hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land on section 10, Herdland township, while his mother owns the other three-quarters of that section. Socially he is connected with Harmony Lodge, No. 188, K. of P., and his wife is a member of the Methodist church. His political views are in accord with the principles of the republican party and he served for two terms as assessor of Herdland township and one term as trustee. Over the record of his official career there falls no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil, for he has always been most loyal to the interests of the county in discharging public duties.

WILLIAM THOMAS NEY.

William Thomas Ney, who is identified with the hardware business in Webb, Clay county, Iowa, was born in Wellington, Ontario, July 1, 1871, a son of Mathew and Elizabeth (Lytle) Ney, natives of Canada and Ireland, respectively. The father was born in Simcoe county, Ontario, in 1847, a son of Robert and Margaret (Armstrong) Ney, natives of the Emerald isle, who located in Canada in 1809. Robert Ney was a soldier in the British army who participated in the battle of Waterloo, in which he was wounded, carrying throughout his life the marks of seven bullet wounds and a sword thrust received in that conflict. He had formerly served in the French army, but left it to enter the British service

under General Wellington, in which he later became a commander, being subsequently sent to Ireland to assist in quelling a rebellion, from whence he went to Canada. He descended from a distinguished military family, the Neys being direct in line from Marshal Ney, who was a prominent figure in French military circles. In the family of Robert and Margaret Ney were the following children: Ann Jane, widow of J. C. Robinson, who resides in Irene, South Dakota; Margaret, the wife of S. Lytle, a resident of Tralee, Canada; Mathew, the father of our subject; Thomas, who wedded Sarah Ross and resides in Fairview, Washington; William, who lives in Pueblo, Colorado; John, who is married and lives in Vancouver, British Columbia; George, married, and practicing medicine in Port Huron, Michigan; Mary, whose husband is Henry Bird, and lives in Brambridge, Canada; and Sarah, the wife of John Plewes, residing in Monroe, Michigan. Robert Ney departed this life in 1887, when seventy-seven years of age, and his wife died in 1856 in her thirty-eighth year.

Mathew Ney, father of the subject of this review, came to this state in 1886 and purchased a tract of land containing one hundred and six acres in Buena Vista county, for which he paid eleven dollars an acre, the farm lying a short distance northeast of Sioux Rapids. On his first visit to this place he did not bring his family but waited until he had built a house and made everything comfortable for their reception, this work requiring about one year, and consequently his family did not arrive on the scene until the spring of 1888. He developed the land to a high state of cultivation and remained upon it for sixteen years, at the termination of which period, in 1904, he rented the farm and removed to Webb, where he has since resided, engaged in the hardware business. He owns two hundred and forty acres of land in Buena Vista county, Iowa, and three hundred and twenty acres in Alberta, Canada, both of which tracts constitute excellent farms. He, with his son, W. T., compose the Webb Hardware Company and, being a shrewd business man, an economical and excellent manager, he has gradually increased his volume of trade until at present the enterprise is one of the most prosperous in the city. He is a democrat in politics, always loyal to the candidates of his party, and a faithful adherent of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is of an unassuming and retiring nature, happy and generous, and possesses a clean, honest, upright character. In his family are the following children: Maggie, the wife of W. H. Scarborough, residing in Sioux Rapids, Iowa; Lizzie, the wife of R. G. Merrill, living at Marathon, Iowa; R. J., who still lives in Canada; William Thomas, our subject; Mary, whose husband is W. H. Phipps, living near Sioux Rapids, this state; and Sarah, the wife of C. B. Truesdale, residing in Sac City, Iowa.

William Thomas Ney was reared and received his preliminary education while on his father's farm in Canada, where he remained until he was fifteen years of age, when he came to Iowa with the family. He was given the advantage of several years' schooling in this state and worked with his father on the old home place until the farm was sold, when the family repaired to this city, and during the years 1901 to 1905 inclusive he was interested in the drug business, but subsequently gave up that occupation and associated himself with his father in the hardware business. He is a shrewd young business man and his business ability and untiring efforts have added much to the growth of trade. On November 18,

1903, Mr. Ney wedded Josephine M. Phelps, daughter of Lymon E. and Alice (Ward) Phelps, natives of DeKalb county, Illinois. Mr. Ney belongs to Universal Lodge, No. 587, A. F. & A. M., of Marathon and also to Sioux Rapids Chapter, No. 129, and is a member of the Methodist church. In politics he is a loyal supporter of the principles of the democratic party. He is a man of exceptional enterprise and keen business insight and his progressive spirit will undoubtedly build for him an enviable position in the commercial and financial circles of this community.

J. W. BATCHELER.

After a long and useful career as an agriculturist, J. W. Batcheler, who is influential in the financial circles of Sutherland, is now living in retirement, enjoying the comforts earned during his many years of honest and zealous labor. He was born in Bristol county, Massachusetts, January 27, 1848, a son of T. H. and Clarissa (Holdbrook) Batcheler. His father came from New Hampshire to Massachusetts when a young man, and lived there until 1855, when he located in Clinton county, Iowa, where he spent ten years, then removing to Jones county, Iowa, where he remained twelve years, and thence to Linn county, where he departed this life in 1884. He was of English extraction, a minister of the Free Baptist church, and during his life he preached throughout many of the counties adjoining his home, where his influence for good will long remain as an evidence of his useful and zealous Christian character. His mother was a native of Massachusetts, where she was married, and she died in Linn county in 1880, preceding her husband into eternity by four years. She was the mother of: Amy N., residing in Linn county; F. A., a retired farmer of Independence, Iowa; Harriett, the wife of John French, who lives in retirement on a farm in Peterson, Iowa; Julia, who became the wife of Alonzo Lynde, also a retired farmer of Peterson; M. C., deceased; and J. W., our subject.

In the common schools of Massachusetts and of Clinton and Jones counties, Iowa, J. W. Batcheler acquired his education, engaging in the routine of their farm life until he was twenty-one years of age, when he removed to Linn county, renting his father's land, which he cultivated for a period of four years, and then worked a farm in Clay county for one year. The returns of his harvest were found sufficient to enable him to purchase one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 19, at that time in an uncultivated condition, but this was soon cleared off and made arable and productive of an excellent quality of crops. From year to year, being successful in his undertakings, he was soon in a position to add to that farm, and now owns two hundred and eighty acres of highly improved and fertile farming land, upon which there is a fine residence, ample barn room and all the necessary conveniences for carrying on agricultural pursuits and stock raising.

In 1872 Mr. Batcheler wedded Miss Ella Carpenter, a daughter of W. A. and Clara (Shelden) Carpenter, born in Rhode Island, her father, who died in 1860, being a jeweler of Providence, that state. They had the following chil-

dren: Clara, wife of William Mason, of Providence, Rhode Island; W. M., who is in the creamery business at Grand Island, Nebraska; Andrew, who is proprietor of a fruit ranch in California; A. R., deceased; Florence, of Providence, Rhode Island; Eugene, deceased; and Ella, now Mrs. Batcheler. Mr. and Mrs. Batcheler are the parents of: Alfred, an agriculturist of Peterson township, Clay county; M. Gilbert, who is proprietor of a farm near Dickens, Iowa; Julia, wife of Elmer Lane, also an agriculturist of Peterson township; Lewis, who operates a farm in that township; Everett, who also has large farming interests in Peterson township; Clarence, who owns a farm near that of his father; Nathan, who attends school at Cedar Falls, Iowa; Clara and Cora, twins; Florence; and Joseph D. and Josie, twins. Mr. Batcheler is a loyal supporter of the republican party, the principles of which he asserts contain the best policy by which to preserve the financial integrity of the nation and maintain its permanent prosperity. Among the services which he has rendered the township is that of school director, in which office he has officiated for a number of years. He is a member of the Church of God, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows meeting at Royal, Iowa, and the Daughters of Rebekah, convening at the same place. Mr. Batcheler stands high in the financial circles of the community, and his progressive spirit and the noble qualities of his character have won him the confidence and respect of the community.

JOHN HOPKINS.

John Hopkins is conducting business in Langdon and his efforts have been a factor in the commercial development of the town. He is now operating an elevator here and in addition is well known as a dealer in coal, hides and other commodities. For seven years he has lived in the village and previously was identified with agricultural interests in Meadow township for fifteen years. Iowa numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred in Scott county on the 6th of December, 1864. His father, James H. Hopkins, was a native of Rhode Island but, leaving New England, came to the middle west as a young man and settled upon a farm in Scott county, Iowa. He found this a frontier state but the resolute spirit of a New England ancestry prompted him to put forth determined and indefatigable effort in developing for himself a productive and valuable farm. He married Miss Elmira Miller, a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, where her girlhood days were passed, while later she came to Iowa with her parents, who established their home in Scott county. Following their marriage Mr. Hopkins removed to Jasper county, where he opened up a farm and carried on general agricultural pursuits until 1886, when he came to Clay county. Here he also developed a tract of new land and made it his home for several years, after which he removed to Colorado and located upon a farm in that state. He still lives there and is now seventy-four years of age.

John Hopkins of this review was largely reared to manhood in Jasper county, Iowa, acquiring his early education in the common schools. In 1886 he came to Clay county and assisted his father in developing a new tract of land. He carried

on that farm until thirty years of age, working diligently and gaining the broad experience which has proven the foundation for his later success. He has displayed sound judgment in all he has undertaken and his energy has been one of the potent features in his progress.

On the 11th of March, 1895, Mr. Hopkins was married to Miss Pauline Bernhagen, a native of Wisconsin and a daughter of Michael Bernhagen, one of the early settlers of Clay county, who in pioneer times secured a homestead in Lake township. Mrs. Hopkins was reared and educated here and before her marriage engaged in teaching school, thus forwarding the educational interests of the community in an early day. Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins took up their abode upon a rented farm, where they lived for two years and then removed to a tract of eighty acres which he had purchased prior to their marriage. He bought an old homestead and began to develop and further improve the place, carefully conducting it for ten years. It was situated in Meadow township and his labors were attended with success. In 1902, however, he located in Langdon, where he took charge of an elevator and engaged in buying grain for P. M. Ingo. Subsequently he engaged in business on his own account as a dealer in coal and has since continued in this line. He likewise buys and sells poultry and is a dealer in hides. He built up a good business in this connection and has further extended his efforts to include the grain trade, for in 1904 he took charge of an elevator, which he still operates. He also bought eight lots and built two residences and a blacksmith shop. His labors and enterprise have been important factors in the upbuilding and development of the town, and while Mr. Hopkins carefully conducts his commercial interests, his wife is carrying on a hotel and thus accommodates the traveling public. Mr. Hopkins is also secretary of the Cooperative Creamery Company and in all business matters displays energy and sound judgment.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins have been born two children, Roy L. and Mary A. Mr. Hopkins has served as a member of the school board but has never been an office seeker and is independent in his political relations. Socially he is a Master Mason, belonging to the blue lodge of Spencer. He is a prominent business man of Langdon, identified with its growth and development, and is well known in Clay county as one of its public-spirited citizens.

WALTER J. MARR.

Summit township contains many beautiful country homes and well developed farms. A neat and well improved property is that of Walter J. Marr, who is living in section 15, where he owns and cultivates a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He has lived in the county since 1892 and in the intervening years has become widely known as an industrious, energetic man, who keeps in touch with the spirit of progress that has been manifest in agricultural lines as well as in other departments of business activity. He started upon the journey of life January 3, 1876, the place of his nativity being Waushara county, Wisconsin. His father, Lucien Marr, was a native of New York, and on leaving that state in

his childhood days accompanied his parents to Wisconsin, where he was reared to manhood among the wild scenes and environment of frontier life. Having reached adult age he was there married to Miss Kate McLaughlan, a native of Wisconsin, and in order to provide a home he carried on husbandry and developed a new farm, which he cultivated for seven years. In 1892 he removed to Iowa, settling first in Summit township, Clay county, where he devoted his energies to general agricultural pursuits for two years when, in 1894, he was called to his final rest at the age of fifty-two years. His wife survived him and resides on a farm in Summit township. People of the highest respectability, they enjoyed in large measure the confidence and good will of all who knew them.

Walter J. Marr came to Clay county when a youth of sixteen years. His early education was acquired in the district schools and later he attended the Dickens school. He started out in business life on his own account in 1897, when he began operating his father's place. The same year he purchased an improved farm, upon which he now resides, and to its further development and cultivation has since given his energies. The residence which now stands upon the place was erected by him and he has also put up a substantial barn, has fenced his fields and added many modern improvements. He has a wind-pump and feed-mill and owns and operates a corn-sheller, feed-grinder and wood-saw. A gasoline engine furnishes motive power to shell the corn and grind the feed. Another element of his success is his stock-raising. He annually feeds a large number of hogs and in the year 1908 his sales amounted to nearly one thousand dollars. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator and also in the Telephone Company at Fostoria. He believes in progress at all times and this is manifest in his business connections and in the manner in which he conducts his farming interests.

On the 10th of April, 1907, Mr. Marr was united in marriage to Miss Ella O'Brien, a daughter of Joseph O'Brien, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. He was one of the pioneer residents of the county, arriving here at a date early enough to secure a homestead claim. Mrs. Marr was born and reared and educated in this county. She attended school in Spencer for a time and prior to her marriage successfully engaged in teaching in the county for two years. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Marr has been born a daughter, Marian.

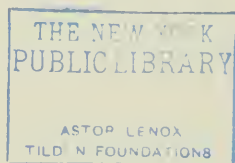
In his political views Mr. Marr has always been a republican, for he believes firmly in the principles of the party, but the honors and emoluments of office have no attraction for him. He is well known in his home locality as a man of good business ability, kind and obliging nature, while his home is a most hospitable one, in which good cheer and good will are characteristic features.

JOHN ADAMS.

The real builders and promoters of Clay county have largely been the men who came into this region when it was an unimproved tract and utilized its natural resources, transforming the wild prairie into rich and productive fields, the products of which constitute the chief source of the county's prosperity. Iowa is pre-eminently an agricultural state and may well be proud of her emi-



JOHN ADAMS



nence in this regard, for in many ways she leads the other states of the Union. John Adams, now residing in Everly, is one of those who have contributed in substantial measure to the county's development and advancement, for in Waterford township he opened up and improved a new farm of four hundred and forty acres, which prior to his occupancy was largely wild land, undeveloped in accordance with modern ideas of agricultural progress. Mr. Adams has been a resident of Iowa for much more than half a century, having arrived in Clinton county in 1852, while his residence in Clay county dates from 1884. He was born in New York city, March 25, 1837. His father, William Adams, was a native of Ireland, where he remained until seventeen years of age, when he crossed the Atlantic and became a resident of New York city. He learned and followed the trade of stone and marble cutting, being thus busily engaged for some years in the eastern metropolis. While there he married Sarah Maloy, also a native of Ireland, whence she was brought to the new world, when a maiden of six summers, by her brother, who also settled in New York city. In 1840 William Adams removed to Tioga county, Pennsylvania, where he purchased a farm and soon afterward met death by accident. His wife survived him for many years, married again and reared her family.

John Adams was but four years of age at the time of the removal to the Keystone state and in Tioga county spent a portion of his minority, acquiring his preliminary education in the schools there. He was fifteen years of age when in 1852 he came to Iowa with his mother and stepfather, the family home being established in Clinton county. Here he continued his education as a pupil in the Dewitt schools and was identified with agricultural interests in the state until the outbreak of the Civil war, when his patriotic spirit was aroused and, feeling that his country needed his aid, he enlisted in Jackson county on the 20th of August, 1861, as a member of Company A, Ninth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, under command of Captain Grips. As a private he went to the front, the regiment being attached to the Western Army and was first under fire at Pea Ridge, Arkansas. He participated in numerous skirmishes and in the battles of Haynes Bluff, Raymond, Mississippi, and the siege of Vicksburg. He was there taken prisoner and was incarcerated in Vicksburg for thirty-eight days previous to the surrender of the city. He afterward took part in the battle of Black River Bridge, in the engagements at Chattanooga and Lookout Mountain and later went into Alabama. His term expired when he was at Woodville but he reenlisted as a veteran and returned home for a thirty days' furlough with his regiment. In March, however, he rejoined his command at Davenport, Iowa, and returned with his comrades to Woodville, Alabama, after which they joined Sherman on the Atlanta campaign, participating in the battle of Resaca, fighting every day until Atlanta was reached. Mr. Adams assisted in the capture of the city and subsequently went with Sherman as he marched from that place to the sea and proved how weak were the interior defenses of the Confederacy. He also participated in the capture of Savannah, where the troops remained for about a week and then went to Hiltonhead. Later they joined another branch of the army and on their way northward participated in various skirmishes and the battle at Goldsboro, South Carolina. He also assisted in the taking of Columbus, South Carolina. Mr. Adams, although often in the thickest of the fight, meeting the enemy on many

a hotly contested battlefield, was never wounded nor did he lose time from sickness or other cause. From Goldsboro the troops marched to Petersburg and on to Richmond, thence to Washington, where he participated in the grand review, the most celebrated military pageant ever seen on the western hemisphere. It was a gala day in the history of the nation. Over Pennsylvania avenue was a broad banner bearing the words, "The only debt which our country cannot pay is the debt which she owes to her soldiers." Thousands of people lined the streets of the city as the victorious army marched in parade down the avenue and passed the stand on which stood the President reviewing the troops. After three or four weeks spent in Washington the regiment to which Mr. Adams belonged was sent to Louisville, Kentucky, and was there mustered out in August, being honorably discharged at Clinton, Iowa, on the 25th of the same month.

Mr. Adams had participated in the long, hard marches, the arduous campaigns and the hotly contested battles, and now with a most creditable military record he returned to his home and resumed the work of the farm. Prior to the war he had purchased a farm in Clinton county nine miles north of Dewitt, where he had one hundred and sixty acres of land. He brought as a bride to his home Miss Kate Varner, whom he wedded in Clinton county on the 19th of November, 1865. She was born in Spencer county, Indiana, but was brought to Iowa when a little girl of three years by her father, Conrad Varner, who was one of the early settlers of the state. Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Adams continued to reside for sixteen years on the Clinton county farm, during which time he transformed the raw prairie into productive fields and developed an excellent property. In 1881 he came to Clay county and purchased four hundred and forty acres of land that was still in its primitive condition. Later he sold his Clinton county property and in 1884 took up his abode upon his purchase in this county, bending his energies to the development and improvement of the fields. Later he sold two hundred and forty acres of this and retired to private life. In the meantime he had cultivated and improved two new farms, had placed thereon two sets of good farm buildings and with characteristic energy had continued to till the soil. At length, however, his unremitting diligence brought to him success that enabled him to put aside further business cares and in 1901 he left the farm and removed to Everly, where he purchased a home, which is comfortable, attractively furnished and most hospitable. His farm is rented and he receives therefrom a substantial annual income.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Adams have been born five children, who are yet living, two sons and three daughters: Carl, who is engaged in the lumber business at Steele, North Dakota; John, of Cleveland, North Dakota, who, in partnership with his brother Carl, is a member of the Winnor & Adams Lumber Company, owning and operating five lumber yards; May, the wife of H. E. Barto, a druggist of Fairmont, Minnesota; Pearl, the wife of A. R. Ogilvie, a dentist of Edmore, North Dakota; and Effie, the wife of George H. Mumm, living at Goodrich, North Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. Adams also lost two children—their first born, William, who died at the age of one year and three months, and Maud, who became the wife of E. L. Clark. For a number of years they resided in this county and then removed to Wheaton, Minnesota, where Mrs. Clark died in August, 1905, at the age of thirty-five years, leaving two sons.

Mr. Adams is a member of Everly Lodge, A. F. & A. M., while his wife holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. His political views are in harmony with the principles of the republican party and he cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1860, since which time he has supported all of the standard bearers of the party. While on the farm he served for six consecutive years as assessor, was also township trustee for a number of years, township treasurer for several years and since removing to Everly has been elected and reelected supervisor until his incumbency will have covered nine years in January, 1910. He has served on all the committees of the board, has also been a member of the drainage board and was the prime mover in organizing drainage district No. 2. At all times he has been interested in the welfare of the county and has given active cooperation to many movements for the public good, while his efforts in behalf of general improvement have been effective and far-reaching. Living in Iowa for fifty-seven years and in Clay county for twenty-four years, he is one of the best known citizens of this locality, being widely recognized as a man of tried integrity and worth, of business enterprise and of unfaltering diligence. Now that he has passed the seventieth milestone on life's journey he is enjoying a well earned rest, for it is fitting that his former business career should give to him this period of leisure in which to enjoy the fruits of his previous toil. His fellow townsmen honor and respect him and wherever he is known he has an extensive circle of friends. Moreover, he deserves mention in this volume as one of the veterans of the Civil war to whom the country owes a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.

WIRT BRONSON.

Wirt Bronson, a man of enterprise and marked force of character, who throughout his business life has made good use of his opportunities, is now manager of the Spencer City Mills and thus figures prominently in industrial circles in Clay county. He is one of Iowa's native sons, his birth having occurred in Manchester on the 16th of January, 1871, his parents being Charles E. and Jennie (Sheldon) Bronson, natives of New York and Ohio respectively. The former was a son of Clark M. and Abigail (Cornish) Bronson. The grandfather, also a native of the Empire state, conducted business as merchant tailor there and after making and losing one fortune he retrieved his lost possessions, again becoming financially independent. Both he and his wife lived to an advanced age, his death occurring when he was more than seventy years of age, while his wife was in the eighties. They were the parents of two sons and a daughter who reached years of maturity: Charles E.; Clark Henry, of Chicago; and Nellie E., the wife of Frank E. Merriam. Comparatively little is known concerning the maternal grandparents of Wirt Bronson, save that the grandfather was a farmer and trader and lived to an advanced age, as did his wife. They reared a large family.

Charles E. Bronson, who died in November, 1908, was well known as a practitioner of the Iowa bar. He was an early settler of Manchester, Delaware county, this state, where he was engaged in law practice for more than forty

years. Moreover he gained distinction in democratic circles as a leader of the party and for one term represented his district in the state senate. Both he and his wife were of the Universalist faith. Their family numbered five children: Earl, of Spencer; Wirt, of this review; Lee, who is located at Craik, Canada; Byron, of Muskogee, Oklahoma; and Henry, a resident of Manchester, Iowa.

Wirt Bronson remained a resident of his native town until nineteen years of age and was a pupil in the public and high schools of that place. At the age of sixteen years he began working in the postoffice there, acting as assistant under his father during President Cleveland's first administration and also continuing for one year under the Harrison administration. Later he took up the printer's trade and in 1891 came to Spencer, where in partnership with his brother Earl he established the Spencer Herald. They were associated in its publication and conduct until 1892, when Wirt Bronson sold his interest to his brother and purchased an interest in the Spencer City Mills, at which time he assumed the management and has since been in charge. This is a well equipped plant, thoroughly supplied with all modern improved machinery, and has a capacity of one hundred and fifty barrels per day. That the output is of excellent quality is indicated by the ready sale on the market. The Spencer Milling Company also owns the mill at White Lake, South Dakota, which has a capacity of sixty barrels per day and the business interests of the two plants are proving most profitable.

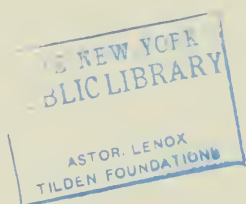
On the 3d of June, 1896, Mr. Bronson was married to Miss Nellie Evans, a daughter of Joseph P. and Mary M. (Moore) Evans. Mrs. Bronson was born near Belleville, Illinois, and by her marriage has become the mother of five children: Kathleen, Carl, Joseph, Virginia and Mary. Mr. Bronson belongs to the Knights of Pythias lodge and the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party and he is loyal in its support and devoted to its welfare. As a citizen he is public spirited and whatever tends to promote the best interests of the community receives his endorsement and hearty support.

JOSEPH O'BRIEN.

Joseph O'Brien has been a resident of Clay county since 1870 and has therefore witnessed almost its entire growth and development, for few settlements had been made within its borders at the time of his arrival and all of the evidences of frontier life were to be seen, while the hardships and trials incident to a pioneer existence were to be met. Mr. O'Brien was born in the year 1837 and has therefore reached the seventy-second milestone on life's journey. Moreover, he deserves mention in this volume, from the fact that he is a self-made man, who owes his prosperity and progress entirely to his own well-directed labors and unfaltering determination. His farm of one hundred and sixty acres is the visible evidence of a well-spent life. His birth occurred in Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania, on the 19th of March, 1837, and there he was reared to manhood, but when a lad of only seven years began earning his own livelihood by working on



JOSEPH O'BRIEN



the canal. He was thus employed for about twenty years, being at first a driver on the tow-path, while later he had charge of a boat. He continued in active canal service until the 31st of March, 1864, when he offered his services to the government and was assigned to duty with Company K of the One Hundred and Eighty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. This regiment was assigned to the First Brigade, Fifth Corps, under General Warren, and Mr. O'Brien participated in the charge at Fort Hell, June 18, 1864, and also in the fight which resulted in the capture of the Weldon railroad. He served until the close of the war, making a most creditable military record, for he never faltered in the performance of any task and thus gave proof of his loyalty to the Union. He was honorably discharged at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, following the close of hostilities.

When the war was over Mr. O'Brien returned home and afterward made two trips on the canal, but he had become convinced that the middle west offered better business opportunities for those who were ambitious for advancement and in December, 1865, he arrived in Dane county, Wisconsin. There he worked for his brother and soon became convinced that the step taken when he removed to the Mississippi valley was a wise one. While living in Dane county he was married, on the 30th of September, 1869, the lady of his choice being Miss Emily B. Ames, a native of Toledo, Ohio, who was reared in Wisconsin and was a teacher prior to her marriage.

In 1870 Mr. O'Brien brought his young wife to Iowa, establishing his home in Clay county. It was still a frontier district and much of the land was yet in possession of the government, so that he secured a homestead claim of one hundred and sixty acres. All around him stretched the unbroken prairie, the native grasses growing to great height. There were no buildings or forests to break the force of the wind, which swept over the treeless tract at times with almost the force of a tornado. In the winter the ground was covered with one unbroken sheet of snow, but with returning summer the work of the farm was resolutely carried on and the rich soil soon responded in bounteous harvests. Mr. O'Brien not only developed his fields and fenced his place, but also put up substantial buildings, set out a beautiful grove of elms and maples and also planted an orchard. In 1896 he erected his present neat and attractive residence and also built a big barn and other outbuildings for the shelter of corn and other grain and farm machinery and stock. He has today a well-improved property, indicating in its neat and attractive appearance the careful supervision of the owner.

In 1894 Mr. O'Brien was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died on the 19th of May of that year, leaving three living children. Frank, who is a graduate of the Spencer high school, owns one hundred and sixty acres of land adjoining his father's place and is in partnership with his father in their farming operations. Ellen is the wife of Walter J. Marr, a resident farmer, who owns a place adjoining the O'Brien home and who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume. Gertrude is a graduate of the Spencer high school and is now acting as her father's housekeeper. They also lost one son, Charles, who died in infancy. Mr. O'Brien looked upon the remains of the martyred Lincoln as they lay in their casket at Independence Hall, Philadelphia, while on the way to Springfield, Illinois. His regiment was placed on duty there at the time to pre-

serve order. He is recognized as one of the stalwart advocates of the republican party in his locality and was here elected the first sub-director in Summit township. Subsequently he was chosen assessor and filled that position for three or four terms, while for some years he was township treasurer. No trust reposed in him has ever been betrayed in the slightest degree. He has been a delegate to various county conventions and his son, Frank, has been township clerk and also secretary of the school board. He is likewise a stockholder and president of the Fostoria Creamery Company. Mr. O'Brien gives his support to various churches and attends their services. His son is a member of the Masonic lodge of Spencer and is also a Royal Arch Mason. For thirty-nine years Joseph O'Brien has lived in Clay county and is one of the few who have so long witnessed its growth and development. Throughout the entire period he has made his home on the farm which is yet his place of residence, but has not confined his attention and efforts alone to this property, although he has made it a valuable property. From time to time he has given hearty cooperation to many movements for the public good and Clay county owes her development to such men, who dared to face the hardships of pioneer life and have reclaimed this region for the purposes of civilization.

DAVID J. LOGAN, SR.

Among the respected and valued residents of Spencer is numbered David J. Logan, Sr., who for forty years has been a resident of Iowa. This has covered the period of the state's greatest growth and progress, and in the work of general improvement he has borne his full share as the years have gone by. He has lived in Clay county since 1871 and in recent years has been retired from business cares, although for a long time he gave his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits. He was born near Meadville, Crawford county, Pennsylvania, June 14, 1836, his parents, Thomas and Martha (Phillips) Logan being also natives of the Keystone state. The Logan family, however, is of Irish lineage and was founded in America by the grandfather of our subject, who was born in the north of Ireland. Crossing the briny deep to the new world he established his home in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, where he followed the occupation of farming. He not only made a creditable position for himself in agricultural circles but was also regarded as one of the valued residents of the community and was called to fill various offices. For fourteen years he served as justice of the peace and in the War of 1812 served as a soldier. His death occurred in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, when he had reached the venerable age of eighty years. In the maternal line David J. Logan came of Welch ancestry, for his mother's father was a native of the little rock-ribbed country of Wales. He had located in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, when he sought a home on this side of the Atlantic, giving his attention there to general agricultural pursuits.

Thomas Logan, after attaining his majority, became a clothier of Crawford county, Pennsylvania. By trade he was a carder of cloth and throughout his entire life his business interests were in that line and its kindred enterprises. He died in Pennsylvania at the age of seventy-seven years in the faith of the Free

Will Baptist church, to which his wife also belonged. She was seventy-four years of age at the time of her demise. Of their family of three sons and eight daughters only five are now living: Sarah, the widow of Edwin Brown of Indianola, Iowa; David J., of this review; Elmira P., the widow of W. W. Harrison, of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Jennie, wife of W. W. Campbell, of Jamestown, New York; and Thomas Gaylord, of Linesville, Crawford county, Pennsylvania.

David J. Logan spent his youthful days in his parents' home in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, and the work of the farm early became familiar to him, for through the summer months he assisted in the labors of the fields. His early education was acquired in the district schools, while later he enjoyed the benefit of instruction in Austinburg Seminary of Ohio. For seven years during his early manhood he did railroad contracting work. During the period of the Civil war, no longer content to remain at home while the issue of the struggle was still a doubtful one, he offered his services to the government in March, 1864, and joined the boys in blue of Company G, One Hundred and Forty-fifth Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, serving with that command until the close of the war. He participated in the hotly contested battle of the Wilderness, the engagements of Cold Harbor, Spottsylvania Court House, Petersburg and a number of others, and on the field of battle gave unmistakable proof of his valor and loyalty.

When the war was over Mr. Logan returned to his native state and soon went to Pithole City, Pennsylvania, where he erected a store building and in it opened a stock of groceries and provisions. On the 9th of March, 1868, he was married to Miss Eunice Luke, who was born in Linesville, Crawford county, Pennsylvania, in 1843, and is a daughter of John and Martha (Reamer) Luke, who were natives of Albany county, New York. Her father was a son of Henry and Martha (Phillips) Luke, who were also born in the Empire state. Henry Luke served his country as a soldier in the War of 1812, and in days of peace devoted his energies to agricultural interests. John Luke, the father of Mrs. Logan, passed away in 1865, while his wife died some years later at the age of eighty-four years. They were the parents of nine daughters and three sons. The surviving members of the family are: Henry; Mrs. Sarah Van Tassell, a widow; Phoebe, the wife of Dewey Connick, of Springboro, Pennsylvania; Solomon; Eunice, the wife of David J. Logan; and Maria, the wife of Newton Thayer of Crawford county, Pennsylvania.

David J. Logan and his wife began their domestic life at Linesville, Pennsylvania, but in October, 1869, left the east and removed to Sioux Rapids, Iowa, where they resided for a year and a half. During that time Mr. Logan took up a homestead claim of one hundred and sixty acres, which he improved and still owns. In 1871 they came to Clay county and he purchased two eighty-acre tracts of land in Riverton township. To this he has since added until the farm now comprises two hundred and forty acres of rich and productive land, which annually returns to him a gratifying income. Year after year he tilled the soil, bringing the fields under a high state of cultivation and adding modern equipments and accessories to his place. At length, feeling that his financial resources were sufficient to cover all of his expenses throughout his remaining days, he removed to Spencer in 1903 and has since made his home in the city, living a retired life. Mr. and Mrs. Logan reared their family on the farm. They became

the parents of six sons and three daughters: Ralph E., a farmer, who married Minnie Hein and has one son, Leland; Clara M., the wife of Lafayette Hines, by whom she has five children, Harry, Archie, Milton, Roy and Doris; Fred W., a practicing physician of Fenton, Iowa, who married Emma Heis of Algona, Iowa, and who has one son, Donald; Minnie, who is the wife of W. B. Johnson of Riverton township and has two daughters, Edna and Lyle; Herbert, who was killed by a horse when twelve years of age; David J., Jr., who married Josie Seible and is living on the home farm; Charles, who wedded Maud Jones and is now a resident of Spencer; Benjamin F., who is at home with his parents; and Grace, a student in the high school. Mr. and Mrs. Logan are members of the Methodist church and he belongs to Annett Post, G. A. R., delighting there to meet his old army comrades and recall the events which occurred upon southern battlefields. He is always staunch in his support of the republican party and has served as township clerk, supervisor and school director. He has never been remiss in the duties of citizenship, but has always been watchful of the interests pertaining to its progress and has given his cooperation to many movements for the public good. In his seventy-third year Mr. Logan is still a well preserved man, his age resting lightly upon him. Unflagging industry and unfaltering determination have constituted the basis of his success, enabling him, as the years have passed, to so conduct his farming interests that he is now one of the prosperous residents of the county. Moreover, he deserves mention among its pioneer settlers, for Clay county was still regarded as a frontier district when he located within its borders. It had little railroad connection with the outside world, there were many uncultivated tracts of land, and the settlers were still obliged to suffer many of the hardships and difficulties incident to improving the new locality. Mr. Logan did not hesitate to perform his part of this work, and now rejoices in what the county has accomplished, as it is today numbered among the leading counties of this great commonwealth.

FRANK P. RILEY.

Frank P. Riley is an active business man of Fostoria, where for thirteen years he has been connected with various enterprises that have been factors in the business development and progress of the town as well as a source of gratifying individual income. Clay county has numbered him among her citizens since 1878 and regards him as a valuable addition to the ranks of her progressive men. He has always lived in the middle west, however, and seems imbued with the spirit of energy that has been the most forceful feature in the growth and development of this section of the country. He was born at Turner Junction, now West Chicago, in Dupage county, Illinois, November 26, 1859. His father, John Riley, was a native of New York city, where his boyhood was passed and in the eastern metropolis he wedded Ellen Donlin, a native of Ireland. Removing westward, they established their home in Dupage county, Illinois, where Mr. Riley lived until after the outbreak of the Civil war. In 1862 he joined the Twelfth Illinois Cavalry and served throughout the period of hostilities between

the north and the south. On one occasion he was captured and was taken to Libby Prison, where he remained for some time. He participated in a number of battles and was always most loyal to the old flag. When the war was over Mr. Riley removed westward to Iowa, becoming a resident of Meadow township, Clay county, where he lived several years. He then sold out and went to Spencer, and is now living a retired life, the fruits of his former toil being sufficient to permit him to rest without further recourse to labor.

Frank P. Riley was reared and educated in Dupage county, Illinois, and as a young man of nineteen years came to Iowa, settling in Clay county in 1878. Here he became identified with farming interests and so continued for several years, or until 1895. He was one of the promoters of the Fostoria Creamery and was its secretary for ten years, during which time he contributed largely to the success and capable management of the enterprise. He also became one of the promoters of the Farmers' Elevator at Fostoria and acted as its secretary for a decade. In 1907 he became actively engaged in the live-stock business, buying and shipping, and each month sends out from this point about eight or ten car-loads of fat stock. His business interests are very carefully conducted and his sound judgment and unflagging industry are manifest in the prosperity which has come to him.

In March, 1883, in Fostoria, Mr. Riley was married to Miss Sarah Hutchinson, who was born in the state of New York but was reared in Winneshiek county, Iowa, and engaged in teaching school in Clay county prior to her marriage. Two children have blessed this union, Wilfred and Nellie.

Mr. Riley is independent politically, casting his ballot for candidates rather than for party. He has never been an officeseeker nor desired political preferment, yet he acceded to the request of his fellow townsmen that he should serve as trustee of Meadow township and filled that position for a few years. He was for some years the owner of a farm in that township, which he cultivated and improved, making it a valuable property of one hundred and sixty acres. This he still owns but rented the place when he removed to Fostoria to engage in business there. He is a man of determination and force of character, who carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes. In manner he is modest and unostentatious and those who know him speak of him in terms of praise. Mr. Riley is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

WILLIAM PALMER WOODCOCK, M. D.

For forty-three years Dr. William Palmer Woodcock remained an active, successful and honored member of the medical profession, but is now living retired in Spencer, devoting his time and attention to such interests as afford him pleasure and promote his progress in lines of intellectual and moral development. He has now passed the eighty-second milestone on life's journey, and a review of his record shows that at all times his career has been characterized by honorable, manly principles, as well as successful professional attainment. He was born in New York city March 6, 1827, and is of English lineage, being

descended from a noted family of that country. His grandfather, John Higgenbottom Woodcock, was born on the "Merrie Isle," and crossed the Atlantic to America, making his home for a time in New York, while subsequently he removed to Nashville, Tennessee. He married a Miss Beck, of Philadelphia, and they became the parents of two sons, William P. and Thomas Woodcock.

The former, when a boy of twelve years, was thrown upon his own resources, and not only provided for himself but also supported his mother, following various pursuits which would yield him an honest living. He was energetic, diligent and persevering, and his economy enabled him in later years to make investments in property. Through his speculations in real estate and his capable conduct of other business interests, he became a wealthy man, being worth about two million dollars at the time of his demise. While residing in the city of New York he served as captain of a company of militia, and did service at the time of the flour and negro riots of New York city. His history was a notable one from the fact that he started out empty-handed and gained classification among the millionaire residents of the county. Nor was his path at any time strewn with the wreck of other men's fortunes. He wedded Mary Ann Astor Cook, also a native of New York, and a daughter of Peter Cook. Her father was a native of Germany, and after coming to the United States established his home in New York. There he wedded a sister of John Jacob Astor, and both lived to an advanced age. Their daughter, Mrs. A. A. Cook, was their only child. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Woodcock were born seven children, but five of the number have passed away, the surviving ones being William P. and John, the latter of New York.

Dr. Woodcock was reared in New York city, and supplemented his literary education by a course in the medical department of the New York University, from which he was graduated with the class of 1850. In that year he located for practice in the eastern metropolis, and remained as an active member of the profession in the city and vicinity for a number of years. Subsequently he removed to Bedford, Westchester county, New York, where he followed his profession for several years, and then went to Ossining, formerly called Sing Sing. His untiring devotion to his professional duties at length undermined his health, and in 1879 he came to Spencer, Iowa, for needed rest and recreation. Here he devoted his attention to hunting, fishing and other outdoor sports and interests and recovered his health, eventually resuming the active practice of medicine, in which he continued until the period of his connection with the profession covered forty-three years, when he retired, giving his supervision at the present time to his invested interests. By his father's death he came into possession of considerable property, and is now the owner of about five hundred and fifty-four acres of valuable and productive land, together with a beautiful home on the southern edge of Spencer, and twenty-four dwellings in the city, from which he derives a substantial rental.

In 1854 Dr. Woodcock was married to Miss Mary Wiltse, who died, leaving three daughters. Flora, the eldest, became the wife of William Casey, and since his death has married Frank Hunter Potter, a brother of the late Bishop Potter of New York. Matilda died in early womanhood, after spending two or three years in Rome, where she became ill with Roman fever, passing away after

her return home. Hattie, the youngest daughter, is now the wife of Hon. Herbert G. Squires, minister to Panama. He is a West Point graduate, and was military attache to the Chinese embassy during the Boxer war. They have three sons, Herbert, Bard and Jack.

On the 22d of May, 1894, Dr. Woodcock was again married, his second wife being Miss Adelaide Tracy, a daughter of Albert G. and Angeline (Starkey) Tracy. There are six children of this marriage, Adelaide, William P., Jr., Annita, Thursia, Fletcher Howard and Gertrude. The mother was born in Jessup, Buchanan county, Iowa, while her parents were natives of Ohio. They had four children, the eldest being Mrs. Woodcock, while the others are George, Albert and Minnie, the wife of A. J. Cuttell of Spokane, Washington. Mr. and Mrs. Tracy were early settlers of Buchanan county, Iowa, where the father engaged as a produce dealer. He was killed by lightning July 21, 1891, when fifty-eight years of age. His wife survived him for six years, but never recovered from the effects of the shock of her husband's death. Both Dr. and Mrs. Woodcock are members of the Episcopal church, in which he is serving as senior warden, and in the support of which he has been a most liberal contributor. His political allegiance is given to the democracy. A lover of flowers and plants, he has a large greenhouse at his home which he established some years ago for his own pleasure. He has made additions to this from time to time, and now has many rare and beautiful flowers in which his wife also takes great delight. He has been an extensive traveler and is a lover of the beautiful, having a collection of rare pictures, some of which are very valuable. Beauty in any form makes strong appeal to him, and in later years he has had opportunity to indulge his taste in this direction and cultivate those graces of character which are developed through the intellectual and aesthetic. As a resident of Spencer he has been loyal in his advocacy of everything pertaining to the welfare of the city, and has made some substantial contributions to its development and progress.

J. W. McDOWELL.

Perhaps no one is better known throughout Clay county as a breeder of a high grade of draft horses than J. W. McDowell, who operates a large farm near Greenville and who is a native of the state of Ohio, his birth having occurred in Pickaway county, September 5, 1845. He is a son of Robert T. and Mary (Wolf) McDowell, his great-grandfather having been a native of Scotland. His father was a native of Fairfield county, that state, where he resided until 1854, when he located in Livingston county, Illinois, and lived there until he departed this life in 1885, his remains being interred at Streator, that state. He followed general agriculture all his days, and was ranked among the substantial and financial factors of the township. In politics he was a whig, at the dissolution of which party he naturally allied himself with the republican party to which he was thereafter loyal. He was known throughout the community as a Christian character and was throughout his life an earnest worker in the United Brethren church. His mother, now in her eighty-eighth year, is also a native of Fairfield county.

Ohio. She was united in marriage there and now resides with her son, J. W. McDowell. In their family were eight children, namely: Noah, a resident of California; J. W.; Susanna, who became the wife of J. W. Shropshire, a farmer and stockman of Alvarado, Texas; Louisa, who is wedded to F. P. Giles, now residing in Streator, Illinois; Lewis, an agriculturist of Forest City, this state; and Albert, Alice and Mattie, deceased.

In the common schools of Livingston county, Illinois, J. W. McDowell acquired his education and remained under the parental roof until he was seventeen years of age, when he enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, in the one hundred day service, and received an honorable discharge six months later. Upon returning home he began to farm in Livingston county and remained there until 1895, during which year he removed to the place on which he now resides, his farm consisting of five hundred acres of land located in Lincoln and Meadow townships. His property is highly improved, being provided with an elegant dwelling house and substantial barns; is well fenced and drained and one of the most desirable pieces of property for agricultural purposes in the county. He deals largely in corn and oats and in addition pays attention to stock-raising, making a specialty of breeding draft and road horses with particular attention to the Percheron and Hambletonian breeds. He has the reputation of having the best horses in the county. He began the breeding of this class of animals when thirty-five years of age and his long experience together with the profound study he has given to the business has made him a recognized authority. His horses are all graded and registered and upon the whole Mr. McDowell is without a peer in the state as a judge of their points and qualities. He does quite a shipping business in graded cattle, raising the shorthorn class in particular, and has also gained quite a reputation as a breeder of Poland China hogs.

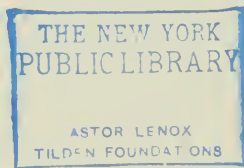
In 1866 he was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Brooker, of Livingston county, Illinois, by whom he has had three children, namely: Frank, who is engaged in agriculture north of Spencer, in Meadow township; Harley A., deceased; and Alta, wife of C. L. West, a real estate operator of St. Cloud, Minnesota. Mr. McDowell is a republican in politics but has not found time to actively engage in public affairs, as his business interests demand his undivided attention. He attends the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his wife is a member. He is a man well known throughout the county not only as one of its foremost stockmen, but also as a straightforward and upright character. He merits the confidence and respect of all who know him, and is numbered among the most substantial citizens of the county.

HENRY NYMAN SMITH.

Honored and respected by all, there is no man who occupies a more enviable position in financial circles than Henry Nyman Smith, not alone by reason of the success he has achieved but also owing to the fact that his business methods have been straightforward and honorable. He is a dependable man under all



H. N. SMITH



circumstances and the simple weight of his character and ability have carried him into important business relations. He has ever utilized his opportunities to the best advantage and, making steady progress in the business world, has today reached a position of prominence and influence, being president of the People's Savings Bank and vice president of the First National Bank of Spencer.

Mr. Smith is a native of Maryland, his birth having occurred in Boonsboro, on the 2d of September, 1844. He is a son of Samuel H. and Elizabeth (Nyman) Smith, who were natives of Maryland. The former was a son of John Smith, who was of German descent, and a shoemaker by trade. Leaving Maryland, he removed westward with his family and became a resident of Boonsboro, Maryland, where his death was occasioned by an accident, being thrown from a horse. His widow survived him and lived to an advanced age. They had a large family, including David, Jacob, John, William, Samuel and Sarah. The maternal grandfather of H. N. Smith was Henry Nyman, who was born in Hanover, Pennsylvania, in 1782, his death occurring in 1876, when he was 94 years old. He, too, was of German lineage and followed the blacksmith's trade in early manhood but spent the later years of his life retired. He married Miss Susana Brantner, who was born in Boonsboro in 1788, entering into rest in 1836. Their family included the following children: Daniel, Henry, George, Lewis, Joseph, Elizabeth, Sarah, Maria, Susan, Mary, Michael and Rebecca.

Samuel H. Smith, in his youthful days, learned the shoemaker's trade and later became a shoe merchant of Boonsboro, Maryland, where he carried on business for a number of years, becoming well known in the commercial circles of the city. He also served as postmaster for one term. Both he and his wife were members of the Lutheran church and were loyal to its teachings and their faith. His death occurred in 1876, when he had reached the age of sixty-five years, while Mrs. Smith lived until 1896 and passed away at the advanced age of eighty-three years. They were the parents of ten children but only two are now living: Henry N., of this review; and J. Harland Smith, who is a resident of Hagerstown, Maryland.

Henry N. Smith was reared in Boonsboro and acquired his education in the schools of that city. Later he became a resident of Hagerstown, Maryland, where he remained for two years and afterward removed to Hancock, Maryland, where he resided until January, 1883. At that date he came to Spencer, where he has since made his home. When a boy he learned the jeweler's trade but gave up work in that line and turned his attention to clerking, being thus employed until coming west. On arriving at Spencer he entered the Clay County Bank in the capacity of bookkeeper and since that time has been continuously connected with financial interests of the county. After three years' service as bookkeeper he was promoted in January, 1886, to the position of cashier and so continued until July, 1901, when the Clay County Bank was consolidated with the First National Bank and the People's Savings Bank. At that date he became president of the latter and vice president of the former and in those business relations still continues. The First National Bank is capitalized for one hundred thousand dollars and has a surplus of twenty thousand dollars, while the People's Savings Bank is capitalized for twenty-five thousand dollars and has a surplus of five thousand dollars, making a combined capital and surplus of one hundred

and fifty thousand dollars. These are two of the substantial money concerns of the county, capably controlled along conservative lines, every means being employed to protect the depositors and at the same time give them the benefit of a progressive business policy.

On the 18th of December, 1873, Mr. Smith was married to Miss Lillie Brosius, a daughter of Daniel and Eleanor (Johnson) Brosius, and a native of Washington county, Maryland. Two children have been born to them. The elder, Bessie L., became the wife of G. Ralph Free and died May 19, 1906, leaving one daughter, Margaret. Sue Meta is the wife of Dr. A. W. Leard, of Spencer. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are prominent socially and members of the Episcopal church. His membership relations extend also to Evening Shade Lodge, No. 312, A. F. & A. M., and Spencer Lodge, No. 247, I. O. O. F. In both of these he is now treasurer and he became one of the charter members of the Rebekah Lodge of Odd Fellows. Politically he is a democrat, his study of the questions and issues of the day leading him to the opinion that the principles of that party are best calculated to conserve the general good. He has served two terms as school trustee and was mayor of Spencer for one term, giving to the city a business-like and progressive administration. He is a dignified, courteous gentleman, of kindly spirit and strongly marked principles, who through his marked individuality has left the impress for good upon his community.

SAMUEL FISK.

Samuel Fisk, carrying on general farming, on section 26, Summit township, was born in Lee county, Illinois, October 24, 1869. His father, John M. Fisk, was a native of Canada, but when a young man crossed the border into the United States, desiring to enjoy the advantages of a country where competition is greater but where advancement is more quickly secured. Making his way to Illinois, he took up his abode in Lee county and there met and married Miss Mary E. Abell, a native of Pennsylvania. He followed farming in Lee county for a number of years or until after eight children were born unto him and his wife in that locality. In 1876 he removed with his family to Iowa, settling first near Ames, in Story county, while subsequently he became a resident of Palo Alto county and made his home at Curlew. He was a noted inventor and among the works of his inventive genius was a car-mover, which is now patented. He also secured patents on other valuable devices, which were the result of his mechanical skill and ability. His last years were spent at Curlew, where his widow still resides.

Samuel Fisk was a lad of seven years when he accompanied his parents on their removal from Illinois to Iowa. He largely acquired his education in the schools of Story county and when a young man came to Clay county, where he secured work as a farm hand. Here he was employed for several years in that capacity, during which time he saved his earnings and was thus enabled to make a start in business life.

On the 16th of December, 1891, in this county, Mr. Fisk was united in marriage to Miss Augusta Muetzel, a daughter of Fred Muetzel, who, arriving in Clay county during the pioneer epoch in its history, was enabled to secure a homestead claim here. Mrs. Fisk was born in Wisconsin but was reared in this county. After their marriage Mr. Fisk rented a tract of land and thus carried on farming for a number of years or until 1899, when his savings justified him in becoming owner of a farm. He therefore invested in eighty acres in Lincoln township. This was an improved farm, which he cultivated for two years, while later he traded that property for his present farm, on which he took up his abode in 1900. He has here a tract of one hundred and sixty-five acres on section 26, Summit township. With characteristic energy he began to develop and improve the property and his labors are today seen in its excellent and attractive appearance. He erected a new house and barn, two corn cribs, a granary and a hog house. He has divided his place into fields of convenient size, with woven wire and barbed wire fence, has put out a grove and has set out much fruit. In fact he has made the farm what it is today and the work of development is being carried farther forward year by year. He annually harvests good crops and he also raises, feeds and fattens hogs and cattle. His live-stock interests constitute an important source of revenue to him. He is one of the stockholders in the Farmers' Elevator at Fostoria and also in the Farmers' Elevator at Spencer.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Fisk have been born five children, two sons and three daughters: Merrill Leo, Esther Anna, Lester Floyd, Helen Mary and Mabel Irene. The family circle yet remains unbroken by the hand of death and all are still under the parental roof. Politically Mr. Fisk is a staunch republican with firm faith in the principles of the party. He is now serving as township trustee, filling the position for two years and he has also acted as a school officer and by his efforts has promoted the interests of education in this locality. He is frequently chosen as a delegate to the county conventions of his party and is known as an earnest local worker in its ranks. His wife is a member of the Lutheran church and both are highly esteemed socially. Mr. Fisk started out in life for himself a poor young man and worked by the month as a farm hand for several years. He then rented for some time until he could save from his earnings a sum sufficient to enable him to purchase land. Through his own labor, enterprise and good management, he has become the owner of a valuable property and is widely and favorably known in this part of the county for his many sterling traits of character and his business progressiveness.

ERNEST PARKER FLINT.

Ernest Parker Flint, cashier of the Exchange Bank at Dickens, was born at Stoughton, Dane county, Wisconsin, July 23, 1869, and is a son of Angelo A. and Emma (Parker) Flint, who are mentioned elsewhere in this volume. Mr. Flint lived in Stoughton, Wisconsin, until ten years of age and began his education in the public schools there. Later he removed to northern Michigan and subsequently became a resident of Spencer as his parents established their home

Digitized by Microsoft

in these different localities. He was graduated from the high school at Florence, Wisconsin, and later from the Beloit College Academy, where he completed his course in 1892. He then took a position as assistant cashier in the Exchange Bank of Dickens and since 1899 has been the cashier. He is now thoroughly conversant with the banking business in principle and detail and his capable control of the Exchange Bank is manifested in its growing success. It is one of the reliable financial institutions of this part of the state and conducts all kinds of banking business.

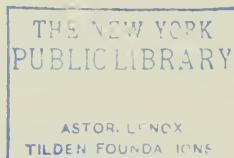
On the 15th of November, 1894, Mr. Flint was united in marriage to Miss Lorena Varney, a daughter of James O. and Jennie (Holt) Varney. Mrs. Flint was born in this county, near Spencer, and by her marriage has become the mother of one daughter, Mariam. Mr. Flint exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party and has served as school treasurer for a number of years. He belongs to Dickens Lodge, No. 583, I. O. O. F., and both he and his wife are members of the Congregational church. They are well known in the community and their home is the center of a cultured society circle. Mr. Flint always gives his influence and aid to progressive public measures and stands as a stalwart defender of justice, truth and right, in public as well as private relations.

H. E. JONES.

H. E. Jones needs no introduction to the readers of this volume for he is well known in the western part of the county where his numerous friends call him Ed. He is one of the active business men and public-spirited citizens of Lone Tree township, making his home in Everly, where for the past seven years, he has been engaged in business. He was a little lad of less than four years when brought to Clay county and has since remained within its borders. His birth occurred near Stoughton, Wisconsin, on the 18th of December, 1863, his father being Evan Jones while his brother is A. T. Jones, mentioned elsewhere in this work. On the old home farm in this county H. E. Jones was reared and in the common schools pursued his education. He herded cattle on the open prairie when a lad, for at that time the prairie had not been converted into farms and was still in possession of the government, and the settlers could turn their cattle and stock loose upon it that they might graze on the native grasses. With all of the farm work H. E. Jones early became familiar, as his father believed in practical training for his boys, that they might have experience to aid them when they reached manhood. He continued with his father until twenty-two years of age when, thinking that other fields would prove more congenial and profitable than agricultural life, he turned his attention to railroad construction and for three years was employed on various roads in six different states. In 1888, however, he returned to Clay county with the capital he had saved through his earnings and purchased land, becoming the owner of two hundred and forty acres in Waterford township. Here he began the arduous task of cultivating land that was still in its primitive condition. It is no sinecure to open up a new farm.



H. E. JONES



Years had made the ground hard and it was therefore difficult to break the sod and prepare the soil for planting. But with persistent energy Mr. Jones pursued his task and made a good start in the farm work. Later he bought another tract of three hundred and twenty acres which was partially improved. He continued its further development and thus engaged in farming for twelve years, after which he rented his land and removed to Everly, where he turned his attention to the live-stock business, also selling farm machinery. He continued in live-stock business three or four years and then withdrew from that field of industry but continued to engage in the implement business until January, 1909. At that date he purchased the stock of A. W. Sleepers in the First National Bank and succeeded him as president of this strong financial institution of Everly. He is at the head of the business and is giving close attention to its control and management. He is, moreover, a stockholder in the Everly Grain & Lumber Company and in all of his commercial as well as agricultural relations he has shown himself to be a man of good business ability, of strong and determined purpose and undaunted energy. He forms his plans readily and is determined in their execution. His business judgment is rarely, if ever, at fault.

The home life of Mr. Jones had its beginning in his marriage in Spencer in March, 1887, to Miss Iva McCabe, who was born in New York. They are now the parents of three children, Edith, Ella and Ruth. The eldest daughter is now attending school in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Politically Mr. Jones is independent. He was elected county supervisor by a large majority in 1908, and is now filling the office in a manner creditable to himself and satisfactory to his constituents. He belongs to Everly Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and also to the Odd Fellows Lodge of this place. There are few citizens of the county more widely and more favorably known than H. E. Jones, whose business enterprise has carried him into important commercial and financial relations, while his genial manner, his unfailing courtesy and his spirit of friendliness have gained him the warm and lasting regard of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

JULIUS AUGUSTUS SMITH.

Deeds of battle have been the theme of story and song since the earliest ages and will continue to awaken interest and patriotism through all the coming years. No one is more deserving of representation in the history of a country than a soldier who went forth to its defense in the hour of peril; no one more deserves mention in the record of a community than he who risked his life for the cause of freedom. Julius Augustus Smith, as a veteran of the Civil war, is entitled to that gratitude which the country owes to those who defended the Union during the darkest hours in our country's history. Moreover, he comes of a patriotic family, for his grandfather in the paternal line was a valiant soldier of the Revolutionary war, and was killed in the battle of Lundy's Lane.

The parents of Mr. Smith were Julius and Elenore (Wendler) Smith, natives of Kentucky and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, respectively. They were married, however, in Ohio, and soon afterward removed westward to Indiana,

where they remained for a short time and then went to Stephenson county, Illinois, settling in the town of Freeport. There the father worked at his trade of carpentering and was long associated with the building interests of the locality. He died there in June, 1878, at the age of eighty-five years, while the mother passed away in 1850, at the age of forty-six years, her death being occasioned by cholera. There were eleven children in the family, only three of whom are now living. Nearly all of the others died of the same disease during the terrible cholera epidemic of that year.

Julius A. Smith was born in Stark county, Ohio, November 24, 1833, and was but a young child when his parents removed to Illinois. He was only sixteen years of age at the time of his mother's death and afterward he started out in life on his own account, for the family was largely broken up, as death had claimed most of its members. To provide for his own maintenance he began breaking prairie in the vicinity of Freeport, Illinois, and after being employed in that way for a time started for California in 1853. Gold had been discovered about five years before and interesting reports were still received of new "finds" in the rich mining districts of the Pacific coast. Going by way of the isthmus, he followed mining in California until 1858 and then returned to Freeport, Illinois, where he again resided until after the outbreak of the Civil war.

In 1862, imbued with the spirit of patriotism, Mr. Smith offered his services to the government and was placed in Company E, Seventy-fourth Regiment of Illinois Infantry, which was assigned to the Second Division of the First Brigade, Fourth Army Corps. He was mustered in at Rockford and was immediately sent to the front, his first engagement being the battle of Perryville. Bragg was drawing his army there but, after some fighting, withdrew to Nashville and was driven thence to Murfreesboro and Stone River. The Union troops followed Bragg's army, fighting all the way to Atlanta. Mr. Smith likewise participated in the battles of Atlanta and Jonesboro and, in fact, took part in all of the Atlanta campaign. After the fall of the city of Atlanta the division to which he belonged was ordered back to Nashville and he participated in the severe engagement at Franklin, which he regards as one of the most hotly contested battles of all the Civil war. He was there wounded in the right leg and when the regiment left for Nashville, an officer tendered him the use of his horse. The distance between the two points was eighteen miles and this was the only ride Mr. Smith had during his service while under marching orders. He was in the hospital at Nashville from the last of November until the 15th of December and then rejoined his regiment, after which he engaged in the battle of Nashville, which was waged for two days. This battle practically broke up the rebel army, the Confederates retreating to Tennessee, followed by the Union troops. Later they were ordered back to Nashville and there, on the 30th of June, 1865, the war having closed, Mr. Smith was mustered out. He saw much arduous duty, experiencing all the hardships of war. In the twenty-seven days' fighting in front of Atlanta, his regiment lost four captains, one lieutenant colonel and sixty-five men. Mr. Smith was wounded twice, the first time being shot in the elbow joint, at Missionary Ridge. From these wounds he has suffered greatly and although several operations have been performed on his leg, the old wound will probably never heal and will occasion him trouble throughout his entire life. The younger generation

cannot understand what were the hardships experienced by the old soldiers—such men as Mr. Smith—who really sacrificed the best strength and energies of their lives for their country's cause. Their suffering extended not only through the time of their service on southern battlefields but through the years that have followed, and the country owes to them a debt of gratitude which can never be paid. But the tale of their bravery will remain a theme of song and story through all ages, while this country exists as an indivisible Union.

When the war was over Mr. Smith returned to his family in Illinois. He had been married on the 23d of December, 1858, to Miss Emeline Schonmaker, a daughter of Henry and Margaret (Lowen) Schonmaker, both of whom were natives of North Carolina, whence they had removed westward at an early day and located near Rockford, Illinois. Three children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Smith: David, at home; Ella Frances, who married Oscar Hill and resides at Freeport, Illinois; and Henry, who wedded Luda Cook and is living in Mason City, Iowa.

Following the war Mr. Smith lived for about fifteen years in Illinois, residing in Freeport until 1880, when he removed to Little Rock, Lyon county, Iowa. He retained his residence there for about eight years and then came to Clay county, where he has since resided. At that time he purchased his present farm for twenty-three dollars per acre. Today it is a valuable tract of land, worth more than four-fold the original price which he paid. He brought his fields to a high state of cultivation, raising the cereals best adapted to soil and climate and adding to the farm many modern equipments and improvements. At the present time, however, he is renting his land, while he is living in honorable retirement from labor, his previous success being sufficient to supply him with the comforts of life. He has voted the republican ticket since the organization of the party, being a loyal defender of that political organization which stood as the defense of the Union during the dark days of the Civil war. His life record has at all times been a creditable one and, in matters of citizenship, he has displayed the same patriotic spirit which he manifested as a soldier on the battlefields of the south.

E. F. TURNER.

E. F. Turner, the oldest railroad station agent in Clay county, now performing the duties of that office for the North-Western Railroad Company, at Peterson, was born in Buffalo, New York, November 13, 1842, a son of Orin A. and Thuda (Frary) Turner, both of whom were natives of Chattanooga county, that state. The father, who was reared there, went to Illinois in 1852, locating in Geneseo, Henry county, where he resided until the year 1866. During that year he repaired to Ottawa, La Salle county, where he took charge of a glass-ware establishment, continuing its management five years, at the expiration of which time he went to Chicago and began to work for the North-Western Railroad, remaining in the general offices of that company until September 21, 1897, when he departed this life in his eighty-seventh year, his remains being interred

in that city. The mother, who was born in the year 1816, was united in marriage at her home in her native state and passed away in Chicago in the year 1889. In the family were two children, namely: Fanny, wife of Isaac Esmay, who is living a retired life in Chicago, Illinois; and E. F.

At the usual age E. F. Turner was enrolled as a pupil in the common schools of Geneseo, Illinois, and subsequently completed a course of study in the high school and also pursued a business course in the Eastman Commercial College, of Chicago, Illinois, from which institution he was graduated in the year 1861. He then went to Geneseo, that state, where he secured employment as a clerk in a drug store, which position he held until April of the year 1862, when he enlisted in Company K, One Hundred and Thirty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served with his regiment until he received his discharge, which was granted him, after he had served two years and eight months, on account of injuries received by an explosion while in the ranks. He participated in many battles and skirmishes and was sent to Cairo, Illinois, on guard duty, thence to St. Louis and then to Jefferson City, Missouri, where his regiment met General Price and a hot engagement ensued, and, upon returning to St. Louis, was confined in a hospital for four months. Joining his regiment again at Paducah, Kentucky, he took part in a number of skirmishes within the southern lines and was finally, owing to his disability, detailed as a member of the brigade band, in which he remained until the close of the war.

Upon leaving the military ranks he returned to Geneseo, Illinois, where he started in the drug business for himself, conducting the enterprise until the year 1866, when he went to Ottawa, La Salle county, Illinois, as bookkeeper for a glass manufacturing concern then under the management of his father and, in this capacity, served for something over four years, when he repaired to Colorado, locating in Boulder county, and there engaged in general farming until the year 1875, during which year he went to Chicago and entered the employ of the North-Western Railroad as clerk in the freight offices. There he remained until October of the year 1880, when he went to Hardin county, Illinois, which was then known as New Providence, but now as Lawn Hill, and was station agent there until July 25, 1882, when he came to Peterson and was given charge of the company's interests here, where he has since resided, performing the duties of his office. He took charge of the station here shortly after the railroad had extended its line to this place and about three weeks after he had taken hold of the affairs of the office the company began to extend the road to Sutherland, but still used Peterson as the terminal until the road had been completed as far as Paullina. Mr. Turner was the first station agent in this place and the building he first occupied in which to transact the affairs of his office was a box-car, which he occupied about four weeks, when the company erected a suitable building.

In 1866 Mr. Turner was united in marriage to Miss Cynthia Deem, a resident of Geneseo, Illinois, and the couple have one child, Lullu, who resides with her parents. Mr. Turner's political views are with the republican party, to which he has been loyal since he cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln and, being a man who is thoroughly reliable and who has a marked degree of executive ability, he has been chosen to fill a number of town offices, among which is

that of treasurer, in which responsible position he is now acting. He belongs to Peterson Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of which he has been treasurer for eleven terms; the Knights of Pythias, American Order of United Workmen and the Brotherhood of American Yeomen. Mr. Turner has always been influentially associated with the business and financial affairs of this place and is a man whose high moral character and uprightness have always merited him the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens.

ALBERT C. PERINE.

Through successive stages of business development and progress Albert C. Perine has worked his way upward to a prominent place in commercial circles in Spencer, where he now conducts a lumber yard, having an extensive and growing patronage. His life record began in Racine, Wisconsin, on the 18th of September, 1850, his parents being William M. and Margaret S. (Welch) Perine, who were natives of the state of New York. The paternal grandfather was also born in the Empire state and both he and his wife lived to an advanced age and reared a large family. Their son, William M. Perine, removing westward at a very early day, settled in Racine, Wisconsin, and became treasurer and general freight agent for the Racine & Mississippi Railroad Company at that place. He continued to reside there until his life's labors were ended in death in 1864, when he was fifty-four years of age. His widow survived him for a long period and died in 1903 at the advanced age of eighty-three years. They were both Presbyterians in religious faith and were loyal in their devotion to the church. Their family numbered six children, of whom three died in infancy. Those still living are: Josiah W., who is now living in Chicago; Helen, the wife of H. H. Munger, of the same city; and Albert C.

The last named spent the days of his boyhood and youth in the city of his nativity and at the usual age was sent to the public schools, where he continued his studies through successive grades, eventually becoming a high school pupil. When seventeen years of age he left home and went to Chicago, where he was employed in the car works of the Wells & French Company, occupying a position in the office for ten years. In the meantime he carefully saved his earnings and in 1878 came to Spencer, where he invested his capital in a lumber yard. For thirty-one years he has now continued in this business, being one of the oldest as well as one of the most reliable lumber merchants of the county. He has a liberal patronage and in all of his dealings is strictly fair and reliable, his commercial probity standing as an unquestioned fact in his career. He is also known in financial circles as a director of the First National Bank of Spencer.

Mr. Perine was united in marriage to Miss Martha J. Wood, a daughter of Henry B. Wood, and unto them have been born three daughters. Margaret, the eldest, is now the wife of Crowley E. Cole, a resident of Atlantic, Iowa, and they have one son, Edward Perine Cole. Mary, the second daughter, is a teacher in the public schools of Hartley, Iowa, while Helen, the youngest, is attending the Spencer high school.

Mr. and Mrs. Perine hold membership in the Congregational church and he is a prominent Mason, belonging to Evening Shade Lodge, No. 312, A. F. & A. M.; Clay Chapter, No. 112, R. A. M.; Esdraelon Commandery, No. 52, K. T., and Za-Ga-Zig Temple of the nobles of the Mystic Shrine at Des Moines. He is an exemplary representative of the craft, being in hearty sympathy with its humanitarian purposes. His political views are in accord with the principles of the republican party and he has served as school director and as a member of the city council for several terms, discharging his duties in that position in a manner to further the welfare and progress of the city. He is widely known in Spencer and his substantial characteristics have gained him the warm regard and unqualified trust of his fellow townsmen.

CHARLES M. PINNEO.

Charles M. Pinneo, a well known resident of Spencer, is numbered among those who have contributed to the upbuilding of the great west and his experiences have been of a varied and interesting character. He has always resided on this side of the Mississippi and in various localities has proved his worth as a loyal and progressive citizen.

A native of Missouri, he was born in Stewartsville, De Kalb county, on the 21st of August, 1857, and is a son of William W. and Eunice (Eaton) Pinneo, both of whom were natives of Nova Scotia. The father was a merchant, who, when a young man, crossed the border into the United States and after living for a time in Stewartsville, Missouri, removed to Paola, Kansas, where he engaged in merchandising from a period just prior to the Civil war until his death, which occurred when he was forty-six years of age. His widow long survived him and died in 1897 at the age of sixty-five years. Both were consistent members of the Methodist church and, in every community in which they resided, enjoyed the warm regard and respect of those who knew them. They were the parents of seven children, four sons and three daughters, namely: Anna, the wife of Dolph Edwards, of Chicago; Minnie, the wife of William Wharton, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; William, a resident of Chicago; Edward W., who makes his home in Colorado; Charles M., of this review; Frank, who is deceased; and May, the wife of David Smythe, of Rooks county, Kansas.

In taking up the personal history of Charles M. Pinneo we present to our readers the life record of one who is widely and favorably known in this county. He resided in Paola, Kansas, between the ages of two and seventeen years, and there acquired his education in attending the public schools. In 1873 he came to Spencer and has followed various pursuits during his residence in this county, covering a period of thirty-six years. During this time the county has been converted from a pioneer district into one of the thriving and growing districts of this great commonwealth. In the early days there was no railroad and he drove stage to Storm Lake, Sibley and Spirit Lake for seven or eight years. He also had the first express wagon in Spencer and at another time he worked for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company for a brief period. During

the past fifteen years he has been engaged in auctioneering and has done a good business in this regard, being a popular crier of sales. In November, 1906, he was elected on the democratic ticket to the office of county sheriff and entered upon the duties of the position in 1907, completing his term of service in December, 1908. He was fearless and impartial in discharging the duties of the office and has thus won the approval and support of all law-abiding citizens.

In 1882 Mr. Pinneo was united in marriage to Miss Emma Wolf, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Wolf. There was but one child born of that marriage, Minnie, who is now the wife of Paul Miller and a resident of Badger, Iowa. They have two children, Vernon and Donald. Mrs. Emma Pinneo died in 1887 at the age of twenty-nine years and her death was deeply regretted by many friends, who esteemed her for her genuine personal worth. In 1889 Mr. Pinneo was again married, his second union being with Miss Nettie McCaulley, a daughter of Isaac McCaulley. She was born in Rock Grove, Illinois, and by this marriage has become the mother of three children, Harry, Carroll and Audrey.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Pinneo hold membership in the Friends church and are earnest Christian people, closely following the teachings of their denomination. Mr. Pinneo belongs to Spencer Lodge, No. 247, I. O. O. F., and his wife is connected with the Rebekahs—the auxiliary degree of that order. Mr. Pinneo is likewise a member of the Maccabees and his political allegiance has always been given to the democratic party. Something of his personal popularity and the confidence reposed in him by his fellow townsmen is indicated in the fact that he was the only democratic county officer during his incumbency and in securing his election overcame a normal republican majority of seventeen hundred. He is genial and courteous in manner, wins friends wherever he goes and receives and merits the trust and good will of his associates.

MALAKIAS WAHLSTROM.

Malakias Wahlstrom, one of Sweden's industrious sons who settled in this country with little more than his health and strength, was born January 9, 1855, a son of Andrew and Anna Wahlstrom, his father and mother both having been natives of Sweden, where they resided on a farm until their death. In their family were four children, namely: Christina, who resides in her native land; Malakias, our subject; Charlie, who is an agriculturist of Lincoln township, this county; and Matilda, who resides in Spencer, Iowa.

Malakias Wahlstrom was reared on his father's farm in Sweden, where he learned the various phases of this occupation, and in the village schools he acquired his education, remaining on the home farm until 1880, when he came to the United States and located in Lincoln township, Clay county, Iowa. Shortly after his arrival he bought a tract of land, and meeting with splendid success in its cultivation, was soon able to increase his holdings to two hundred and forty acres, his land being located on sections 18 and 20. The land is now highly improved, Mr. Wahlstrom having himself built all the buildings and fences upon it, including a fine residence, barns and outbuildings, and the attention which he

has given his property has made his farm one of the finest in the township. He engages in general agricultural pursuits, raising hay and the various kinds of grain, and also pays some attention to stock breeding, and the shipping of cattle, sheep and hogs.

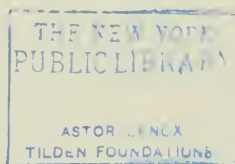
In the year 1880 he was united in marriage to Miss Lottie Goothblad, a native of Sweden, who came to this country during that year. Mr. and Mrs. Wahlstrom have been blessed with the following children: Ellen Amelia, who became the wife of Albert Barglof, an agriculturist of Greenville, Iowa; Carl Harry, who wedded Hilma Johnson, and is a farmer of this township; Alfred Rudolph, who wedded Esther Johnson, and also resides in Lincoln township; Anna Matilda, wife of Peter Mathison, who is engaged in blacksmithing in Moneta, Iowa; and Ernest Gerald; Gustave Edwin; Walter Edward; Edith Elizabeth; Olga Sylvia; and Julia Victoria, all at home. In politics Mr. Wahlstrom is a republican and while he is not an active politician he takes considerable interest in public affairs. As to his religious faith, he is a Lutheran and with his wife attends divine services at the Swedish Lutheran church in Lincoln township. He is one of the most enterprising men in the vicinity, always ready and willing to do what he can for the general improvement of the township, and is held in high respect as a congenial and progressive neighbor.

F. J. COLEMAN, M. D.

A history of the medical fraternity of Clay county would be incomplete and unsatisfactory were there failure to make prominent reference to Dr. F. J. Coleman, who is engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery in Everly. Throughout the years of his connection with the profession he has made steady progress through his reading and research and has proven his knowledge and capability in the excellent results which have attended his labors. He came to Everly in 1897 and has since devoted his attention to the conscientious performance of the duties that devolve upon him in his professional capacity. A native of Illinois, his birth occurred in La Salle county, January 1, 1868, and he resided there until twelve years of age, when in 1880 he became a resident of Nebraska. His education, which was begun in Illinois, was continued in Nebraska, and later he completed the work of the junior year in the college at Vermillion, South Dakota. Determining upon the practice of medicine and surgery as his life work, he then began reading toward that end and completed his studies in Sioux City in 1897. The same year he came to Everly, where he practiced for a year and then in order to still further perfect himself in the line of his chosen calling he made his way to Buffalo, New York, where he pursued a course in the medical department of the university in that city, and was graduated with the class of 1899. Returning to Everly well equipped for the onerous duties of the profession, he has since built up an extensive business here. The consensus of public opinion regarding his professional skill is altogether favorable for it is well known that he is most careful in the diagnosis of a case and never neglects anything that he believes will prove of



F. J. COLEMAN



value in checking the ravages of disease and promoting health. He keeps in touch with the advanced thought of the profession through his membership in the County, State and National Medical Societies, and his ability is widely recognized in the profession.

His office is well equipped with all modern apparatus, including the latest improved surgical instruments, and he has performed critical operations most successfully.

Dr. Coleman was married in Everly, in June, 1901, to Miss Mary Tyndall, of Spencer, who was born in Illinois but was reared in the county seat of Clay county, her education being largely acquired in the schools of Spencer. There is one child of this marriage, a son, Francis Tyndall Coleman. Dr. Coleman is a member of Everly Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and Spencer Chapter, R. A. M. He has filled all of the offices in the former and is now a past Master, while both he and his wife are connected with the Order of the Eastern Star. Dr. Coleman also belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Everly and to the Elks' lodge at Estherville. He is a gentleman of genial manner and hopeful spirit and his presence is like a ray of sunshine in the sick room where an air of hopefulness and encouragement constitute a valuable factor for health. He has made an excellent professional record, as is indicated by the lucrative practice now accorded him, and is, moreover, known as a progressive and public-spirited citizen.

CALVIN CAUVEL.

Calvin Cauvel, carrying on general farming, is one of the self-made men of Clay county who through his own labors has reached a creditable financial position, being now the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of valuable and productive farming land. He was born in Center county, Pennsylvania, September 13, 1832, and is a son of Daniel and Sarah (Malory) Cauvel. His father was also a native of the Keystone state and there spent his entire life, devoting his time and energies to farming. His father was a native of Germany and the founder of the family in the new world. The mother of our subject was probably born in the state of New York but was married in Pennsylvania, where her remaining days were passed. In the family were twelve children: John, a carpenter and farmer living in Venango county, Pennsylvania; Elizabeth, deceased; Calvin, of this review; Harriet, who is the widow of David Ketner and lives in Saegerstown, Pennsylvania; Russel, who makes his home in Titusville, Crawford county, Pennsylvania; Wesley, Hamilton, Wilson, Louisa, William and Jonas, all now deceased; and one child who died in infancy.

To the public-school system of his native state Calvin Cauvel is indebted for the educational privileges which he enjoyed in his youthful days. He worked with his father on the farm and remained at home until twenty-two years of age, when in the hope of bettering his financial condition he started to Illinois and established his home in Stephenson county near Freeport. He learned the carpenter's trade in Pennsylvania, and followed building pursuits as well as farming

for eighteen years. On the expiration of that period he came to Clay county, Iowa, and here purchased one hundred and sixty acres of raw prairie land. It was entirely destitute of improvements but with characteristic energy he began its development and there matured a well improved farm, on which is a good residence, together with substantial outbuildings and all the equipments of a model farm property. This model farm has lately been turned over to his son C. W. Both grain and stock are raised on this place. Mr. Cauvel has also worked to some extent at the carpenter's trade since coming to Iowa.

It was on the 11th of March, 1859, that Mr. Cauvel was married to Miss Elizabeth Bordner, of Illinois. Unto them were born eight children: Milton, now deceased; Clara, the wife of Jacob Croskrey, a farmer at Gould, Minnesota; Grant, at home; Daniel Lincoln, deceased; Charles Wilson, at home; Adelaide, who has also passed away; Mary, at home; and Rella, the deceased wife of Walter Biggs, of Hankinson, North Dakota. The wife and mother passed away June 3, 1905, a firm believer in the doctrine of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which denomination both she and her husband belonged.

The farm of Mr. Cauvel lies near Rossie. He has been a very busy man and though he has had to depend entirely upon his own resources from early boyhood, he has been quite successful. Year after year he has persistently carried on his business affairs, save that at the time of the Civil war he enlisted as a member of Company K, Forty-sixth Illinois Infantry, and was at the front for one year, at the end of which time he was honorably discharged. He participated in the charge of Fort Blakeley and throughout his entire life he has suffered from diseases brought on by exposure and hardships while at the front. It is said that the regiment marched farther that year than any other year of the service and many privations and hardships were to be borne. Mr. Cauvel, however, did his full duty and in fact has always been loyal and progressive in his citizenship. In politics he has always been a republican, having served as township trustee for several years.

EDWARD M. DERRY.

Edward M. Derry is closely associated with the commercial interests of Clay county as a successful general merchant of Dickens. He first came to the county in 1877, although he did not permanently take up his abode here at that time. He was born in Pomeroy, Meigs county, Ohio, February 11, 1869, and is a representative of an old Pennsylvania family, his paternal grandfather, a native of that state, dying there when well advanced in years. His father, William Derry, was a shoemaker by trade and on removing from Pennsylvania to Ohio settled in Pomeroy, where he still makes his home. He wedded Ellen McIntyre, who was born in West Virginia and was a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Williams) McIntyre, who were also natives of that state. At an early day they became residents of Ohio, settling in Pomeroy, where Mr. McIntyre passed away at an advanced age, while his wife reached the ripe old age of ninety-two years. They reared a large family. Unto Mr. and Mrs. William Derry have been born five

children, four sons and a daughter: William, a resident of Clay county, Iowa; John, who is deceased; Thomas, of Dickens; Cora, the wife of Arthur Curtis, of Middleport, Ohio; and Edward M., of this review. The parents hold membership in the Methodist church and are people of the highest respectability, widely and favorably known in the county where they reside.

Edward M. Derry lived in Pomeroy until eighteen years of age and was a pupil in the public schools there. In 1877 he came to Clay county, Iowa, and worked for his brother John at railroad grading in Nebraska and in this state. Later he went to Colorado, where he took up a preemption claim one hundred miles east of Denver. In the fall of that year he returned to Ohio on a visit and in the following spring started again for Colorado, but while en route stopped at Dickens to visit his brother John and has remained here continuously since. Later he entered into partnership with his brother in a mercantile line and they were together for a short time, after which E. M. Derry sold out and began farming on a tract of rented land in Freeman and Lake townships. In October, 1907, with the capital he had saved from his earnings, he purchased a stock of general merchandise and began business in Dickens, carrying now a fine line of goods and conducting a business which is constantly growing in volume and importance. He has now a liberal patronage and his trade is increasing, owing to his straightforward business methods, his reasonable prices and his earnest desire to please his customers.

The marriage of Mr. Derry was celebrated on the 23d of May, 1894, when Miss Blanche S. Perkins became his wife. She was born in Salem, Lawrence county, Ohio, a daughter of George and Eliza (Beasley) Perkins and a granddaughter of Eliphaz Perkins, who was a native of Connecticut. In his early boyhood, however, he accompanied his parents on their removal to Vermont. He married Zipporah Porter and both lived to an advanced age. Eliphaz Perkins was a fifer in the war of 1812. The maternal grandfather of Mrs. Derry was John Beasley, who was a native of Ohio and a carpenter by trade. He wedded Harriet Mathena and died in the Buckeye state when more than seventy years of age. They were the parents of three children, Moses, Eliza B. and Mary Albertine, the last named being the widow of Silas P. Austin and now a resident of Greeley, Nebraska.

The Rev. George Perkins, father of Mrs. Derry, is a minister of the United Brethren church, who has been connected with that denomination as a preacher for forty-five years. He was a missionary for four years among the Indians and early settlers, and can relate many interesting and thrilling reminiscences. He volunteered for service twice in the cause of the Union, but on account of the regiments being full was each time refused. He made many enemies among the people with whom he worked in Kansas on account of his views. Mr. Perkins, though near his eightieth year, is still bright and pleasant in his conversation. Unto him and his wife have been born six children: Harriet Z., the wife of A. D. Evans; Edward H. Perkins; Lelia C., the wife of N. Gorsuch; George E. Perkins; Blanche S.; and one who died in infancy.

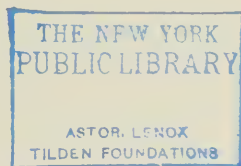
The home of Mr. and Mrs. Derry has been blessed with four children, two sons and two daughters: Bruce Edward, George Perkins, Harriet May and Cora Ferne.

Aside from his mercantile interests Mr. Derry is a stockholder in the Dickens Cooperative Creamery Company. He votes with the republican party and is public-spirited in his citizenship. His wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and they are well known in social circles, where many excellent traits of character have won for them the good will and friendship of those with whom they have come in contact. Mr. Derry is a progressive business man who seems to recognize the value of every situation and to make the most of his opportunities. Through the legitimate lines of trade he is now building up a growing business that is indicative of his spirit of enterprise and determination.

LESTER L. ATWOOD.

The Sunnyside Stock Farm, situated on section 16, Meadow township, is one of the valuable properties of Clay county. Within its borders lie four hundred and eighty acres and the rich alluvial soil, when carefully cultivated, brings forth abundant crops. As the name of the place indicates, stock raising is one of its principal features and in both branches of his business Mr. Atwood shows keen discernment and careful management. Illinois numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred in Ogle county, that state, on the 9th of July, 1859. No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for him in his boyhood and youth. He worked in the fields from the time that he was old enough to handle the plow and to a limited extent attended the public schools, but is largely self educated, and through reading, observation and experience he has made himself a well informed man. Thinking that he preferred an industrial to an agricultural life, he learned the tinner's trade in early manhood and followed it for several years in different places.

Mr. Atwood was a young man of twenty-three years when in Ogle county, Illinois, on the 30th of March, 1882, he wedded Miss Winnifred Van Patten, a native of that county. She spent her girlhood days there, is indebted to its public school system for her education, and prior to her marriage followed the profession of teaching in that county. Mr. Atwood subsequent to his marriage turned his attention to the dairy business, purchasing an enterprise of that character in Rockford. There he engaged in selling milk and dairy products for four years, supplying two hundred families with milk. His business there prospered and after some time he traded it for a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Boone county, Illinois, to which he removed, giving his time and attention to its cultivation for three years. He then sold out in 1895 and came to Clay county, trading for the property on which he now resides. He at once began its further development, carrying on his work along the lines of modern agricultural progress. He has added to and remodeled his residence, has erected a barn, has built a tenant house and has added to his property many evidences of modern farm life. He has used woven wire in fencing his place and dividing it into fields of convenient size and he has greatly augmented the productiveness of his fields by the expenditure of three thousand dollars in tiling the farm. He has a wind pump and water works and several elevated tanks in order to supply his stock with





MRS. L. L. ATWOOD



L. L. ATWOOD



water on the different parts of the farm. For several years he has made a specialty of feeding sheep. For some years he bought sheep by the train load in the west, shipping thousands of head to the eastern markets. Later he has given his attention largely to feeding and fattening cattle and hogs and in 1900 he took up the task of breeding and raising fine cattle, keeping Aberdeen Angus stock. He has since added to the herd from time to time and now has nearly one hundred head of fine registered stock and also some high grade stock. He has sold some of the finest animals produced in this part of the state, one male in 1907 bringing him twenty-seven hundred dollars. He is now the owner of Evan Lad, from an imported bull. He has four head from the leading families of the Aberdeen cattle and has held two mammoth sales, selling some of his own raising and some raised by others. He has won both second and first premiums at the state fairs and is justly classed today among the most prominent stock-raisers of this portion of the state. Mr. Atwood was also one of the promoters of the Co-operative Creamery and was president of the company for some time.

Mr. and Mrs. Atwood are the parents of three daughters: Edna, the wife of Carl Fee, a merchant at Langdon; Grace, a graduate of a business college, now occupying a position in Spencer; and Rowena, a student in Spencer. They also lost a son, Ira Lester, who died when about two years of age, and a daughter, Lois, who died at the age of one. Mr. and Mrs. Atwood are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Fostoria. He belongs to Spencer Lodge, I. O. O. F., and to the Modern Woodmen, and is in thorough sympathy with the principles of those organizations, which are based upon mutual helpfulness and brotherly kindness. Politically a stalwart republican, he has served as justice of the peace for five years and his decisions are strictly fair and impartial, being based upon the law and the equity of the case. He has also been notary public for some years and has frequently served as a delegate to state and county conventions of his party. He bears an unsullied reputation for business integrity as well as enterprising spirit. He has been closely identified with Clay county, its upbuilding and its prosperity for a number of years and is justly accounted one of its most active and progressive farmers and stock breeders. His labors have done much to improve the grade of stock raised in this portion of the state and no finer farm animals can be found than his Duroc Jersey hogs and his Aberdeen Angus cattle. His business success is well merited, for he is capable in management and displays untiring industry in carrying forward his interests.

JOHN J. LAWLER.

John J. Lawler, who is conducting a successful grain business in Dickens as manager for the Reliance Elevator Company, is a western man by birth and training and the spirit of progress characteristic of this section of the country has been manifest throughout his entire connection with business interests. He was born in Atchison, Kansas, February 18, 1875, and is a son of Timothy and Celia (Potter) Lawler, who were natives of Canada and Missouri, respectively. In the paternal line, however, he comes of Irish ancestry. His grand-

father was born on the Emerald Isle and became a foundryman at Dundas, Canada, where he died at the age of eighty-five years. In the maternal line Mr. Lawler is of English lineage and his grandfather, Joseph Potter, was born in Kentucky and followed the occupation of farming as a life work. He served his country as a soldier of the Mexican war and following his removal to the west represented his district in the Kansas legislature. He married a Miss Wiley and they are still residents of Atchison, Kansas.

Timothy Lawler, father of John J. Lawler, devoted his early manhood to teaching school and subsequently turned his attention to general farming. Crossing the border into the United States he lived for some time at White-water, Wisconsin, and in fact spent his boyhood days in acquiring his education there. Later he went to Atchison, Kansas, where he engaged in teaching school for several years, after which he removed to Webster county, Nebraska, secured a homestead claim and engaged in farming near Cowles. There he owned two hundred acres of land, which he still cultivates, having transformed the tract into rich and productive fields. His people were of the Catholic faith, but he is not now associated with any church, while his wife belongs to the Christian church. Their family numbered four children: John J., of Dickens, Iowa; Albert J., a resident of Los Angeles, California; Emery L., of Cowles, Nebraska; and one who died in early childhood.

John J. Lawler was but a young lad when his parents removed to Webster county, Nebraska, and there he was reared on his father's farm, attending the public schools of Cowles and also the Territorial Normal School in Oklahoma for one year. He started in business life as a clerk in a general store in Cowles, where he was employed for three years, and on the 1st of September, 1894, came to Dickens, where he clerked in the store of his uncle, John Lawler, for two years. On the expiration of that period he began learning the carpenter's trade, which he followed for seven years and then accepted the position of manager for the Reliance Elevator Company at Dickens, and is now in control of an important and growing grain trade at this point.

Pleasantly situated in his home life, Mr. Lawler was married December 16, 1896, to Miss Mertie E. Simington, who was born at Corfu, New York, a daughter of William and Emma (Van Buren) Simington. Mr. and Mrs. Lawler became the parents of four children: Louise, Gladys, Celia and Mildred. The parents hold membership in the Congregational church, are loyal to its teachings and take an active interest in the extension of its influence. Mr. Lawler votes with the republican party but the honors and emoluments of office have little attraction for him, as his time has always been fully occupied with his business cares, and through his industry and perseverance is steadily working his way upward.

It will be interesting in this connection to record something of the history of Mr. Lawler's uncle, John Lawler, who was one of the old settlers of Dickens and was held in high esteem by all who knew him. At an early date he secured a homestead claim in Sioux township, Clay county, where he resided many years, during which period he converted the tract of wild land into productive fields, developing an excellent farm. In 1882 he went to Canada after the death of his sister, Mrs. Cairns, and returned to this county with his mother and his

nephew, James J. Cairns. After working in Spencer at the butcher business some time he came to Dickens and was employed by Smith, Green & Company, who built the first store in this place. After working two years in that establishment he bought out his employers and then conducted a general mercantile establishment for about five years prior to his death, when he sold out to his nephew, James J. Cairns. He passed away in the spring of 1907, at the age of sixty-five years. He enjoyed an unassailable reputation for honesty and integrity of character, was kindly in spirit, generous in disposition and faithful to every trust. All who knew him loved him, and his death was the source of deep and widespread regret throughout the community.

GEORGE E. McHUGH.

Many theories have been advanced concerning success and the best way to win it. Centuries ago a Greek philosopher said, "Earn thy reward: the gods give naught to sloth." In that is found the only real source of success. The man who would achieve must work persistently and earnestly and give careful heed to every advantage that comes to him. Such is the life record of George E. McHugh, who is located on section 30, Meadow township, his time and attention being given to the cultivation of cereals and raising stock. His home farm comprises two hundred and forty acres and he also owns two other tracts of one hundred and sixty acres each, both well improved. His life record began in Jefferson county, Ohio, on the 2d of November, 1858. His father, James McHugh, was a native of West Virginia, where he spent his boyhood and youth. He afterward went to Jefferson county, Ohio, and was there married, the lady of his choice being Miss Sarah Fowler, a native of the Buckeye state. Subsequently Mr. McHugh removed from Ohio to Illinois and settled in McLean county near the city of Bloomington. He owned and cultivated a farm near Heyworth, making a specialty of the production of fruit. His fields, too, were well tilled and in fact everything about his place was kept in excellent condition and indicated his practical, progressive methods. There he died in the year 1886. His wife survives him and resides on the old homestead.

George E. McHugh is one of a family of three sons and a daughter, all of whom are yet living. The days of his boyhood and youth were largely passed in McLean county, Illinois, and no event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for him during that period. As his years and strength increased he assisted more and more largely in the work of the fields, aiding his father until he had attained man's estate. His thorough training in the farm work well qualified him to engage in farming on his own account after his marriage. It was on Christmas day of 1889 that he was joined in wedlock to Miss Georgie C. Brown, who was born in New York city but reared in McLean county, Illinois. For a year after their marriage they resided upon the old home farm in Illinois, but in September, 1890, came to Iowa. Here Mr. McHugh purchased eighty acres of land in Meadow township. It was raw prairie, upon which not a furrow had been turned, a rod of fence built or other improvement

made. Mr. McHugh, however, at once began to break the sod, fenced the place and carried on the work of general agriculture until the original tract was transformed into a productive one. He also bought an adjoining eighty acres and when his financial resources permitted he replaced his original dwelling with a more commodious and attractive home. Barns and outbuildings were also added and for eleven years he farmed there. He later bought eighty acres on section 30, Meadow township, and bent every energy toward developing and improving that tract. He remodeled the house, put up buildings in which to protect his grain, farm machinery and stock from the weather, fenced and tiled the place and later, after purchasing an adjoining tract of one hundred and sixty acres, also tiled that and thus added much to its productiveness, for originally it was too wet to be cultivated profitably. Now the fields respond readily to the care and labor he bestows upon them and he annually gathers good crops. He also raises and feeds stock and his annual sales add materially to his income.

Mr. and Mrs. McHugh have three sons and two daughters living: Porter, Tressie, Leonard, Howard and Edith. They lost their first born, Vere, who died when eleven months old, while another child, Doris, died when about eight months old. Mr. and Mrs. McHugh were reared in the Presbyterian faith and were members of that church when in Illinois. Politically he is independent but is a temperance man and a prohibitionist in principle. As there is no hope of the prohibition candidates being elected and as there is often no prohibition candidate in the local field, he casts his ballot for the men whom he regards as best qualified for office. He has been a resident of the county for eighteen years, is regarded as a substantial and progressive business man and in all of his undertakings displays dauntless energy that has enabled him to overcome many difficulties and obstacles that have arisen. During his residence here he has helped to improve and make three farms and is justly accounted one of the progressive agriculturists of Meadow township. No measure for the general good seeks his aid in vain. His labors have been a cooperant factor in many movements which have been of value to the community, bringing Clay county from its position as a frontier district into a leading place among the counties of this great commonwealth.

JOHN SUMNER GREEN, M. D.

John Sumner Green, now living in Spencer, is one of the pioneer physicians of Iowa who for more than a half century has engaged in the practice of medicine in this state, devoting the years of an active and honorable manhood to service for his fellowmen. In all of his professional duties he has been conscientious, utilizing every possible means to accomplish the important tasks entrusted to him. For many years he has figured as the family physician in numerous households, and although he is not as active in the profession as formerly, he has not altogether retired for he frequently responds to the call of some one who is loath to give up his services. Dr. Green was born in Saratoga county, New York, October 30, 1828, his father being Simon Green, also a native of New York. He became

a tanner, and operated a tannery at Luzerne Falls, Warren county, New York. He and his wife were well advanced in years when they died. Dr. Green when a boy accompanied his parents upon their removal to Warren county, New York, where he grew to manhood and was educated, supplementing the common school course by study in seminaries. He afterward took up the study of medicine, for he had determined to make its practice his life work, and in preparation for the profession attended a medical college in Castleton, Vermont, from which he was graduated. Soon afterward he located for practice in Warren county and became associated with Dr. McNut, under whose direction he also further continued his studies and reading. Throughout his professional career he was imbued with the laudable ambition for advancement, knowing how important is the duty that devolves upon the physician. Because of this he pursued a post-graduate course in Bellevue Hospital in 1863-64. In the meantime—in 1855—he had removed westward to Iowa, settling in Hardin, where he resumed practice and continued an active member of the profession until 1902. He was accorded a liberal patronage and throughout the years he kept in touch with the advanced ideas of the profession through his wide reading. Experience also brought to him broad and accurate knowledge, and anything which tended to prove a key to the complex mystery which we call life was of interest to him.

On the 30th of May, 1852, in Warren county, New York, Dr. Green was united in marriage to Mrs. Mary A. Kathan, a widow, and the daughter of Rev. John H. Cameron, also a native of the Empire state. Rev. Cameron was of Scotch descent, devoting his life to preaching the gospel as a minister of the Presbyterian church. He was twice married and by the first union had five children, while by the second marriage there were born eight children. Mrs. Green was born and reared in Warren county and there in early womanhood gave her hand in marriage to Alva Kathan, an architect, who followed his profession in that locality until his death. By that marriage there was one daughter, Mrs. Margaret K. Stiles, now living in Saratoga, New York. Dr. and Mrs. Green became the parents of four children: Mrs. Dr. Coldren, of Milford, Iowa; Dr. H. O. Green, a prominent practitioner of Spencer who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume; Dr. J. E. Green, deceased; and Carrie, who died in infancy. The son who had passed away died in Spencer in 1899. He was a prominent member of the medical profession in the county for a number of years. He married and located in Milford, where he practiced for a number of years, and during his residence there he lost his wife. Subsequently he moved to Spencer, where he was in active practice until his death. He left one daughter, Ethel Mary, who is now a young lady and since her mother's death has made her home with her grandparents. She has been liberally educated and was graduated from the Woman's College, Baltimore, Maryland, with the class of 1908. She had previously had the benefit of a high school course and a course in a convent.

Since coming to Spencer Dr. John S. Green has given up active practice save that he sometimes assists his son, Dr. H. O. Green. He possesses a large and valuable medical library and his reading has always kept him abreast with the progress of the profession. For some years he was a member of the examining board of the Northwestern Medical Association. In 1881 he returned to New York city with his son, J. E. Green, and the latter there pursued a post-

graduate course in the same school in which his father had taken a post-graduate course in 1863-64. Dr. Green is well known to many of the older physicians of the state and at all times has enjoyed the highest regard of his brethren in the medical fraternity because of his close conformity to high standards of professional ethics. Moreover he ever displayed the qualities of honorable and upright manhood and now in the evening of his life his is a useful old age, giving of its rich store of wisdom and experience for the benefit of others. His name is honored wherever he is known and most of all where he is best known.

CHARLES WESLEY BELKNAP.

As each year is added to the cycle of the centuries the ranks of the pioneers are fast becoming thin and Clay county numbers less of those sturdy and substantial citizens who were the vanguard in making their way into the rich and fertile region of rolling prairie land comprised within the borders of what is now Clay county. It is meet, therefore, that the history of the early settlers should be written down ere they go to their long sleep so that the authentic record shall not perish. While they came to the west to secure homes and, if possible, win a substantial little fortune, they built better than they knew for they established here a commonwealth and a civilization which shall endure for all time.

One of the oldest residents of Clay county is Charles Wesley Belknap, who, since 1869, has made his home in Iowa. He was born December 3, 1837, in Rensselaer county, New York, a son of Martin Seymour and Betsey Ann (Bristol) Belknap, who were also natives of Rensselaer county, the former born February 18, 1807, and the latter November 16, 1814. About 1840 the family removed to Lewis county, New York, locating near Port Leyden, where they lived until 1855, when they left the Empire state, having decided to venture into that section of the country then known as the "far west." They had heard many glowing descriptions of the section in the region of the "father of waters," of beautiful rolling prairies covered with rich grasses and beautiful flowers, while rivers meandered across the wide plains or were bordered by groves of timber. The story came, too, that the streams abounded in fish and the forests in game, including deer, elk, wild turkeys, quails and prairie chickens. It is no wonder that the people of the east were tempted by the charm of the west and in response to this call the Belknap family set out for the new country.

They located first near Oshkosh, Wisconsin, in 1855, and there remained for about thirteen years, or until 1868, when they removed to Tama county, Iowa, where they made their home until about 1872. Later they became residents of Nobles county, Minnesota, but after a short time returned to Tama county, where the father owned a farm. A year later he removed to Hardin county, where he remained for about two years and then again went to Nobles county, Minnesota. The father died February 11, 1893, at the age of eighty-five years, ten months and twenty-three days, while the mother passed away April 14, 1899, at the age of eighty-four years, five months and two days. They died near Bigelow, Minnesota.

Charles Wesley Belknap, spending his boyhood days in his parents' home, was a youth of seventeen at the time of the removal westward to Wisconsin and he remained at home until twenty-three years of age, assisting in the work of the farm. He had previously acquired a considerable knowledge of carpentering and for a time was engaged in that line of work, but after the Civil war broke out he put aside all business and personal considerations and responded to the country's call for aid, enlisting on the 15th of August, 1862, as a member of Company H, One Hundred and Twenty-fifth New York Regiment of Volunteers under Colonel Willard, who was afterward killed at Gettysburg. The regiment was assigned to the Army of the Potomac and on the 1st of September left for the front. The first engagement in which he participated was at Harper's Ferry and from that time until the close of the war Mr. Belknap was in active service, marching and fighting amid the greatest dangers and enduring all of the hardships and privations incident to a soldier's life. He participated in the battles of Gettysburg, Auburn, Morton's Ford, Bristow Station, Mine Run, in front of Petersburg, Deep Bottom, Ream's Station, South Side Railroad, and all of the engagements leading up to the battle of the Wilderness. In the battle of Petersburg which occurred in the last of March, 1864, he was made color sergeant of the regiment. At the first charge on the South Side Railroad he was wounded but gave up the color standard just before he fell. After being thus injured he walked eleven miles before his wounds were cared for. He went back to the regiment and soon afterward he marched to Washington and in the capital city participated in the grand review. From there he returned to New York and was mustered out on the 5th of June, 1865, after which he at once went to his home.

On the 22d of October, 1865, soon after his return from the army, Charles W. Belknap was married to Miss Ellen R. Warner, a daughter of S. S. and Bethiah (Schoonover) Warner, both of whom were natives of Tioga county, New York. In 1868 her family came to Iowa, settling in Tama county. A brother of Mrs. Belknap, Orange Pemberton Warner, had previously removed westward and was employed for some years as a mail clerk on the Chicago & Northwestern railway. He, too, served as a soldier of the Civil war. Eventually he settled in Cherry county, Nebraska, where he successfully engaged in the practice of law and was also prominent in county affairs. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Belknap were born eight children, of whom four are now living. Ernest E., born in Wisconsin, September 20, 1866, married Martha A. Norris on the 9th of June, 1889, and now resides in Herdland township. His wife died July 5, 1895, and on the 1st of July, 1908, he wedded Lovisa May Norris. Addie E., the second of the family, born September 25, 1870, is now the wife of C. S. Davis, who resides near Sioux Rapids, Iowa. Ada A., born June 29, 1879, and Charles Rockwell, born June 13, 1884, are both at home. Mr. Belknap owns one hundred and sixty acres of well improved land and also holds other interests and has other investments outside of the county. He had long been interested in religious matters and soon after his return from the war he entered the ministry of the United Brethren church. Mrs. Belknap's people were charter members of the Congregational church at Sioux Rapids, assisted in building the house of worship and were prominent in the church history of that place, the father having been a lifelong deacon. Mr. Belknap of this review has been a factor in the moral

progress of the community, both through his active labors and his influence, and his religious teachings have sunk deep into the hearts of many and in time have brought forth rich fruit. In community affairs he has also been otherwise active, holding many different offices in his township, including that of town clerk, justice of the peace and school director. In politics he has ever been a stalwart republican and at one time was delegate to the county convention. He belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic and to the Good Templars Lodge, the latter indicating his position on the temperance question. For many years he has been correspondent for the press at Spencer, Sioux Rapids and Marathon. Mrs. Belknap deserves more than passing notice in this connection from the fact that she successfully engaged in teaching several terms of school after their arrival in Clay county. She had also taught in Winnebago county, Wisconsin, and proved a most capable educator, imparting clearly and readily to others the knowledge that she had acquired. She has also been of great help to her husband in the work of the ministry. She possesses keen intellectuality with a strong interest in the questions of the day which are of vital moment, and for many years she was a valued correspondent for the Sioux Rapids and Marathon papers.

During his long, busy and useful career Mr. Belknap has faithfully performed his duties of citizenship and met all of his obligations to mankind. He has been an eye witness to the many changes which have taken place through the growth and development of the county as it has been transformed from a wild unsettled region into a district of fertile fields and happy homes. He is esteemed and honored by all men. His name is not only inscribed upon the list of those who went valiantly forth at the time of the nation's peril and faced the dangers of warfare but, as a worthy and upright citizen and Christian gentleman, he will be remembered throughout the coming years.

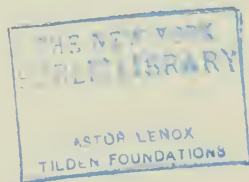
WILBURN R. RICE.

There is an old Greek saying, "Earn thy reward; the gods give naught to sloth." The truth of this has been manifest in all of the ages since the words were first uttered. It has been a realization of this truth that has prompted Mr. Rice to put forth earnest and indefatigable effort in his business affairs. He is well known as a farmer, butcher and stockman and also as an auctioneer, and these various lines of business have contributed to his substantial success. Moreover, he is now filling the position of sheriff and is proving as faithful in official service as he has been in business connections.

Mr. Rice is a native of Hardin county, Iowa, born June 3, 1858. His parents were James and Mary (Williams) Rice, both natives of Indiana. The former was a son of Nicholas Rice, who married Delilah Samuels, and after living for some years in Indiana he came to Iowa, casting in his lot with the pioneer settlers of Hardin county. There he owned and operated a sawmill until his life's labors were ended in middle age. His wife, however, reached advanced years ere called to her final rest and reared a large family. The maternal grandfather of Wilburn R. Rice was John Williams, a native of North Carolina, who was well fitted to cope with the hardships and difficulties of the frontier, for he became an early



W. R. RICE



settler of Indiana and removing westward with the advancing civilization, was also one of the pioneer settlers of Iowa in the vicinity of Oskaloosa. Afterward he took up his abode in Hardin county, where he made a permanent location and lived to a ripe old age.

James Rice, although born in Indiana, was reared in Iowa, coming to this state in 1846 in his boyhood days with his parents, who settled in Hardin county. Here amid the conditions and environments that always confront the pioneer settler he spent his youth and was trained to habits of industry, economy and perseverance by his father, whom he assisted in operating a sawmill and eventually engaged in the manufacture of lumber on his own account. In early days here he was a great hunter, becoming noted for his skill with the rifle. He caught elk calves, which he shipped to Europe and to New York, for elk were numerous at that time. There was also much smaller game to be had and Mr. Rice was able to keep the table well supplied with meat. In his later years he followed farming and the rich soil of Iowa responded generously to his efforts in this direction. In 1868 he removed to Cherokee county, where he secured a homestead claim and with characteristic energy broke the sod and planted the crops. In due time rich harvests were gathered and he is still cultivating that farm with good success. In the community he was prominent in local affairs and held a number of township offices. His religious faith is that of the Universalist church, while his wife, a lady of earnest Christian spirit, belongs to the Methodist church. They became the parents of eleven children, eight sons and three daughters: Wilburn R., of this review; William; Henry; Grant; Rhoda, the wife of Frank Finch, a resident of Three Rivers, California; Knelon; Edwin; Frank; Charles; Elva, who has departed this life; and Opal.

Throughout the entire period of his life Wilburn R. Rice has lived in Iowa save for a brief period which he spent in the neighboring state of Nebraska. He lived in Hardin county to the age of ten years and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Cherokee county, where he was reared on the home farm, doing his share of the work in plowing, planting and harvesting. In the winter months he pursued his education in the district schools and afterward had the benefit of one term's instruction in the academy at Given, Nebraska. He then rented land and farmed in Nebraska until the fall of 1881, when he returned to Cherokee county, Iowa, where he carried on general farming until 1888. That year witnessed his arrival in Clay county and he purchased eighty acres of land on section 16, Freeman township, where he lived for nearly three years. On selling his property he removed to Dickens, where he conducted a butchering business for nearly seventeen years and at the same time dealt in live stock, but in 1907 he disposed of his interests in those connections. He owns some town property in International Falls, Minnesota, and one hundred and twenty acres of timber land in the same state. He has also done auctioneering, crying a number of sales, and becoming popular in that field of labor. In November, 1908, however, he was elected sheriff of Clay county and in the winter moved to Spencer in order to enter upon the duties of the office there. Although he has been the incumbent for only a short period, his well known characteristics are proof that he will be a faithful and fearless official.

On the 5th of December, 1880, Mr. Rice wedded Miss Amanda King, who was born in Hancock county, Indiana. Her father, Isaac King, was a native of Kentucky and having arrived at years of maturity he wedded Miss Charlotte Moore, who was born in Indiana. They became the parents of eight children, as follows: Oscar King; Henry; Amanda, now Mrs. Rice; Ella, the wife of W. Tecumseh Gibbons; Rollin; Claude; and two who died in infancy.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Rice has been blessed with two children, Lulu and Goldie. The elder is now the wife of J. J. Cairns, and they have one son, Gerald. Mr. and Mrs. Rice belong to the Congregational church, are loyal to its teachings and generous in its support. Mr. Rice holds membership in Dickens Lodge, No. 583, I. O. O. F., and also with the Fraternal Bankers Reserve of Cedar Rapids. His political endorsement has always been given to the republican party and he is an active worker in its ranks in Clay county. He has served as road supervisor, as constable and township assessor, and further well merited honors came to him in his election to his present office. He is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land in Burleigh county, North Dakota, and altogether his has been a successful and progressive career marked by the faithful performance of his daily duties.

WILLIAM B. BAILEY.

William B. Bailey, an agriculturist of note of Clay township, this county, came here in the early '60s and settled on a raw prairie land. Since that time, through hard work, he has transformed the crude and primitive ground into fertile fields, from which he is deriving abundant and lucrative harvests, and now in his seventy-eighth year he may rest from active labor and enjoy the fruits of his many years of toil. His birth occurred in Berlin, Washington county, Vermont, on January 22, 1831, a son of Ebenezer and Sallie (Benjamin) Bailey. His father was also a native of that place, where he was born May 10, 1796, and where he spent his life in general farming, passing away in the year 1867. In politics he was a democrat and was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He was well known throughout the community as a substantial citizen and did much during his life toward improving the place in which he resided. His mother, also a native of the state of Vermont, spent her entire life there and was laid to rest with her husband. They reared a family of ten children, namely: Abigail, Ozas, Alsina, Frederick and Emory, all deceased; William B., whose name introduces this sketch; Eliza and Sommers, deceased; Eben, an agriculturist of this township; and Joshua, a retired farmer residing in Williamstown, Vermont.


The early days of William B. Bailey were spent on his father's farm where he passed through the usual experiences common to the country lad, engaging in agricultural duties during the summer months and in the winter attending the district school. Having completed his studies in the common schools he remained at home for awhile, and was then given the advantages of two terms of study in the high school. At the age of twenty years he applied himself to farm work, which he followed for a few years, when, upon becoming confident of his own

ability to conduct an agricultural business independently, he repaired to Iowa, in company with a brother and a nephew. He settled on section 14, the land at that time being in a crude state, obviously requiring hard work and constant application before it was put in a condition for the production of crops. But Mr. Bailey was equal to the task, and being then a young man full of vigor and inspired with ambition, he was not balked by difficulties nor retarded by discouragements, and in the course of time had this land in the finest possible shape for raising general crops. In addition to growing hay and grain crops he also paid some attention to stock-raising, but in recent years he has given up the active duties of his place, and, resigning the management of the farm to his son, he is now living in retirement.

In the year 1852 Mr. Bailey was united in marriage to Miss Jane Alexander, and to them were born the following children: Lizzie, deceased; Henry, who is an agriculturist residing near Savannah; and Emma, deceased. The mother departed this life in the year 1858, and later Mr. Bailey wedded Alma Wells, who departed this life in 1908, and by whom he had five children, namely: Willy and Gertie, deceased; Charles B., a lumber dealer of Dickens, this state; Edwin H., who resides in Spencer, this state; and Wels, at home. Mr. Bailey has always given his political support to the democratic party and during his years of activity served a number of terms as school director. His religious convictions are on the side of that denomination known as the Disciples of Christ, in which he serves in the capacity of deacon, and is also a liberal supporter. Mr. Bailey's life has been such as to give him high standing in the eyes of the community and he is generally recognized as a man whose long years of earnest labor in this township have not only contributed to his own prosperity but have also been a boon to the community at large.

EBEN BAILEY.

Eben Bailey, who for many years has been influentially associated with the farming and stock-raising interests of Clay township, this county, and who is a veteran of the Civil war, was born in Berlin, Vermont, August 23, 1837, a son of Ebenezer and Sallie (Benjamin) Bailey, both natives of Vermont, where they spent their entire lives, the mother passing away in 1867. Eben Bailey acquired his preliminary education at the district schools of his native village and was subsequently given the added advantage of a course of study in a well known academy at Berry, Vermont. He remained at home with his parents until he was nineteen years of age, when he removed to Mount Holly, Vermont, where he was engaged in business at the breaking out of the Civil war. In 1862 he enlisted in the Union army, joining Company H, Fourteenth Vermont Volunteer Infantry, and served until July 13, 1863, during his military career participating in the battle of Gettysburg. After the war he returned to Mount Holly, Vermont, where he engaged in business until the year 1869, when he went to Des Moines, Iowa, remaining there until 1870, when he located in Clay township, taking up a claim of eighty acres in section 14 in which section his brother, William B. Bailey, also

Digitized by  mason

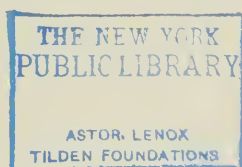
took up a claim. The land being in a primitive state when Mr. Bailey settled upon it, he was required to make all of the necessary improvements in order to transform it into a fit state for cultivation. This he succeeded in doing and the property is provided with a comfortable home, commodious barn, outbuildings and all conveniences necessary to successfully pursue general farming and stock raising. From the onset Mr. Bailey met with success in his farming venture, his fields from year to year proving fruitful, which enabled him to add to his tract from time to time until now he owns one hundred and sixty acres, constituting one of the finest farms in the township.

On October 17, 1859, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary J. Jackson, a native of Berlin, Vermont, who became the mother of the following children: Bertie R., who was born November 17, 1860, and departed this life on February 10, three years later; Percy, born April 23, 1866, and passed away February 7, 1873; and Vinnie B., whose birth occurred April 3, 1874, and who died when fourteen years of age. The wife and mother passed away on April 1, 1888. On June 28, 1890, Mr. Bailey wedded Miss Hattie Nicholson, who was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, December 15, 1862, and they have had the following children: Nina E., born June 26, 1891; Marshall H., born February 16, 1893; Lloyd E., whose birth occurred June 19, 1894; Grace E., who was born November 14, one year later; Ester E., whose birth occurred February 10, 1898; Dwight I., born November 25, 1899; Morris J., who is in his eighth year; and Mainard W., who is three years of age. Mr. Bailey is a member of Royal Lodge, A. F. & A. M., having affiliated himself with the order at Wallingford, Vermont, in the year 1863, and is also a member of Clay Chapter No. 112. Mr. Bailey is one of the financial supports of the community whose success and prosperity are due to his own exertion and he entertains the respect of the entire community.

F. G. ALVORD.

For the vast majority the term good citizenship does not mean faithful performance of official duty, but indicates, rather, industry and reliability in business, with a spirit more or less active in the measures which are calculated to promote general prosperity and to uphold the social and political status of the community. Mr. Alvord is generously endowed with all the qualities which the term, good citizenship, indicates, and his life is busily passed in the work of the farm, his landed interests comprising one hundred and seventy acres on section 8, Riverton township. This is a neat and well-improved farm which, in its attractive appearance, gives every evidence of a life of industry and thrift on the part of its owner.

Mr. Alvord has lived in Clay county since 1884. He was born in Cortland county, New York, July 20, 1834, and was reared to manhood there upon a farm. His father, Martin Alvord, was born in 1800, on the same farm on which his son was born, and his father was Charles Alvord, who located on the same farm following his removal from Connecticut. This farm was part and parcel of a tract of military land belonging to General Alvord, the great-grandfather of our sub-

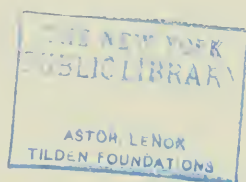




MRS. F. G. ALVORD



F. G. ALVORD



ject. Charles Alvord removed to the Empire state with an ox-cart and sled, making the journey through the wilderness from Connecticut. There, in the midst of the forest, he cleared a tract of land and opened up a farm, coping with the hardships and privations of pioneer life in his efforts to transform the land into productive property. It was upon this farm that Martin Alvord was reared to manhood and was early trained to the work of the fields, while lessons of industry and integrity were impressed upon his mind. When he had reached adult age he married Louise L. Frisbie, a native of the state of New York. He became a prominent and influential citizen, reared his family on the old homestead and, after a life of usefulness and activity, passed to his final rest at the age of eighty-four years.

The boyhood surroundings of F. G. Alvord were the same in which his father's youth were passed and he, too, was trained to the work of the farm when not busy with his text books. He had good school advantages, for he acquired his literary education in the public schools and later attended Homer Academy, where he completed his course. The call of the west proved to him irresistible and leaving the Empire state he made his way to the territory of Nebraska, where he engaged in prospecting for about two years. On the expiration of that period he returned to Cortland county, New York, and was married on the 23d of December, 1860, to Miss Elizabeth M. Babcock, who was born, reared and educated in Cortland county. Following his marriage he began farming there and was busily occupied with the work of the fields until 1862, when he could no longer content himself to follow the plow while the stability of the Union was endangered by the rebellion in the south. Therefore, putting aside all business and personal considerations, he offered his services to the government and was enrolled among the boys in blue of Company D, One Hundred and Fifty-seventh New York Volunteer Infantry. The regiment was assigned to the Army of the Potomac and he participated in numerous skirmishes. He was also on duty at Manassas Gap. Later he became ill and was sent to the hospital at Washington, D. C., where he remained four weeks, from where he was transferred to Bedloe's Island, New York harbor. He afterward had a relapse and for some time was down with fever. At length he was honorably discharged, on account of disability, and as soon as he was able was sent home. It took him from two to three years to recuperate and at the end of that time he sold his farm and removed to Homer, New York, where he engaged in buying and dealing in horses, making shipments to New York city. Later he purchased another farm, which he continued to cultivate for several years, after which he sold out and removed to Clay county, Iowa.

The year 1884 witnessed the arrival of Mr. Alvord in this state and in the intervening period, covering a quarter of a century, he has made substantial progress, contributing to the general prosperity. He has advanced his individual interests through his efforts to cultivate and develop his farm. Taking up his abode on section 8, Riverton township, he has given his undivided attention to the improvement of his property. He has built a good, substantial residence, which stands on a natural building site and commands a fine view of the surrounding country. Barns, sheds and cribs furnish ample shelter to grain and stock. Many fruit trees have been planted and an orchard is now in good bear-

ing condition. Ornamental trees add to the attractive appearance of the place and an air of neatness and thrift pervades the entire surroundings. In the pastures and feed-lots are found good grades of cattle, horses and hogs, and his stock-raising interests are an important source of revenue. He is, moreover, a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator, at Spencer, and also in the telephone company. He has carefully watched his business interests, noting the opportunities for success, and the years have brought him gratifying prosperity as the reward of his earnest, persistent labor.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvord have one son, Fred H., who is married and resides in Homer, New York, where he is occupying the position of cashier of the Homer National Bank. While a resident of that place Mr. Alvord filled several local positions of honor and trust. During his residence here he has served for seventeen years as township trustee, and no better testimonial of faithfulness and capability could be given than the fact that he has been so long retained in the office. Politically, he is a democrat at state and national elections, but at local elections, where no issue is involved, he casts an independent ballot, considering only the capability of the candidate. His life has been one of intense and well-directed activity crowned with success. In 1893 he removed to Spencer, where he lived retired, but indolence and idleness were utterly foreign to his nature and he returned to the farm. While his success enables him to leave the active life of the fields to others, he gives careful supervision to the place. He now rents the land but carefully watches over the interests of his farm and in all things displays good business management as well as strict integrity and general personal worth. While in Homer, New York, he became a member of the Masonic fraternity, filling all of the chairs and becoming past master. He and his wife are likewise members of the Eastern Star. For almost a quarter of a century they have lived in the county and witnessed the vast transformation as it has taken on all of the evidences of a progressive civilization. Mr. Alvord is now seventy-five years of age and his life has been one in which fidelity to principle has combined with business enterprise in making him a valued and worthy citizen.

W. ERNEST BARNHART.

W. Ernest Barnhart is an attorney at law of Spencer, with a large clientage, and in his chosen profession he has made that steady advance which results only from merit in handling important litigated interests. He is still a young man, with opportunity before him to attain still greater success, and his friends do not hesitate to predict for him continued progress in the field of his chosen profession. He was born near Pen Mar, July 16, 1877, his parents being David G. and Margaret Virginia (Frye) Barnhart, also natives of the Keystone state. The father was a son of Henry Barnhart, who with two brothers came from Germany, his native land, to America. Henry Barnhart settled in Pennsylvania, while one of his brothers became a resident of Ohio and the other of the west. He died in Pennsylvania in middle life, while his wife passed away in Mount Morris, Illinois, at an advanced age. They were the parents of three daughters: Susan, the wife

of Joseph Boward; Barbara, the wife of Joseph Kale; and Peggy. David G. was their only son. In early life David G. Barnhart learned the wagon maker's trade, which he has followed many years. For some time he has been a resident of Cavetown, Maryland, and is well known as a representative of industrial interests in that city. He wedded Margaret Virginia Frye, who was also born in Pennsylvania and was a daughter of David and Susan (Ridenour) Frye. Her father was a native of Maryland and was a carpenter by trade. He passed away when about sixty years of age and his wife was sixty-five years of age at the time of her demise. They had a large family, numbering seven sons and one daughter. The home of Mr. and Mrs. David G. Barnhart was blessed with eleven children, seven sons and four daughters, and their record is exceptional in that all are yet living, namely: Margaret, the wife of George Claybourne, a resident of Hagerstown, Maryland; Anne, the wife of Charles Reynolds, whose home is in Cambridge, Iowa; Edward, a member of the United States navy on the battleship Minnesota; George O., living in Champaign county, Illinois; W. Ernest, of this review; Harry C., who is located at Hagerstown, Maryland; Gertrude M., the wife of Harry Burger, of Baltimore, Maryland; William R., who is a soldier of the regular army stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Lester H., of Cavetown, Maryland; and Ura K. and Benjamin Franklin, who are also residents of Cavetown.

W. Ernest Barnhart resided in Funkstown, Maryland, between the ages of three and nine years and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Cavetown, where he spent seven years. On the expiration of that period the family went to Mount Aetna, Maryland, where W. Ernest Barnhart continued to reside until twenty-one years of age. In the meantime he acquired his education in the public schools, passing through consecutive grades and supplementing his grammar school training by the high school course. On the 4th of September, 1898, he left home and sought the broader business opportunities of the middle west, first making his way to Ogle county, Illinois, where he worked on a farm until the fall of 1900. Feeling the necessity of further educational training, if he would attain success in life, he then became a student in the Northern Indiana Law College, at Valparaiso, Indiana. While on the farm in Ogle county, Illinois, he had read law two years and continued his law studies in Valparaiso, being graduated from the law department of that school with the class of 1902. However, he practiced for a year before his graduation, having been admitted to the bar in 1901. There he remained until May, 1903, practicing with T. H. Hurd, at one time prosecuting attorney there. Later he returned to Ogle county, Illinois, where he remained until August, 1903, when he came to Spencer and entered into partnership with O. A. Thomas, a relation that was maintained until August 1, 1905. Since that time Mr. Barnhart has been alone and has secured a good clientage, connecting him with much important litigation tried in the courts of the district. He also does a collecting and insurance business.

On the 4th of April, 1906, occurred the marriage of Mr. Barnhart and Miss Berta M. Roybar, a daughter of Frank and Lucretia (Lee) Roybar. They have two children, Harold Ernest and Margaret Helen. The parents are well known in the social circles of the city and their home is most attractive by reason of their warm-hearted hospitality. Mr. Barnhart holds membership in the Christian

church while his wife is a member of the Presbyterian church. He also belongs to the Knights of Pythias lodge at Spencer, in which he is serving as chancellor commander, and is also a member of the Modern Woodmen camp. His political views are in accord with the principles of the republican party and in 1904 he was elected on its ticket to the office of city attorney. His first term received public indorsement in his reelection in 1906 and in 1908 he was elected to the office of county attorney. He is recognized as a strong and able lawyer, with thorough understanding of legal principles, while his application of the points of law is always correct and logical.

BENJAMIN PITCHER.

Among the residents of Spencer who at one time were closely associated with the agricultural interests of the county and are now enjoying the fruits of their former toil, is numbered Benjamin Pitcher. He is in his seventy-third year, his birth having occurred in Cambridgeshire, England, August 29, 1836. The family is an old one in that country and the grandfather, John Pitcher, spent his entire life there, meeting his death through the kick of a horse. He always followed farming as a source of livelihood. One of his children was Benjamin Pitcher, who was reared in his native land and became a butcher, following the trade in early manhood. Subsequently he turned his attention to farming. He was married in England to Miss Ann Hall, a native of that country and a daughter of Thomas and Ann Hall, who also remained residents of England, passing their lives on farms in that country. The death of Mr. Hall occurred when he had reached the venerable age of eighty-two years. Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin began their domestic life in England, remaining residents of Cambridgeshire until September, 1846, when the father with his family sailed to the new world and took up his abode in Rensselaer county, New York. There Mr. Pitcher again engaged in farming until 1863, when he removed westward to Illinois, locating in Winnebago county, about eight miles from Rockford. His remaining days were given to general agricultural pursuits in that locality, where he died in 1881 at the age of seventy-nine years. He had long survived his wife, who died in England in 1844. They were both members of the established church of England. Of their family of three sons and two daughters only three are now living: Frances Ellen, the widow of George Warren, of Seattle, Washington; Benjamin, of this review; and William, of Port Townsend, Washington.

Benjamin Pitcher spent the first ten years of his life in the land of his birth and then came with his father to the United States, living in New York until 1855. In that year he became a resident of Winnebago county, Illinois, where he lived for several years and later removed to Green county, Wisconsin, in which locality he followed farming. A few years later he returned to Winnebago county and on the 7th of August, 1862, offered his services to the government in defense of the Union army, becoming a member of Company H, Seventy-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he did active duty until mustered out on June 10, 1865. He was wounded in the leg at the battle of Missionary Ridge

and had a part of his heel shot away at Kenesaw Mountain, while at Dallas he was slightly wounded in the hand. He participated in eighteen hard-fought battles, including the engagements at Perryville, Stone River, Tallahassee, Dalton, Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Spring Hill, Franklin and Nashville. He was first a private but was mustered out with the rank of sergeant. After the war he returned to Winnebago county, Illinois, where he had engaged in farming and teaming. He dates his residence in Iowa from the 5th of September, 1872, on which day he arrived in Spencer and soon afterward took up a homestead of eighty acres in Dickinson county, while later he secured eighty acres in Clay county. He still owns the original tract together with eighty acres in Meadow township, Clay county, where he lived until 1893, and during that period transformed his land into a rich and productive farm, supplied with modern equipment and accessories. The place in all of its appointments is neat and well ordered, and Mr. Pitcher continued his personal supervision and practical work upon the place until 1893, when he removed to Spencer, where he has since made his home.

On the 29th of November, 1857, Mr. Pitcher was married to Miss Mary W. Barnard, who was born in North Beckett, Massachusetts. Her father, John Barnard, wedded a Miss McClure, and their family included Mrs. Pitcher, who, by her marriage, has become the mother of six children. John L., the eldest, a resident of Milford, Iowa, wedded Elizabeth James and has five children, Anna, John, Olive, Mary and Walter B. Mary A. is a bookkeeper and stenographer in Spencer. Homer E. conducts an agricultural implement business in Spencer, and married Tirza Waldo, who has become the mother of two children. Dolly is the wife of George Walker, of Spencer, and has three children, Lou, Leslie and Francell. Agnes is the wife of C. A. Claypole, of Fort Dodge, Iowa, and has two children, Agnes and Keith. Benjamin completes the family.

Mr. and Mrs. Pitcher attend the Congregational church, of which she is a member. Mr. Pitcher's membership relations are with Evening Shade Lodge, No. 312, A. F. & A. M., and Waller Post, G. A. R., of Milford. In politics he is a republican and has always voted for the men and measures of the party. There is no more loyal American citizen in Clay county than this adopted son who, though born across the water, has spent almost his entire life in the United States and has deep attachment for the institutions of this free land. He certainly proved his loyalty by his service in the Civil war and in days of peace he has been as faithful to his country as when he followed the stars and stripes on the battlefields of the south.

WILLIAM I. ROOD.

William I. Rood, a photographer of Spencer, whose artistic skill is evidenced in the excellent work which he turns out, is now accorded a liberal patronage by reason of the ability which he manifests. New York numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred in Cayuga county, August 8, 1842. He is a son of Jacob Rood and a grandson of Augustus Rood, both natives of the

Empire state. The latter learned and followed the shoemaker's trade in early life but afterward gave his energies and attention to farming. He was for a short time a soldier of the war of 1812. Both he and his wife died when well advanced in years, after rearing a family of five children: John, Augustus, Jacob, Eliza and Lorena.

Jacob Rood, reared in his father's home, began learning the harness-maker's trade when thirteen years of age and was thus connected with industrial interests for some time. After arriving to years of maturity he wedded Caroline Smith, who was also born in the Empire state, and they made their home in Cayuga county, New York, until 1844, when they came westward to the Mississippi valley. Mr. Rood established his home near Green Lake, Wisconsin, and became prominently identified with agricultural interests in that locality. He afterward owned five different farms in Columbia county, near Portage City, Wisconsin, and improved them. He was in business association with his two brothers and father while at Green Lake. In 1856 he again started in the harness business, opening a shop at Marcellon, where he remained for a year. In 1858, however, he took up his abode on a farm in Monroe county, Wisconsin, where he lived for about fourteen years, or until 1872, when he came to Clay county, Iowa, where he practiced veterinary surgery. He lacked but twenty days of being eighty years of age when he passed away toward the opening of the Twentieth century. His wife survived him and died at the age of eighty-three years, six months and eighteen days. Mr. Rood always gave his political allegiance to the republican party from Lincoln's time until his death and while living in Wisconsin held the office of clerk of the court, while in Clay county he served as county coroner. Wherever he was known he was highly esteemed, for he was loyal and progressive in all matters of citizenship, and in business affairs showed determination, purpose, careful management and keen sagacity.

William I. Rood was the oldest in a family of three sons and four daughters and is the only one now living. He was less than two years of age at the time of his parents' removal to Wisconsin and there he was largely reared to farm life, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He was nineteen years of age when in August, 1862, he offered his services to the government and with patriotic ardor went to the front as a member of Company D, Twenty-fifth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He served as a private until the close of the war and participated in a number of smaller engagements although he was not in any heavy battle. However, he went with Sherman on his celebrated march to the sea and met with most of the experiences and hardships of a rigorous warfare.

When hostilities were over and peace again reigned in the land William I. Rood returned to the farm in Wisconsin but, as his health was impaired, he could not stand the hard manual labor and took up photography, to which he has since given his attention, following the profession for about forty years. In 1871 he came to Spencer and for thirty-seven years has conducted his gallery at this place. In all this time he has kept informed concerning the progress made in the process of photography, has been quick to adopt any new and practical improvement and with ready appreciation of the value of light, shade and pose, he has done good work and has enjoyed a liberal patronage.

Pleasantly situated in his home life, Mr. Rood laid the foundation for his domestic happiness in his marriage on the 21st of October, 1872, to Miss Belle Brown, of Vermont. There were seven children born unto them but only two are now living: Edna and Abbie. The former is the wife of W. F. Conley, of Easton, Minnesota, and has two children, Kenneth and Beatrice. Abbie is conducting a kindergarten in Chicago. Mr. Rood is a member of the Christian Science church, of Boston. Mrs. Rood was a member of the Congregational church from the age of twelve years until recently, when she, too, became identified with the Christian Science movement. Politically Mr. Rood is a republican and served as town clerk in Wisconsin for one term, but has never been eager for office, preferring to do his public service in other ways. He is interested in the welfare of Spencer and as the years have gone by he has won for himself a creditable position as a valued citizen and business man.

GEORGE F. SOEHREN.

George F. Soehren, now living in Everly, was formerly closely associated with the agricultural interests of Lone Tree township. He possessed a spirit of perseverance that enabled him to carry forward to successful completion whatever he undertook and thus he developed a good farm of one hundred and forty acres, from which he annually derived a substantial income as the result of his industry and diligence. A native of Iowa, he was born in Benton county, on the 18th of January, 1871. His father, George D. Soehren, was born in Germany, where he remained to the age of seventeen years, when he came to the new world, first locating in Indiana. There he worked for a year or more, after which he made his way to Davenport, Iowa, and soon took up farm work in Scott county. It was in that county that he wedded Miss Lena Miller, also a native of Germany, in which country her girlhood days were passed. They lived for some time in Benton county and in 1884 came to Clay county, Mr. Soehren purchasing three hundred and sixty acres of land in Lone Tree township. At that time it was entirely destitute of improvements and not a furrow had been turned upon the place, but he broke the sod, fenced the fields and converted the land into an arable and productive tract. He continued to engage actively in farming until 1898, when he lost his wife, since which time he has resided in Everly with his son, George. Unto Mr. and Mrs. George D. Soehren were born four sons and four daughters: John, a carpenter, who resides at Dayton, Montana; Emma, the wife of Henry Nagle, of Guthrie Center, Iowa; Minnie, the wife of George Lambin, of Waubay, South Dakota; George F.; Anna, the wife of Egbert Emmertsen, of St. Paul, Minnesota; Daniel D., a farmer of Lone Tree township, who owns the old homestead; Louisa, the wife of A. T. Rohlf, of Bowman, North Dakota; and F. C., who is engaged in farming with his brother Daniel on the old homestead.

When a lad of fourteen years George F. Soehren came to Clay county and was here reared to manhood, while the common schools afforded him his educational privileges. Through the period of his boyhood and youth he assisted in the work of the fields and, after attaining his majority, carried on the home farm

for a time. In 1903 he went to South Dakota and purchased land at White Rock, Roberts county, becoming owner of three hundred and five acres. There he opened up a new farm, which he cultivated for three years, after which he sold out and returned to Clay county, here purchasing one hundred and forty acres from his father. Carefully, systematically and energetically he continued the work of the farm until the fall of 1908, when he sold the place and bought a neat home in Everly, where he now resides. He has here eight acres of land and his place is one of the attractive homes of the town, because of its neat and well kept appearance. While on the farm he conducted a dairy business in connection with the tilling of the soil. For some thirty years he has been engaged in raising fine poultry, making a specialty of Barred Plymouth Rocks. He has always had a large flock, has bred the finest chickens and has sold perhaps more poultry than any other man in this part of the county. He is now also engaged in raising squabs, starting with one hundred and four pairs of mated pigeons. His place is well equipped for the conduct of the business and he now devotes his time to this task, being the only man in Clay county engaged in raising squabs. For the birds he finds a ready market and receives good prices for all he sells.

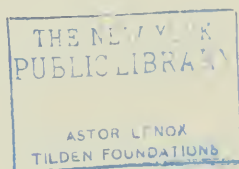
On the 19th of December, 1907, Mr. Soehren was married to Miss Dorothy Schoenewe, a native of Germany, who was here reared and educated. Both are members of the German Lutheran church, in which faith they were reared. Mr. Soehren gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is a firm believer in its principles, but has never sought nor desired public office. His life has been a very busy, active and useful one. He has helped to improve and make two farms and has been closely associated with the progress and upbuilding of Lone Tree township. He is now conducting a successful and growing business in Everly and is one of the representative residents of the town.

WILLIAM F. TORBERT.

William F. Torbert, living on section 24, Riverton township, is one of the few remaining residents who secured homestead claims in this township in the early period of the county's development. He owns one hundred and seventy-four acres in the place on which he now resides—a well improved and valuable farm—pleasantly situated about two miles from Spencer. In the spring of 1871 he arrived in Clay county but has always been a resident of the middle west and is imbued with the spirit of enterprise and progress which has been the dominant factor in the upbuilding of the Mississippi valley. His birth occurred in Dodge county, Wisconsin, February 21, 1847. His father, S. S. Torbert, was a native of Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, where he was reared and married, the lady of his choice being Miss Nancy Long, also a native of Lycoming county. They began their domestic life in that commonwealth and lived there until after the birth of two of their children, when they removed westward and established a home in Dodge county, Wisconsin, in 1846. There Mr. Torbert opened up a new farm, clearing the land of the timber, turning the first furrows and making his place an arable tract, on which he reared his family. Later, however, he



FAMILY OF WILLIAM F. TORBERT



came to Clay county, Iowa, and spent his last years. He had lost his wife in Wisconsin in 1873, while his death occurred in Clay county, November 15, 1897. Their family numbered two sons and three daughters: Samuel, who became a Union soldier in the Civil war and died in the service; Susan, who was married and died in Chicago; W. F., of this review; Maggie, the wife of W. H. Cook, living in Dodge county, Wisconsin; and Clementine, who was married and died in California.

William F. Torbert was reared on the old home farm in Dodge county, Wisconsin, and as a public-school student gained a knowledge of the elementary branches of English learning. Observation, study and reading have since greatly broadened his knowledge and in the school of experience he has also learned valuable lessons. He remained with his father until he attained his majority and then became a teacher, following the profession through a number of winter terms, while the summer seasons were devoted to farm work. In 1871 he came to Clay county and secured a homestead on section 18, Riverton township, obtaining eighty acres, on which he turned the first furrows. He also built a sod house immediately after his arrival and occupied it until he could erect a good frame dwelling, for which he hauled the lumber from Algona. He used oxen in turning the first furrows and in cultivating his farm for a time. He fenced his land and for four years kept bachelor's hall while putting the first improvements on his place. He continued to engage in teaching through nineteen winter seasons and in the summer months continued to till the soil, purchasing more land as his financial resources increased, until the old home place now comprises two hundred and eighty acres. For thirty-two years he there engaged in farming and then purchased his present home. In connection with his agricultural interests he has been carrying on a dairy business for the past fifteen years. His stock is pure-blooded shorthorn and this branch of his business is proving quite profitable.

In November, 1875, in Riverton township, Mr. Torbert wedded Miss Maria McArdle, who was born in Pennsylvania but was largely reared in Iowa and was one of her husband's pupils before her marriage. Her father was James McArdle, also one of the early settlers of the county, who secured a homestead here in pioneer times. Three children have been born unto Mr. and Mrs. Torbert. Nellie is now the wife of O. M. Peterson, a farmer of Russell, Minnesota, and they have two sons, Ervin and Harold. Samuel A., who has been cultivating the old home farm, is married and has two children, Mildred and Anna May. Maggie is the wife of T. C. Hanna, a farmer of Riverton township.

Politically, Mr. Torbert has been a life-long republican, supporting each presidential nominee of the party since casting his first vote for General U. S. Grant. He has taken an active interest in local elections and has been called to fill several township offices, serving for some years as township clerk and later as trustee. He has also been township treasurer and school treasurer for a number of years and has been identified with the schools almost continuously since locating here, and is at the present time acting as president of the school board. He has always been deeply interested in the cause of education, regarding it as one of the bulwarks of the nation and he has done much to further the school system in this part of the state. He likewise capably served as assessor for ten

consecutive years and has been a delegate to almost every county and state convention. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take an active and helpful part in church and Sunday school work, acting as Sunday school teacher and as church trustee. Great changes have occurred since Mr. Torbert came to Clay county thirty-seven years ago. He has seen the towns built up, railroads established and the whole county transformed from a wilderness and swamp. He has broken several hundred acres of the virgin soil and has thus borne an active and helpful part in the work of general improvement and progress. His influence has always been found on the side of material, intellectual and moral development and his work has been an element in the county's advancement.

GEORGE W. MOELLER.

There is no movement formulated in Waterford township for the benefit of the community along lines of substantial upbuilding that does not receive the endorsement of George W. Moeller, and his labors have always been a cooperant factor in the work of general improvement. A quarter of a century has passed since he came to Clay county and throughout this period he has given proof of the fact that the term citizenship is to him no mere idle word. He is now busily engaged in the conduct of his farming interests for he has a good property on section 21. Born in Iowa, the place of his nativity was in Benton county and his natal day the 6th of July, 1875. As the name indicates, he comes of German ancestry. His father, Fritz Moeller, was a native of Germany, where he remained until early manhood, when he crossed the Atlantic to the United States. After living for a time in Scott county, Iowa, he removed to Benton county, where he carried on general farming. He was married in the former county to Miss Dora Strohbeen, also a native of Germany, and after living for a considerable period in Benton county they removed to Clay county in 1884, Mr. Moeller becoming identified with agricultural pursuits here through his investment in a farm of four hundred acres. The land was largely in its primitive condition when he came into its possession, but he bent his energies toward transforming the wild prairie into cultivated fields and continued actively in business up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1887. His wife still survives and is now a resident of Everly.

George W. Moeller was only eight years of age at the time of the removal to the farm in Clay county, so that his youthful days were here passed and to the public school system he is indebted for the educational advantages he enjoyed in his youth. Later he attended a business college at Davenport, Iowa, and through the periods of vacation worked on the home farm so that broad practical experience qualified him to carry on farming when he started out in life on his own account. Subsequent to attaining his majority he worked as a farm hand by the month for a year and was also employed in a creamery one summer. He then returned to the home place and took charge of the farm and in its control has displayed good business ability and unfaltering energy. He now owns two hundred acres of the old homestead, which is attractively and appropriately called the

"Cedar Lawn Farm." Since coming into possession he has erected a large barn and a silo, which was the first in the county. In connection with farming he has engaged in raising and feeding stock. A good grade of cattle, horses and hogs are found in his pastures. He believes in progress in all things and therefore uses the latest improved machinery to facilitate the work of the fields. His farming he has carried on along modern scientific lines and his labors are bringing excellent results. He has also extended his efforts into other fields of business activity, for he is now a member of the board of directors, Clay County Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company.

On Christmas day of 1901 Mr. Moeller was married to Miss Maggie Zentner, who was born, reared and educated in this state. They now have one son, Leslie. The parents are prominent socially and the hospitality of the best homes of the community is freely accorded them. They were reared in the Lutheran faith and attend that church. Mr. Moeller is a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge at Everly, while his political allegiance is given to the democracy. He was elected secretary of the school board and after serving eight consecutive years was reelected in 1908, so that he is the present incumbent. In the same year he was elected assessor. Young, determined and vigorous, a successful farmer and an enterprising business man. Waterford township numbers him among her valued residents, and the fact that many of his staunchest friends are those who have known him from his boyhood to the present time is an indication that his life has at all times been honorable and upright—worthy of the high esteem in which he is uniformly held.

JOHN J. KRAEMER.

Every man who enters business life does so with the hope of winning success, but there are many who are not willing to pay the price of it. The price is unfaltering industry, intelligently directed, and when the individual is not afraid to put forth continuous and persistent effort he will eventually attain prosperity. This is proven in the record of John J. Kraemer, now numbered among the leading farmers of Lone Tree township. His home is on section 33 and he owns four hundred and eighty acres in two well improved farms. He dates his residence in the county from the fall of 1879, coming here when a young man of about twenty-eight years. He was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, October 17, 1851, and there remained to the age of nineteen years, when he sought the business opportunities of the new world, arriving in La Salle county, Illinois, in 1870. As he had no capital to enable him to start in an independent business venture, he worked by the month as a farm hand for a few years, until he felt that his capital and experience justified him in renting land and farming on his own account. He was thus identified with the agricultural interests of Illinois until 1879, when he removed to western Iowa, establishing his home in Clay county. During the year following his arrival he cultivated a rented farm in Riverton township, not far from the county farm. He then purchased eighty acres of land west of Spencer, where he carried on farming for six years, when he sold that property

and again rented land for five years in the vicinity of the county seat. In the meantime he continued to carefully save his earnings and during that period he invested in three hundred and twenty acres of land, which is the farm on section 33, Lone Tree township, upon which he now resides. He has since made another purchase of one hundred and sixty acres, so that his landed holdings now embrace four hundred and eighty acres. He has remained on his present farm since 1893, in which year he began to further improve it and the excellence and effectiveness of his labors are indicated in the splendid appearance of his place. The plowing, planting and harvesting are carried on year by year and his industry is rewarded by large crops. He has set out an orchard and some forest trees and in the midst of a well kept lawn stands a large house which he erected. He has also built a good barn and he likewise has good buildings upon his other place. He has tiled most of his home farm, thus greatly enhancing the productiveness of the fields. In addition to his farming he raises high-grade stock and both branches of his business are proving sources of gratifying remuneration.

Mr. Kraemer has been married twice. When in La Salle county, Illinois, he wedded Fredericka Vonesse, a native of Germany, who died in Clay county in 1900. There were nine children by that marriage: Rev. Wilhelm Paul Kraemer, who is now minister of the German and American Methodist Episcopal church; Henry, who is cultivating one of his father's farms; Lena, who is acting as house-keeper for her brother; Paul, who is with his brother and sister on the farm; Arthur, who is now doing for himself; Frank, who has also started in life on his own account; Martha, a student in the Everly high school; and Lydia and Walter, at home. On the 27th of March, 1901, Mr. Kraemer was again married and the wedding, which was celebrated in New York city, made Miss Mary Pflugfelder his wife. There are three children by this marriage: John F., Albert and Florence.

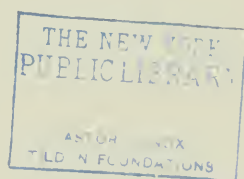
Mr. Kraemer votes with the republican party, but his business cares make too extensive demand upon his time and energies to allow him to participate to any extent in political activity. He is justly accounted one of the good business men of the community and certainly deserves much credit for what he has accomplished, as he started out in life with no capital save his natural qualities of industry and determination. The years have marked his successive progress until he is today one of the substantial citizens of Clay county. Mr. and Mrs. Kraemer both are members of the German Methodist Episcopal church of Spencer.

JOHN J. BICKNELL.

John J. Bicknell, who is now living in retirement after having spent upwards of three-quarters of a century in agricultural pursuits and stock-raising in Petersen, this county, was born in Hampshire county, Massachusetts, January 24, 1825, a son of James and Lucy A. (Cady) Bicknell, his father also having been a native of that state, who came west in 1841, locating in Ohio, and remained there until 1848. Before the expiration of the year he went to Illinois, where he spent three years, and then repaired to Waterloo, remaining there until 1856 during which



M^R. AND M^{RS}. J. J. RICKNELL.



year he came to Peterson, or rather where the village of Peterson now stands. Here he pursued agricultural and general stock-raising until he departed this life. He was united in marriage in his native state, where his wife also was born. The latter passed away at her home here, and her remains were interred with those of her husband. In the family were four children, namely: John J.; Lucy, wife of Charles Oldfield, the couple residing in Michigan; Chester C., deceased; and Mary Jane, deceased.

The common schools of Massachusetts and Ohio afforded John J. Bicknell his preliminary education and subsequently he pursued a course of study in Oberlin College, from which he was graduated. He remained with his parents until twenty-one years of age, when he started out in the world for himself, his first occupation being that of a timber chopper, which he followed a few years and then went back to his native state, and remained there some time. Upon his return to Ohio he purchased his father's farm upon which he lived, actively engaged in agricultural pursuits for a period of seven years, and then located near Batavia, Kane county, Illinois, where he spent two years. He then removed to Cedar Falls, Black Hawk county, this state, and there remained until the year 1856, when he repaired to this county and took up a claim. He was accompanied by J. A. Kirchner and his neighbor Meed and his son, and they were the first settlers in Clay county. Returning to Cedar Falls in the fall of the same year he remained there but a brief period when, in the year 1857, he returned to this county and remained here until after the Spirit Lake Massacre, when he went back to the former place and stayed there three years, for the hostility of the Indians at that time was so bitter that it was unsafe to take up a residence in Clay county. Later, however, he returned to this county, where for a number of years he pursued general farming which he abandoned about three years ago and removed to the village of Peterson, where he is now living a retired life. He owns a forty-acre farm upon which he has made all the necessary improvements and to which, during his days of activity, he had given every attention and the piece of land, although it is small, is one of the most arable and desirable in the township. In addition to this he owns a comfortable residence in the village of Peterson, where he resides, and also some valuable town property.

In 1850 Mr. Bicknell was united in marriage at Pittsfield, Ohio, to Miss Caroline Chisley, a native of New York state, by whom he has had four children, namely: Otis Chester, an agriculturist of Livingston county, Missouri; Milo, who operates a large farm in O'Brien county, this state; Lucy Jane, wife of Charles McCormick, a farmer of this township; and Minnie C., who became the wife of Arthur Hulbert, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits and stock-raising in Missouri. During his life Mr. Bicknell has taken considerable interest in politics, always voting the republican ticket and served two terms as county treasurer, and for the same length of time as county recorder. He was county judge four years and, aside from having served the township as justice of the peace, has officiated in several other local public offices. He has always been deeply interested in church work and belongs to the Methodist Episcopal denomination, with which his wife is also affiliated, and for twenty-two years he has been superintendent of the Sunday school. Mr. Bicknell is well known throughout the county in which he is highly respected and now, in his eighty-fourth year, after

a long career which in every particular has been well spent, he need have no regrets in looking backward, and noting that his purposes have always been noble and that his life is such as to contribute toward the moral and spiritual uplift of all with whom he has come in contact, he can look forward with the consciousness that inasmuch as he has been dutiful in the vineyard of his Master, whom he has for so many years endeavored to serve acceptably in leading others into a knowledge of the faith, there awaits him a glorious immortality.

FRED STRUCK.

No farmer in Clay county has achieved greater success in agricultural pursuits than has Fred Struck, whose attractive homestead lies on section 13, Garfield township, and comprises one hundred and sixty acres. Through his own industry and enterprise he has risen to prominence as a farmer. Nothing aided him in his struggle except the fact that he was born of worthy parents and inherited the splendid traits which have characterized the men who have developed our great western country. His birth occurred in Clinton, Clinton county, Iowa, on the 19th of September, 1871, his parents being Jacob and Sophia (Kock) Struck, both of whom were natives of Germany. Both came to America in childhood days but were unacquainted in their native land. They did not meet until they became residents of Clinton county, Iowa, and their marriage was celebrated near Davenport. After residing for a few years in Clinton county they removed to Marshall county and a few years later became residents of Grundy county, Iowa, preceding their removal to Tama county, whence they came to Clay county in 1882. Their family numbered six children, the eldest being Fred Struck, of this review. The others are: Henry, who makes his home in North Dakota; Emma, the wife of John Starr, who resides in Douglas township, Clay county, by whom she has one child, Orland; Kate, the wife of Steve Crick, a resident of Clay county; and George and Rosie, both still under the parental roof.

Spending his boyhood days in his parents' home, Fred Struck was reared to the work of the home farm and in the district schools pursued his education, becoming thus qualified for the practical duties of life. He started out for himself at the age of twenty years, being possessed of a laudable ambition to one day become the owner of a farm. He, therefore, carefully saved his earnings and when he was in possession of a small sum of money he arranged for the purchase of his present place, making a small payment and agreeing to pay the remainder at stated intervals. The purchase price was two thousand dollars, or a little more than twelve dollars per acre, and today the farm is valued at about one hundred dollars per acre, being one of the best in the county. For several years Mr. Struck had a hard struggle to keep up his payments. Some years he could not make enough to pay even the taxes, owing to the hard times, poor crops and low prices for all farm products. Corn in those days sold for eight cents per bushel and oats brought only eleven cents. It required two big loads of corn, hauled to market, to buy one pair of boots. The conditions were

so discouraging to the farmers in the northwest at that time that scores of settlers abandoned their homesteads and gave up the battle; but Mr. Struck possessed a determination, that would not permit his surrender, and he hoped and toiled bravely on and in course of time success rewarded his labors. Tireless energy will always win prosperity and it was through this means that Mr. Struck gained his place among the substantial agriculturists of the community.

On the 26th of June, 1901, Mr. Struck was united in marriage to Miss Mary R. Milligan, a daughter of John and Diana (Scott) Milligan, both of whom were natives of Canada. In the year 1890 they came to the United States, settling near Independence, Iowa, and are now residents of St. Paul, Minnesota. Mrs. Struck is the younger of two children, her brother, John Milligan, residing with his parents in St. Paul. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Struck has been born a daughter, Ida B. The parents are members of the Lutheran church and are interested in its work and in all that pertains to the welfare and progress of the community. Their good qualities of heart and mind have gained for them the friendship of many and the high regard of all who know them, while the business record of Mr. Struck commends him to the confidence of his fellowmen, for at all times he is reliable and straightforward.

FRANK L. ZISHKA.

Frank L. Zishka, living on section 9, Summit township, has for twenty-eight years been well known in Clay county. He was but a little lad at the time of his arrival here and the fact that many of his stanchest friends are those who have known him from his boyhood days is an indication that his life has been honorable and upright. His birth occurred in Illinois, October 25, 1873, and in his early childhood his parents removed to Iowa, settling in Franklin county, where he remained until 1882. The family home was then established in Clay county and here he continued his education as a public-school pupil. His training at farm labor was not meager for as soon as old enough to handle the plow he began work in the fields and continued to assist in the cultivation of the crops from the time of early spring planting until the harvests were gathered in the late autumn. His thorough training thus well qualified him to carry on business on his own account when he was married and started out for himself.

It was in 1899, in Spencer, that Mr. Zishka was joined in wedlock to Miss Ida Doeling, a native of Germany, in which land her girlhood days were passed, coming to America in early womanhood. Following his marriage Mr. Zishka took his bride to the farm upon which they have since resided. He has purchased one hundred and sixty acres here and in addition to that tract he also cultivates another quarter section, so that his time is now busily occupied with the care and improvement of three hundred and twenty acres of rich and productive land. He gives much of his attention to the cultivation of corn but also raises other crops, and livestock interests claim a part of his attention. He raises and feeds hogs and this proves a profitable branch of his business. In all of his work he is energetic and determined, brooking no obstacles that can be overcome by

persistent and honorable effort. Year after year he carefully tills his fields and raises hogs and there are few leisure moments in his life. Mr. Zishka and his brother, Carl, have owned and operated a steam thresher and corn sheller for seventeen years. Their first thresher was operated with horse power but for fourteen years they have used a steam traction engine and have also employed steam in the operation of the corn sheller for about nine years.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Zishka have been born three children, Alma, Erna and Louis. The parents are both consistent and faithful members of the German Lutheran church. Mr. Zishka has been identified with the schools in an official capacity and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion. Well known in Clay and adjacent counties by reason of his business affairs, Mr. Zishka is accounted one of the active workers and progressive farmers of Summit township and has the unqualified confidence and esteem of the entire community.

MARTIN JOHNSON.

Martin Johnson, now retired after many years of unwearied efforts as an agriculturist and carriage maker, a man held in high respect for his industry and excellent qualities of character, was born in Denmark, February 13, 1844, a son of Johannes and Carrie Mary (Tidman) Johnson. His father was a carpenter and cabinet maker, who spent his entire life in his native land, where he passed away in 1908. His mother, also a native of Denmark, there departed this life when Martin Johnson was but thirteen years of age. In the family were but two children, namely, Martin and Hans Peter, the latter now residing in Minnesota. The elder Mr. Johnson was twice united in marriage, the second time to Dorothy Nelson, by whom he reared four children, only two surviving, namely, James, who is an agriculturist, operating a large farm near Enwood, this state, and Christ, who is living on a farm east of Spencer.

In the common schools of his native land Martin Johnson acquired his early education and when fourteen years of age was apprenticed for a period of four and a half years to a carriage maker. Having learned that trade, he followed the occupation as a journeyman until he was twenty-one years of age, and in the year 1867 came to the United States, locating in Waupun, Wisconsin, where he became employed in a carriage shop. He remained at Waupun four years, at the expiration of which time he came to this county. Upon his arrival here he found it very difficult to get a start, as at that time he had but one horse. But eventually, having raised a colt, he traded same for a cow and one year later traded his horses for a yoke of oxen, and with this team he at once began to break the raw prairie and put it into a fit state for cultivation. He was handicapped in many ways, as there was a great deal of sickness in the family as well as other reverses, which made it seem almost impossible to attain any headway. However, he plodded along with perseverance and patience, applying his energies to hard work, and finally succeeded in overcoming all difficulties, mounting above discouragements and transforming the raw prairie country into an excellent state of cultivation, from which he has since reaped

harvests which have grandly repaid him for the labors of his earlier years. He owns the eastern half of section 18 and also eighty acres of section 17, all of which is highly improved property, and his farm is provided with an elegant residence, outbuildings, machinery and all conveniences necessary to make agriculture a paying business. Aside from engaging in general husbandry, he also pays some attention to stock raising and does quite a shipping business in the better breeds of cattle, sheep and hogs. While Mr. Johnson takes a deep interest in every department of his farm, being careful to always keep his buildings in excellent condition and his property neatly and substantially fenced, yet he takes particular pride in his town residence, to which he has given much thought and attention and which is considered one of the finest and most comfortable dwelling houses in Royal.

In 1873 he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Hendrickson, a resident of this county, by whom he has had two children, namely, Emma, wife of Peter Sondergarth, who owns a fine farm on section 17 in Lincoln township, and William, who is an agriculturist, owning section 18 in that place. In politics Mr. Johnson is a republican and although he is not an active politician, he keeps abreast of the times regarding the paramount issues before the country and is always ready with his vote and influence to do what he can to secure the election of the candidates of his party. He is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in Wisconsin, and belongs to the Lutheran church, where he regularly attends divine services. Mr. Johnson is well known throughout the township as a good and industrious man, enjoying the confidence and respect of his neighbors, and for the past two years he has been living in retirement in his elegant residence in the village of Royal, where he is spending his declining years in the enjoyment of the fruits of his long season of honest and successful labor.

JOHN JELDEN.

A valuable farm of four hundred and eighty-four acres is the property of John Jelden, whose home is on section 9, Lone Tree township. There he raises grain and stock and is well known as one of the leading stock feeders of this locality. Germany has furnished a considerable portion of citizens to this part of the county and the Teutonic element in our civilization has proved an important one. Mr. Jelden was born in Germany, March 22, 1870, and his early training was that of a German home, in which lessons of industry, thrift and uprightness were strongly impressed upon his mind. As a young man of seventeen years he bade adieu to friends and native land and crossed the Atlantic, after which he traveled westward from New York to Iowa, joining friends in Grundy county. For a year he was employed as a farm hand by the month. His financial resources were limited and rendered immediate employment a necessity. After working in that manner for a year in Grundy county he came to Clay county in 1888 and was again employed at farm labor for two years, but he was ambitious that his efforts should prove more directly beneficial to himself and he therefore rented land and began

farming on his own account. He also fitted out a heavy team and engaged in breaking prairies for two seasons. Carefully saving his earnings during this period, he then invested in land, becoming owner of one hundred and sixty acres in Waterford township, upon which he carried on general agricultural pursuits. For several years his time and energies were devoted to the further improvement of that property but at length he sold out and for two or three years again rented land. He next bought eighty acres, constituting a part of his present place, and as his financial resources increased he extended the boundaries of his farm from time to time until he now has a rich and valuable property of four hundred and eighty-four acres. It is one of the large farms of the county and everything about it is indicative of his careful supervision, his practical methods and his progressive spirit. He has built some outbuildings and a cattle shed, stock-scales, feed-mill and wind-pump are among the features of his place that indicate his progressive spirit and practical methods. He has become widely known as one of the most extensive stock-raisers and feeders of the locality, having now about thirteen hundred head of sheep, while one year he fed five thousand head. He also feeds and fattens from one hundred to two hundred head of cattle yearly and from three to four carloads of hogs. His business interests in this direction exceed the efforts of almost any other feeder and shipper of this part of the state.

On the 6th of June, 1900, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Jelden and Miss Sophia Moeller, who was born and reared in Tama county, Iowa. They have two children, John and Mabel. Mr. Jelden votes independently, nor has he ever been an aspirant for office. He has always preferred to give his undivided attention to his business affairs, for he commenced life empty-handed and knew that he must depend solely upon his labors for advancement. He started out a poor boy in a strange land and whatever success he has achieved or enjoyed is attributable entirely to his own perseverance and capable control of business affairs. In all of his dealings he has been strictly honorable and is today one of the large landowners of the county, who has accumulated a comfortable and gratifying fortune. His life record in many respects may well serve to encourage and inspire others, showing what may be achieved when one has the will to dare and to do.

JOHN L. ADDINGTON.

John L. Addington, editor of the Webb Record and postmaster of the town, was born in eastern Indiana, October 8, 1856, a son of John L. and Nancy E. (Fancher) Addington, who were natives of Indiana and Tennessee, respectively. The father was a Methodist minister, whose labors in behalf of Christianity were a potent influence in the moral development of the localities in which he lived. He came to Iowa in 1864 and for a time was located in Davenport but in 1867 removed to Hardin county, where he remained for a number of years or until his death, which occurred in 1879. His wife died March 15, 1879. The first representative of the family in America was Henry Addington, whose birth occurred in England about 1727 and who, on emigrating to the United States, took

up his abode near Philadelphia. He became separated from a younger brother, from whom he never afterward heard. Henry Addington married Elizabeth Buson, by whom he had three sons: John, William and James. About the year 1755 the family removed to South Carolina, where the eldest son, John, wedded a Miss Lamb, by whom he had two children, William and Alsie. After losing his first wife he married Elizabeth Heaton and unto them were born seven children, namely: Mary, Joseph, John, Sarah, Thomas, Elizabeth and James. The year 1806 witnessed the arrival of the family in Wayne county, Indiana, near the present site of Richmond. James, the youngest child, was married in 1809 to Nancy Llewellyn, by whom he had the following children: John L., William L., Rachel, Benjamin L., Thomas L., Isaac L. and Mary. John L. Addington, the eldest, was married on the 8th of November, 1832, to Sallie Stephens and they became the parents of eight children: James A., Matilda A., Francis S., Nathan, Alice, Mary, William B. and George. Subsequent to the death of his first wife he was again married, on the 5th of May, 1848, his second union being with Nancy Fancher, by whom he had three sons: Samuel; Thomas F.; and John La Salle Addington, of this review.

John L. Addington was educated in the common schools and in the high school at Ackley, Iowa. In 1875 he took up the profession of teaching, which he followed in Grundy county, this state, for three years, and in 1878 he became the teacher of what was then known as the Park Avenue school at Des Moines, Iowa, and later was principal of the schools at Alton, Iowa. Later he accepted a like position at Mitchellville, where he continued for two years and then resigned to remove to Filley, Nebraska, having been appointed as one of the teachers in the public schools of that place, where he remained for six years. He next accepted a position at Narka, Kansas, and when he had taught there for six years his services as a public-school teacher aggregated a period of over twenty-two years. For more than fifteen years of that time, covering the period of his residence at Alton, Iowa, Filley, Nebraska, and Narka, Kansas, he was also engaged in the newspaper field.

In Septemebre, 1900, Mr. Addington came to Webb, Iowa, and established the Webb Record, a weekly newspaper which has an extensive circulation in the town and county. Not only in journalistic lines is he connected with the interests of this city but is also serving as postmaster under presidential appointment, to July 9, 1908.

On the 6th of April, 1881, Mr. Addington was united in marriage to Miss Mary Crist, a daughter of John and Mary (Sellen) Crist, who were natives of Wisconsin, in which state they remained until called to their final rest. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Addington have been born eight children: Marion H., at home; Grace L., the wife of Albert C. Ringbloom, a resident of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Doris C., a stenographer in Des Moines, Iowa; John L., living in Salt Lake City, where he is attending school; Roy S.; and Charley T., at home; and two who died in infancy. The wife and mother passed away January 25, 1901.

Aside from his service as postmaster he has been called to every office, having served as mayor of Webb for four years—from 1902 until 1906—his administration being characterized by a progressive spirit and by practical reform and municipal advancement. For seven years he has been justice of the peace and

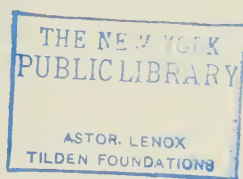
is still the incumbent in the office, and also a member of the city council. He was also president of the school board for four years and the cause of education found in him a stalwart friend. He holds membership relations with the Masonic fraternity, having become a charter member of Temple Lodge, No. 175, of Filley, Nebraska.

J. H. DOTY.

Through well directed business activity and enterprise J. H. Doty has gained recognition as one of the prosperous farmers of Clay county. He owns a highly improved tract of land near Spencer and since 1881 has lived in the county, during which time his labors have not only contributed to his own prosperity but have proven effective forces in advancing the general welfare. A native of Michigan, his birth occurred in St. Joseph county, March 5, 1844. There he was reared to manhood but had no special advantages in his youthful days. His opportunities for securing an education were somewhat limited and it has been in the school of experience that he has learned many valuable lessons, while observation and reading have also added materially to his knowledge. He was a young man of but eighteen years when in the spring of 1864 he responded to the country's call for troops, joining Company C of the Twelfth Michigan Infantry. This command was assigned to the First Brigade of the Second Division of the Seventh Army Corps and went to Arkansas, where they participated in the battle of Duval's Bluff. They were also in a number of skirmishes and Mr. Doty thus served until the close of the war, being mustered out at Camden, Arkansas, in the spring of 1866. He was then honorably discharged at Jackson, Michigan, and with a creditable military record returned to his home. He had always been faithful to his duty whether on the lonely picket line or the firing line and manifested loyalty equal to that of many a veteran of twice his years.

Following his return to St. Joseph county Mr. Doty engaged in farming as foreman on a place there. He afterward took up his abode in Constantine, Michigan, where he was employed in a foundry and machine shop for two or three years and later worked in a lumber business.

It was while living in Constantine that Mr. Doty was first married on the 5th of March, 1868, the lady of his choice being Miss Sarah A. Curtis, a native of St. Joseph county, Michigan, where her girlhood days were passed. The young couple lived happily together for about seven years and were then separated by the death of the wife, who passed away October 8, 1873, leaving three children. Mr. Doty continued to reside in Constantine and was again married there, his second union being with Augusta A. Anderson, who came to Iowa with her husband in 1881. Attracted by the better opportunities of the new but rapidly growing west Mr. Doty came to this state and located in Riverton township, Clay county. Here he secured one hundred and sixty acres, on which he built a place and began the development of his farm. He worked resolutely and diligently to achieve success and in course of time the capital which he acquired from the sale of his crops enabled him to purchase more land until he became owner of three

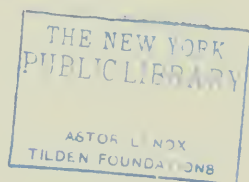




MRS. J. H. DOTY



J. H. DOTY



hundred and thirty-four acres. Subsequently he bought forty-two acres in another tract. Upon the home place he continued to carry on farming until 1902. He was also superintendent of the county farm, cared for, cultivated it, improved it and there lived for seven years. In 1903, however, he took up his abode in Spencer, where he purchased residence property. It was in that year that he lost his wife. Later he bought and owned several places in the town and eventually he sold his farm and invested in land in Summit township, securing four hundred and six acres. The two sons took up their abode there and cultivated and further improved that place. They erected another dwelling, put up outbuildings and continued farming there until the spring of 1908, when Mr. Doty sold the property and bought the Peso farm near Spencer. This comprises a half section, on which is a good set of farm buildings and he is now erecting another set and making fine improvements.

Returning to Michigan about four years after losing his second wife, Mr. Doty was again married in Constantine, on the 20th of February, 1907. On that date he wedded Mrs. S. J. Shellenberger, a native of Elkhart county, Indiana, who was reared and educated in Michigan. She was a daughter of T. J. Jones, who for some years was a successful farmer of St. Joseph county, Michigan, where he died in 1907 at the advanced age of ninety years. His wife survives him and spent the winter of 1907-8 with Mrs. Doty in Spencer. Their daughter was a young girl when she went with her parents to Michigan. She was married there in 1874 to Clark W. Shellenberger, a farmer of St. Joseph county, who later died there, leaving one son, Howard J. Shellenberger, who is now a resident of Elkhart county, Indiana.

Following his marriage Mr. Doty returned to Spencer, where he has since resided. He has been a very busy man, has improved three farms on his own account and also the county farm and has thus contributed in substantial measure to the progress and development of this section. As the architect of his own fortunes he has builded wisely and well. He has depended upon no outside aid or influence but has wrought out his success along the well defined lines of labor and has achieved his prosperity by his industry and perseverance.

Mr. Doty now has three sons: Carleton L. is married and resides in Fresno, California, where he is engaged in the jewelry business. He served three years in the First United States Cavalry at Fort Grant, New Mexico, being honorably discharged. Another son, Bertrand W., for thirteen years was engaged in business in Spencer but is now on the farm. Clyde A. is also living on the farm. Both are enterprising agriculturists, are also breeding and dealing in Shorthorn cattle and are well known as stock raisers and feeders. Mr. Doty and his sons are members of the Masonic fraternity, as is his stepson, and he and his wife are both members of the Order of the Eastern Star. Mr. Doty belongs to the blue lodge at Spencer but first became a Master Mason in Constantine, Michigan, in 1867. Both he and his wife are members of the Congregational church at Spencer and he assisted materially in erecting the new house of worship there. In his political views he is an earnest republican. He cast his first ballot for General U. S. Grant and has never failed to endorse the presidential nominees of the party since that time. In Riverton township he is regarded as one of the stanch advocates of the party and has been elected to several local offices, serving as justice

Digitized by Microsoft

of the peace, as township trustee and also on the school board. He has been chairman of the board of township trustees and chairman of the school board and in the different positions has been most loyal to the public welfare. He has served as a delegate to county and state conventions and has never faltered in his allegiance to the party which was the defense of the Union during the dark days of the Civil war. He belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic and thus maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades. His life has been well spent. In all of its relations he has been true to high and honorable principles and has never faltered in a choice between right and wrong but has always endeavored to follow a course that his judgment and his conscience have sanctioned.

PETER MONROE MOORE.

On the roster of county officials in Clay county appears the name of Peter Monroe Moore, who is now serving as surveyor. Moreover, he is the owner of valuable farming property, his holdings comprising five hundred acres of rich and productive land. His record both as a business man and citizen is commendable and he enjoys in large measure the confidence, good will and friendship of all with whom he has been brought in contact. He was born near Concord, Ohio, October 13, 1841, and is a son of William W. and Naomi (Monroe) Moore, natives of Delaware and Ohio respectively. The latter was a daughter of Peter Monroe, native of Virginia, who followed the occupation of farming as a life work. He wedded a Miss Lyons and they reared several children, namely: Margaret, Ann, Mary, Naomi, Matilda, Elijah and William.

William W. Moore became a house builder. He was a lad of about twelve years when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Ohio and in Muskingum county, that state, he was reared to manhood amid the environments and conditions of frontier life. When a young man he went to Rock Island, Illinois, with his brother, Amos L., the year of his removal being 1835. He lived there for five years and during that time was married, after which he returned to his old home in Ohio. In the fall of 1857 he went with his family to Wisconsin, taking up his abode at Point Bluff, Adams county, on the Wisconsin river, where he lived for nine years, being engaged in carpentering and in the lumber business. In the spring of 1863, in company with his son, Peter M., he made an overland trip to Montana, where he was engaged in the mines for eighteen months. At the time of his arrival that district was all known as Idaho and during the period of his residence there the new territory of Montana was organized, he being a member of the convention that met for this purpose. The return trip was made over the divide to the headwaters of the Yellowstone river. He and his son built boats and floated down the river to Yankton, South Dakota, and were nearly ice-bound in the vicinity of Fort Sully and saw no white men save the soldiers at Fort Union, Berthold, Fort Rice, Sully, Riley and Yankton. In September, 1866, William W. Moore arrived in Clay county, Iowa, and here in connection with his son, Peter Moore, he purchased a farm of eight hundred acres at Gillett's Grove and turned his attention to general agricultural pursuits. They afterward divided

the land and continued their farming interests independently. Mr. Moore was long a witness of the development and progress of the middle west and in the communities where he lived bore his full share in the work of public advancement. While residing at Rock Island, Fort Armstrong was garrisoned and Dred Scott was there acting as a servant to the army surgeon. Mr. Moore was also present at the time the treaty was made with Black Hawk and saw the whole assembly of Indians who were there to make peace with the government. He spent his last days upon the home farm in Clay county, Iowa, where he departed this life October 2, 1890, when nearly seventy-eight years of age. His wife survived him for about sixteen years and died on the 18th of April, 1906, lacking but ten days of being ninety-seven years of age. They were both members of the Methodist church in early life but later united with the Friends society. They were always earnest Christian people, never neglectful of their duties to their fellowmen and in all business relations Mr. Moore was strictly reliable as well as enterprising. In their family were four children: Peter M.; Matilda H., the wife of Lewis Kidder, of Pittsburg, Kansas; Emeline, the wife of W. T. Prescott, of Seattle, Washington; and Wilson H., a resident of Gillett's Grove, Clay county. Miles C. Moore, a cousin of Peter Monroe Moore, was the last territorial governor of Washington and now resides in Walla Walla.

Peter Monroe Moore spent the first sixteen years of his life in his native state and during that period attended the common schools and also spent one year in Muskingum College. He accompanied his parents on their westward removal and afterward attended the Bronson Institute at Point Bluff, Wisconsin. Subsequently he engaged in teaching school for several terms and proved a capable educator, imparting readily and clearly to others the knowledge that he had acquired. In 1866 he came with his parents to Iowa and has since been a resident of Clay county, witnessing almost its entire growth as it has emerged from pioneer conditions and taken on all of the evidences of a modern and progressive civilization. He was continuously connected with farming interests for thirty-two years, or until 1898, and prospered in his undertakings. To his original holdings he added from time to time as his financial resources increased until his property now embraces five hundred acres at Gillett's Grove. He improved that land, bringing the fields under a high state of cultivation through the use of modern machinery and the employment of progressive methods in tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He has ever been known as a diligent, enterprising man, accomplishing what he has undertaken and his present rest from business cares is well merited. In 1898 he removed to Spencer, where he purchased a home and now resides.

On the 19th of August, 1865, Mr. Moore was married to Miss Mary S. Rowe, a daughter of Dan and Eliza (Noyes) Rowe. They became parents of two children: Arthur Rowe, a farmer who is now living in Seattle, Washington, and married Esta M. Daugherty, by whom he has two children, Ralph W. and Fern M.; and Minnie Lynn Moore, now the wife of Vernon W. Buck, of Seattle, Washington. They have four children, Mary Verna, Estelle Naomi, Orris Kendall and Laurice Lucile. Mrs. Mary S. Moore passed away in 1873 and her death was deeply regretted not only by her immediate family but also by many friends who esteemed her highly for her good qualities of heart and mind. On

the 28th of November, 1878, Mr. Moore was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Lizzie F. Adams, the widow of Theodore D. Adams, and a daughter of W. G. W. and Frances E. (Weaver) Sawyer. Mrs. Moore was born in Mogadore, Ohio, on the 29th of March, 1844. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania and at an early period in the development of the Buckeye state, removed to Summit county, Ohio, where they resided until 1855. In that year they became residents of Decorah, Iowa, where her father owned a farm. However, he was a tanner by trade. He is still living at the venerable age of eighty-seven years but his wife passed away in 1849, when their daughter Mrs. Moore was but five years of age. There were only two children in the family, her sister being Mrs. Anna Riley, the wife of E. J. Riley. After losing his first wife Mr. Sawyer married again, his second union being with Martha Weaver and they had three children, who are now living: Hattie E., the wife of J. M. Peckenaugh; Allie, the wife of J. H. Williams; and William H. Sawyer.

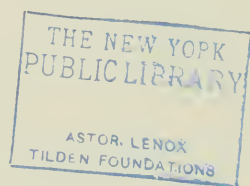
Both Mr. and Mrs. Moore are members of the Congregational church, in which he is serving as deacon and in the work of the church they take an active and helpful part. He was one of the organizers of the first Methodist Episcopal church in Montana and a charter member of the Congregational church of Spencer. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and he is always loyal to its best interests. For one term he served as county auditor and was also justice of the peace for a number of years. He has likewise been township trustee, was school treasurer for some time and has been school director. In all of these positions he discharged his duties ably, capably and conscientiously and the record which he made as a public official in township offices led to his election to the office of county surveyor, in which he served for two terms prior to 1872. In 1893 he was again elected to that office and with the exception of one term has been continuously the incumbent. Before serving as county auditor he was county judge, filling that position until the office was abolished by act of the legislature. He is one of the best known and most highly respected citizens of the county, where he has long made his home. His record is indeed a commendable one and the most malevolent utter no word of reproach against his official service. In business, too, his course has been characterized by the strictest fidelity to principle and in social relations he displays an unfailing courtesy and a genial cordiality that have won for him many friends.

H. W. HENDRICKSEN.

H. W. Hendricksen, although a young man, has already attained an enviable position in commercial circles, being a member of the Jones-Hendricksen Lumber Company. He now occupies the position of secretary in that commercial organization and is active in the management of the business at Royal, giving close attention to every detail pointing to success. He was born on a farm in Lincoln township, this county, May 31, 1881, and is a son of J. P. Hendricksen, of whom mention is made on another page of this work. The district schools afforded him his early educational privileges and later he attended the Elkhorn Commer-



MIR. AND MIRS. H. W. HENDRICKSEN



cial College at Elkhorn, Iowa, and also the Capital City Commercial College at Des Moines, Iowa. He was graduated from the latter in the class of 1901. Prior to that time he was associated with the Royal Lumber Company for two years and following his graduation he was with a sash and door firm in Des Moines. Later he returned to the Royal Lumber Company, with which he was connected for three years, at the end of which time the Jones-Hendricksen Lumber Company was organized and incorporated with a capital stock of twenty-five thousand dollars. This company operates at both Royal and Rossie, owning a hardware store in the latter place. The officers of the company are: D. S. Jones, president; Lars Hendricksen, vice president; C. S. Hagedorn, treasurer; and H. W. Hendricksen, secretary and general manager. Following the organization of the company they purchased the business of the Superior Lumber Company at Royal and of the Branden Brothers at Rossie. H. W. Hendricksen has thus been in charge of the enterprise at Royal since the 1st of November, 1907, and under his control the enterprise is meeting with good success. The company owns a well equipped lumberyard and deals in all kinds of building materials and the trade is constantly growing, their liberal patronage now bringing to them a gratifying financial return.

On the 11th of November, 1903, Mr. Hendricksen was married to Miss Johanna Hagedorn, a daughter of Chris Hagedorn, the treasurer of the Jones-Hendricksen Lumber Company. The marriage has been blessed with two children, James and Lorene. The family residence is a most hospitable one and is the center of a cultured society circle.

In his political views Mr. Hendricksen is a stalwart republican, giving earnest support to the party and is now serving as clerk of the school board in Royal. He has never been an office seeker, however, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs. He holds membership in Sunset Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Royal and is serving as its secretary. He also belongs to Clay Chapter, No. 112, R. A. M., at Spencer and to the Modern Woodmen Camp, No. 7038, at Royal, of which he is serving as clerk. Both he and his wife are members of the Lutheran church and are held in high esteem in the community in which they reside.

JAMES FRENCH.

James French is now living in retirement in the village of Peterson, this county, after having for many years been influentially identified with the agricultural and stock raising interests of the community. He is a native of Licking county, Ohio, his birth having occurred near Columbus, August 24, 1844, and a son of Bethuel and Sarah (Sinkey) French, his father having been a native of the Keystone state, where he was reared, and early in life removed to Ohio, stopping for a brief period near Columbus, from which place he repaired to Jones county, Iowa, in the year 1845, where he remained engaged in general farming pursuits until the year 1872, and then settled on a farm in Clay county, where he departed this life in 1903. His mother was united in marriage in Ohio, but entered into her eternal rest in Peterson. In the family were eight children,

namely: James; J. W., who is engaged in farming in this township; Annie, wife of William Johnston, the couple residing on a farm near Dickens, this county; the next two children born died in infancy; Sarah, wife of Jesse Lemaster, an agriculturist of Clay township; Mary, deceased; and Albert C., who resides four miles north of the village of Peterson.

In an old log schoolhouse which stood near his father's farm in Jones county, James French acquired his education, in the meantime assisting his father in the duties of the farm, and after completing his studies remained under the parental roof until he was twenty-five years of age, when, desirous of launching out into the world for himself and becoming independent, he engaged in agricultural pursuits on a rented farm in Jones county for a time, and in 1872 settled in this county, where he took up a claim in Clay township. He had a difficult time getting a start here, since none of the land was in a fit condition for cultivation, and it fell upon him to clear it off so that he might plant seed and derive sufficient crops to enable him to subsist. During the first three years of his occupancy of the land prosperity did not seem to accompany him, and among his few possessions was one cow, and, unfortunately, it turned out to be a poor one, as it did not give milk. Deciding it was of no advantage to keep the animal, he concluded to dispose of it, and about three o'clock one morning, long before daybreak, he tied the cow behind his dilapidated wagon and started on the long journey to Cherokee, where he proposed to put the cow up for sale. After an all-day's wearisome journey he arrived in that town in the evening, about five o'clock, and the first thought which struck him was where he should put up for the night. His decision was not long in forming, since, as he had no money, he could not stop in a hotel or lodging house, and he finally decided to do the next best thing and spend the night in his wagon. The next morning he put the cow up at a public sale and succeeded in getting only one bidder, who offered him twenty-five dollars for the animal, on condition that he might have two weeks to make payment. This being granted, the deal was clinched, and at five o'clock the next morning our subject started back to his farm behind his old team and finally reached home at twelve o'clock, midnight. The two weeks which he had given the man to reimburse him for the purchase of the cow having elapsed, the debt was cleared off, and Mr. French was the possessor of twenty-five dollars, but this sum was far beneath what would enable him to meet his outstanding obligations and he did not hold it long until he was forced to pay ten dollars to the store keeper, and in a short time the remaining fifteen was paid out, so that Mr. French was not much better off than before he parted with his cow. After a while, however, prosperity began to look his way, when he traded a team of horses for a poorer team and in addition received also a cow and heifer as part of the barter. It was not only with his stock that he was unfortunate, but also with his log cabin, which was a poorly constructed shanty, the only redeeming feature about the building being a first-class floor, while the roof was in bad condition and leaked, but in the course of time Mr. French succeeded in so cultivating his farm as to derive bountiful harvests and presently was able to remove the incommodious cabin and replace it with a comfortable dwelling house. Although his reverses were

many and the difficulties with which he had to contend great and discouraging, yet he overcame them all and year by year, applying himself diligently to his tasks, transformed his raw prairie land into as fine fields as there are in the township, and so improved his farm that it is now one of the most desirable in the county. He owns one hundred and sixty acres of land, all of which is under a high state of cultivation and upon which during his career he has met with splendid success in general agriculture and stock raising. Aside from this excellent tract of land he also possesses a first-class residence in the village of Peterson, and five years ago retired from active life and is now living there.

November 29, 1869, Mr. French was united in marriage to Miss Cora Tinker, by whom he has had two children, namely: Alice, wife of M. C. Remington, an agriculturist of Clay township, this county; and Irwin, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in this township. Mr. French in the early days was affiliated with the democratic party, but later changed his political views, and now votes with the republican party. He has been prominent in political circles in the county and has officiated in a number of local offices, having served as trustee of the township and also for a number of years as justice of the peace, in which office he acquitted himself with much distinction and executive ability. He is well known throughout the county for his noble traits of character, and being a man who has always been in favor of public improvements, ready at all times to further any movements which might add to the benefit of the community, and at the same time maintaining an upright walk among his neighbors, he has always entertained their respect and confidence.

WILLIAM E. ROSE.

William E. Rose is a retired farmer, who since 1904 has lived in Spencer, enjoying the fruits of his former toil in a well earned rest. Success—the thing for which all men strive—is not so difficult of attainment, but means continuous effort day by day and a neglect of no opportunity. A life of continuous industry brought to Mr. Rose his present position as a substantial citizen, who depends upon good investments for the income which now supplies him with all of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life. He was born in Newcastle county, Delaware, August 3, 1839, and was a son of Henry L. and Mary A. (Marvel) Rose, who were likewise natives of Delaware, their birthplace being near Dover. The father was a sailor in early life, afterward became a ship builder and subsequently was a carpenter and joiner. As the west was opened up to civilization and business interests of all character established in the Mississippi valley, he felt that it might be a wise step for him to take advantage of the opportunities here offered. Accordingly he made his way to Illinois and established his home in Belvidere, where he lived for four years. On the expiration of that period he removed to Iowa and became one of the early residents of Waverly, where he followed the carpenter's trade. He was thus identified with the substantial improvement and development of the town and county and continued a factor in the life of that community until he passed away when about eighty years of age. His wife died in 1866, at the age of forty-five years. She was a member

of the Methodist church, loyal to its teachings, and Mr. Rose also belonged to the same denomination and was faithful to its precepts. This worthy couple were the parents of three sons and four daughters, of whom three are now living: William E., a resident of Spencer; Angie, wife of Jayman St. John, of Waverly, Iowa; and Arenna, the wife of Abner Baskins, also of Waverly.

William E. Rose was a youth of sixteen years when the father removed with his family to Belvidere, Illinois, and a young man of twenty when they came to Iowa. His education was acquired in the schools of Delaware, and when fifteen years of age he began learning the carpenter's trade, which he followed continuously until 1862, when, putting aside all business and personal considerations, he joined the Union army as a member of Company B, Thirty-eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of the war, or for a little more than three years. He was a non-commissioned officer and was mustered out at Houston, Texas. In the meantime he participated in the siege and capture of Vicksburg, in the battle of Mobile and in numerous skirmishes. After the war he returned home to Waverly, Iowa, and followed his trade for a year. On the expiration of that period he began farming on his mother-in-law's place. He had been married in the meantime, having on the 10th of May, 1866, wedded Miss Hannah L. Baskins, a daughter of Abner B. and Mary (Kerr) Baskins, both of whom were natives of Ohio. Her father was a farmer and came to Iowa in 1851, settling near Waverly. He spent his remaining days on the farm upon which he first located, his death there occurring in 1864, when he was sixty-four years of age. His wife died in 1889, at the age of seventy-two years. Their family numbered six sons and five daughters, of whom five are still living: William, who makes his home at Waverly; Abner K., also of that place; Rachel, the wife of Farnum Dudgeon, of East Grand Forks, Minnesota; Bethsheba, the wife of Ezra Williams; and Hannah, who was born in Morrow county, Ohio, October 3, 1846, and when twenty years of age became the wife of William E. Rose.

As stated, they soon afterward took up their abode on her mother's farm, which Mr. Rose cultivated and improved, but, thinking to find still better business opportunities in Clay county, he removed there in 1870, finding it a frontier district in which the work of improvement and development had scarcely been begun. He secured as a homestead claim the northwest quarter of section 18 in Riverton township, and with characteristic energy transformed the raw prairie into arable fields. He turned the first furrows upon the place, planted his crops and in due course of time he gathered rich harvests. There he lived continuously until December, 1904, when he removed to Spencer and purchased the present home, which he now occupies. He still owns the farm, however, which lies in Riverton township and is a valuable property, which annually returns to him a good income.

Upon the farm Mr. and Mrs. Rose reared their two children, Flora and William Henry. The daughter is now the wife of Frank Babcock, of Spencer, and they have one child, Bertha. William Henry, who operates the home farm, wedded Sarah Rino and they have two children, Edna Marie and William Francis. Mr. Rose votes with the republican party and belongs to Annett Post, G. A. R. This brings him into close connection with his old army comrades,

and around the campfires they recall many interesting incidents of the tented fields. Mr. Rose is now in the seventieth year of his age and in the review of the past it is seen that his life record has been an honorable and useful one, characterized by thorough and progressive business activity that has resulted in bringing to him a comfortable and well merited competence. Moreover, he has borne his full share in the work of general development and improvement here since he took up his abode in this county, which was then a frontier district, giving little evidence of what the future had in store for it. It was rich in its natural resources, but its opportunities had not yet been utilized. Mr. Rose is numbered among those who believed in the value of the land and its possibilities—the wisdom of this opportunity being evidenced as the years have gone by.

FRANK H. BLACK.

Iowa derives her wealth largely from her agricultural interests. The great broad prairies of the state offer excellent opportunities to the farmer and stock raiser. The soil requires none of that previous laborious preparation necessary in a district of native forest growth, but responds readily to the care and labor which is bestowed upon it as the furrows are turned and the fields are cultivated. To this work of tilling the soil Mr. Black gives his time and energies, but does not confine his efforts entirely to one line. He raises pure blooded registered shorthorn cattle and in commercial circles has won for himself a creditable place, being now the president of the Farmers Elevator of Spencer. His home is known as the Acadia Stock Farm and comprises two hundred acres, constituting one of the best improved farms of the county.

Mr. Black is a native of Nova Scotia, his birth having there occurred in Acadia, September 17, 1867, in a region made famous through Longfellow's beautiful poem, *Evangeline*. On the home farm he was reared to manhood, spending his boyhood days with his father, Rev. A. B. Black, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, who for twenty-five years lived in Nova Scotia. He was of Scotch and English lineage. There Frank H. Black passed his youthful days, and after mastering the elementary branches of education he continued his study in Amherst Academy. Arriving at years of maturity, he took up farming on his own account in the land of his nativity, and also engaged in raising shorthorn cattle, carrying on the business there for several years.

At Amherst, Nova Scotia, on the 18th of October, 1886, Mr. Black won his companion and helpmate for the journey of life, for it was on that date that he wedded Anna E. Lusby, who was there born and reared, a daughter of George Lusby, also a native of Nova Scotia. In 1893 he sought a home in Iowa, locating in Humboldt county, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of farm land. To the further development and improvement of the property he directed his energies and also began breeding and dealing in shorthorn cattle there. For eight years he resided upon that farm, but in 1901 sold the place and came to Clay county, purchasing the farm upon section 33, Summit

township, on which he now resides. He has called it the Acadia Stock Farm in honor of his old home in Nova Scotia. It contains two hundred acres of valuable and productive land, in the midst of which stands a large frame residence, while in the rear are found good barns and substantial outbuildings. In fact this is one of the best improved places in the county, on which none of the accessories and equipments of a model farm of the twentieth century are lacking. In all of his work he is progressive, employing the latest improved machinery to facilitate the work of the fields, while his close study has given him progressive and accurate knowledge concerning the best methods of raising stock. He has some sixty head of registered shorthorn cattle, including some very fine animals, with an imported male at the head of the herd. He has bred and sold some very fine shorthorns in Clay and adjoining counties and his live-stock interests constitute an important and lucrative branch of his business. Moreover, he is a stockholder and president of the Farmers Elevator of Spencer.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Black has been blessed with three children: Helen, now a junior in Cornell University of Iowa; Leroy, who assists in the operation of the home farm; and Margery C., who completes the family. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Spencer and take an active and helpful part in the work of the church and of the Sunday school, Mr. Black now serving for the second year as Sunday school superintendent. He is also a member of the official board and he does all in his power to promote the growth and extend the influence of the church. His political allegiance is given to the republican party at state and national elections, but at local elections where no issue is involved he votes independently of party ties, nor has he ever consented to become a candidate for office. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp, and in the community is known as a reliable and public-spirited citizen. He cooperates in many movements for the general good and is particularly interested in everything pertaining to the agricultural development of the county. His activity in this direction is shown in the fact that he is president of the Farmers Institute. He is an active and willing worker for the upbuilding and advancement of the county in many lines and stands high in the regard of all who know him, while his acquaintance covers a wide territory because of the extent of his business interests.

ADOLPH SEIBEL.

Adolph Seibel, the owner of a farm of four hundred and twenty-five acres in Lincoln and Gillett Grove townships, where he is also engaged in raising high grade stock, is moreover entitled to representation in this volume from the fact that he is an honored veteran of the Civil war. He was born at Linberg, Germany, May 15, 1838, a son of Franz Joseph and Frances (Petmeky) Seibel. His father engaged in the manufacture of buttons, trimmings and official insignia in Germany. He came to the United States in 1853 as a passenger on a sailing vessel which was thirty days in completing the voyage to New York city. From that point he proceeded up the Hudson river to a place where he could

get a train and by rail continued his journey westward to Chicago and to La Salle, Illinois, which was then the railroad terminus. By boat he went down the Illinois river and up the Mississippi to Burlington, from which point he proceeded with ox teams to Keokuk county, Iowa. There he resided from 1853 until his removal to Burlington in 1865, continuing his residence in the latter city until his demise. His wife, who was born in Germany, died in Keokuk county. They were the parents of four children: Sebastian, now deceased; Nannie, the widow of Carl Mahlinger, who died in Denver, Colorado; Adolph; and Francis, now dead.

In the schools of Germany, Adolph Seibel pursued his education, his training being equivalent to a high school education in this country. When fifteen years of age he came to the United States with his father and remained at home until 1858, when he went to Kansas, where he secured a claim. Later he gave up that tract, however, and removed to Nebraska, driving from Winterset to Weston, about seven miles from Council Bluffs, without seeing a single house. In the fall of 1859 he returned to his Iowa home and was identified with farming interests in this state until the fall of 1861, when he felt that his country needed his aid and he enlisted as a member of Company F, Eighth Iowa Infantry, to serve for three years or during the war. When his term had almost expired he reenlisted and was with the army altogether for four years and eight months. At the battle of Shiloh he was wounded in the right arm by a minie ball and lay for nine months in the hospital. He was then discharged from the hospital, but the arm has never been entirely well. Early in his military experience he participated in a number of battles in Missouri, and when he rejoined his regiment after being wounded he took an active part in the Vicksburg campaign and was for nine months on provost guard duty at Memphis. There he took part in a hard fight, after which he proceeded with his command to New Orleans and to Mobile. The troops were just ten miles from Montgomery, Alabama, when the news reached them that Lee had surrendered. About this time they lived for three weeks on one pint of corn meal per day to each soldier and the meal was made by grinding the cob as well as the kernels. Mr. Seibel participated in all of the hardships that are meted out to the soldier and was holding the rank of corporal when at the close of the war he was honorably discharged.

When the country no longer needed his military aid, Mr. Seibel went to Burlington, Iowa, where he engaged in clerking in a wholesale house for a short time, but his health was still so poor that he was obliged to give up the position. Later he was a shipping clerk in a store for a year and then went to Keokuk county, Iowa, where he began teaming, hauling freight until the building of the railroad, which drove him out of business. He next bought a sawmill, which he operated for seven years, and then turned his attention to farming. In 1882 he removed to Clay county and now owns four hundred and twenty-five acres of land in Lincoln and Gillett Grove townships. Here, in addition to cultivating the cereals best adapted to soil and climate, he is raising high grade stock, which proves to him a profitable source of income. That he produces fine crops is shown by the fact that in one year he raised four thousand bushels of oats, twenty-five hundred bushels of barley, seven hundred bushels of

wheat, six thousand bushels of corn and one hundred and fifty tons of hay, in addition to smaller crops. He has improved his land and now has a good home and buildings, the place presenting a neat and attractive appearance.

Mr. Seibel was married in 1867 to Miss Tina Mohme, who was born in Germany. They have become the parents of ten children: Anna, the wife of Lewis Boylen, of Almont, North Dakota; Frank, who is proprietor of a hardware and implement store at Sigourney, Iowa; Nannie, deceased; Josephine, the wife of David Logan, a farmer of this county; Clara, the wife of William Maurer, of Spencer; Mary, Henry, Minnie, Carl and Florence, all at home.

In his political views Mr. Seibel is a republican and has been honored with a number of local offices, serving as township justice of the peace, clerk and trustee. He has also been treasurer of the school board for twelve years, belongs to the Catholic church and is a member of Spencer Post, G. A. R., thus maintaining pleasant relations with his old army comrades. No native born son of America was more loyal to the interests of the Union during the dark days of the Civil war, and in times of peace he has been equally faithful to his adopted country.

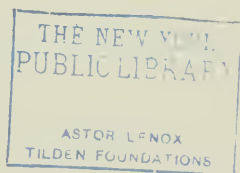
LEWIS LAHMON.

Lewis Lahmon is now living retired at Gilletts Grove after many years of close application in cultivating the soil in Clay county, his industry and enterprise having remunerated him with such a competence as now enables him to put aside the active duties of life and enjoy somewhat of its rest and pleasures. He was born in Knox county, Ohio, September 8, 1854, a son of James and Margaret (Humphrey) Lahmon, the father a native of Virginia and the mother of Ohio. They went to Cedar county, this state, in 1868 and in the spring of 1872 removed to Logan township, Clay county, where they spent their remaining days, the father, who was born August 20, 1814, having passed away January 6, 1893, while the mother, who was born November 7, 1822, entered into rest October 8, 1894. In their family were the following children: Jonathan, born October 6, 1840; Eliza Ann, born August 15, 1842; James, Jr., who was born January 14, 1845, and died December 30, 1869; Margaret Elizabeth, born July 4, 1847; Abraham, born June 26, 1851, who died in infancy; Henry, whose birth occurred September 21, 1852; Lewis, of this review; and Mary Ellen, born March 28, 1860.

Lewis Lahmon acquired his education in the common schools of his native county, and being fourteen years of age when his father settled upon a farm in Cedar county he there assisted him in the duties of the fields. In 1872 he removed with his parents to the farm he now has under cultivation in this county, on which he worked with his father until the death of the latter, when he assumed the management of the place on which he engaged in general farming and stock-raising until the year 1904 when he left the old homestead and removed to Gillett Grove, where he is now living in the enjoyment of his well earned rest. Mr. Lahmon has practically grown up with this district, having witnessed its development through its several stages until it now presents a far different aspect from



LEWIS LAHMON



what it did when he first came here with his parents thirty-seven years ago. At that time their nearest market was either Storm Lake or Newell, and for many miles in all directions from their dwelling the prairies extended. Wild geese, ducks, deer, elk and other game were in abundance, and the feathered denizens of the forest were so numerous that they would often destroy the grain crops, thereby causing the farmers considerable loss. Now all wears a changed appearance, primitive conditions having passed, and instead of wide and vacant prairie region the locality in which his farm is situated is a settlement having many inhabitants and bearing every evidence of civilization and progress.

Mr. Lahmon has always been an ardent supporter of the principles of the democratic party, ever loyal to its candidates. In local affairs he has taken considerable interest, and for many terms served as a member of the school board. He is now in the prime of life and enjoys to the fullest measure the many advantages afforded by the present day, and being progressive, and a man whose life has always been in keeping with high standards, he justly deserves the full measure of confidence and respect now entertained for him by all who know him.

CHARLTON B. BAILEY.

In a history of the business development of Dickens it is imperative that mention be made of Charlton B. Bailey, who is well known in the town as a lumber merchant and although his connection with commercial interests here has covered only a comparatively brief period, he had in his farming operations demonstrated his business worth and reliability. He was born in Montpelier, Vermont, August 20, 1869, and was a son of William and Alma (Wells) Bailey, both of whom were natives of the Green Mountain state. The father was a son of Eben Bailey, who was likewise born in Vermont, and followed the occupation of farming for many years. He was nearly ninety years of age at the time of his death. The maternal grandfather of our subject was also born in the Green Mountain state and devoted his energies to the shoemaker's trade. William Bailey has always been an agriculturist. He continued his residence in New England until 1870, when he removed westward with his family to Fort Dodge, Iowa, and then continued his journey by team to Royal, Clay county. In this county he homesteaded eighty acres of land and with characteristic energy began to cultivate and improve that farm, upon which he still makes his home. In 1908 he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who passed away in the summer of that year. She was a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church, while Mr. Bailey belongs to the Christian church. Unto them were born five children: Charlton B., of this review; Edwin H., a resident of Spencer, Iowa; Thomas W., of Royal, Iowa; and two who died in early life.

Charlton B. Bailey was only about a year old when his parents left Vermont and therefore he was reared on the home farm in Clay county, where he early became familiar with various tasks which claim the time and energies of the farm boy. He attended the district schools until he had mastered the elementary branches of learning and later continued his studies in the Spencer high school.

He pursued a business course in the Western Normal School at Shenandoah, Iowa. Following his graduation from that institution he engaged in teaching to the age of twenty-eight years, when he began farming on his own account and tilled the soil for two years. He had a farm of one hundred and thirty acres, which he later sold, for he found commercial pursuits more congenial. He then became manager of a lumberyard for the Superior Lumber Company at Royal, where he remained several years and for a brief period was also manager for the Royal Lumber Company at the same place. He then exchanged his farm for the lumberyard at Dickens, formerly owned by Somers Brothers, and on the 23d of April, 1908, came to this town, where he has since conducted business on his own account. He has a well equipped lumberyard and his interests are now carefully conducted, his previous experience in the trade well qualifying him for the duties which now devolve upon him.

On the 15th of March, 1897, Mr. Bailey was married to Miss Dora M. Dumkrieger, a daughter of Fred and Mary Dumkrieger. She was born near Sigourney, Iowa, and her parents were natives of Germany. On coming to America they settled in New York and afterward removed to Iowa, casting in their lot with the early residents in the vicinity of Sigourney, where the death of Mrs. Dumkrieger occurred in January, 1907. The father is still living.

In matters of citizenship Mr. Bailey manifests a spirit of helpfulness and progress. He votes with the republican party, while fraternally he is connected with Sunset Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Royal, Clay Chapter, No. 112, R. A. M., and Dickens Lodge, No. 583, I. O. O. F. His business interests are well controlled and his laudable ambition is leading him into important trade relations.

C. L. THUIRER.

C. L. Thuirer, active and progressive, his attention being given to farming and the breeding of shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs, has a tract of land of one hundred and sixty acres on section 15, Summit township. He has lived in Clay county since the spring of 1882 and is a western man by birth, training and preference. His natal day was August 16, 1872, and the place of his nativity Greenleaf, Kansas. His father, Henry Thuirer, was born at Grant, Wisconsin, and removed with his parents to Jo Daviess county, Illinois, where he was reared to manhood. Following the outbreak of hostilities between the north and the south, he offered his services to the government and enlisted as a member of Company I, Eighth Illinois Cavalry, serving throughout the war. At its close he received an honorable discharge and returned home. He was married in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, to Miss Margaret Livingston, a native of that county, and subsequently they became residents of Kansas, securing a homestead claim in Washington county, where Mr. Thuirer engaged in farming for several years. In 1882, however, he sold his property in the Sunflower state and came to Iowa, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of land upon which his son, C. L. Thuirer, now resides. With characteristic energy he began to till the soil and develop the place, added to and remodeled the house, which was standing on the

farm, built a barn, set out fruit, fenced his fields and continued the work of general improvement and development throughout his remaining days. His death occurred September 23, 1908. His widow still survives and yet remains on the old home farm.

C. L. Thuirer, the only heir, was a lad of ten years when the parents came to Clay county and here he was reared to manhood, while in the district schools he acquired his preliminary education, which was supplemented by a course of study in the Conservatory of Music at Minneapolis, and afterward engaged in teaching music in Spencer for eight years. His well developed musical talent is a source of much enjoyment to his many friends as well as comfort and entertainment to himself.

On the 23d of May, 1901, in Spencer, Mr. Thuirer was united in marriage to Miss Elenora Green, who was born and reared in Clay county and pursued her education in the school of Spencer. She is a daughter of A. W. Green, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work. Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Thuirer resided in Spencer two years and then removed to the farm, of which he took charge. After a time he engaged in raising pure blooded registered short-horn cattle and has recently closed out a herd of thirty head. He now has five head of registered shorthorns and at least one hundred and sixty head of Poland China hogs. He holds a public sale of hogs each year and his stock command good prices. He is an excellent judge of domestic animals and his keen discrimination constitutes an important feature in his growing success. In addition to his farming and live-stock interests he is a stockholder in the Fostoria Farmers Elevator.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Thuirer has been blessed with two children, Leland C. and Merrill F. They also lost one son, Ralph, who died in the spring of 1907 at the age of fourteen months. Politically Mr. Thuirer is a republican, where national issues are involved, but at local elections casts an independent ballot, nor has he ever sought or desired office. He and his wife are members of the Spencer Methodist Episcopal church and are greatly esteemed in the community, the hospitality of the best homes being freely accorded them, while their own home is the center of a cultured society circle. Mr. Thuirer is widely recognized as an enterprising business man and as a successful dealer in pure blooded stock and his opinions have largely come to be received as authority on matters pertaining to the raising of Poland China hogs and shorthorn cattle. He stands high in both a business and social sense and well deserves mention as one of the representative agriculturists of Clay county.

HENRY JOHNSON.

Henry Johnson is the owner of an excellent farm in Lincoln township and also considerable property in Royal, where he makes his home. He was born in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, October 13, 1868, and is a son of Frank and Caroline (Hanson) Johnson. The parents were natives of Denmark and, crossing the Atlantic, became residents of Wisconsin at an early period in the develop-

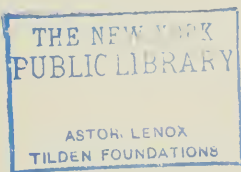
ment of that state. Twenty-four years ago they removed to Iowa and have since been residents of Clay county, where for a long period the father followed farming. He is now living retired, and his wife also survives. They were the parents of seven children: Peter, who died in 1888; Henry, of this review; Emma; William B., living on the old homestead in Lincoln township; Martin, who is engaged in the hardware business in Montana; Martha, now in Chicago, Illinois; and Frank, a grain merchant at Tolley, North Dakota.

At the usual age Henry Johnson began his education by becoming a student in the district schools of Wisconsin. His training at farm labor was not meager, for at an early age he began work in the fields and soon became familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He remained on the home farm with his father until he reached the age of twenty-five years and then began farming on his own account in Lincoln township. He still owns a valuable tract of land of three hundred and twenty acres on sections 5, 7 and 8, Lincoln township. This was partially improved when it came into his possession and he continued the work of further development and progress, making it an attractive property, from which he annually derives a substantial income. He owns his residence and one adjoining in Royal, also the business block now occupied by the Wilson Drug Company, the firm of Jones & Anderson and the opera house. He is a man of resourceful business ability, who carefully formulates his plans and is determined and resolute in their execution. His business methods will bear the closest scrutiny and investigation and his well known business probity has gained for him the respect of all.

Mr. Johnson was married in 1902 to Miss Anna Sherman, a resident of Clay county, and they have many friends in Royal and this part of the state. His political views are in harmony with the principles of democracy, while fraternally he is connected with the Yeomen. Much of his life has been spent in Clay county, where he has a wide acquaintance and is favorably known.

JOHN A. KIRCHNER.

John A. Kirchner, a retired farmer, who was the first settler in Clay county and for many years identified with agricultural and other interests of Peterson township, and who has contributed largely to the general improvement and financial worth of the vicinity, was born in Germany, May 24, 1829, a son of Christian and Magdalena (Knipchen) Kirchner. His father, also a native of Germany, came to the United States in 1841, making the voyage in a sailing vessel, and upon arriving in the new world went immediately to Albany, New York, where he remained for three years and then removed to a farm located about twenty-eight miles from that city where he engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1856 when he came to Peterson township, this county, and here spent his remaining years. The mother was born and married in Germany, and after a long and useful life also died in Peterson township. They had a family of eleven children, namely: John A., of this record; Dorothy, deceased; Mary, widow of C. H. Brokschink, of Webster City, Iowa; Barbara, who became the wife of Michael Spinger, of

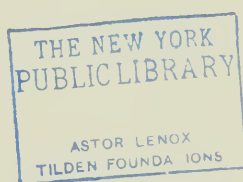




MRS. J. A. KIRCHNER



J. A. KIRCHNER



Fort Dodge, Iowa; Jacob, a miller of that place; Christian and Philip, deceased, Charlotta, widow of Dr. Butler; Magdalena, who is united in marriage with Walter French, a clothier of Sioux City, Iowa; Julia, deceased; and William, a farmer of this township.

In the common schools of his native land John A. Kirchner acquired his education and when twelve years of age left Germany with his parents for Albany, New York, where he was confirmed in the Lutheran church, remaining under the parental roof until he was nineteen years of age. He then started out in the world for himself, working out until 1852, when he went to California and located in Downieville, where he followed carpentering and mining for four years, and then returned to Peterson, this county, or rather where that town is now located. At that time there were few evidences of civilization in the vicinity and Mr. Kirchner squatted on the land which is now the site of Peterson, this being before the homestead law went into practice, and later he bought the property from the county as swamp land. Shortly after he made the purchase the railroad company laid claim to the same property, but he succeeded in buying it from the railroad corporation, though they failed to give him a bona fide deed. He was then obliged to purchase the land from the state and by appealing to the state legislature he had a special bill passed to the effect that one who had occupied land for a certain period of time could become its owner by paying two dollars and fifty cents an acre. Mr. Kirchner bought a half section in Peterson township and was the first pioneer in this part of the state. In company with him was A. S. Mead, and they started to walk from Dubuque, Iowa, crossing the river on the ice and then westward. Upon coming to Cedar Falls they were overtaken by a severe storm and thinking they had better stop over for a while, they applied at a hotel for lodging, but found it too expensive, so they decided to go on and were just leaving the building when the proprietor told them it would not be safe to make the venture in the terrible tempest,—that they had better remain until springtime inasmuch as they would be unable to cross the country against the odds of winter. Taking his advice they desisted from journeying farther until the weather had broken when they again started out to explore the surrounding county in search of desirable property and were finally directed to the Little Sioux, which they followed until they finally reached some land upon which Mr. Kirchner deemed it advisable to locate. Here he remained long enough to put a portion of this acreage into shape for cultivation and he went east to visit his family, bringing them back with him to the new country. Through their combined efforts a cabin was built, and he at once engaged in farming and he has followed this vocation more or less ever since. Mr. Kirchner's mother would often facetiously remark that they had the largest door-yard in existence, extending from Sioux City to Fort Dodge, and that her chickens did not cause any trouble with the neighbors. He engaged somewhat in other enterprises, however, having built the first sawmill in Peterson township in 1872, which he has kept running constantly since its establishment. In addition to a tract of land consisting of four hundred and twenty acres in Clay township, Clay county, Mr. Kirchner owns two hundred and forty acres in Buena Vista county, eighty acres in Waterford township, Clay county, and five modern dwellings and one large store building in town.

In 1859 Mr. Kirchner was united in marriage to Miss Mary Jane Bicknell, by whom were born four children, namely: Ella, who became the wife of Edward Sitz, a miller of this township; Charles E., a farmer of Clay township; Rosa, wife of John Parker, of Montana; and one child who is deceased. Mrs. Kirchner having departed this life, Mr. Kirchner was again united in marriage to Rachael Williams, by whom he had four children, namely: F. W., a hardware merchant of this township; John A., who resides in Oklahoma; Clyde, a farmer of Buena Vista county; and May, a foreign missionary in Chili, South America. Politically Mr. Kirchner has voted with the republican party since its organization and probably cast the first vote polled on that ticket in Clay county. He was the first postmaster of Peterson, officiating in that capacity for fifteen years, was also township clerk of the district court and county supervisor. Mr. and Mrs. Kirchner are members of the Lutheran and Methodist Episcopal churches, respectively, each being dutiful in the observance of religious obligations and faithful in attendance upon divine services with the respective congregations. Mr. Kirchner belongs to Peterson Lodge, A. F. & A. M., in which he takes a profound interest. Being a man of considerable business ability and executive judgment, he has contributed much to the general welfare of the community, being instrumental in getting the railroad through this place. During his days of activity his energy was untiring and it was through his zealous application to business and his straightforward dealing that he met with such rapid success and is now able to retire, maintaining the respect and praise of his fellow citizens and enjoying the comforts and contentment of a well spent and useful life.

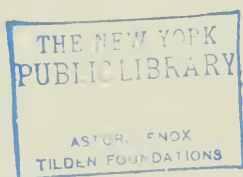
JAMES R. GLOYD.

James R. Gloyd devotes his time and energies to tilling the soil, to raising stock and to the conduct of a dairy business. His life is a busy and useful one, his energies being well directed along carefully defined lines of labor. His home is on section 20, Meadow township, and he is one of the early settlers who arrived here at a period when comparatively few homes had been established within the borders of the county. In fact much of the land was still in possession of the government and Mr. Gloyd secured a homestead claim. He now owns one hundred and twenty acres of land, constituting one of the neat and well improved farms of the locality. He was closely associated with the growth and improvement of his part of the county and his memory forms a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present, for he has witnessed its transformation since the spring of 1872.

Mr. Gloyd is a native of Wisconsin, his birth having occurred in Delevan, May 25, 1852. His father, Levi Gloyd, was born in Massachusetts, in which state his youthful days were spent. He was married in New York, however, to Miss Clarissa Parsons, a native of the Empire state and then living near Rochester. On removing to the middle west Mr. Gloyd took up his abode in Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1840, and began merchandising in Delevan, being one of the pioneer business men of that place. He conducted his store there for some years



OLD KIRCHNER HOMESTEAD,
First Modern House in Clay County



and then removed to Dalton, where he carried on business for a time. Subsequently he sold out there and went to Rockford, Illinois, where he purchased a farm. He also owned a store and was associated with commercial as well as agricultural interests in that locality. In 1872 he came to Clay county and took a homestead, setting himself resolutely to the arduous task of developing and improving a new farm. For some years he was thus busily occupied and then removed to Lawrence county, Kansas, establishing his home near Council Grove. His life was one of intense and well-directed activity. He owned and operated twenty-four different farms in various states and his landed possessions in Clay county aggregated one thousand acres. He was seldom if ever at error in matters of business judgment and his investments were so judiciously made as to bring him a gratifying financial return.

James R. Gloyd grew to manhood in the Badger state and to the public-school system of Wisconsin is indebted for the early educational privileges he enjoyed. He afterwards attended high school in Rockford, Illinois, and in 1870 came to Iowa, settling first in Cerro Gordo county. He there followed farming for two years and also worked on railroad construction in the employ of the Milwaukee Railway Company. The year 1872 witnessed his arrival in Clay county, where he secured a homestead claim of eighty acres, that constituted the nucleus of the farm upon which he is now living. Thirty-seven years have since come and gone and the county today bears little resemblance save in its general outlines to the region in which he settled. At that time much of the land was wild prairie, covered with its native grasses, while there were no graded roads and but few evidences of an advancing civilization. The pioneers were confronted by the difficult task of making homes in a region where their nearest neighbors were sometimes miles away. Oxen were often used in breaking the prairie and the sod house was not an unusual feature of the landscape, but long since these evidences of frontier life have been replaced by conditions which show that the pioneer settlers have worked earnestly and persistently. Today the Iowa farms equal if not surpass in their improvements any to be found in other parts of the country. The soil is naturally rich and productive and the state leads all others in its corn crop and in many other ways.

On the 17th of July, 1872, the year of his arrival in the county, Mr. Gloyd was married at Clear Lake, Iowa, to Miss Josephine M. Case, a native of Chautauqua county, New York, and a daughter of J. A. Case, an own cousin of the renowned J. I. Case, of Racine, Wisconsin, who is now deceased. Mrs. Gloyd came to Iowa with her father when a young lady of sixteen years. She was educated in the schools of New York and of this state and for some years prior to her marriage successfully engaged in teaching.

Mr. and Mrs. Gloyd began their domestic life upon the farm in Clay county, on which they now reside. Mr. Gloyd first built a small house and began breaking the prairie. As the years passed he opened up a farm and the wild prairie grasses were replaced by fine crops of corn and other cereals best adapted to soil and climatic conditions here. He put out a grove and also planted an orchard and as his financial resources permitted he purchased an additional tract of forty acres. He has erected a neat and pleasant residence on his farm and recently built a silo which is one of the first in the county. He raises stock and for some

years has been engaged in the dairy business, his dairy products commanding a ready sale and high price on the market. He is also one of the stockholders, directors and the treasurer of the Cooperative Creamery Company, at Langdon, and his business interests make him a most active man.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Gloyd has been born one son, Frank P., who married Miss Maud Wilson, a native of Wisconsin. They, too, have one child, James Leslie, a bright little lad of seven years. Frank P. Gloyd is now in partnership with his father in farming, stock raising and dairying.

In his political views James R. Gloyd is a republican, having given stalwart support to the party since casting his first presidential ballot for General U. S. Grant. He has since voted for every standard bearer of the party and is regarded as one of the leaders in its local ranks. He was elected and served as road supervisor here, filling the office for several years and for about twenty years altogether has been a member of the board of township trustees. He has continued in office for twelve consecutive years and has recently been elected for two years more, so that his continuous incumbency will cover at least fourteen years. In this capacity he discharges his duties with promptness and fidelity, his labors being of a practical character, beneficial to the community at large. He has also been officially identified with the schools, acting as a member and president of the school board for a number of years. He has frequently been chosen as a delegate to the state and county conventions of his party and has also served on the grand and petit juries. His wife is a member of the Christian church and is a lady of many excellent traits of character. Mr. Gloyd belongs to the Masonic lodge at Spencer, in which he has filled all of the chairs, serving two terms as master. He also belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen and at all times is loyal to the fraternal and beneficent spirit which underlines these organizations. He is well known in Clay and adjacent counties as a man of tried integrity and worth and he and his family stand high in the estimation of the community. He is justly accounted one of the self-made men, for he started out in life empty-handed and has worked his way steadily upward, his diligence and industry constituting the rounds of the ladder on which he has climbed to the plane of affluence.

A. T. KNIGHT.

A spirit of enterprise and progress actuates A. T. Knight in all that he does. He has worked diligently and persistently to develop and improve his farm, which is today a good property of one hundred and sixty acres on section 31, Meadow township. It constitutes one of the important features in the landscape and is pleasantly and conveniently located within two miles of Spencer, so that all of the advantages of city life are easily obtainable, while at the same time he enjoys the freedom and independence of country life. Although one of the more recent arrivals in the county, dating his residence here from 1902, he has become widely known and has made for himself an enviable place in the regard of his fellow townsmen. He comes from far off New England, his birth having occurred in

Vermont on the 14th of June, 1858. His father, William Knight, also a native of the Green Mountain state, was there reared and married, the lady of his choice being Miss Harriet Cook, who was also born in Vermont. Following his marriage the father carried on farming in his native state for several years or until after three children were born unto them there. About 1861 he removed westward with his family and took up his abode in Woodford county, Illinois, where he lived for about ten years. On the expiration of that period he established his home in McLean county, Illinois, where he also followed farming for ten years and then went to Dallas county, Missouri, where he resided until his death, which occurred in January, 1907. He had survived his wife for about ten years.

A. T. Knight was but a young lad at the time of the removal from New England to the middle west and was reared in McLean county, Illinois. The common schools of that state afforded him his educational privileges and he remained with his father until he had attained his majority, early becoming familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. When he started out in life on his own account he worked by the month as a farm hand and was thus employed for a few years.

On the 10th of August, 1882, Mr. Knight was married to Miss Amanda Center, who was born in Sangamon county, Illinois, and was there reared. For a few years prior to her marriage she engaged in teaching school and did capable work in the schoolroom in maintaining discipline and in imparting to others the knowledge that she had acquired. Following their marriage they lived upon a rented farm for a few years and in 1892 came to Iowa, locating in Story county, near Nevada, upon a tract of land which Mr. Knight had purchased the previous year. It was an improved tract of land of one hundred and sixty acres, upon which they made their home for seven years and then sold the property, investing in a farm of two hundred acres, which was their place of residence until 1902. In that year the property was sold and they came to Clay county, where Mr. Knight purchased the farm upon which he now resides. He has used woven wire in fencing the place, has tiled the land, investing eight hundred dollars in tile, and has made a good home equipped with the accessories and conveniences of a model farm property. There is an orchard and grove upon his place, a pleasant dwelling and substantial barns and outbuildings. The latest improved machinery is used to facilitate the work of the fields and the farm equipments include a wind pump, a feed grinder and corn sheller. Mr. Knight also raises and feeds stock, making a specialty of hogs. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator at Spencer and his business interests are carefully controlled, so that he has now reached the plane of affluence, being numbered among the substantial citizens of the community.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Knight have been born seven children: Luella, the wife of Walter Dickison, who resides in Spencer, where he is conducting a meat market; Ira, who assists in the operation of the home farm; Hattie, who is attending the Spencer high school, and Alta, at home. They also lost three children: Viola, who died in Story county at the age of sixteen years; Jessie, who died at the age of eleven years; and Guy, who died of diphtheria at the age of five years. All the three children died within a week of the same disease. Politically Mr. Knight is a republican with considerable interest in the prohibition party, for

he is an advocate of the temperance movement. He has served as road boss and has been officially connected with the schools. From his youth he has been a member of the Christian church and his entire life has been characterized by devotion to manly purpose and honorable principles. In all of his business dealings he is straightforward and reliable and enjoys to the fullest extent the confidence and good will of those who know him.

N. J. HENNINGS.

Everly numbers among its worthy and valued citizens the gentleman whose name introduces this review. For a long period he was an active and energetic farmer of Summit township where he owned three hundred and twenty acres of land. Although he has disposed of this property his landed possessions include three hundred and twenty acres lying near Mitchell, South Dakota, Mr. Hennings was born in Holstein, Germany, October 2, 1850. When a young man he sought the opportunities and business advantages of the new world and, crossing the Atlantic, joined some friends at Davenport, Iowa. Soon afterward he began work as a farm hand in Scott county, for his financial resources were limited and he faced the necessity of providing for his own support. Later he went to Benton county where he again worked at farm labor, and his industry and economy in the course of years brought him a capital that enabled him to purchase a farm.

Mr. Hennings was living in Benton county when he was married, in 1872, to Miss Margaret Kromhke, also a native of Holstein. Following their marriage they took up their abode upon a rented farm, which Mr. Hennings cultivated for about twelve years, or until 1884. He then removed to Clay county, after having previously visited this district, and invested in one hundred and sixty acres of land in Summit township. On this farm he took up his abode, imbued with a determination to transform the tract into valuable property that should yield him a substantial living. He built a little home and soon wrought a change in the appearance of the place, bringing the unimproved land under cultivation and adding many modern equipments and accessories to the place. Year by year he gathered in the crops, for which he found a ready market, and as he carefully saved his earnings he was at length able to purchase an additional tract of one hundred and sixty acres. On the first quarter-section he built a good home, also two barns and all the outbuildings which were necessary to shield his grain, hay and farm implements from the storms of winter. Iowa was originally termed a treeless prairie and it was only along the streams that any natural forest growth was found. But Mr. Henning, like many of his neighbors, set out trees and today has a beautiful growth of ash, box-elder and maple. He took up the task of cultivating fruit, with the result, that he soon had a good orchard in bearing. Thus year after year he carried on his farm work with good results until 1894, when he sold one hundred and sixty acres of the home place and removed to Everly, where he purchased a residence. Two years later, not being content to remain idle, he opened a hotel which he conducted four years. On the expiration of that period he disposed of the hotel and also sold the other quarter section

of his home farm in Summit township. He then bought land in South Dakota, near Mitchell, where he now has an improved and valuable farm of three hundred and twenty acres. For a number of years he has practically lived retired, his realty and other investments being sufficient to bring to him a substantial income, supplying him with all of the necessities and comforts, and some of the luxuries of life.

As the years passed several children made their appearance into the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hennings, and two sons and two daughters are yet living, namely: Dr. A. J. Hennings, who is engaged in the practice of medicine in Taylor, North Dakota; O. F. Hennings, who is a bookkeeper in the First National Bank at Dickerson, North Dakota; Alma, the wife of Henry Teeson, of Everly; and Lillie, who is postmistress at Taylor, North Dakota. They also lost a son, Otto, who died in Benton county in his third year.

Mr. and Mrs. Hennings were reared in the Lutheran faith, but are not members of any church at the present time. Politically, Mr. Hennings is a stanch democrat, and in Summit township he served as road supervisor and as a member of the school board. Since taking up his abode in Everly he has been a member of the village board, was also elected township trustee and by reelection has served for nine consecutive years. In 1908 he was again reelected, so that his incumbency will continue until 1910. He has been chairman of the town board since his first election. He belongs to the Odd Fellows Lodge of Everly, in which he has served as an official. His interest in all that pertains to the general welfare is that of a public-spirited citizen, who finds time and inclination to cooperate in movements for the public good. He has witnessed the entire growth and development of Everly and of the western part of Clay county. In all the relations of life he has been honorable and straightforward and his example is well worthy of emulation. Prosperous in his business connections, he proves what may be accomplished by determined and persistent labor. Starting out without capital, he has worked his way steadily upward, improving every opportunity and utilizing every chance that has led to honorable advancement.

ALEXANDER MORROW.

Alexander Morrow is a prosperous farmer of Royal, Clay county, whose successful life merits exceptional praise owing to the fact that when scarcely out of boyhood, at a time when children of his age were going from comfortable homes to acquire their education, he was practically homeless, cast out into the world with strangers and compelled to get along as best he could. But he possessed the possibilities of a successful career and little by little they evidenced themselves. He accepted any employment offered him and applied himself diligently, day by day becoming stronger for life's battles, and thus gradually bettered his condition, at the same time strengthening his self-reliance, so that finally, through industry, thrift and economy, he saved sufficient means to purchase some land, and has since prospered, until he is today one of the most successful and enterprising farmers in this county.

He was born in Canada, September 15, 1842, a son of M. and Abigail (Yew) Morrow, the father being a native of that place who came to the United States and located in Kankakee county, Illinois, where he died in May, 1852, his wife passing away there December 5, 1879. They were the parents of six children, one of whom is Alexander Morrow, our subject. He was but nine years of age when his father died, but was relegated to strangers upon the remarriage of his mother, and consequently received no education. At that tender age he was compelled to seek employment for himself, and worked at whatever he could get until he was forty-one years old, when he came to this county and eventually located in Clay township. His life thus far had been modest, and of his scant earnings he laid by the greater portion, and consequently upon arriving in this township he had sufficient means to purchase a small farm, upon which he worked early and late, meeting with splendid success and annually adding to his landed holdings, until he now owns three-quarters of section 21, composed of the best soil and as fine a farm upon which to produce general crops as there is in the county. His land is highly improved, with drainage, buildings, and machinery, and he possesses every convenience with which to follow farming by modern methods. Notwithstanding that his life was a busy one, he laid aside his interests for the honor of his country and served during the Civil war in Company K, One Hundred and Forty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

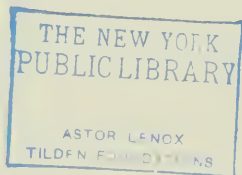
In 1866 he wedded Odella Buckrow, to which union were born: William; Edward, an agriculturist of Clay township; Lucinda; Clara, who lives in Clay township; Hattie, a resident of Royal, Iowa; Walter; and Lilly. After their mother departed this life, Mr. Morrow was united in marriage to Mrs. Rosalie Trumbler, and they are the parents of: Delor, of Royal, Iowa; Pearl, of Clay township; Laura; Agnes; and Paul. Politically Mr. Morrow is loyal to the republican party and has served the township in a profitable manner as a member of the school board. He belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic, where he meets his old army comrades. His career is a commendable one and is one of the many evidences of what patience and perseverance will do in overcoming difficulties, surmounting discouragements and achieving success. Mr. Morrow is an upright man, interested not only in the financial but also in the moral standing of the community, and has acquired the confidence and respect of his neighbors, both as a substantial farmer and a useful citizen.

THOMAS L. ROBERTS

Thomas L. Roberts is living retired in Spencer, having reached the seventy-first milestone on the journey of life. At different times he has been connected with the machinist's trade and with farming, and during the period of the Civil war he espoused the Union cause and followed the old flag on southern battlefields. The success he has attained in business and the respect everywhere tendered him marks him as one of the representative citizens of Spencer, and it is therefore with pleasure that we present his history to our readers. His birth



MR. AND MRS. T. L. ROBERTS



occurred in South Wales, June 13, 1837, his parents being Philip and Mary (Lewis) Roberts, also natives of Wales. Little is known concerning the ancestral history of the family. The paternal grandmother was Mrs. Elizabeth Roberts, and her children were two in number—a son and daughter. The maternal grandfather, Louis Lewis, was a native of Wales, in which country he spent his entire life, passing away there at an advanced age, while his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Lewis, lived to the remarkable old age of one hundred and eleven years. Their family of three daughters and one son included Mary Lewis, who became the wife of Philip Roberts. For many years Philip Roberts followed farming in his native country, and later engaged in the hotel business there until he came to America in 1840, establishing his home in Minersville, Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania. Subsequently he removed westward to Columbus county, Wisconsin, where he died at the age of eighty years. His wife survived him two years, and had reached the age of seventy-nine years, at the time of her demise. Both were consistent christian people, holding membership in the Baptist church, and Mr. Roberts had military experience as a member of the Welsh militia. Their family numbered six sons and six daughters, of whom the youngest three are now living: Sarah, the widow of Hugh Jones, of O'Brien county, Ohio; Mrs. Robert Roberts, of Spencer, Iowa, and Thomas L. Two uncles of the family, Richard Lewis and Rev. Morgan Howells, attained more than local distinction, the former having charge of the Welsh army during the riots in Wales, while the latter was one of the most celebrated ministers of the Calvin Methodist church of that country.

Thomas L. Roberts, the youngest of the family, was only three years of age when brought by his parents to America. He was reared to manhood at Minersville, Pennsylvania, where he acquired a public-school education, and learned the machinist's trade, with which he has been identified during the greater part of his life. In 1860 he removed to Columbus county, Wisconsin, and the following year, aroused by a spirit of patriotism, when the Union was endangered by rebellion in the south, he joined Company C of the Twelfth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and went to the front. While in the pits at Vicksburg he reenlisted and served for four years, giving valiant aid to his country during the darkest hour in her history. He was a drummer during the first three years of his service, and then reenlisted as a private, after which he was appointed to the quartermaster's department, doing much work there of a clerical nature. However he knows the experience of facing the line of battle, for he took part in the engagement of Kenesaw Mountain, Big Shanty, Marietta, Peach Tree Creek, the charge on Atlanta, the battle of Jackson, Mississippi, and New Hope Church. He also went with Sherman on the celebrated march to the sea, which proved that the strength of the Confederacy was almost exhausted.

When the war was over and victory crowned the Union army, Mr. Roberts returned to his home in Wisconsin, and for two years engaged in clerking in a department store in Columbus. He afterward removed to Omaha, Nebraska, where he again took up the machinist's trade, and installed the first air pump on an engine that was ever put on west of the Missouri river. He worked on the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad in putting on the line shafting, and was employed by the company for fifteen years. On the expiration of that period

he made his way to Colorado in 1879, and was employed by the Rio Grande Railroad Company. Later, however, he returned to Iowa, where, in 1870, he had taken up a homestead claim of one hundred and sixty acres. This he cultivated for a few years, and then returned to his trade, but he still owns the farm, which he secured through a soldier's claim, and which cost him only sixteen dollars, although it is today worth twelve thousand dollars. It is situated on section 6, Clay township, and is a well improved and valuable property. Mr. Roberts is now largely living retired, for his life of activity and enterprise has brought to him a substantial competence which now supplies him with all of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life without recourse to further labor.

On the 6th of September, 1867, Mr. Roberts was married to Miss Mary Ann Richards, a daughter of Hugh and Anna Richards. Five children were born unto them: Adelbert Studer, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, who married Julia Ann Richards and has two daughters, Patrina and May; May, the second of the family, who died at the age of three and a half years; Thomas Lynn, who was killed in a railroad wreck on the Omaha road at Windom, Minnesota, and left a wife, Mrs. Haidee (Newkirk) Roberts, and one son, Maryan; Patrina May, who died in Leadville, Colorado, at the age of eleven years; and Earl Joyful, who is living in Spencer with his aunt, Mary Roberts. Of this family the daughter-in-law, Mrs. Haidee (Newkirk) Roberts, was a daughter of Dr. Newkirk, a surgeon of the Confederate army, who held the rank of major. The death of Mrs. Mary Ann Roberts occurred March 18, 1898, when she was fifty-two years of age. She was a devoted christian woman, holding membership in the Baptist church, and in her family was a loving wife and mother.

Mr. Roberts is well known in fraternal circles, being a prominent Mason, holding membership in Evening Shade Lodge, No. 312, A. F. & A. M., of Spencer; Welcome Chapter, No. 44, R. A. M., of Somerville, Tennessee; Fayette Council, No. 84, R. & S. M., of Somerville; and the Valley of Memphis Consistory, S. P. R. S. He likewise belongs to Salida Lodge, No. 57, I. O. O. F., of Salida, Colorado, and Garfield Post, No. 9, G. A. R., of Leadville, Colorado. His political allegiance has always been given to the republican party which stood as the defense of the Union during the dark days of the Civil war, and has ever been the party of reform, progress and advancement. His life has been one of well directed activity and intelligent effort, resulting in the attainment of a fair measure of success, and wherever he is known he is honored, by reason of his genuine worth.

A. T. JONES.

In every town and city there are men who by the consensus of public opinion are placed in the front ranks of the enterprising citizens. To this class belongs A. T. Jones, who for fifteen years has been actively and successfully engaged in the live stock business in Everly, while previous to this time he was one of the prosperous farmers and stock-raisers of the county. There is little concerning the history of actual progress and improvement in Clay county that Mr. Jones does not know. Events which are to others matters of record are familiar to

him through actual experience, for he has lived in the county since 1867. At that time it was just being reclaimed for the purposes of civilization, for although the district had been visited by white men for many years, comparatively few permanent settlements had been made within its borders. Mr. Jones was less than a year old at the time of his arrival, his birth having occurred in Stoughton, Wisconsin, August 30, 1866. He is a son of Evan Jones, who brought the family to Iowa in 1867. Of the father further mention is made elsewhere in this volume. A. T. Jones was reared amid the wild scenes and environments of frontier life and shared with the family in all of the experiences and hardships incident to the establishment of a home amid pioneer conditions. He was reared in the county and the public schools afforded him his educational privileges. When not busy with his text-books he gave his father the benefit of his services and then engaged in farming on the old homestead for four years after he had attained his majority.

Mr. Jones was married when twenty-one years of age, the wedding being celebrated in Spencer on the 14th of March, 1888, the lady of his choice being Miss Mae Harvey, who was born in Clayton county, Iowa, and reared and educated in this state. Her father, William Harvey, was one of the early settlers who came from Illinois to Iowa in pioneer times but was a native of the state of New York. For four years after his marriage Mr. Jones continued the cultivation of the old home farm and about 1892 removed to a farm north of Everly, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of land that was still in its primitive condition. The breaking plow was soon at work and after the sod was turned the work of cultivation was continued until the seed was planted and in due time harvests were gathered. Mr. Jones fenced the place and separated the farm into fields of convenient size. He purchased improved machinery to carry on the work and used every means to make the property productive and valuable. As his financial resources increased he added to the farm from time to time until he became the owner of six hundred and forty acres, but afterward sold one-half of this. He built a good farm house and barn and during the ten years in which he resided on that place wrought a marked transformation in its appearance. In his feed lots and pastures were found good grades of cattle, for he raised and fed stock and later bought and shipped stock. In 1904 he rented his farm and removed to Everly, where he has since devoted his energies to buying and shipping stock, shipping on an average of one hundred carloads of live stock annually. He is today the largest buyer in the western part of Clay county. His business is capably conducted and bringing to him gratifying prosperity.

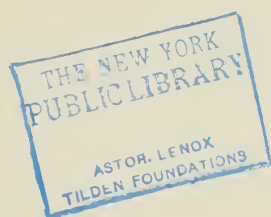
Four children have graced the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Jones: Theodore, Leslie, Grace and Mamie. The family is prominent socially and the members of the household occupy an enviable position in the social circles in which they move. Mr. Jones is a valued representative of the Masonic lodge of Everly and his wife is a loyal member of the Methodist Episcopal church. His political endorsement is given to the republican party and for three years he served as assessor of Waterford township. He has also been mayor of Everly for two years and gave to the town a public-spirited, businesslike and progressive

administration, working for needed reform and improvement. He has been a member of the school board and has served as a delegate to the county conventions. While yet comparatively a young man, he has witnessed almost the entire growth and progress of the county and has been closely associated with its improvement, cooperating in many movements that have been of material benefit to the county.

JAMES E. MILLS.

There is no record which the American citizen holds in higher honor than that of the man whose strength of character, determination of purpose and indefatigable energy have enabled him to work his way upward from a humble position to one of affluence, and who throughout his business career has followed a straightforward, honorable course, that neither seeks nor requires disguise. Such has been the history of James E. Mills who, when a little lad of but ten years, began to earn his own living and has since been dependent upon his own resources. He is now well known as a grain dealer and farmer of Dickens and has gained a place among the substantial citizens of the county. He was born in Eaton, Carroll county, New Hampshire, November 9, 1840, his parents being John and Betsy T. (Giles) Mills, both of whom were natives of New Hampshire. The family is of English lineage, but was established in America in early colonial days, and John Mills, the grandfather of James E. Mills, was likewise born in the old Granite state. He became a ship carpenter and farmer and died in New Orleans, while on his way from Galveston, Texas. His family numbered thirteen children, including John Mills, Jr., who learned and followed the carpenter's trade, spending the greater part of his life at Eaton, New Hampshire. He also cultivated a small farm. In 1861 he proved his loyalty to his country in the hour of need, by enlisting as a member of the Fourteenth Regiment of Maine Volunteers, serving for three years. He was wounded in the battle of Baton Rouge in 1863, and died from his injuries in 1864, when about forty-five years of age. In early manhood he had wedded Betsy T. Giles, a daughter of David Giles, also a native of New Hampshire, where he followed the occupation of farming for many years. His wife died in that state but his last years were spent in Illinois. As stated, his daughter became the wife of John Mills, and long surviving her husband, reached the age of eighty-three years, passing away in 1891. Both were members of the Freewill Baptist church and were earnest Christian people, who enjoyed the warm regard of those with whom they came in contact. Their family numbered four children: Mrs. Mary J. Peary, of Conway, New Hampshire; James E., of this review; Lorenzo D., also of Conway, New Hampshire; and Lozira F., who became the wife of Ephraim Bryant, but is now deceased.

James E. Mills resided in Eaton, New Hampshire, until about ten years of age and attended the public schools there. He then started out to fight life's battles and has come off conqueror in the strife. For a number of years he lived with Carl Drew at Eaton and during that time continued to attend school.





JAMES E. MILLS



MRS. JAMES E. MILLS



until he was qualified to take up the profession of teaching, which he followed for about ten years. He afterward spent one summer as a fisherman at sea and following his return home again engaged in teaching. He also worked in a cotton factory for two years or more and then went to the south, conducting a plantation on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, for A. B. Cook, for one year. He then returned to the old Granite state and in 1866 became a resident of Monmouth, Illinois, where he engaged in teaching for a year, going thence to Roscoe, Minnesota.

It was during his residence in that place that Mr. Mills was married on the 20th of September, 1868, to Miss Ellen V. Smith, a native of New York, and a daughter of William P. and Elsie J. (Andrews) Smith. Unto them was born a son, Jesse John, who was killed by the kick of a horse.

Soon after their marriage Mr. Mills drove an ox team to Iowa and located on a farm of one hundred acres in Freeman township, then Spencer township, Clay county. He cast in his lot with the frontier settlers, for this was still a frontier district, in which the work of improvement and progress seemed scarcely begun. Much of the land was still uncultivated and the towns were of little industrial or commercial importance, but a class of men were establishing their homes in the county and their labors were converting it into a most attractive place of residence. Mr. Mills continued to improve his farm for twenty years and still owns the property, the boundaries of which he has increased by the additional purchase of eighty acres. In 1888 he went south and conducted a newspaper at Enterprise, Mississippi, for five years, but he felt that Clay county was a much more congenial place of residence, and returning, he located at Dickens, where he purchased a house and lot and has since operated a grain elevator, at the same time giving his attention to his farming interests.

Mr. Mills exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party and for many years has been justice of the peace, his decisions being strictly fair and impartial, so that his official record has won him high encomiums. He belongs to Evening Shade Lodge, No. 312, A. F. & A. M., at Spencer, Clay Chapter, No. 112, R. A. M.; Dickens Lodge, No. 583, I. O. O. F., Spencer Encampment, I. O. O. F., while both he and his wife hold membership with the Rebekah lodge. They are people of the highest respectability, enjoying in large measure the friendship of those with whom they have been brought in contact and a life of well directed activity has gained Mr. Mills a creditable place in business circles.

L. J. HJELM.

The welfare and growth of every town or city depends upon the character of its business men. It is always the merchants and representatives of other business life who are the promoters of all plans of progress and improvement. Among the enterprising citizens of Royal is L. J. Hjelm, proprietor of a hardware and furniture store. His line also includes sewing machines, bicycles and sporting goods and in the conduct of his store he studies the tastes and demands

of the general public and as the result of his efforts to please his patrons is now accorded a liberal and growing trade. He was born in Clinton, Iowa, October 1, 1873, and is a son of Jens and Carrie (Hagadorn) Hjelm. The father, a native of Denmark, came to the United States in 1870 and located in Clinton, Iowa, where he made his home for a time, while subsequently he removed to Cedar Falls and thence came to Clay township, where he still resides. He has devoted his entire life to general agricultural pursuits and is still busily employed at that labor. His wife was a native of Germany and they were married in Denmark. Unto them have been born eight children: L. J.; Anna, the wife of Martin Nelson, a farmer of Lincoln township, this county; Simon, who follows farming in Clay township; Marus, who is with his brother, L. J., in the store; Hans, Mary, Nels and Martha, all yet at home.

In the public schools of Cedar Falls, Iowa, L. J. Hjelm pursued his education and remained at home until seventeen years of age, during which time he spent his vacation months in farm labor. He afterward went to Peterson, Iowa, and was subsequently employed at different times at J. P. Clagg's hardware store, Webster City, and at Spencer and Sioux Rapids. Throughout this period he was actuated by the laudable desire of one day engaging in business on his own account. In 1900 he came to Royal and saw the fulfillment of his hopes, for from his earnings he had saved sufficient capital to enable him to establish a business of his own. He owns a well appointed stock, keeps everything up-to-date and has a good business. His property interests include the building which he occupies and a residence in Royal.

In 1899 Mr. Hjelm was married to Miss Abbie Hullgaard, a resident of Lincoln township, this county, and unto them have been born four children: Nina, Beuna, Alice and Ruby, all yet at home. The parents are members of the Danish Lutheran church and highly esteemed in the community where they reside, their many good qualities having won for them the friendship and confidence of those who know them. Mr. Hjelm is a republican in his political views. His business career has been marked by that consecutive progress which follows persistent labor intelligently directed. Though he started with nothing, he has made consecutive advancement and his success is undoubtedly due in large measure to the fact that he is a first-class tinner and mechanic and able to handle any work that may arise in connection with his business. His store is attractively arranged and he carries a pleasing line of furniture, hardware and other goods and from the public receives a liberal patronage.

JAMES WALTON COOK.

James Walton Cook has been engaged in agricultural pursuits in Herdland township for many years. Although he was not among the earliest settlers of the county he came here when there were still many evidences of the pioneer days, thousands of acres of wild, unbroken prairie land surrounding his residence, which is located on section 11. During the twenty-six years he has been here he has witnessed many changes wrought by the growth and development of the

country. He has seen the ox team and prairie schooner supplanted by a network of railroads and the log cabin and dugout give place to the modern home. The days of privation have long since passed and Clay county today is the home of a prosperous and contented people and where once the wild prairie stretched upon all sides are now to be seen fruitful fields and orchards and pastures. Mr. Cook has done much to bring about these improvements and this prosperity and is to be numbered among the many who have devoted their energies to making this part of the state one of the finest for farming purposes in the country.

Mr. Cook is a native of Hancock county, Illinois, born November 20, 1862. His parents were James and Margaret (Yater) Cook, natives of New Brunswick and Kentucky, respectively, but little is known about their ancestors. However, it is supposed that the founders of the Cook family came from Germany, in which country the name was known as Koch, and records show that several centuries ago two brothers emigrated to England and there established what is known as the English branch of the Cook family. From this source the ancestry of James Walton Cook is supposed to have descended. James Cook resided in Hancock county, Illinois, for about twenty years and in 1883 came to Clay county, locating on section 11, Herdland township, paying four thousand dollars for his farm. Here he spent his life in the pursuit of agriculture and stock-raising until he passed away in June, 1906, in his seventy-fifth year. His wife resides in Spencer. In the family were two children: James W. and W. C., who with his wife, Nellie (Price) Cook, resides in Spencer.

On his father's farm James Walton Cook was reared. He acquired his education in the district school and assisted in the work of the fields until he was twenty-one years of age, when he started out in life on his own responsibility and engaged in farming for himself. He has one of the finest farms in the township, provided with all the necessary improvements and conveniences with which to carry on the work to the greatest advantage, and everything about his place is indicative of thrift and prosperity. He owns two hundred and forty acres of land in Herdland township and has an undivided interest in three hundred acres in Woodford county, Illinois, both farms being under a high state of cultivation. Aside from producing general crops, such as hay and the various kinds of grain, he also pays attention to stock-raising and ships cattle, sheep and hogs quite extensively. He is very attentive to his farm interests and has everything on hand with which to pursue agriculture by modern methods.

On January 1, 1890, Mr. Cook wedded Miss Eldora Richardson, daughter of W. R. and Nancy (Butler) Richardson, natives of Woodford county, Illinois, and Floyd county, Indiana, respectively. Her father was an extensive farmer and stock-raiser of Woodford county and passed his entire life on the old homestead on which his father had lived, his long and useful career having closed May 15, 1907, when he was in his seventy-first year. He survived his wife one year, her death having occurred in 1906, when she was seventy-three years old. In their family were three children: Mary, wife of H. M. St. Clair, of Kearney, Nebraska; Eldora; and Eva C., who resides in Secor, Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Cook have been born three children, namely: Edna, Ada and Russell.

Politically Mr. Cook for a long time was identified with the democratic party although of late years he has been taking the stand of an independent, reserving

his right to vote for such candidates as he deems best qualified to conserve the interests of the commonwealth, irrespective of their party ties. He has served the township in a number of useful offices, among which are assessor and trustee and for the past fifteen years he has been either judge or clerk of election. In all positions of public trust he has proven himself worthy of the confidence reposed in him, discharging his duties with promptness and fidelity. Being as faithful in the performance of his religious obligations as he is in attending to his business affairs Mr. Cook, together with the members of his family, attends divine services at the Methodist church, of which they are all liberal supporters. He is also affiliated with the Court of Honor, in the affairs of which he is quite prominent.

During his life Mr. Cook has lived close to high ideals and his citizenship is such that it has inspired strength and permanence to every undertaking in which his cooperation has been enlisted. Companionable and well informed, observing the world from a wide range, he has an abiding faith in the goodness of mankind and in the existence of opportunity for all who seek it. He is a man of noble qualities of character, of strong and resolute purpose, industrious and enterprising, and well known throughout the community for his uprightness and honesty, he merits and enjoys the respect and confidence of his neighbors and many friends.

HERBERT J. TREEBY.

Herbert J. Treeby, a well known livery man and rural mail carrier of Royal, this county, is a native of Iowa, his birth having occurred in Plymouth county, January 4, 1876, a son of William and Elizabeth E. (Graham) Treeby. His father, a native of England, came to the United States in 1852, locating in Stark county, Illinois, but later removed to Plymouth county, near Merrill, this state, where he located claims on which he remained for several years. He then went to Lyon county but after a brief period returned to Plymouth county, where he lived until fourteen years ago when he located in this county on section 21 of Clay township, engaged in general agriculture and stock-raising until five years ago, since which time he has been living a retired life. He is a supporter of the republican party, has held several public offices in the township and is a member and a liberal supporter of the United Brethren church. He was married in Illinois to Elizabeth E. Graham, a native of Ohio, who departed this life in Plymouth county, this state, in 1905. In their family were twelve children, namely: Sarah, wife of H. W. Bristow, an agriculturist of Merrill, this state; one, not named, who died in infancy; Alvira, wife of J. P. Weeks, a lumber merchant, who resides near Cottage Grove, Oregon; Mattie B., who became the wife of Peter Leforge, an agriculturist and fruit grower whose farms lie near Lebanon, Oregon; Anna, deceased; Nora, deceased; the next born were twins, who died in infancy; W. F., an agriculturist, who resides near Willow Lake, South Dakota; Herbert J., our subject; Luella A., wife of J. W. Houghton, who is engaged in farming in Henly, North Dakota; and Maud, who passed away in her tenth year.

In the common schools of Plymouth county, Iowa, Herbert J. Treeby acquired his education and remained at home engaged in the general routine of farming until twenty-three years of age when he came to this county, operating a small plat for six years, at the expiration of which time he located in the village of Royal and established himself in the livery business which he has since been successfully conducting. Since initiating this venture he has applied himself with unremitting energy to increasing the business, and it is now one of the most prosperous enterprises in the city. He owns several first class teams, an imported Percheron horse known as "Pekin," one Winton automobile and also the building in which he conducts his business. In 1904 he established a mail route over which he has since been carrying mails, and this is not only a lucrative business to himself but also one of the most useful improvements enjoyed by the residents of the rural districts.

In 1907 Mr. Treeby was united in marriage to Miss Marion Erickson, a native of Royal and they have one son, Herbert Durand. Mrs. Treeby is a graduate of Toland Business College at Spencer, and before her marriage was a stenographer. She also taught school for several terms in Clay county. Mr. Treeby is a republican and, although he is not an active politician, he is always pleased with the success of his party and does all he can during elections to place their candidates in the offices sought. One of the useful services which he has rendered the township is that of school director, and in this capacity he has been serving efficiently for several years. He belongs to Royal lodge, A. F. & A. M. and also to the Yeomen, being corresponding secretary and treasurer of the latter society. For a number of years he was affiliated with the Good Templars and is faithful to his religious obligations in his attendance at the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he and his wife are members and liberal supporters. Mr. Treeby is an enterprising and energetic business man and being still a young man, the progressive spirit which he shows and which has brought him success will no doubt make him a still more influential factor in the financial affairs of the county.

WILLIAM W. CULVER.

Iowa draws its wealth from the soil. The boundless prairies of this state offer excellent opportunities to the agriculturist and the farmer who resolutely tills his fields and carefully cultivates his crops may in the course of time attain enviable success, acquiring as a result of his labors a handsome competence, that will relieve him in his later years from the necessity of arduous toil. Realizing these facts, Mr. Culver, while identified with farming interests, carefully controlled his business and through his industry, economy and perseverance won the prosperity which now classes him with the substantial citizens of Dickens. His life record began in Iowa county, Wisconsin, January 22, 1843. Back of him is a Scotch ancestry, with the typical characteristics of that nation, noted for its thrift and industry. His grandfather, John Culver, was born in the land of hills and heather and became the founder of the family in the new world. He

was a farmer by occupation and throughout his entire life gave his attention to the raising of crops. He wedded Miss Mary Sleter, and to both were allotted a ripe old age, Mr. Culver being seventy-eight when called to the home beyond, while his wife survived him but two years. They had a large family, namely: Alvah, Alanson, William, Fannie, deceased; Wilson, Melinda, Walter, John, Joshua and Alphonso.

Alvah Culver, the father of William W. Culver, was born in New York and was reared under the parental roof to the duties of the farm. He turned his attention, however, to the carpenter's trade, and thinking that the new and growing west offered better business opportunities, he made his way to Green Bay, Wisconsin, in 1836. There he spent one winter and one summer, after which he removed to Helena, Wisconsin, where he resided until his death. He worked most of the time for the American Shot Company, but also became proprietor of a hotel and proved a popular host. His life span covered seventy-three years and was ended in 1885. His wife survived him for only thirty days, and died at the age of seventy-one years. They were members of the Seventh Day Adventists church. Their family numbered ten children, seven sons and three daughters: David W., who makes his home in Spring Green, Wisconsin; DeWitt C., also a resident of that place; Fannie, who died in infancy; Abigail, who became the wife of A. C. Bedell, but is now deceased; William W., of this review; Alvah, Jr., who resides in Lone Rock, Wisconsin; George W., a resident of Dickens; John F., of Lone Rock, Wisconsin; Joshua B., who is deceased; and Sophronia M., who has also departed this life.

William W. Culver lived in Iowa county, Wisconsin, until seventeen years of age, and the public schools of Helena afforded him his educational privileges and prepared him for life's practical and responsible duties. He was reared as a farm boy, working in the fields when not attending school and at times enjoying such sports as the youth of the locality indulged in. At the age of eighteen years, thrilled by the spirit of patriotism, he joined the Union army, enlisting in 1862 as a member of Company A, Thirty-third Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He served for three years and held the rank of corporal. In many important engagements he proved his loyalty and valor, participating in the entire siege of Vicksburg, also the siege of Fort Blakeley and Spanish Fort. He was likewise in the battles of Marksville Prairie, Yellow Bayou, Tupelo, Pleasant Hill, Nashville, the second battle of Corinth and numerous skirmishes, and never faltered in the performance of his duty, whether on the firing line or the lonely picket line. He was twice wounded, in the siege of Vicksburg and again at Tupelo, but as soon as his injuries permitted he took his place again in the ranks and continued to defend the old flag until it was planted victoriously in the capital of the southern Confederacy.

When the war was over Mr. Culver gladly returned to his home and resumed the pursuits of peace in his native town, where he engaged in farming for a year. He then went into the pineries, where he spent three years, and in 1874 he came to Iowa. For a year he resided in Dickinson county and then returned to Clay county, where he has now lived continuously for a third of a century. He is, therefore, numbered among the early settlers and has been an interested witness of the changes that the years have brought, as the county has

been transformed from a frontier district into one of the leading counties of the commonwealth. Mr. Culver secured a homestead claim of eighty acres in Freeman township, about a mile and a quarter north of Dickens, and improved this property, living thereon until 1890. In the meantime he added a tract of forty acres, but eventually sold the entire farm and removed to Dickens, where he has now made his home for nineteen years. On taking up his abode in the town he turned his attention to the carpenter's trade and has been associated to a considerable extent with its building interests, although for nine and a half years he filled the office of postmaster. His administration of the duties of that office were entirely satisfactory to the general public, for he was always prompt and capable.

On the 7th of April, 1870, Mr. Culver was united in marriage to Miss Susan A. Jewell, a daughter of William and Annie (Cornelius) Jewell. She was born in Catabranca, Brazil, on the 4th of November, 1843, while her parents were natives of England. Her father was killed in the mines of Catabranca, while his wife survived him for some time and married again, her second husband being James Cox. By her first marriage there were born two children, Jane and Susan A. By the second marriage there were five children, James, Emma, Lizzie, Kate and Louisa Cox.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Culver was blessed with two daughters and a son: Maude E., who is now the wife of Anton Anderson, a station agent at Garner; Fred A., who married Belle Marchant, and is station agent at Castalia; and Mabel, who is the wife of Fred Cederholm and resides in Freeman township. Mr. and Mrs. Culver are members of the Congregational church and are earnest Christian people, whose influence is always on the side of right, progress and improvement. He votes with the republican party and is much interested in its success, giving to it loyal allegiance. He also belongs to Annett Post, G. A. R., and thus keeps in touch with those who wore the blue uniform when he, too, was a soldier on southern battlefields. While his life has been quietly passed in some ways, it has nevertheless been fruitful of good, in that he has always been faithful to every trust reposed in him, progressive in his citizenship and reliable in his business connections.

ALFRED ANDERSON.

While one of the more recent additions to business circles in Royal, Alfred Anderson has already made for himself an enviable position in public regard and is numbered among the progressive and valued merchants of the town. He is associated with C. P. Jones in a general mercantile store which was established on the 15th of March, 1908, and which they are conducting under the firm name of Jones & Anderson.

The junior partner was born in Stockholm, Sweden, on the 12th of May, 1880, and is a son of Olaf and Lottie (Olson) Anderson. The father was also born in Stockholm and in the year 1882 he came to the United States. As he looked over the country and saw the opportunities which it offered he believed that he might wisely establish his home on this side the Atlantic and in 1884 he

brought his family to the new world, settling at Peterson, Iowa. In his native country he had learned the carpenter's trade in early life and had become a contractor and builder. After crossing the Atlantic he still continued in that field of labor for a time. His wife was born in Stockholm, Sweden, and they were married there. She still survives and is living at Royal. In their family were seven children: Elmer E., deceased; Charles W., a farmer residing in Montana; Anna, the wife of John Switzer, a butcher and stock buyer of Sioux Rapids, Iowa; Lottie, who is the twin sister of Anna and the widow of Ed Colby, of Sioux Rapids; Alfred, of this review; Ellen, deceased; and Olaf, a farmer of Glendive, Montana.

Alfred Anderson was but four years of age when he came to the United States and has since been a resident of Iowa. He pursued his education in the common schools of Peterson and after leaving school started to work as a farm hand, in which manner he was employed for five years. He was always industrious and determined and his labors were therefore valuable to his employers. After five years devoted to work in the fields he began clerking in a general store in Royal and in that way gained a good knowledge of business methods, so that experience well qualified him to engage in business on his own account when on the 15th of March, 1908, he opened a general store in Royal in partnership with C. P. Jones. They have already secured a good trade and are building up a substantial business. They are young men of well known enterprise and of resolute purpose, who carry forward to successful completion whatever they undertake.

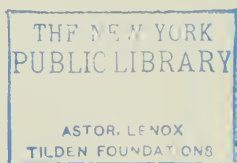
In his political views Mr. Anderson is a democrat and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day, as every true American citizen should do. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church and his life is in harmony with his professions. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and with the Yeomen. He is popular with a large circle of friends and the trading public know him as a reliable and enterprising merchant.

JOSEPH H. ALEXANDER.

Joseph H. Alexander, a veteran of the Civil war, who is now living in retirement in the village of Royal, after having for many years been prominently identified with the agricultural and stock-raising interests here, is a native of Warren county, Indiana. He was born December 16, 1843, a son of G. W. and Ruth (Little) Alexander. His father was a native of Springfield, Ohio, where he lived until he was twenty years of age, at which period of his life he went to Indiana with his mother, remaining there until 1847, during which year he located in Green county, Wisconsin. Twenty years were there passed and in 1867 he removed to Jasper county, Iowa. He afterward lived for one year in Cherokee county and thence went to O'Brien county, where he was well known as a general merchant and farmer and where he departed this life in June, 1894. In Indiana he was united in marriage to Ruth Little, who was also born in Ohio, and departed this life in Cherokee county, Iowa, in the year 1873. They were the parents of the following children: Rebecca, Fannie, Mattie, Marguerite A., Clara B., Ada R., Emma, Lincoln and Joseph H.



J. H. ALEXANDER



In the common schools of Green county, Wisconsin, Joseph H. Alexander acquired his preliminary education and subsequently pursued a course of study in the university at Evansville, that state, upon completing which he returned home and lived with his parents until August 11, 1862, when he enlisted in Company K, Twenty-second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, in which he served for three years and was honorably discharged on June 29, 1865. He witnessed much hard fighting and was with his regiment in the battles at Resaca, Georgia, Burnt Hickory, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek and the siege of Atlanta. During his military career Mr. Alexander was on the scouting force and served in the capacity of scout throughout the Georgia campaign and until the close of the war. His duty was often arduous and dangerous, but he never faltered when the interests of his country were at stake. After receiving his discharge he returned home and in 1867 removed to the southern part of this state, while subsequently he went to O'Brien county, where for a period he followed farming, and in 1898 came to this county, where he is now retired.

In 1866 Mr. Alexander wedded Miss Annie J. Dawson, and unto them have been born eight children, namely: J. S., an agriculturist of Sully county, South Dakota; Ada, deceased; George Jesse, who is in the real-estate business at Heron Lake, Minnesota; Wilfred G., who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Cherokee county, this state; Effie, wife of Solomon Breffle, who is connected with an elevator at Osgood, this state; Nellie P., wife of Fred Readle, who is in the restaurant business in Miloma, Minnesota; Frank C., a solicitor for a creamery in Cherokee county, this state; and Verne, of that county. Mr. Alexander has taken considerable interest in politics, his political faith being in accord with the principles of the democratic party. He served for three years as justice of the peace in Cherokee county, Iowa, for fifteen years in the same office in O'Brien county and in this county he has been justice of the peace for the past eight years. In the office he has gained considerable distinction for his fairness and administrative ability and at all times he is loyal in citizenship. He is a comrade of Spencer Post, G. A. R., and, being a man of sterling character, he has always merited and received the confidence and respect of all with whom business, official or social relations have brought him in contact.

LESLIE M. HURD.

Leslie M. Hurd, whose activity in business has not only contributed to his individual success but has also been an active factor in the development of the county, is now conducting a general mercantile store in Everly and is also financially interested in a similar enterprise in Spencer. However, he makes his home in the former place and the town is glad to number him among its business men whose energy and enterprise are factors in its upbuilding. Mr. Hurd was born in Racine, Wisconsin, on the 13th of April, 1852, and afterward removed to Grant county, Wisconsin, with his parents, Jabez and Elizabeth (Gordon) Hurd. The father was a native of Connecticut and in that state was reared. In early manhood he was for some years a traveling salesman and in Canton, Ohio, he

married Miss Gordon, who was born and reared in that city, since famous as the home of William McKinley. Following his marriage Mr. Hurd removed to Wisconsin and for a few years was engaged in business in Racine. He afterward became a factor in the business life of Huntington, Indiana, where he remained for a number of years and afterward became a resident of Grant county, Wisconsin. There he was engaged in dealing in land and making loans and was a successful business man, whose sound judgment enabled him to make judicious investments and to gain a substantial profit from his labors. Subsequently he removed to Charles City, where both he and his wife died. Their family, which numbered two sons and seven daughters, all of whom arrived at years of maturity, are still living and are now heads of families. A brother of our subject, Wilson Hurd, is well known in Hawkeye, Iowa, where for twenty-seven years he has engaged in the hardware business.

The youth of L. M. Hurd was largely passed in Grant county, Wisconsin, where he was provided with good educational privileges. After attending the common schools he had the advantage of a course in higher schools and upon the home farm he was trained in the work of the fields. Lessons of industry, diligence and integrity were early impressed upon his mind and have borne fruit in later years.

On the 16th of March, 1880, in Grant county, Wisconsin, Mr. Hurd was married to Miss Ella Sprague, who was there born and remained throughout the period of her girlhood. The young couple began their domestic life upon a farm in Buena Vista county, where they continued until 1884. Mr. Hurd bought a farm in Nokomis township near Alta, the place containing one hundred and sixty acres, to the development of which he gave his energies and attention. For four years he carried on farming there and then sold out, after which he removed to Fayette county, Iowa, and bought eighty acres, which he cultivated for six years. On the expiration of that period he once more sold and removed to Hancock county, Iowa, where he rented land for six years. He next became a resident of Pocahontas county, where he resided until 1905. Throughout his life he has largely traded in farms and bought and sold farm property and on these deals has usually realized a good profit. He has owned two farms since coming to Everly in the year 1905. Here he became a factor in commercial circles, putting in a stock of general merchandise and has since actively managed the store, while his wife acts as bookkeeper and saleslady. In the fall of 1898 he established a general mercantile store in Spencer, which is now under the management of his sons, G. L. and Jay Hurd.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hurd were born four children who are yet living. As stated, G. L. and Jay are conducting a well established general store in Spencer; Harry is in the store at Everly and Sadie completes the family. They also lost a son, Harvey, who died in infancy. The children have been provided with good educational privileges and thus well qualified for life's practical and responsible duties. The members of the family are prominent socially and have many warm friends in the county. Mrs. Hurd, the two oldest sons and the daughter are members of the Presbyterian church and Mr. Hurd also attends the church and contributes to its support. His membership relations are with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and his political allegiance is given to the republican party

without desire for office. He stands as a representative of our best type of American manhood and chivalry. By perseverance, determination and honorable effort he has overthrown the obstacles which barred his path to success and has reached the goal of prosperity, while his genuine worth, broad mind and public spirit have made him a director of public thought and action.

WILLIAM J. CROW.

No man can be said to have lived in vain whose work has in any way contributed to the world's progress. Carlyle has said, "The story of any man's life would have interest and value if truly told." There is much in the history of William J. Crow that is of interest, for he has attained world-wide fame as one of the most successful breeders of Poland China hogs. If the person who causes two blades of grass to grow where only one grew before has wrought some good in the world, then the one who has, by careful study and experiment, improved the quality and value of stock breeding animals and caused the weight and size to double, then he also has certainly accomplished something of benefit to mankind.

Mr. Crow is one of Iowa's native sons, his birth having occurred in Hopkinton, Delaware county, Iowa, October 4, 1862. He is of English and Irish lineage and is a son of J. H. and Elizabeth (Johnston) Crow, who were natives of Canada and Kentucky respectively. The former was a farmer in early life but afterward directed his attention to mining. There were five children in his family: Manie, the wife of Oliver Byan, residing in Buena Vista county, Iowa; William J., of this review; Charles, residing in Houston, Texas; Annie, the wife of E. D. Smith, residing also in Houston, Texas; and Jesse, who lives in Idaho.

There was no vent of especial importance to vary the routine of farm life for William J. Crow in his boyhood and youth. He attended the district schools and work in the fields on the home farm, early becoming familiar with all the duties and labors incident to developing the farm. In the spring of 1882 he arrived in Clay county and settled first about eight miles north of Peterson, on section twenty-one, Peterson township. There, for one year, he performed the arduous task of breaking the sod and then moved to Herdland township where he continued farming until the fields were brought into a rich state of fertility. For eight years Mr. Crow continued on the farm and then removed to Spencer, where he lived for two years. Again he took up agricultural work, and then took up his abode in Sioux Rapids, Iowa. Three years later he removed to Marathon, Iowa, and after a brief stay returned to Sioux Rapids. Two more years passed and he then located upon the farm upon which he now resides, on section fourteen, Herdland township. Mr. Crow has been engaged in the stock business for many years and has been highly successful, and about a year ago he held the second highest sale in the United States. He is today considered authority on everything connected with the breeding, raising and improvement of Poland China hogs. The popularity of the "Crow Type" of hog today is enough to verify that fact. Mr. Crow started in some years ago with the plan and purpose to improve by

Careful breeding the size of bone and meat producing qualities of the Poland China. He started in almost alone with that idea and every step of the road he has had to prove the correctness of his theory by producing the goods. He has sought to produce a size in as high a degree as possible and at the same time to keep the bounds of feeding qualities at the highest limit and with sufficient bone to enable the animal to grow the largest amount of meat, also the finest quality without excessive fat. The results of his study and experiments have made possible what is known as the "Crow Type" of Poland China hogs. This type is remarkable for large growth, heavy bone and well finished,—the kind that has made good in the breeding pen and feed lot, the farmer's friend, the shipper's favorite. During the past few years he has made every animal of the Poland China breed which he has raised bring an average price of forty-five dollars.

While Mr. Crow has gained a world-wide reputation by reason of his development of the "Crow Type" of Poland China hogs, he has also been very successful in the raising and sale of horses and of Plymouth chickens. During most of his residence in Sioux Rapids he was the general agent for the Kirk stock food manufactured by the National Veterinary Medicine Company, and acted as general agent for the state of Iowa. He is now the owner of one hundred and fifty acres of valuable land in Clay county and his farm is well cultivated, presenting a most attractive appearance in its well tilled fields and substantial improvements.

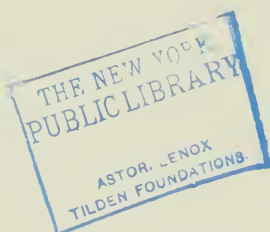
On the 28th of September, 1886, Mr. Crow was married to Miss Emma Kauffold and they have five children: Vivian, born March 26, 1889; Adrian, born June 27, 1894; Minnie, born January 23, 1899; Vera, born December 11, 1904; and Jessie Marie, born August 4, 1907. In politics Mr. Crow is independent, voting for men and measures rather than party. He is a valued and popular member of Sioux Rapids Camp No. 3228, M. W. A., which he joined on its organization on the 11th of September, 1895. He has held all of the important offices of the lodge and enjoys in the highest degree the confidence and good will of his brethren in the fraternity. He is a man of alert and enterprising spirit, possessing the resolute will that enables him to carry forward to completion whatever he undertakes, and at all times his methods are practical and progressive.

J. W. HARTMAN.

J. W. Hartman, proprietor of a hotel in Royal, this county, at one time a traveling salesman for a prominent Chicago firm, is well known in business circles here. Moreover, he is entitled to mention in this volume from the fact that he is a veteran of the Civil war. He was born in Union county, Pennsylvania, March 8, 1845, and is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Mottern) Hartman. His father, who was a native of the Keystone state and a well known furniture dealer there, left Pennsylvania in 1847 and located in Freeport, Illinois, where he remained until the year 1869, when he removed to Boonesboro, Boone county, Iowa, where he resided until he departed this life in 1902, his remains being interred in the cemetery at Boonesboro. He was a cabinetmaker by trade and throughout his

J. W. HARTMAN AND FAMILY





entire life was connected with the furniture business, establishing a reputation for excellent workmanship and straightforward dealing. Politically he was a democrat and being quite influential in his party he served in a number of public offices. He was highly respected for his good character and throughout his life was a consistent member of and worker in the Lutheran church. His wife, also a native of the Keystone state, departed this life in Boone county, in 1903, and was laid to rest beside her husband in Boonesboro. In the family were nine children, namely: Henry, a retired policeman of Boonesboro; Amanda, wife of Jess Shull, who is engaged in the windmill business; Helen, who departed this life in 1908; J. W.; Albert, a railroad engineer, residing in Alaska; Perry, a retired blacksmith of Boonesboro; Eliza, wife of Albert Scott, who is living in retirement in Des Moines, Iowa; Ella, deceased, who was the wife of Shepard Rickard, a well known clothier of Freeport, Illinois; and Emma, the wife of John Akeman, a potter of Des Moines, Iowa.

In the common schools of Cedarville, Illinois, J. W. Hartman acquired his preliminary education and subsequently pursued a course of study at the high school. He remained at home with his parents until he was sixteen years of age, when, in 1863, he enlisted at Freeport, Illinois, in Company B, Forty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He served for three years and was honorably discharged at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, January 18, 1866. During his military experience he participated in a number of skirmishes and battles, among which were: The Wilderness; Mobile, Alabama, where he fought continuously for seven and a half days; Blakeley, where he participated in two charges; Macon, Mississippi, from which place he went to New Orleans and then with the troops was sent up the Red river to reinforce General Banks, under whom he served in the Red river campaign. At the battle of Pine Ridge Mr. Hartman was severely wounded in the hip, which injury has since caused him much suffering.

At the termination of his military service Mr. Hartman went to Illinois and rented a farm fifteen miles from the city of Freeport, on which he remained for two years. At the termination of that time, in 1870, he came to this county, locating in Lincoln township. He operated these farms for fifteen years and then disposed of his interests and removed to section 17, Riverton township, where he actively engaged in agricultural pursuits and stock-raising until fourteen years ago, when he retired and took up residence in the village of Spencer. In Spencer he lived for a brief period and then went to Webb, where he engaged in the hotel business for a pastime, in the meantime traveling on the road for Farr & Wheeler, a well known Chicago firm. Later he returned to Spencer, where he remained until 1907, during which year he located in Royal, where he established a hotel, of which he is still proprietor. Mr. Hartman is a man of considerable means and he pursues this occupation not that he might obtain a livelihood, but simply because the hotel business has a fascination for him and he follows it for the pleasure and recreation he derives and for the same reason as one spends his time in auto riding or yacht cruising. While Mr. Hartman has prospered and is now numbered among the substantial citizens of the county, all days in his life have not been equally bright. In fact, he has met discouragements and difficulties, especially in the early days, when he experienced the grasshopper plague and for five seasons raised nothing on his farm, the insects taking every living thing.

However, as the years have gone by his capable management and energy have brought to him well earned and justly merited success. In addition to his other interests he now owns two good residences in Spencer, a business block and other valuable real estate.

On March 14, 1867, Mr. Hartman was united in marriage in Oneco, Illinois, to Miss Amelia Runkle, by whom he had four children, namely: John, a general merchant of Spirit Lake, Iowa; Jacob Samuel, an expressman, of Spencer; Bert, a land promoter of Milestone, Canada; and Libbie, who became the wife of Elsworth Hagarty, who has a barber shop in Spencer. Mr. Hartman's political views were in accord with the democratic party before he enlisted in the army but after he was discharged he changed his opinions and has since been loyal to the republican party. He has served the township as school director, and for the past three years has been secretary of the school board. He is a comrade of Spencer Post, G. A. R., and always finding time to devote to religious duties, he and his wife attend services at the Friends church. Mr. Hartman's record is a telling evidence of what industry and perseverance will do if reinforced by intelligence, for when he began his business career he had neither means nor influence to aid him, but he possessed resolute purpose and unfaltering courage and gradually reached his present position as one of the men of affluence in the county. In all of his dealings he has been thoroughly reliable and in matters of citizenship he is helpful and progressive, giving his aid and influence to many measures for the public good.

GEORGE W. RYNO, Sr.

George W. Ryno, one of the public-spirited men of Lone Tree township, whose labors have been of material and substantial value to the community in the line of general progress, makes his home on a farm on section 27, where he owns and cultivates one hundred and sixty acres of land. He is also operating other land, in connection with his sons, and is classed with the prosperous and progressive farmers and stock raisers of the county. Here he has lived since the spring of 1883. His birth occurred in Union county, New Jersey, across the river from New York city, April 9, 1848. His father, Hugh D. Ryno, was a native of England, and in early life became a resident of New Jersey, where he was married to Miss Sarah Graves, also of English birth. She died in New Jersey in 1854, when her son George was a lad of six years.

On the home farm in the state of his nativity, George W. Ryno spent the first twenty years of his life, and there learned the tinsmith's trade, which he followed for four years. He was afforded good common school advantages, but is wholly a self-made man, being dependent upon his own labors from the early age of six years. The struggle for an existence was a hard one, but he soon became self-reliant and early learned the lessons of industry, perseverance and integrity. Upon these qualities he has builded his success. Hoping to better his financial conditions in the middle west, when a young man of twenty years he made his way to Will county, Illinois, where he worked in a rolling mill, being first employed as fireman and later as engineer. He has neglected

no opportunity that would promote his business advancement throughout his entire life, and his success has been gained in legitimate lines of business.

In Joliet, Illinois, on the 12th of July, 1871, Mr. Ryno was united in marriage to Miss Mary Gorman, a native of Queens county, Ireland, who came to the new world when a young lady of sixteen years. Following their marriage they established their home in Joliet, where they lived for a few years, and later Mr. Ryno worked by the month as a farm hand until he could make arrangements to rent land and begin farming on his own account. For a few years he carried on general agricultural pursuits in Illinois, and in 1883 came to Iowa, locating in Clay county, where he has since lived. He first rented a farm for three years, during which time his industry and careful expenditure brought him capital sufficient to enable him to purchase the tract of one hundred and sixty acres on section 27, Lone Tree township, on which he now resides. It was at that time raw, open prairie, on which he built a small frame house, while with characteristic energy he turned his attention to the development of the fields. Persistently and energetically he has continued his work year after year, until he now has a well improved property, classed with the model farms of the twentieth century. He has added to his house until he now has a large, substantial residence, which is comfortably furnished. A commodious barn and granary furnish shelter to grain and stock. He also has stock scales upon his place, and many modern equipments, while the latest improved machinery is used to facilitate the work of the fields. The place is well fenced and divided into fields of convenient size, and although the farm was a treeless prairie when it came into his possession, he now has a nice grove of maple, willow and box-elder trees. An orchard of his own planting yields its fruits in season, and the farm is in every way a well developed property. He likewise raises and feeds stock, having a large number of hogs each year. He also has carried on a dairy business for several years and furnishes supplies to the creameries. Moreover, he is interested in the North Rural Telephone Company, as one of its stockholders and directors, and is justly accounted one of the active and progressive business men of this part of the state.

As the years have gone by nine children, five sons and four daughters, have been added to the household, namely: George W., Jr., who is the owner of land in Minnesota and is engaged in farming on his own account; John E., who follows farming in South Dakota; Jary G., who is in partnership with his father in his farming and stock raising interests; William H., who is a student in Humboldt College, at Humboldt, Iowa, but is interested with his father and brother in farming and stock raising interests; Charles F., who is a student in the Everly high school; Catharine F., the wife of Andrew Griffith, a farmer of Dickinson county, Iowa; Sarah E., the wife of William H. Rose, a farmer of Riverton township, Clay county; Mary M., the wife of Victor LeClaire, a farmer of Roberts county, South Dakota; and Anna L., the wife of R. Elmer Dake, a business man of Peterson, Iowa.

In the year 1872 Mr. Ryno proudly cast his first presidential vote, supporting Horace Greeley, and since that time he has given his allegiance to the standard bearers of the democratic party. The public school system has found in him a warm friend, and he has, moreover, proved loyal in different local offices, serving

as highway commissioner, while at the present time he is acting for the ninth consecutive year as township trustee, and his incumbency will continue until 1910. He was reared in the Catholic faith and is still a communicant of the church. He deserves much credit for what he has accomplished, for he has confronted many difficulties and obstacles in his life, but through persistency of purpose and undaunted energy, he has worked his way steadily upward in a line where labor is unhampered by caste or class.

ALFRED JAMES LIVINGSTON.

From the rich farming district of Iowa there have come many men who have won success in agricultural lines and are now enjoying the fruits of their labor. To this class belong Alfred James Livingston, and as he is widely and favorably known in this part of the state, his record cannot fail to prove of interest to many of our readers. He is yet in the prime of life and his well directed energy in former years has brought to him a competence that supplies him with all the necessities and many of the comforts of living, without recourse to other labor. He was born in Council Hill, Jo Daviess county, Illinois, November 1, 1852, and is of Irish descent, his parents, William and Jane (McKnight) Livingston, having both been natives of County Monahan, Ireland. The grandfather, Alexander Livingston, spent his entire life on the Emerald Isle, and there married, and reared his family of three children, William, Henry and Margaret, all of whom came to the United States.

William Livingston was reared to the occupation of farming and when he became convinced in his own mind that he would have better advantages in the United States, he bade adieu to friends and native country and sailed for New York. Continuing his journey into the interior of the country, he settled first at Council Hill, Illinois, where he followed teaming for a time, and when his capital permitted, took up the occupation of farming. For a long period he resided in that state, but in the spring of 1892 came to Iowa, spending his last days in Spencer, where he passed away April 13, 1904. Had he lived a day longer he would have reached the age of ninety years. For only a year had he survived his wife, who died on the 6th of April, 1903, a devoted member of the Methodist church, to which Mr. Livingston also belonged. While in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, he held various township offices and at all times his cooperation could be counted upon to further progressive public improvement. This worthy couple were the parents of three sons and three daughters, of whom four are living, as follows: Eliza Jane, the wife of W. W. Claypool, of Spencer, Iowa; Margaret, widow of Henry Thuirer, of Summit township; Alfred J., of this review; and Mary Ann, wife of Edward Claypool, of Sioux township.

Farm work in all of its various phases early became familiar to Alfred J. Livingston, as his youthful days were passed on his father's farm in Jo Daviess county, where he soon came to understand the best times for planting his fields and the best methods of caring for his crops. His intellectual training was

received in the district schools, and when his age and experience justified, he rented his father's farm, which he cultivated for one year. In the fall of 1876 he came to Iowa, settling near Hampton, again engaging in farming, in partnership with his brother-in-law, W. W. Claypool, with whom he was thus connected for five years. In the spring of 1881 he came to Clay county, arriving on the 9th of April. His partnership with Mr. Claypool continued, and together they bought a section of land in Summit township, but the second year divided their interests, each retaining three hundred and twenty acres. Mr. Livingston bent his energies to the arduous task of developing and cultivating his farm. The land was plowed, crops were put in and as the months ran their course the harvest ripened and was gathered. His produce always found a ready sale on the market, and as he prospered in his undertakings he added to his place all of the modern equipment and accessories of a model farm of the nineteenth century. He was thus actively associated with general agricultural pursuits until March, 1907, save for a period of three years, which he spent in the machinery business in Spencer, during which time he rented his farm. He is now living retired, but he still owns his country place, which is finely improved and indicates in its splendid appearance his careful supervision and practical methods.

On the 28th of March, 1883, Mr. Livingston was married to Miss Kate B. Riley, a daughter of John and Ellen (Donlan) Riley. Their children are four in number: Audrey E., wife of Roy La Brant; Edna May, Marion Rebecca and Kenneth James. Mrs. Livingston belongs to the Catholic church and Mr. Livingston to the Yeomen of America. He always votes with the democracy in all matters of public moment, displaying a spirit of marked devotion to the general good. In analyzing his life record it will be seen that persistent, earnest work has constituted the foundation upon which he has builded his prosperity, and his diligence may well serve as an example for others to emulate.

D. E. BEVING.

D. E. Beving, living on section 3, Summit township, devotes his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits and stock raising. He is one of the extensive land owners of the county and deserves much credit for the position to which he has attained in business circles, as it is the result of his close application and indefatigable industry. In his home farm he now has three hundred acres, and four hundred acres in another farm in Clay county likewise contributes to his success. His holdings also include one hundred and sixty acres in Dickinson county and two hundred and forty acres in Osceola county. Thus he is numbered among the large land owners of this part of the state. He also owns a half interest in another three hundred and twenty acres in this county.

Mr. Beving was born in Stephenson county, Illinois, February 5, 1866, and came to Iowa with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ubbe Beving, in 1873, settling in Grundy county. There the subject of this review was reared to manhood.

No event of especial importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for him in boyhood and youth. He worked in the fields through the summer months or in fact until harvests were gathered in the late autumn, and in winter seasons he attended school, thus gaining knowledge that has prepared him for life's practical and responsible duties.

After arriving at years of maturity, D. E. Beving sought a companion and helpmate for life's journey, and while living in Grundy county was married on the 1st of November, 1888, to Miss Tena Heikens, who was born and reared in Grundy county. Following their marriage he removed to Clay county and took up their abode in Summit township, where Mr. Beving purchased the farm upon which he now resides. He first bought one hundred and thirty-eight acres of land, and with characteristic energy began to till and improve the place. The crops which he raised brought to him good financial returns and he saved his earnings until his careful expenditure and industry brought him sufficient capital to make further purchases. Thus from time to time he has added to his property, until he now owns seven hundred acres in Summit township in one body, while other realty holdings bring his landed possessions to an aggregate amount of twelve hundred and fifty acres. All of this is good land, and in connection with his farming, which is carefully conducted along the most modern lines of agricultural progress, he raises and feeds stock, shipping about fourteen carloads of hogs and cattle each year. His business interests are thus very extensive, and, moreover, at the present time he is manager of the Fostoria Elevator Company and also of the Telephone Company of Fostoria. In all of his business interests he shows keen discrimination and his judgment is seldom if ever at fault in placing the value upon a business situation or its possible outcome. What he undertakes he carries forward to successful completion and unfaltering integrity is numbered among his salient characteristics.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Beving have been born five children, Ubbe, George, John, Anna and Harry. The family circle yet remains unbroken by the hand of death and all are still under the parental roof. The parents are members of the Reform church. Mr. Beving has been one of the active and progressive farmers of the county for a long period. In connection with the development of his own property he buys and deals in land, and his judicious investments and profitable sales have added materially to his property.

NATHAN T. WILCOX.

It is fitting that men in the evening of life should enjoy a season of rest. Nature seems to have intended that this should be so, for in youth he is full of energy and hope and in later years these qualities are directed by mature judgment and keen discrimination, resulting in the attainment of success. Such has been the record of Nathan T. Wilcox, whose years of activity are now crowned with an age of ease. He has lived in the county since 1880 and for many years was identified with its agricultural interests. Moreover, he is entitled to mention in this volume from the fact that he is a veteran of the Civil war.

Mr. Wilcox was born in the town of Richmond, Ontario county, New York, January 26, 1838, and is a son of Harvey G. and Zina (Straight) Wilcox, both of whom were natives of Rhode Island. The father always followed the occupation of farming and on leaving the east became a resident of Wisconsin in 1853, at which time he settled in Wheatland township, Kenosha county. Four years later he removed to Effingham county, Illinois. Mr. Wilcox afterward returned to Kenosha county, Wisconsin, where he passed away August 31, 1860, having been born September 20, 1799. His wife died October 10, 1854. She was born March 7, 1797. They were the parents of eleven children, but only three are now living. The brother of our subject is William H. Wilcox, of Webb, Iowa, and the sister, Lucy L., is the wife of E. W. Alger, of the town of Richmond, Ontario county, New York.

Nathan T. Wilcox, the youngest of the surviving members of the family, lived in Ontario county, New York, until fifteen years of age, spending that period on his father's farm and in attending the district school, where he gained the knowledge that fitted him for the early duties of life. After removing to Wisconsin with his father he began working by the month as a farm hand and also cultivated land on the shares with his father. His life has always been one of unremitting industry and enterprise until his recent removal to Spencer to enjoy here a well merited rest. In November, 1859, he returned to the state of New York, driving a team all the way, and in the year of 1861, having watched the progress of events until feeling that his duty to his country was paramount to all else, he offered his services to the government on the 20th of October and was enrolled as a member of Company D, One Hundred and Second New York Volunteer Infantry. He served for over three years and was mustered out December 24, 1864, at Savannah, Georgia, having in the meantime participated in the battles of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Lookout Mountain, the Atlanta campaign and the march to the sea. He served for nearly two years in the artillery and never faltered in the performance of any duty.

After the war Mr. Wilcox returned to New York, and in January, 1866, removed westward to Kenosha, Wisconsin, where he resided until the spring of 1880. That date witnessed his arrival in Clay county, and here he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Gillett's Grove township, which he improved and cultivated for thirteen years, or until January, 1893, when he rented his farm and took up his abode in Spencer in a nice home at No. 909 Prairie avenue, at the corner of East Ninth street. He still owns his farm and it returns him a substantial income. He has made good improvements upon it and throughout his entire connection with agricultural pursuits he utilized modern methods of farming and by his unremitting industry won his success. Mr. Wilcox being a carpenter and wagon-maker by trade, he was enabled to save considerable money by doing his own work in these lines.

On the 1st of March, 1869, Mr. Wilcox was united in marriage to Miss Mary L. Fay, who was born in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, in the city of Cleveland, a daughter of Joseph M. and Sophronia (Brainard) Fay. Her father was born July 31, 1804, in Fulton county, New York, and was a cooper by trade. Having arrived at years of maturity, he was married on the 7th of February, 1828, to Miss Sophronia Brainard, whose birth occurred in Connecticut, May 27, 1805.

In their childhood days they had removed to Ohio and it was in that state that their marriage was celebrated. In 1841 they became residents of Wheatland, Kenosha county, Wisconsin, where the death of Mrs. Fay occurred March 14, 1885, while Mr. Fay died on the 24th of July, 1889. Mrs. Wilcox is a member of the Congregational church and a most estimable lady, whose good qualities of heart and mind have endeared her to many friends. Mr. Wilcox is a valued representative of several fraternal organizations. He belongs to Spencer Lodge, No. 247, I. O. O. F., in which he has filled all of the offices and is a past grand. He is likewise connected with Annett Post, G. A. R., in which he has served as commander. He is a believer in republican principles and therefore gives to the party stalwart support. For six years he served as trustee of Gillett's Grove township, but whether in office or out of it, is always loyal to the best interests of the community, manifesting the same fidelity to his country and her welfare as when he followed the old flag on southern battlefields of the south. His has been a creditable record as a soldier, as a citizen and a business man, and he is now highly esteemed in Spencer, where he expects to spend his remaining days.

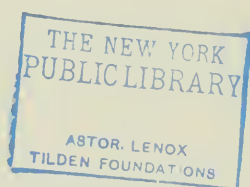
THOMAS GADSBY.

Thomas Gadsby is engaged in general farming in Freeman township, owning and cultivating four hundred acres of land. He has brought his fields under a high state of cultivation and his place presents an attractive appearance, constituting one of the pleasing pictures in the landscape. Mr. Gadsby is now in the fifty-fifth year of his age, his birth having occurred in Yeavley, Derbyshire, England, November 18, 1854. His parents and his grandparents were also natives of that country. His grandfather, James Gadsby, followed the occupation of farming there but died in early manhood. The maternal grandfather did fancy gardening. Both he and his wife lived to old age and reared a family of three children. The parents of Thomas Gadsby were William and Emma (Johnston) Gadsby, both natives of England. The former engaged in tilling the soil. He died in England in 1888 at the age of sixty-three years and is still survived by his wife, who yet lives in that country. He was a member of the Established Church of England and his widow is also of that faith. Unto them were born five sons and five daughters, of whom four are now living: Thomas; William, who is located at Radgleywood, England; Elizabeth, the wife of William H. Hargrave, of Sioux township; and Samuel, whose home is in Yeavley, England.

Only two of the family have become residents of the United States. Thomas Gadsby, of this review, was reared in the land of his birth and in his youth he had few leisure moments. He worked at farm labor and when still but a boy worked for two years at the meager salary of four cents per day. He remained in his native country until twenty-five years of age, when he felt that he had little opportunity to secure success in business there and determined to test the truth of the favorable reports which he heard concerning business conditions in the United States. Accordingly, he sailed for America in 1880 and, making his



THOMAS GADSBY



way westward to Clay county, rented a farm of J. E. Mills, in Freeman township, south of Dickens. There he lived for six years until his industry and economy enabled him to purchase a farm for himself. He at first bought eighty acres but later sold that and invested in three eighty-acre tracts in Freeman township. He today owns four hundred acres of finely improved land and is busily employed in tilling the soil, raising the crops best suited to climatic conditions here. He keeps his fields rich and arable through the rotation of crops and has studied, too, the best time and methods of planting, and the best means of cultivating the soil. That his labors have been practical is indicated by the results which he has achieved, owning now one of the best farms of the community.

On the 14th of April, 1904, Mr. Gadsby was married to Miss Ethel Goff, a daughter of Dwight and Melissa (Brayton) Goff. There are two children of that marriage, William Maxon and Thomas Eldon. Mrs. Gadsby was born in Ruthven, Palo Alto county, Iowa, April 16, 1874. Her father was a native of Sherland, Illinois, and was a son of Orrin Dowd and Nancy (Fassett) Goff, both of whom were natives of New York. He became an early settler of Iowa, and lived upon one farm in Palo Alto county thirty-five years. He wedded Melissa Brayton, a daughter of Joseph and Permilia (Spencer) Brayton. Her father was a native of Indiana and served as a soldier in the Civil war. For many years Mr. and Mrs. Goff continued their residence in Palo Alto county, but now live in Freeman township, Clay county, and are among the respected citizens of that community. They were the parents of three sons and a daughter, Ethel, now Mrs. Gadsby; Elmer, deceased; Wilmer; and Le Grand.

Mrs. Gadsby belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church and is interested in its work and loyal to its teachings. Mr. Gadsby holds membership relations in Dickens Lodge, No. 583, I. O. O. F. He also belongs to the Modern Woodmen and is in harmony with the spirit of these fraternal organizations. His life has been a busy, useful and active one and his success is indicated in the fact of his ownership of one of the valuable farming properties of the county.

JOHN FELL.

John Fell, actively engaged in general farming and stock-raising, is one of the extensive land owners of the county, his possessions aggregating eight hundred acres. In the management and conduct of his property he displays excellent business ability and his enterprise, careful control and keen discernment are the factors which have gained him the substantial place which he is filling as one of the leading business men of Lone Tree township. A native of Germany, he was born in Prussia, on the 14th of February, 1858, and there remained until nine years of age when, in 1867, he crossed the Atlantic with the other members of the family. Landing on the eastern coast, they continued their journey across the country to Keokuk county, Iowa, and there John Fell was reared to manhood upon the home farm. He remained with his father, Matthew Fell, until he had attained his majority and the events of his youthful days were those which usually fall to the farm lad of the central Mississippi valley. He worked in

the fields, and in the common schools acquired his education and after he had reached manhood he determined to follow as a life work the occupation to which he had been reared. He was thereafter connected with general agricultural pursuits in Keokuk county until 1888, when he came to Clay county and first purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, which constituted the nucleus of his present extensive possessions. At that time only forty acres had been broken and there were no buildings upon the place, but he resolutely set himself to the task of developing a fine farm and soon brought the remainder of the tract under a high state of cultivation. The necessary buildings were also put up and the farm work was conducted along progressive and practical lines. As he gathered good harvests, for which he found a ready sale on the market, and his financial resources were thus increased, he added to his property from time to time until he now owns over eight hundred acres of valuable farm land in Clay county. He has also erected a two-story frame residence, which forms one of the attractive features of the landscape. It is supplied with many modern conveniences and is tastefully furnished. He has also built good barns and large cattle sheds and the outbuildings show care in their neat and thrifty appearance. There was not a rod of fence on the place when he took possession but it is all now enclosed with barbed wire and is thus divided into fields of convenient size. He raises corn and other cereals and he likewise raises, feeds and fattens stock, selling on an average of one carload of cattle and one of hogs each year.

On the 1st of January, 1896, Mr. Fell was married to Miss Mary Grendler, a native of Germany, in which land she was reared. There are eight children in the family, Peter, John, Edward, Bessie, Alice, May, Clara and Susie, all of whom are yet under the parental roof, the family circle being still unbroken by the hand of death. In politics Mr. Fell is a democrat and while he votes for the men and measures of the party the honors and emoluments of office have no attraction for him. The only official position that he has filled has been that of member of the school board for several years, during which time he has labored effectively to promote the cause of public education. As one of the land owners and successful farmers and business men of Lone Tree township he is well known in Spencer and throughout Clay county. His life record shows what may be accomplished by a determined spirit and by unfaltering enterprise. He has carefully noted and utilized his opportunities, making each moment count and his example of unremitting industry and perseverance is one well worthy of emulation.

WILLIAM WARREN.

Comparatively few of the men who came to Clay county in the period of its pioneer development early enough to secure a homestead claim from the government are now living. William Warren, however, is among the number who have been identified with the progress and upbuilding of this portion of the state for many years. He dates his residence in Clay county since 1872 and, securing a government claim, he developed from the wild prairie a good farm of

one hundred and sixty acres. He was born in Stephenson county, Illinois, April 10, 1840, a son of James Warren, who was born and reared in New York. The father married Elmira Yarrington, also a native of the Empire state, and removed to the west and cast his lot in with the pioneer settlers of Stephenson county, Illinois, where he died when his son William was a little child of but three months. His wife survived him and later married again. By the first marriage there were four children, two of whom survived, the sister of Mr. Warren being Mrs. Marie Hill, who lives in Illinois.

Because of his father's early death Mr. Warren was thrown upon his own resources at a tender age. His youthful days were passed in Winnebago county, Illinois, on a farm where he received thorough training in the work of the fields, although his opportunities for obtaining mental discipline in public schools were very limited. However, he early learned the lessons concerning industry, perseverance and integrity, and these have constituted important features in his success as the years have gone by. On the 10th of November, 1861, he offered his services to the government, for the country had become involved in Civil war, and he was resolved to strike a blow in defense of the Union. He therefore joined the Fourth Battery of the Wisconsin Light Artillery and the command was assigned to the army of the Potomac under General Butler. He participated in numerous engagements, was with several reconnoitering parties and was wounded in the defense of Richmond by a piece of shell which struck him in the right leg. Being thus disabled he was forced to remain in the hospital at Philadelphia throughout the winter of 1864 and 1865, and was then honorably discharged on the 14th of April of the latter year, after which he was mustered out in that city.

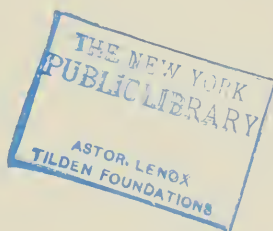
Returning to his home in Winnebago county Mr. Warren spent several months in recuperating his lost health. He was married there on the 25th of February, 1866, to Miss Amanda Chamberlain, a native of Vermont, who spent her early girlhood in New England and at the age of nine years became a resident of Winnebago county, Illinois. She is a sister of Harry Chamberlain, of Spencer. Following his marriage Mr. Warren engaged in farming until the fall of 1882 and then removed to Clay county, Iowa, securing a homestead claim of eighty acres in Clay township. Good health and willing hands largely constituted his capital. He did not fear earnest and persistent work, however, and broke his eighty acres, making some improvements upon it, including the building of a small house. Later he bought eighty acres more and continued the work of development along modern lines, replacing his early dwelling with a commodious and substantial house, while barns and outbuildings were also put up and the farm thus became a model property of the twentieth century. The fields were carefully tilled and from time to time he secured the latest improved farm machinery to facilitate his work. As the years passed the sale of his crops added materially to his income and he is now numbered among the men of affluence in the county. He continued in active farm work until 1904, when he removed to Everly and purchased a residence and thirteen lots. He has since built a good barn on one of these lots, for he always keeps a carriage and horses, and is now comfortably situated in life, his income being sufficient to supply him with all of the necessities and many of the luxuries that make life worth living.

As the years have passed seven children have been added to the Warren household: Nora, now the wife of Lyman French, a resident farmer of Lone Tree township; Florence, the wife of William French, who is living in Clay township; Clara, the wife of Charles Stone, a resident of Dickens; Bettie, the wife of William Edwards, also living in Dickens; Arthur, who is married and now owns and cultivates the old home place; William R., who follows farming in Clay township; and Nellie, the wife of Norman Doolittle of Everly.

When age conferred upon him the right of franchise William Warren proudly cast his first presidential vote for General U. S. Grant in 1868. Each nominee at the head of the party since that time has received his loyal support and he has ever kept well informed on the questions and issues of the day and gives his cooperation to many movements for the public good. In Clay township he served on the school board for a number of years, was also assessor for three consecutive terms, was school treasurer for eleven years and postmaster at Yankee Postoffice for seventeen years. He likewise served as justice of the peace, being appointed to fill a vacancy, and has acted as delegate to numerous county conventions, his opinions carrying weight in local councils of his party. His wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Warren is a member of the Grand Army post at Peterson. In days of peace he has been as loyal to his country as he was in times of war, when he followed the old flag on southern battlefields. While his life has been quietly passed, his life record, nevertheless, contains lessons of value, for it shows what can be accomplished by determined and persistent spirit and honorable dealing. He now occupies a position among the prosperous citizens of Clay county and the most envious cannot grudge him his success, so worthily has it been won.

GEORGE H. PARKER.

George H. Parker owns and cultivates a large farm in Herdland township, and by constant application has surrounded himself with an enviable degree of prosperity. He was born in Manchester township, Boone county, Illinois, July 20, 1862. Little is known of the grandparents of the subject of this review, aside from the fact that his paternal grandparents were Isaac and Mary Jane (Poor) Parker, and his maternal grandfather was Isaac Stockwell, both sides of the house having been natives of England, while an uncle, John Parker, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. His ancestors are said to have been remarkable for their longevity. Edward and Elizabeth (Stockwell) Parker, the parents of George H. Parker, were natives of New Hampshire and Canada, respectively, and settled in Boone county, Illinois, in the early '40s. There his father engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1852, when becoming inspired by the news of wealth gleaned in the California gold fields he made the journey across the plains with an ox-team to that state, where for three years he successfully engaged in mining. At the expiration of that period he returned to Boone county with a neat little fortune and there remained until his death, which occurred in September, 1899, when he was in his seventy-sixth year, while his wife still resides on the old





MRS. G. H. PARKER



G. H. PARKER

homestead. To them were born the following children: William, who passed away in his ninth year; Byron L., a resident of Sioux Rapids, Iowa; Ellen, who entered into rest in her twenty-first year; Maria, who lives in Beloit, Wisconsin; Charles H., a resident of Okoboji Lake, Iowa; George H.; Perry, who lives in Boone county, Illinois; Ed, on the old homestead with his mother.

George H. Parker acquired his knowledge of agriculture on the home farm and obtained his education during his boyhood days in the district schools. When in his nineteenth year he left home to enter the business world and for about three years in various localities he hired out as a farm hand by the month. Presently he returned to Boone county, Illinois, locating near Belvidere, where he remained until 1886, when he came to this state and entered land. He now owns one of the finest and most highly improved farms in Herdland township, consisting of three hundred and twenty acres, all of which is under cultivation. It is provided with an attractive home, large barns and outbuildings and at the same time is excellently situated for farming purposes so that his premises are among the most desirable in the county. Aside from general agriculture he also engages in stock feeding, making this a remunerative department of his business and, giving undivided attention to the enterprise, he enjoys the reputation of being one of the most progressive farmers in the vicinity.

In April, 1891, Mr. Parker wedded Miss Caroline McKenzie, a daughter of Ennis and Sarah (Nickelson) McKenzie, natives of Canada, who settled in McLean county, Illinois, at an early date, afterward removing to Sac county, Iowa, where they remained for several years, finally locating in Sioux Rapids about 1880. There the father died in 1904, in his seventy-sixth year, while his wife passed away in March, 1908, in her sixty-third year. To Mr. and Mrs. Parker have been born four children: Lillian E., whose birth occurred January 31, 1892; Ellen P., born November 2, 1894; George E., born August 8, 1902; and Gladys M., whose birth occurred September 20, 1904. Two of the children attend the Central school at Webb, Iowa. Mr. Parker belongs to Enterprise Lodge, No. 332, A. F. & A. M., at Sioux Rapids, and is also affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America. Politically he is a republican, believing firmly in the policies set forth in the principles of the party, and he is always a loyal supporter of its candidates. Locally he is interested in the betterment of the community and for a number of years rendered the township excellent service as a trustee and a member of the school board. He is a man of many sterling traits of character, reliable in business, progressive in citizenship and at all times trustworthy and reliable.

T. L. BAILEY.

T. L. Bailey, now living retired, is numbered among the veterans of the Civil war and for a long time was actively and successfully engaged in business, the energy which he displayed therein bringing to him the success that now enables him to rest from further labor save for the supervision of his investments. He was born in Waitfield, Vermont, June 24, 1848, and is a representative of an old New England family, his parents being Andrew C. and Aresina (Bailey)

Bailey. The father was born in Berlin, Vermont, in which state he always resided, devoting his attention to general farming. His death occurred in 1898. The family, probably, springs from English ancestry. The mother, also a native of the Green Mountain state, died there in 1863, T. L. Bailey being their only child. After the death of his first wife the father married again, his second union being with Mrs. Emma Eddy, and unto them were born four children; Ida, the wife of E. O. MacIntosh, of Vermont; Susie, the wife of Elmer Scott; May, the wife of Arthur Bailey; and Myrtle, the wife of Edgar McNichol. All are residents of Vermont.

In the graded schools of Montpelier, Vermont, T. L. Bailey acquired his education. He remained at home until sixteen years of age and then enlisted as a member of Company E, of the First Massachusetts Heavy Artillery, on the 14th of August, 1864. Although but a boy in years, he did valiant duty and was honorably discharged in June, 1865, the war having been brought to a close. He had participated in the three days' fight at Petersburg, in the battle of Hatchers Run and Welden Raid, and had followed Lee to Poplar Grove, in a six days' running fight. In the ten months of his service he saw active duty, becoming familiar with all of the experiences meted out to the soldier. On his return from the war he again took up his abode at Montpelier, where he remained a short time, and then removed to Rutland, Vermont, where, for four years, he acted as salesman in the store of Mr. W. H. B. Owens. The opportunities of the west, however, attracted him and, believing that he would have a better chance to improve his financial condition beyond the Mississippi, he made his way to Clay county and secured as a homestead claim the northeast corner of section 22, Clay township, in 1870. Upon the farm which he there developed he remained thirty years. During that period he brought his fields under a high state of cultivation and made many substantial improvements and he still owns that land. Year after year he carefully tilled the soil and his farming operations brought him creditable success. In 1901 he removed to Royal and as indolence and idleness are utterly foreign to his nature, he felt that he could not be content to have no business pursuit, so devoted three years to clerking in a store. Since that time he has lived retired, in the enjoyment of well-earned rest. In addition to the home place he owns eighty acres of land on section 13, Clay township, and his wife has some property in the town, including a store building. Starting out empty-handed, Mr. Bailey has accumulated a comfortable competence. He deserves much credit for what he has done. He has witnessed many changes since coming to the county, which was a pioneer district at the time of his arrival. He had made the journey westward with two other farmers and together they owned but the one team of horses, their financial resources being too limited to enable each to own a team.

It was in 1868 that Mr. Bailey was married to Miss Julia A. Smith, who was born in Roxbury, Vermont, in 1849. She was a daughter of Alvin and Susan (Lewis) Smith. Her father is now living in Barre, Vermont, while the mother died in January, 1854. In their family were six children, Emery L., Gilbert O., Sanford S., Amelia, Mrs. Bailey and Edwin F. After losing his first wife Mr. Smith was again married, the second union being with Miss Vienna Williams, whom he wedded in 1861. They had one son, Alvin J., now of Massachusetts.

The Smith family came of Welsh and English ancestry. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Bailey have been born two children. Ozias T., born in February, 1873, is now a member of the firm of Bailey Brothers & Albers, dealers in implements at Royal. George L., born in November, 1878, is also a member of the firm. The elder son married Miss Laura L. Thomas and has two children, Wendell L., born in 1900, and Blanch L., in 1903. George L. Bailey wedded Miss Marie Albers, of Royal.

In his political views Mr. Bailey has long been a stalwart democrat and, though he has not been a politician in the sense of office seeking, he is very loyal to the best interests of the community and has served as both secretary and treasurer of the school board, the cause of education finding in him a warm friend. He belongs to Peterson Post of the G. A. R., in which he has passed through all of the chairs, and he has likewise filled the various offices in the Odd Fellows Lodge at Royal. Both he and his wife are connected with Rebekah Lodge and Mrs. Bailey belongs also to the Woman's Relief Corps, of Peterson. They frequently attend the Willow Creek Methodist Episcopal church and have assisted in building several churches. Well known in this county, where they have resided from pioneer times, they well deserve representation in this volume, for their social qualities have made them many friends, while the business record of Mr. Bailey is most creditable and enviable.

CHRIS PETERSEN.

Chris Petersen, living on a farm on section 27, Lone Tree township, has a place of one hundred and sixty acres which presents a neat and attractive appearance. In his life he has manifested many of the sterling characteristics of his Germany ancestry and his record is another proof of the fact that the sons of Germany have usually been recognized as valued citizens wherever they have cast in their lot in America, employing its advantages and its opportunities for their own welfare and the good of the community at large.

Mr. Petersen was born in Schleswig, Germany, February 13, 1871. His father, Julius Petersen, was also a native of that province and there passed his youthful days and married. He became well known as a business man of the locality and also held various official positions of honor and trust. He is now postmaster at Hattstedt, which position he has filled for many years, although he has reached the age of seventy-two.

Chris Petersen spent his youthful days under the parental roof and was afforded good educational privileges, being instructed in both the German and English languages. He came to the new world in 1887 when a youth of sixteen years, sailing from Hamburg to New York. He did not tarry in the east, however, but made his way direct to Iowa and settled in Jones county, where he had relatives living. It was this that influenced him to become a resident of the Hawkeye state. For a year he worked as a farm hand in Jones county and in 1890 came to Clay county, where he was again employed at farm labor for a year. On the expiration of that period he took charge of the Everly creamery, which he capably

and successfully controlled for six years. During that period he carefully saved his earnings until his industry and economy brought him sufficient capital to enable him to purchase a farm. He then invested in one hundred and sixty acres in Clay township and removed to this farm, which he cultivated for two years. In 1902 he bought his present place of residence on section 27, Lone Tree township. Here he has one hundred and sixty acres of land, constituting a neat and well improved place. In all of his farm work he is energetic and diligent, overcoming all difficulties and obstacles by his perseverance and determination. The improvements which he has placed upon his farm are of a modern character. He has fenced his land and divided it into fields of convenient size and promoted its arability through the judicious use of tiling. He has a good barn upon the place, has built a corn crib, a granary and hog house. The farm is today neat and well improved and he annually gathers considerable fruit from an orchard he had planted. He also has a nice grove upon the place and with his farming raises, feeds and fattens stock, shipping about two carloads of fat hogs and cattle each year.

While living in Everly Mr. Petersen was married, on Thanksgiving day of 1895, to Miss Martha Brugman, a native of Iowa, who was born in Davenport but was of German parentage. They now have four children: Helen, Alice, Julius and Florence. In politics Mr. Petersen is recognized as one of the leading supporters of the democracy in this locality and his fellow townsmen, appreciating his genuine personal worth, have several times called him to office. He was elected and served as township clerk for one year, after which he resigned. He was next elected assessor and, being continued in the office through successive elections, has been the incumbent for nine successive years, being again chosen in the fall of 1908 for a few years' term. He believes thoroughly in good schools and competent teachers and is now serving as secretary of the school board. Both he and his wife are consistent and faithful members of the German Lutheran church, in which Mr. Petersen is acting as a trustee. He belongs also to Everly lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, has filled all of its chairs and is a past grand. He is likewise a member of the Modern Woodmen camp. He has no occasion to regret his determination to seek a home in the new world. In fact he has always regarded it as one of the wisest steps he ever made, for in this country, where labor and ambition are not hampered by caste or class, he has worked his way steadily upward, winning success and at the same time gaining the good will of many friends in the community where he makes his home.

W. J. BEEKS.

The ranks of Civil war veterans are fast being decimated. Year by year many respond to the last roll call, and it is fitting that while some of the boys in blue survive they should be honored by their fellow townsmen for the service which they rendered to the country during the darkest hour in all its history. Mr. Beeks is among those who for three years or more did active duty on southern battlefields, and in days of peace he has been equally loyal to his

country and is now numbered among the public-spirited citizens of Everly. At the present time he is living retired, but for many years was a progressive farmer of Dickinson county and is numbered among the oldest settlers of the state, dating his residence here from 1840. Iowa had not yet been admitted to the Union when he took up his abode within its borders. He had been born on the frontier, in Dearborn county, Ohio, on the Indiana line, June 28, 1824. His father, Samuel Beeks, was a native of Virginia and, following his removal to the Buckeye state, was there married to Elizabeth Lambden, who was likewise born in the Old Dominion. Mr. Beeks was a miller and millwright by trade. He became a factor in the pioneer development and progress of western Ohio and eastern Indiana and in 1840 again took up his abode on the frontier by becoming a resident of Linn county, Iowa. He worked at his trade in Cedar Rapids and other towns and continued his residence in this state until he passed away in Dubuque county.

W. J. Beeks was reared in Linn county and in his youthful days learned the carpenter's and millwright's trades. He also engaged in farming for four or five years in Jones county, and it was in that county, in October, 1847, that he was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Jane Robinson, a native of Virginia. About 1840 he had gone to Dickinson county, where he had secured a homestead claim of one hundred and sixty acres. Following his marriage he gave considerable attention to the development of his farm.

At the time of the Civil war Mr. Beeks put aside all business and personal considerations and offered his aid to the government, enlisting at Anamosa in June, 1862, as a member of Company K, Sixth Iowa Cavalry. The regiment was assigned to duty in the west among the Indians, and out on the plains he participated in many skirmishes, continuing in the service for three years and eight months. He had a horse killed from under him and at that time sustained injuries from which he never recovered. At the close of the war he was mustered out and was honorably discharged at Davenport late in the year 1865.

Following his military experience Mr. Beeks was connected with various industrial pursuits. He followed carpentry and other business interests in different places, and in Dickinson county he homesteaded and opened up a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. Upon the place he built a good house, barn and sheds and also divided his farm into fields of convenient size by well kept fences. He likewise planted a grove and cultivated an orchard, and altogether made a nice place of his property. Year after year he capably and successfully tilled the soil, until 1906, when he rented his farm and removed to Everly, where he purchased a home and has since lived retired in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil.

In 1908 Mr. Beeks was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who passed away in Everly in December of that year. They had traveled life's journey together for more than sixty years, their mutual love and confidence increasing as time passed on. They were the parents of the following three sons and three daughters: Christopher, who is a stone mason and lives in North Dakota; John T., a farmer of Dickinson county; Charles R., a carpenter and farmer, who is connected with building interests in Everly and who was married here in August, 1890, to Miss Ida Schulz, a native of Germany, who came to the

new world when a maiden of nine summers and by her marriage has one son, George H. Beeks, who is now a young man; Elizabeth, the wife of J. B. Grapes, of Delaware county, Iowa; Nancy J., the wife of Nelson Frederickson, of North Dakota; and Levina, wife of James Gilmore, of Killum, Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Beeks were also called upon to mourn the loss of three of their children. Their first-born, a daughter, Mary Jane, died at the age of seven years, while William J. passed away at the age of six months. Katie died in Jones county, Iowa, at the age of nineteen years.

Mr. Beeks gives his political fealty to the democracy and two of his sons are supporters of the same party, while his son Charles is a republican. There are few residents of Iowa who have so long resided within the state; for throughout sixty-nine years Mr. Beeks has made his home within its borders and has been an active and helpful factor in improving and developing a number of counties. His life has been at all times honorable and well spent and he now receives the veneration and respect which should ever be accorded to one of his years, whose leading characteristics have been the sterling qualities of upright manhood. His memory goes back to the time when in certain sections of the state there were many log cabins, while in other regions sod houses were to be seen. The most far-sighted could not have dreamed of the changes which were to occur and were to make this one of the leading states of the Union, with advantages in some directions superior to those of any other district. In his youthful days the homes were lighted by candles and heated by fireplaces and the winds swept over the prairies unbroken by forest or buildings. Rich in its natural resources, the state has responded readily to the labors of its people, especially in agricultural lines and Mr. Beeks has lived to see every section of the state settled by a contented and prosperous people.

H. L. CHATTERTON.

H. L. Chatterton, who for many years has been a practicing veterinary surgeon and is numbered among the substantial farmers and representative citizens of Peterson township, is a native of Beekmantown, New York, where he was born August 8, 1861, a son of William H. and Hilah S. (Edsell) Chatterton, his father having been a native of Vermont and located in New York state about the year 1838 and in 1868 removed to Jones county, Iowa, near Onslow, where he pursued agriculture until he departed this life January 8, 1894. He served the township a number of years as constable and collector and for thirteen consecutive years in early life he engaged in lumbering. His mother was also a native of Vermont, her birth having occurred in Addison, August 10, 1823. Previous to this union both she and her husband had been united in marriage, he having wedded Marietta Foote, in Middlebury, Vermont, May 29, 1838, by whom he had two sons: Henry C., who resides in Jones county, this state; and Benjamin, who passed away September 22, 1869. On July 26, 1842, she was united in marriage to Joseph Humphrey, to which union were born: Alice Paulina, deceased wife of H. P. Chatterton, who served in Company H, One Hundred and

Twentieth New York Volunteer Infantry; and Josephine, who was united in marriage to L. J. Richards June 23, 1870, and lives in Western Oklahoma. Mr. and Mrs. William H. Chatterton were married in 1854, to which union were born: A. S., a physician at Peterson; R. W., whose birth occurred September 27, 1863, and lives near Onslow, Jones county, Iowa; and H. L. One child died in infancy.

H. L. Chatterton acquired his preliminary education in the public schools and subsequently pursued a course of study in the Iowa State College at Ames, during the years 1884 and 1886 inclusive, and was graduated from the veterinary department. He at once entered the practice of his profession, which he followed two years at Anamosa and one and a half years at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with Dr. J. C. Milnes, and in 1890 came to Peterson. Giving up the exclusive practice of veterinary surgery in 1896 he devoted his attention to farming and owns the southwest quarter of section 23 and one-half of the northwest quarter of section 26, in this township, which farms he has under a high state of cultivation and supplied with all modern improvements, having a comfortable residence, commodious barns, outbuildings and machinery, together with every convenience requisite to pursue the occupation by progressive methods. Here he produces large quantities of hay and general grain crops and at the same time devotes some attention to stock-raising, in which he is greatly aided by his knowledge of veterinary surgery.

On June 25, 1896, he married Miss May Harmon, a native of Waldo, Wisconsin, and a daughter of D. B. and Josephine (MacIntire) Harmon, who went to O'Brien county in 1869, where he still resides. The wife died in 1905. To Mr. and Mrs. Charleton were born the following children: Josephine, who is ten years of age; Harley H., whose birth occurred July 18, 1902; and Hilah May, born April 28, 1905. Mr. Chatterton gives his political support to the republican party, and together with his wife are members of the Congregational church, in which he is an active worker. He is a man of remarkable intelligence, well-versed in everything pertaining to his profession as a veterinary surgeon and is familiar with every department of farming. His success in life is due to his own exertions since he has attained his present reputation as a physician and his prosperity as a business man through his own resources. Mr. Chatterton is widely known throughout the county as a representative citizen and courts the confidence and respect of the entire community.

JOHN LORENZEN.

John Lorenzen is one of the prosperous farmers and business men of Clay county. He owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in Lone Tree township, constituting a neat and well improved farm, but now rents this property, while at present he is engaged in the agricultural implement business in Everly. He is also one of the directors of the First National Bank and his connection with commercial and financial interests secures him classification with the leading and representative citizens of the community. Since March, 1894, he has made

his home in Clay county, arriving here when thirty-six years of age. He was born in Holstein, Germany, February 25, 1858, and his youthful days were passed there to the age of seventeen years, while in the schools of his native country he acquired a fair education in the German tongue. He is mostly self-educated in English, however. It was in 1875 that he crossed the Atlantic to the new world and made his way to Clinton county, Iowa, where he was employed at farm labor. Later he removed to Jackson county, where he again worked as a farm hand and thus through diligence and industry made his start in the business world.

While living in Jackson county Mr. Lorenzen was married on the 19th of January, 1883, to Miss Minnie Butzloff, a native of Germany, who was, however, reared in Jackson county, Iowa. Following their marriage Mr. Lorenzen purchased a farm in Jackson county, being associated with his brother, Nis Lorenzen, in the ownership and conduct of a farm of seven hundred and seventeen acres. They carried on business together in a most successful manner for eleven years, at the end of which time John Lorenzen sold out and removed to Clay county. He arrived here in 1894 and has since lived in this county, where he has made for himself a creditable reputation as an enterprising, progressive business man. He first purchased a farm of one hundred acres in Lone Tree township, which he cultivated for a time and then sold and bought the southeast quarter of section 28. This he at once began to improve, added to and remodeled the dwelling and put up good buildings for the shelter of grain and stock. He also fenced the place, tiled the land and there he engaged in general agricultural pursuits until 1908, when he rented his farm and removed to Everly. Here he purchased stock in an implement business, to which he has since given his attention. He was also one of the first stockholders and organizers of the First National Bank and has been a director from its beginning. His business judgment is sound and reliable and his enterprise unflinching. Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzen have an attractive home in Everly, where he rented a commodious residence, built in modern style of architecture. It is most tastefully and comfortably furnished and, moreover, is the abode of culture and warm-hearted hospitality. Mr. Lorenzen is a staunch republican in politics but has never been an office seeker. He and his wife were reared in the German Lutheran church, in which they still hold membership. They are well known in Spencer and the western part of the county and Mr. Lorenzen occupies a commendable position in business circles, having fully demonstrated his worth and his progressiveness.

A. B. KINYON.

A. B. Kinyon, a retired farmer of Peterson township, this county, who now resides in the village of Peterson and is one of the original frontiersmen of the early days, whose grandfather served in the war of 1812, is a native of Elery, Chautauqua county, New York, where his birth occurred October 28, 1838, and a son of Amasa and Caroline (Collins) Kinyon, his father having been a native of the Empire state, where he was reared, and who about the year 1846 located





A. B. KINYON



MRS. A. B. KINYON



in Shiawassee county, Michigan, where he followed agricultural pursuits until he departed this life in 1853. His mother, also a native of New York state, was there united in marriage and departed this life in the state of Michigan in 1852. In the family were seven children, namely: Shenanda, widow of Edward Bradley; Caroline, widow of Albert Faust; Oliver, an agriculturist of Winthrow, Minnesota; Polly, widow of Harmon Miller; A. B.; Miles, an agriculturist of Bottineau county, North Dakota; and William, who resides in the state of Washington.

In an old log schoolhouse in his native county A. B. Kinyon acquired his education and remained at home until he was fifteen years of age, at which period of life he started out in the world for himself and in the year 1856 went to Stillwater, Minnesota, where he secured employment for awhile, thence to Wisconsin, where he spent something over a year in hunting big game, and after he had satisfied himself sufficiently with the sportsman's life he returned to Stillwater, where he spent two years in farming, at the termination of which time he went back to Wisconsin, where he worked for four years and then started westward from St. Paul, Minnesota, in company with one hundred and fifty-six men, their destination being Montana, but while enroute, when within nine miles of Little Missouri, they were attacked by the Indians, and so fierce was the hostility of the savages that he and his companions, in order to obtain safety, were forced to construct a fort behind which to secure refuge, which they named Fort Diltz, and for three days they carried on a hot conflict with the Indians. The fight and siege continued twenty days and on the last day they were happily reinforced by eight companies of United States regulars, with whom they retraced their steps and went to Fort Rice, North Dakota, thence to Sioux City, Iowa, and finally reached Omaha, Nebraska, where they remained until January of the year 1865, during which year they left that place for Denver, Colorado. Here they were pressed into service by the government to assist in putting up telegraph poles thrown down by the Indians, and then reaching Denver April 14, 1865, Mr. Kinyon entered the service of an ox-train company and drove five yoke of cattle to Virginia City. When the train was five and one-half miles on its way he, in company with five others, organized and engaged in mining there until 1868, when Mr. Kinyon returned by steamer from Fort Benton to Omaha, thence on to Chicago, then to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, to St. Paul, back to Chicago, to Elkhart, Indiana, once more back to Chicago, and from there to Neenah, Wisconsin, where he was united in marriage in the spring of 1869, during which year he came to this county, leaving his wife behind, and took up a claim of eighty acres in section 4, of this township, and after having cleared fifteen acres, which he put into a fit state for cultivation, he secured employment on the railroad and followed this occupation until the fall of 1869, when he returned to Wisconsin to get his wife. On the trip back to this county all the bridges were down on the Des Moines river and it became necessary for Mr. Kinyon to take apart his wagon and transport the parts across the river in a boat, the horses swimming the stream with him and his wife. Mr. Kinyon, with pride, points to the fact that he has swum nearly every river between here and Virginia City, Montana, and he has in the early days been so far in the depths of the wild west as to have been separated

from human beings for a period of three weeks at a stretch, and also to have been compelled on many occasions to go for days without food, and particularly without salt, a great necessity. The couple finally safely arrived here and Mr. Kinyon engaged in farming until the year 1890, when he went to the state of Washington and for two years was in the lumber business there, at the expiration of which time he returned to this county and settled down on his farm in Peterson township, and during his active farming career he engaged in producing hay and the various grains and paid considerable attention to stock raising, in which for many years he did quite a shipping business. He owns four hundred and sixty-two acres of land in this county, a section near Oakes, North Dakota, and also four valuable lots and an elegant residence in the village of Peterson. He removed to his town residence six years ago and has since been enjoying the fruits of his many years of industry and adventure.

On January 6, 1869, Mr. Kinyon was united in marriage with Miss Emma Potter, a native of New York, by whom he has had one child, Lulu, who became the wife of Edwin Tibbetts, an agriculturist of this township, and who has three children, namely, Bert, Dell and Leona. In politics Mr. Kinyon has always been loyal to the republican party and cast his first vote, in 1860, for Abraham Lincoln, and during his life, having been deeply interested in public matters, has held a number of public offices, among which being that of township trustee, clerk, and assessor. He has also served five years as central committeeman. Among the fraternal organizations with which Mr. Kinyon is affiliated are the Free Masons and Eastern Star, his wife being also a member of the latter. He is a man who has always exerted a wide influence, not only in agriculture but also in financial circles, and is president of the Farmers Elevator Company, of Peterson, of which he was one of the organizers. He is a man whose career has been inspired by laudable ambition and whose enterprise and aggressiveness have stood him well in the battle of life, won him the prosperity which he enjoys today, and placed him in the foremost rank as a representative citizen of the community.

RUDOLPH MOELLER.

The attractiveness of Iowa as a place of residence is indicated in the fact that many of her native sons have remained within her borders, believing that her advantages and opportunities are equal if not superior to those to be secured in other parts of the country. Mr. Moeller was born in this state, the place of his nativity being in Scott county and the date of his birth September 8, 1860. His father, Henry Moeller, was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, and spent his youthful days in that country and came as a young man of nineteen years to the new world, landing at New Orleans. For a time he remained in Louisiana, working on plantations there, but eventually he started northward and located in Scott county, Iowa. It was in that county that he married Miss Sophia Moeller, also a native of Mecklenburg, Germany. The young couple began their domestic life upon a farm in Scott county, where the husband continued to engage in general agricultural pursuits for many years, or until 1887, when he sold his property

there and removed to Clay county, taking up his abode on a farm on section 18, Lone Tree township. This was an improved property of one hundred and sixty acres. Later he bought other land, from time to time adding to his holdings, until they aggregated fourteen hundred acres comprised in several farms. Thus with the passing of the years he became one of the wealthy agriculturists of the county and his success was attributable entirely to his own labors, his sound judgment, his judicious investments and his unabating energy. In all of his business dealings he was thoroughly reliable, never taking advantage of the necessities of another in any trade transaction. He died here about 1897, while his wife survived him and passed away in 1901, Clay county thus losing two of its representative and valued citizens.

Rudolph Moeller was reared upon the old home farm in Scott county and in order to obtain an education attended the common schools, wherein he mastered the branches of learning that usually constitute the public-school curriculum. During the periods of vacation he was employed at farm labor on the old homestead and after he had completed his education worked with his father until his marriage, which was celebrated in Clay county. In order to have a home of his own he then rented his father's farm of one hundred and sixty acres, upon which he lived for a few years as a renter, after which he purchased a tract of one hundred and sixty acres that was largely undeveloped and unimproved. Resolutely he set himself to the arduous task of developing a new farm, breaking the sod, harrowing the fields and planting the seed which in due course of time brought forth abundant harvests. Substantial improvements have been made as the years have passed, including the erection of a pleasant residence, two good barns and commodious sheds and other outbuildings, so that stock and grain are amply protected from inclement weather. He has built many rods of fence, has set out a grove and adorned the lawn with evergreen and other ornamental trees. An orchard of his own planting is now in bearing and all of the features of a model farm property are here to be seen, while an air of neatness and thrift pervades the entire place. Mr. Moeller bought eighty acres adjoining his original tract and he and his brother also own one hundred and sixty acres in another farm. His business interests likewise include stock in the Moneta Bank and in the Farmers Elevator at Moneta. Up to his retirement he engaged in raising and feeding stock, making a specialty of fine hogs. His success placed him among the leading agriculturists and stock-raisers of Lone Tree township.

Mr. Moeller was married in Clay county to Miss Emma Brogeman, who was born in Scott county and was reared and educated there. They began their domestic life upon the farm and early in 1909 retired to Everly, where they live in one of the many fine homes of that pretty village. Unto them have been born three children: Carl, who is now a student in the Cedar Rapids Business College; Ella, who has been well educated and is now a teacher in the old home school; and Walter, a lad of eleven years, attending school. They also lost one son, Albert, who died in his second year.

In his political views Mr. Moeller is a democrat, somewhat active and influential in the local ranks of the party. He has served as road boss several years, being again and again elected to the office. He has now filled the position ten consecutive years and was reelected in the fall of 1908. He has also been town-

ship clerk and in matters of citizenship is progressive and public spirited. He and his wife were reared in the Lutheran faith and attend the Everly German Lutheran church. Mr. Moeller is a member of the Modern Woodmen camp and also of the Yeomen lodge at Moneta. A resident of the county for more than twenty-two years, he is widely known within its borders and the substantial qualities which he has displayed in his citizenship and in his business relations have gained him a high place in the regard and good will of his fellow townsmen.

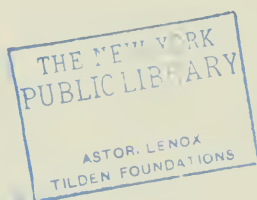
CHARLES S. ROGERS.

Charles S. Rogers, one of the younger men who is finding his fortune in the soil of Lincoln township, this county, and who is doing an extensive agricultural and stock-raising business, at the same time being affiliated with a number of other lucrative enterprises in the county, is a native of Peoria county, Illinois, where his birth occurred February 11, 1870, a son of William Henry and Jenette Ellen (Wakefield) Rogers. His grandfather met death by drowning in the Mississippi river while on his way from New York to Peoria, Illinois. His father was a native of New York state, who came west in the year 1846, locating in Peoria county when a lad of but nine years of age where he remained actively engaged in the pursuit of agriculture until last year when he retired from the active duties of the farm and removed to Dunlap, Illinois. Here he is enjoying both the leisure and comfort he deserves after his long years of business activity. He was a man of considerable importance in the county, well known as a representative of the republican party and for twenty years served as school director and for eighteen years as township commissioner. Aside from being a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows he also belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church, in the affairs of which he has always taken a deep interest and to which he is a large contributor. His mother was a native of Peoria county, Illinois, where she was united in marriage. She passed away in the year 1888 and her remains were interred near Dunlap, Illinois. She gave birth to ten children, namely: Clarence and Elliott, deceased; Logan A., an agriculturist of Lincoln, Nebraska; Charles S.; Leslie J., deceased; Wilson N., William J., John L., Mina E. and Elmer B., all of whom reside at home.

The common schools of his native land afforded Charles S. Rogers his preliminary education and subsequently he completed a course of study in the Metropolitan Business College, of Chicago, Illinois, from which he was graduated in 1890, and immediately became engaged as a bookkeeper in that city in which capacity he served for one year. At the termination of that time he began farming in Peoria county, Illinois, where he rented land on which he remained for twelve years. At the expiration of ten years he purchased one hundred and forty acres there, which he later disposed of, and in 1902, coming to this county he bought one hundred and sixty acres in section 25 and has since resided here, actively engaged in the pursuit of agriculture and stock-raising. The old residence which stood on the premises he remodeled and now has an elegant ten room dwelling, and in addition a new barn together with all the necessary out-



MR. AND MRS. CHARLES S. ROGERS



buildings and other conveniences requisite to pursue farming by modern methods, his farm being thoroughly drained and cross fenced with woven wire. While he takes some interest in stock-raising, keeping on hand only graded specimens, yet he devotes most of his attention to producing general crops and from year to year harvests the finest quality of hay and the various grains. Aside from his farming interests he is connected with the hardware enterprise in Greenville, is a stockholder in the Rossie Savings Bank and also in the Farmers Creamery Association, of which he was secretary for four years. Moreover, he was one among those instrumental in consolidating the five local telephone companies and was elected secretary of the new consolidation. He is also affiliated with the Clay County Insurance Association and the Bankers Life Insurance Company of Des Moines. He gives his political support to the republican party and has served efficiently as a school director, having also been president of the school board for two years. Among the fraternal organizations with which he is affiliated are the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Greenville, Iowa, and the Modern Woodmen of America at Greenville, Iowa. Mr. Rogers is one of the most aggressive citizens of the community in which he is held in high respect and is a stanch agitator of public improvements, among other services which he has rendered the township being that of securing the present rural free delivery service.

WILLIAM KIRCHNER.

William Kirchner, who in an influential way has for many years been identified with the farming interests of Peterson township, and whose enterprise has contributed much toward the financial betterment of the community, was born in Albany, county, New York, December 31, 1851, a son of Christian and Magdalena (Knipcher) Kirchner, his father a native of Germany who, in December of the year 1841, came to this country on a sailing vessel and located in Albany, New York, where he remained three years, at the expiration of which time he removed to a farm about twenty-eight miles from that city, where he pursued farming until 1856, and then removed to that part of Clay county, Iowa, occupied by the present site of Peterson, where he spent the remainder of his life. The mother, also a native of Germany, where she was united in marriage, after a long and beneficial life passed away here, where she was laid to rest. They reared the following family: Dorothy, deceased; J. A., who was the first settler in Clay county and a review of whom is to be found elsewhere in this volume; Mary, widow of C. H. Brockschink, of Webster City, Iowa; Barbara, wife of Michael Springer, of Fort Dodge, Iowa; Jacob, a miller of that place; Christian, deceased; Phillip, deceased; Charlotta, widow of Dr. Butler; Laney, wife of Walter French, a clothier in Sioux City, Iowa; Julia, deceased; and William.

William Kirchner removed with his parents when four years of age from Albany, New York, to Peterson township, this county, where his father built the first house, which was a log cabin, and since the first schoolhouse was built

in the year 1861, when William Kirchner was ten years of age, it is evident that he had few advantages in an educational line, as he had opportunity at that age of spending but two or three years under instruction. He lived on the land now the present site of Peterson, assisting his father in agricultural work until the year 1888, when he purchased for himself a quarter of section 34, which he improved with a comfortable residence, barns and outbuildings, and on which he has since lived and carried on general farming and stock feeding and breeding. His venture proved lucrative from the start, and by producing bountiful harvests from year to year he has been able to add to his land holdings from time to time, until at present he possesses two hundred acres in sections 34 and 35; a quarter section in section 32, in Herdland township, this county; two hundred acres in section 13, Lone Tree township, this county; one hundred and sixty acres in section 20, Peterson township; and a half section in McCook county, South Dakota. All this land is in a high state of cultivation and the several farms are well kept and provided with all the requisites for carrying on the occupation of husbandry successfully. In addition to his enlarged land interests Mr. Kirchner has also found time to launch out into the commercial world and become influentially affiliated with other enterprises, and at present is a considerable stockholder in the First National Bank of Peterson, of which he is president.

In 1880 Mr. Kirchner was united in marriage to Miss Clara Teresa Atkinson, a resident of Clay county, and the couple are parents of the following children: P. M., who resides on section 20, this township; Blanche, Avery W., George C., Charlotta, and Kenneth W., all of whom are at home with their parents. Politically, Mr. Kirchner is loyal to the republican party. He belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Brotherhood of American Yeomen, the Masonic fraternity, and the Eastern Star. He is a man whose industry, honesty and success have made him influential in the affairs of the township, and being possessed of noble traits of character and a man who takes a deep interest in the general welfare of the community, he commands the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens and is accounted one of the substantial financial factors of the county.

C. H. ZISHKA.

Germany has furnished a number of worthy citizens to Clay county and their enterprise and progressive spirit have constituted features in the county's up-building and development. Among this number is Carl H. Zishka, now living on section 16, Summit township. He follows general agricultural pursuits and stock-raising, also feeds stock to a considerable extent and that he has prospered as the years have gone by is indicated in the fact that he now owns four hundred and eighty acres of fine farming land. He has lived in the county since 1881, arriving here when a young man of nineteen years. His birth occurred in Germany September 4, 1862, and he came to the new world with his father, Godfrey Zishka, who first located in Illinois. The same year, however, he came to Iowa, settling in Franklin county in 1874. Locating on a farm he continued to

make his home there for seven years, and in 1881 removed to Summit township, Clay county, where land was purchased and the development of a farm was begun.

Carl H. Zishka was at that time a young man of nineteen years and his strength and energies were employed in tilling the soil and developing the property. He broke and fenced one hundred and thirteen acres of land, carrying forward the work of improvement until the place became very valuable. He remained with his father until twenty-five years of age and then made arrangements for having a home of his own.

It was in Summit township in 1887 that Mr. Zishka wedded Miss Minnie Schuneman, a sister of G. H. Schuneman, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume. Following their marriage the young couple located on a farm adjoining his father's property, Mr. Zishka purchasing eighty acres which he cultivated and developed. As the years passed he continued the work of improvement and his industry was seen in the well-tilled fields that brought forth abundant crops. In 1889 he purchased the farm upon which he now resides on section 16, Summit township, beginning here with one hundred and sixty acres. Later by trade he extended the boundaries of his farm and is now the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of rich land. The soil is very arable and responds readily to cultivation. That practical farming methods are employed is indicated in the rich harvests which are annually gathered for he secures extensive crops of corn and other cereals. In improving his property he has erected a large two-story residence built in modern style of architecture and supplied with modern conveniences. There are also two big barns upon the place, while cribs and granaries furnish shelter for the grain and houses have been built for hogs. He uses woven and barbed wire fences to enclose his fields and he has a feed grinder which is operated by a gasolene engine, in order to grind feed for the stock. He keeps stock of good grades, having now sixteen head of Aberdeen Angus cattle, with a pure-blooded, thorough-bred male at the head of the herd. In addition to raising fine stock he fattens from one to two carloads of cattle and from one hundred to one hundred and fifty head of hogs annually and his live-stock interests constitute an important feature in his success. In connection with his brothers, Frank and Dan, he owned and operated a steam thresher twenty-seven seasons, threshing for people all over this part of the county and in adjoining counties. Carl H. Zishka is likewise a stockholder in the Fostoria Farmer's Elevator and the Cooperative Creamery there. He is a director in both enterprises and also of the Telephone Company.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Zishka has been blessed with two sons and six daughters, Gustav H., Carl, Lena, Annie, Minnie, Mary, Edna, and Richie. They also lost a son, Otto, at the age of four years.

In his political views Mr. Zishka is a democrat where national issues are involved, but casts an independent local ballot. He is now serving as township trustee of Summit township, has been identified with the schools for several years in an official capacity, and at the present time is acting as one of the school directors. He is a member of the Lutheran church and his life has been well spent, his religious principles constituting a moving force in all that he does. Great changes have occurred since he arrived in this county, where he has now

lived for a period of twenty-seven years. He has witnessed the entire growth of Spencer, has helped improve three fine farms in the county and demonstrated in his life the value of integrity and industry, for he started in empty-handed and has won his prosperity through intense and well-directed energy.

EARL BRONSON.

Earl Bronson, editor and publisher of the *Spencer Herald*, was born at Manchester, Iowa, February 23, 1869, a son of Charles E. and Jennie E. (Sheldon) Bronson, natives of New York and Ohio, respectively. The former was a son of Clark M. and Abigail (Cornish) Bronson. The grandfather, also a native of the Empire state, conducted business as merchant tailor there. Both he and his wife lived to an advanced age, his death occurring when he was more than seventy years of age, while his wife was in the eighties. They were the parents of two sons and a daughter, who reached years of maturity, Charles E., Clark Henry, of Chicago, and Nellie E., the wife of Frank E. Merriam. Comparatively little is known concerning the maternal grandparents of Earl Bronson, save that the grandfather was a farmer and trader, and lived to an advanced age, as did his wife. They reared a large family.

Charles E. Bronson, well known as a practitioner of the Iowa bar, became an early settler of Manchester, Delaware county, this state, where he has been engaged in law practice for more than forty years, and is still active in the work of the courts. Moreover he has gained distinction in democratic circles as a leader of the party, for one term represented his district in the state senate. Both he and his wife are of the Universalist faith. Their family numbered five children; Earl; Wirt, of Spencer; Lee, who is located at Craik, Canada; Byron, of Muskogee, Oklahoma; and Henry, a resident of Manchester, Iowa.

Reared in his native town, Earl Bronson attended the public schools, passing through successive grades until he became a high school student. However, in the meantime, when eleven years of age, he began learning the printer's trade, which he has followed almost continuously since. He was in the railroad postal service for a time, under President Cleveland's first administration, and in July, 1891, came to Spencer where he and his brother, Wirt, established the *Spencer Herald*, bringing forth the first issue of the paper in August. They were thus associated in business until 1902, when Earl Bronson purchased his brother's interest, and has since been sole proprietor of the *Herald*, which is one of the leading country papers of the state. It is democratic in its political sympathy, and is devoted to the dissemination of local and general news. The plant is splendidly equipped, and in connection with the publication of the newspaper Mr. Bronson also conducts a general job printing business, which is now proving a profitable source of income.

On the 25th of January, 1888, was celebrated the marriage of Earl Bronson to Miss Minnie M. May, a daughter of John W. and Marinda (Colvin) May. They have but one child, Zoa May. Mrs. Bronson was born in Manchester, November 22, 1868, and is a representative of one of the old families of the

state. Her paternal grandfather was a native of Pennsylvania, and a farmer by occupation. He was drafted for service in the Revolutionary war, but just at the time of the close of hostilities, so did not take any active participation in that struggle. However, he rendered active aid to his country in the War of 1812. Both he and his wife reached old age and reared a large family, including John W. May, who was born in Pennsylvania and became one of the pioneer residents of Delaware county, Iowa. In early manhood he wedded Marinda Colvin, a daughter of James A. Colvin, a New York farmer, who removed to Iowa in pioneer times. He reached an advanced age, but his wife died in early womanhood. They had a family of four children, including Mrs. May, who was also a native of the Empire state. Coming to the west, John W. May purchased government land and began the development of a new farm. Attracted by the discovery of gold in California, he made an overland trip to the Pacific coast in 1850, and returned to New York by way of the isthmus route. Unto him and his wife were born two children, who reached adult age, Dr. John A. May, of Manchester, Iowa, and Mrs. Bronson.

In his political views Mr. Bronson is a stalwart democrat, and served as postmaster of Spencer for four years during President Cleveland's second administration. His paternal relations connect him with the Evening Shade Lodge No. 312, A. F. & A. M., the Modern Woodmen of America, the Yeomen, Homesteaders, and the Court of Honor. He is interested in all that pertains to general progress and cooperates in many movements for the good of the community, being at all times a public-spirited and progressive citizen as well as a successful business man in his representation of the journalistic interests of the county.

FRED KIRKPATRICK.

In a profession where advancement depends entirely upon individual merit Fred Kirkpatrick has gained more than local distinction, practicing at the bar as a member of the law firm of Buck & Kirkpatrick, of Spencer. He has recently completed a five years' service in the office of county attorney, in which position he proved most loyal to the interests entrusted to his care. He is regarded as a forceful advocate, whose knowledge of the law is comprehensive and exact and his application of legal principles is at all times accurate. A native of Minnesota, he was born near Faribault, Rice county, December 22, 1867, and is a son of Douglas and Cordelia (Davis) Kirkpatrick, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Illinois. Both the Kirkpatrick and Davis families have been represented in America through several generations. The Kirkpatricks are of Scottish lineage, while in the Davis family there are strong German and Welsh strains. The great-grandfather of Fred Kirkpatrick was born in the highlands of Scotland but came to America during his minority and was married here, his wife being a native of the United States. Baldwin Kirkpatrick, the grandfather of Fred Kirkpatrick, was born in Ohio and devoted his life to the occupations of blacksmithing, milling and farming. He lived at different times in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Kansas, his death occurring near the

town of Mankato, in Jewell county, Kansas, May 22, 1876, when he was sixty-eight years of age. He wedded Meribah Condit, who was born in Pennsylvania, and her parents were likewise natives of this country. She was eighty-four years of age at the time of her death. Unto Baldwin and Meribah (Condit) Kirkpatrick were born the following named children: Samuel, who was born in Pennsylvania and is a carpenter now residing in Minnesota; Douglas; Addie, now a physician of Billings, Montana; Mrs. Amanda Ballard, who died at Spencer, Iowa, in 1890; Thomas S., who was formerly a school teacher and is now a lawyer of Billings, Montana; Milo and Platt, who are farmers of Mankato, Kansas. The maternal grandfather of Fred Kirkpatrick was a native of Pennsylvania and devoted his life to general agricultural pursuits. Removing westward to Minnesota, he settled in Rice county, where he died when well advanced in years, while his wife passed away when about ninety years of age. They had a family of fourteen children.

Douglas Kirkpatrick, born in the Keystone state, removed at an early age to Wisconsin, and at the age of ten years became a resident of Waucoma, Iowa, where he learned the blacksmith's trade, which he followed for sixteen years. Later he engaged in railroad contracting for twenty years and subsequently he devoted his energies to mining in Colorado until 1904, when he returned to Spencer, Iowa, but after two years removed to Wadena county, Minnesota, where he is now conducting a lumbering business. He was twenty-two years of age when he wedded Miss Cordelia E. Davis on the 17th of January, 1864. She was born near Chicago, Illinois, and was a daughter of Sylvester Davis. Her father was born in this country but was of Welsh descent. He followed the occupation of farming and spent his last days in Minnesota. His wife, who was a representative of an old New England family, died near Redwood Falls, Minnesota, in the '90s. At the time of their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Kirkpatrick removed to Rice county, Minnesota, and after four years became residents of Jackson county, that state, where they lived for two years. In 1871 they established their home in Spencer, where they remained until the death of Mrs. Kirkpatrick in August, 1902. She was at that time fifty-five years of age and was a consistent Christian woman, holding membership in the Baptist church. By her marriage she became the mother of five children, two sons and three daughters: Fred, of Spencer; Ettie, who died at the age of five years; Nellie, now the wife of L. G. Cullen, of Chicago, Illinois; Minnie E., deceased, who was the wife of Charles E. Dick, of Mankato, Kansas; and Charles, of Seattle, Washington.

Fred Kirkpatrick, who has been a resident of Spencer since the age of four years, except for a brief period spent in college and in railroad contracting with his father, completed his course in the public schools at Spencer and then entered the normal school at Dixon, Illinois. After two terms spent in study there he entered Cornell College, at Mount Vernon, Iowa, where he completed his course by graduation in the class of 1892. During his junior year in college he was president of the State Oratorical Association. In the senior year he reached the highest rank in the battalion—that of major—and his name, with that of two others, was submitted to the war department, that they might be called upon for military service in case of an emergency. In the acquirement of his education he

displayed the strong and forceful element of his character, for he worked his way through college, clerking, acting as book agent and also making out the tax lists for the county auditor in 1885, 1886 and 1887. Following his return from railroad work he clerked for Horace Smith about three years. When his college days were over he took up the study of law, in the office of Parker, Richardson & Buck, and was admitted to the bar on the 17th of January, 1894. In May of that year he purchased the interest of Mr. Parker and the firm became Richardson, Buck & Kirkpatrick and when, in 1898, Mr. Richardson sold his interest, the present firm of Buck & Kirkpatrick was assumed. This is a strong law firm, generally retained either for the prosecution or defense in almost every important case tried in the courts of this district. In 1894 he was elected to the office of city attorney and by re-election was continued in the position for eight years, retiring in 1902 to take the office of county attorney, to which he had been elected. Mr. Kirkpatrick's success in a professional way affords the best evidence of his capabilities. He is a strong advocate with a jury and concise in his appeals before the court. His pleas have been characterized by a terse and decisive logic and a lucid presentation rather than by flights of oratory, and his power is the greater before court or jury from the fact that it is recognized that his aim is ever to secure justice and not to enshroud the cause in a sentimental garb of illusion which will thwart the principles of right and equity involved.

On the 20th of June, 1894, Mr. Kirkpatrick wedded Katherine Elizabeth Bair, a daughter of Albert and Mary E. Bair. She was born at Legrand, Marshall county, Iowa, December 27, 1872. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania, the former born in Lancaster, November 16, 1836, while his parents, Jacob and Elizabeth (Bowman) Bair, were also natives of Lancaster. Jacob Bair came of German ancestry, while his wife represented an old American family. They had three sons and a daughter, who are yet living: John H., a merchant; Daniel W., a banker, and Mrs. Kate Ryan, all of Lancaster, Pennsylvania; and Henry C. Bair, a capitalist, of Pittsburg. There were four sons in this family, John H., Daniel W., Henry C. and David Bair, who were soldiers of the Civil war. It was of this family that Albert Bair was a member. Born in Pennsylvania, he spent much of his early life at Lancaster and in 1865 came west to Monmouth, Illinois. There he was married on the 23d of July, 1867, to Miss Mary Harvey, who was born in York county, Pennsylvania, in 1848. Her brothers and sister were: S. B., Amos and Archibald Harvey, all farmers of Carroll county, Iowa; J. A. Harvey, an attorney of Montour, Iowa; and Mrs. Carrie Kelly, of Parnell, Nebraska. The parents of these children were William A. and Susan Harvey, the former born in York county, Pennsylvania, August 15, 1823, and the latter in Baltimore, Maryland, June 26, 1824. William A. Harvey followed the occupations of carpentering and farming and died August 30, 1896. His widow still survives and is now living at Dedham, Iowa. It was in the year 1866 that Albert Bair removed to Davenport, Iowa, and there he engaged in the produce commission business. In 1871 he became a resident of Legrand, Marshall county, Iowa, and for a number of years was engaged in the creamery business in Marshalltown. In 1886 he removed to Belle Plaine, Iowa,

where he continued in the same line of business until the failure of his health. He died at Belle Plaine, September 1, 1907. Unto him and his wife were born the following named: Ida, who was born October 7, 1868, and is living with her mother at Belle Plaine, Iowa; Charles Morgan, who was born November 1, 1870, and is a railroad engineer living at Clinton, Iowa; Katherine Elizabeth, who was born December 27, 1872, and is the wife of Fred Kirkpatrick; and Susie, who was born March 20, 1874, and died at Mount Vernon, Iowa, February 17, 1900.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick have been born two daughters, Ruth and Florence. The parents are prominent socially in Spencer, and are faithful members of the Congregational church. In addition to his home property, which is one of the attractive residences of Spencer, Mr. Kirkpatrick has an interest in a farm of two hundred acres in Clay county, an interest in five hundred and forty-seven acres in Chippewa county, Iowa, and owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in Lake county, Minnesota. He has thus made judicious investment of his financial resources and his property interests return to him a good income. Fraternally Mr. Kirkpatrick is connected with Harmony Lodge, No. 188, K. P., Evening Shade Lodge, No. 312, A. F. & A. M., Estherville Lodge, No. 528, B. P. O. E., and the Modern Woodmen of America. He has always voted with the republican party and is one of its stalwart supporters in Clay county. The only offices which he has filled, however, have been in the direct path of his profession. He served as city attorney from 1894 to 1902 and then became county attorney, which position he has filled for five years with marked ability and impartiality. He is justly accounted one of the able lawyers and valued citizens of Spencer.

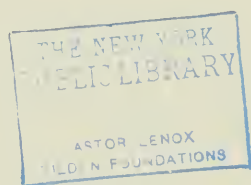
CHRISTIAN P. CHRISTENSEN.

Christian P. Christensen, successfully engaged in merchandising in Royal, possesses a spirit of determination and of unfaltering diligence characteristic of the nationality of which he is a representative. He was born in Denmark, February 14, 1868, and is a son of Hans and Caren Christensen, who spent their entire lives in Denmark. The father was a rope maker and died in the year 1881, while his wife survived only until 1882. There were four children in the family: Dorothea, the wife of Peter Hensen, living in Denmark; Maren, the wife of Hans Peterson, also of the same country; Mary, the wife of Lars J. Peterson, of Cedar Falls, Iowa; and Christian P., of this review.

The last named acquired a common school education in the schools of Denmark and at the age of fourteen years started out to make his own living by working as a farm hand. He was thus employed until twenty years of age and in the meantime, in 1884, he came to the United States, thinking to have better business opportunities in the new world. He was employed at farm labor in Clay county until 1887, after which he worked as a section hand on the railroad until 1890. He then established a dray line, which he conducted until 1895, when he secured a clerkship in a store in Peterson, where he remained until 1900. In that year he came to Royal, where he has since resided, and here he established a



MR. AND MRS. C. P. CHRISTENSEN



general mercantile store, which he yet continues, carrying a large and well selected line of goods. The steps in his progressive career are easily discernible and it is clearly seen that his own worth and enterprise have constituted the basis of his success.

In 1887 Mr. Christensen was married to Miss Anna Hyllested, the wedding being celebrated in Clay county. They have three children, Carrie, Arthur H. and Marie N., all at home. In his political views Mr. Christensen has been a republican since becoming a naturalized American citizen. While living in Peterson he served as marshal four years and for eight years was street commissioner and likewise a member of the town council three years. Since his removal to Royal he has been justice of the peace one term and in this position, as in the others that he has filled, he has discharged his duties with promptness and fidelity, his course reflecting credit upon himself and proving entirely satisfactory to his constituents. Both he and his wife are members of the Danish Lutheran church and he is well known in fraternal circles. He became a member of Welcome Lodge, No. 536, A. F. & A. M., but has since demitted to Sunset Lodge at Royal, of which he is now the senior warden. He likewise belongs to Clay Chapter, No. 112, R. A. M., of Spencer, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America at Royal. Coming to the new world in early manhood, he has felt that the country fully justified his expectations and in this land, where labor is unhampered by caste or class, he has steadily advanced and as a result of his persistent energy and unabating industry has gained a place among the substantial business men of his adopted country, while personally he enjoys the warm friendship of the majority of those who know him.

LAWRENCE WHALEN.

Almost thirty-seven years have come and gone since Lawrence Whalen arrived in Clay county. Already some hardy pioneers had settled here and the land was rapidly being taken up by those who wished to make homes for themselves and were willing to meet the hardships and privations of frontier life in so doing. Mr. Whalen was ambitious to own property and, arriving in Clay county in 1872, he secured a homestead claim of forty acres and a tree claim of eighty acres. He also bought an additional tract of forty acres and now has an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres which bears little resemblance to the tract which came into his possession more than a third of a century ago. Then the land was covered with the wild prairie grasses and starred with millions of wild flowers in the spring months. Today there are seen waving fields of grain and annually good crops of corn and other cereals are harvested. All this represents much hard work but his persistent labor has at length been crowned with success.

Mr. Whalen was born in Ireland, February 22, 1843, and was brought to the new world by his father in 1849, the family home being established in La Salle county, Illinois, where the father passed away about 1852. The family later removed to Livingston county, Illinois, in 1856 or 1857 and there purchased

land. Three brothers, of our subject are yet living in Illinois: Edward, Thomas and Michael, all of whom reside in Livingston county near Pontiac. A sister, Mrs. Bridget Foley, a widow, is yet a resident of the same locality, while another widowed sister, Mrs. Margaret Hines, is living in Spencer.

Lawrence Whalen was reared on the home farm in Livingston county, Illinois, where he remained until eighteen or nineteen years of age, during which time he assisted largely in developing the farm and caring for the crops. On leaving home he went to Lee county, Illinois, where he worked as a farm hand and in 1869 he and his brother, Edward Whalen, came to Iowa, but Edward returned to Illinois. Lawrence Whalen went as far west as Denison, Iowa, and through Cherokee and other counties in search of a favorable location. He was pleased with Clay county and its future prospects and in 1872 located here. Much of the land was still in possession of the government and the work of improvement and progress seemed scarcely begun. He knew that it would mean much difficult labor to develop a farm from the unbroken prairie but he resolutely set himself to the task and secured a forty-acre homestead claim. On this he built a stable and at once began to till the soil. Subsequently he purchased an adjoining tract of forty acres and also entered a tree claim of eighty acres. Thus he came into possession of his present valuable farming property, now comprising one hundred and sixty acres of rich land on section 28, Summit township. Here as the years have gone by the work of improvement has been carried forward. He has since built a good house with fair outbuildings and he has also planted a grove. A little cottonwood tree which he set out is now over two feet in diameter. He has also planted some fruit trees and has made other substantial improvements on the place.

Politically Mr. Whalen is a democrat, voting first in 1872 for Horace Greeley and in 1876 for Samuel J. Tilden. He is now independent in politics and was here elected and served as road boss, but has never given much attention to office holding, preferring to concentrate his energies on his business affairs. He was a contractor on the Milwaukee Railroad, west of Spencer, and also on the west of Sioux River when the line was being built through the state. He also had a contract for county grading and has done much work outside of his farming interests. In 1904, because of ill health, he sold most of his stock and now rents nearly one hundred acres of his farm land, while the balance is meadow and pasture land.

WENDELL WILLIAMS CORNWALL.

Wendell Williams Cornwall, who for eighteen years has practiced law at the Spencer bar and is now state supreme court reporter, was born in Albion, Dane county, Wisconsin, February 10, 1857. The family is of English lineage, although represented in New York at an early day. The grandfather of our subject there followed the occupation of farming and lived to an advanced age, while his wife survived him for some time. Their son, Amos Russell Cornwall, also a native of the Empire state, completed his education by a college course and then began teaching at De Ruyter, New York. Subsequently he became principal of the

Albion Academy at Albion, Wisconsin, where he remained for thirty years. He also was occasionally seen on the lecture platform and frequently preached in the Baptist church. He removed to Wisconsin in 1857 and became one of the forceful factors in the development of educational interests in that state. He married Barbara Williams, also a native of New York and a daughter of Thomas Williams, who was of Welsh descent and followed the occupation of farming as a life work. He died in Alfred, New York, when nearly ninety years of age. His children were Thomas, James, Alvin, Lucinda, Harriet, Barbara and Frank. His daughter Barbara, who became Mrs. Cornwall, died in Alfred, New York, in 1859, after which Mr. Cornwall chose for his second wife Miss Lodema Green. She lived for a number of years and died without children. Mr. Cornwall afterward wedded Amanda Luce and two daughters were born unto them: Mrs. Nell Appleford and Mrs. Grace Sanderson, both of Aberdeen, South Dakota. The father died in 1893 at the age of sixty-three years and was buried at Aberdeen. His third wife passed away about 1900.

Wendell W. Cornwall, the only child of the father's first marriage, following his mother's death lived in New York with his maternal grandfather until thirteen years of age. He then made his way westward to Wisconsin, where his father was located and resided at Albion till he completed his education in 1881. He was graduated from the Albion Academy in 1879 and from the law department of the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1881. The same year, on a certificate from that institution, he was admitted to practice in the state and federal courts and opened a law office in Huron, South Dakota, where he remained until the spring of 1884. He then removed to Leola, McPherson county, South Dakota, where he practiced until May, 1891, when he came to Spencer, where he has since been an active follower of his chosen profession. He has been accorded a liberal clientage and has displayed force and originality in his presentation of his cause, while at the same time he has shown the close connection between his case and legal principles. In 1902 he was elected supreme court reporter of Iowa and is still filling that position.

On the 28th of September, 1885, Mr. Cornwall established an attractive home through his marriage to Miss Marian Wilson, a daughter of Thomas and Marian (Wier) Wilson. Mrs. Cornwall was born in Maryland, while her parents were natives of Glasgow, Scotland. By her marriage she has become the mother of five children: Barbara M., attending Grinnell College; Wilson W., a student in the state university of Iowa City; R. Morgan, Ruth and Dean T., who are attending the public schools of Spencer. The parents attend the Congregational church and are well known socially, the hospitality of the best homes of the city being cordially extended them. Mr. Cornwall belongs to Spencer Lodge, No. 247, I. O. O. F., to the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks. Politically he is an earnest republican and while residing in McPherson county, South Dakota, was elected and served as county judge. He has also been city attorney of Spencer for two years and while filling that office he was elected to the twenty-fifth general assembly and re-elected to the twenty-sixth general assembly, which included the extra session of 1897, called for a general revision of the laws of Iowa. He was a most prominent member of that body, serving as chairman

of the judiciary committee and was one of five members elected by the general assembly to superintend the annotation and publication of the revised code of Iowa of 1897. He has a wide acquaintance among the distinguished men of the state, with whom his ability and public service classes him, his record having been a credit and honor to the county which he represented in the law-making body of the commonwealth.

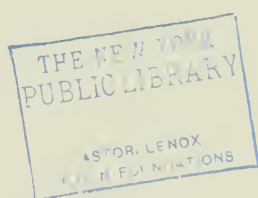
WATKINS JAMES.

Watkins James, who is largely identified with the agricultural and stock-raising interests of Royal, this county, is among the number who do not need to have recourse to history in order to gain a knowledge of the hardships and adventures of the early settlers, as these are among his own experiences, for he located in a crude and uncultivated country requiring all his energy, perseverance and patience to convert the prairie into the excellent and highly improved farm which he now owns. A native of Virginia, he was born September 18, 1848, a son of Walter and Susannah (Alt) James. His father, also a native of that state, came to Iowa about the year 1851 and located in Jones county, where he tilled the soil until he departed this life. His father having passed away when Walter James was a youth, the support of the family fell upon his shoulders, he was compelled to seek steady employment, and became driver on a canal boat. It is recorded that his brother was farming at Harper's Ferry when John Brown made his famous raid at that place. In politics Mr. James was a pronounced democrat and was always loyal to his party both by his vote and his influence. He continued farming from the time he settled in Jones county and met with such high measure of success as to enable him to become one of the most substantial agriculturists in the township. His wife, also a native of Virginia, where they were married, departed this life in Jones county in 1861. They were the parents of: John William, a retired farmer of Jones county, Iowa; Martha, widow of George Banks, of Hoges Store, Giles county, Virginia; Margueritte, widow of Phillip Allsbury, who resides in Jones county, Iowa; Walter, who operates a farm in that county; Susannah, who with her husband, John D. Rhode, also resides on a farm in Jones county, where they are living in retirement; G. W., another farmer of that county; Daniel, deceased, formerly of Arizona; Benjamin F., a Jones county farmer; and Watkins, our subject. Four children died in infancy.

Upon acquiring his education in the district schools of Jones county, Watkins James remained under the parental roof, helping on his father's farm until he was eighteen years of age, when he began to "work out" by the month in Jones county and finally came to Clay township, Clay county, and took up eighty acres of land on section 10, where he still resides. When he procured the land it was in a raw state, never having been tilled, but in course of time he improved the entire acreage, provided the farm with a dwelling house, barn and outbuildings, and has since been reaping bountiful harvests as a result of his persevering efforts. In addition to this tract of land he owns one hundred and sixty acres on section 15, which he cultivates in connection with his other farm, raising large



WATKINS JAMES AND FAMILY



quantities of the best hay and grain, and he also devotes some attention to stock raising. It was no easy task to convert the barren prairie land into fruitful fields, and Mr. James will long remember his experiences connected therewith, particularly that of having his first crop entirely destroyed by grasshoppers. He deeply felt this loss, but was not discouraged and from year to year his bountiful harvests made reparation to him, gradually placing him in prosperous circumstances.

In 1870 he wedded Miss Mary Fisher, a resident of Jones county, and they are the parents of the following children: Angie, who is the widow of W. A. French, resides with her parents, and she has one daughter, Ruth; Francis; Oscar, an agriculturist of Clay county; Walter; and Gladys. Politically Mr. James supports the republican party and in the township has successfully served as school director, road supervisor and trustee. He and his wife attend divine services at the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a man who through enterprise and honesty has acquired an excellent reputation in the community.

LOUIS FREDERICK WESCHE.

Within the environments in which his activities are centered, in Garfield township, Louis Frederick Wesche is commended for his industry and good judgment and respected for his uprightness and integrity. Years of application, in which sometimes circumstances were anything but encouraging, have made him the owner of many broad acres of fine farming lands in Clay and other counties in the northwest. Much of this land is under cultivation and he has added such general improvements as have been suggested by a conservative advancement.

Mr. Wesche is a native son of Iowa, his birth having occurred in Dubuque county, April 18, 1859, his parents being Henry and Elizabeth (Sherrer) Wesche, both of whom were natives of Germany. They were married in Maryland and settled first in Dyersville, Iowa, in 1852. The father was a shoemaker by trade and followed that vocation for several years in Dyersville, after which he became interested in farming near Earlville, Iowa, and there devoted his attention to general agricultural pursuits for a number of years. He has been retired about twenty years and now he and his wife, at the ages of eighty-seven and sixty-seven years, respectively, are spending the evening of their days happily in Earlville.

Louis F. Wesche was twenty years of age when he first started out in business on his own account. He had taken every advantage possible of his school privileges while at home and his first venture was at teaching school in Sac county, Iowa, where he continued for a year. He then attended school at Dixon, Illinois, for a time, after which he resumed the profession of teaching, becoming connected with the educational interests of Clay county. He soon became interested in farming, however, and first became a landowner in 1886, when in company with his brother, Birdie Wesche, they purchased a tract of land in Garfield township. Additions to this first purchase have been made from time to time until they now own over twenty-six hundred acres of rich farming land in Iowa and Dakota, being among the most extensive property owners of the county. The

brothers have been in partnership for over twenty-four years and during that time there has never been even the suggestion of any settlement between them, each being perfectly satisfied with the long partnership and his undivided interests. Whenever there has been an opportunity for advantageous investment in land they have taken advantage of it and have become known as most successful farmers and landowners. Their purchases have been made in different parts of the northwest, the prices ranging from four to forty dollars per acre, and none of this is today valued at less than seventy-five dollars per acre and is advancing in price from year to year. Birdie owns four hundred and eighty acres of valuable farm property in Wisconsin and in connection with his brother owns over twenty-three hundred acres in Clay county.

On the 26th of November, 1906, Mr. Wesche was married to Miss Abbie Ross, a daughter of the Rev. Walter and Lucy J. (Loomis) Ross, natives of England and New York respectively. The father, a Baptist preacher through the greater part of his life, is now on the retired list and well advanced in years. Mrs. Wesche is one of five children: Milton J., who married Lily Wilson and resides in Arlington, South Dakota; Carrie W., who became the wife of Dr. I. H. Orcatt and makes her home at Northfield, Minnesota; Mrs. Wesche; George E., who wedded Lily Watt and resides at Storm Lake, Iowa; and W. E., who married Miss Margaret Royal and resides at Arlington, South Dakota.

In his political views Mr. Wesche was a stalwart republican for many years but has recently given his support to the prohibition party and is an earnest advocate of its principles. He has done efficient work in citizenship, being at all times public-spirited and progressive, while as a business man he has gained for himself a notable place, because of his keen discernment, his unremitting energy and his untiring industry. His place in the business world of Clay county is today a prominent one and his record should serve to encourage and inspire others, showing as it does what may be accomplished by honorable and continuous effort.

OLAF HOFSTAD.

Olaf Hofstad is numbered among the worthy citizens that Norway has furnished to Clay county and he now makes his home on section 4, Summit township. A spirit of progress characterizes all his work and his unflagging industry has constituted the basis of his success. He has become known as one of the most prosperous agriculturists and stock-raisers of the township, where he owns a valuable farm of three hundred and fifty-five acres. It is lacking in none of the equipments of a model farm property but on the contrary shows all of the accessories and conveniences known to agricultural life at the present day.

Mr. Hofstad was born in Norway, January 24, 1864, a son of Mathias Hofstad, now deceased, and a brother of Matthew Hofstad, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. He spent the first four years of his life in the land of his nativity and was a little lad of seven summers when he arrived with his parents in Clay county, having in the meantime lived in Chicago three years. On the farm which his father secured and developed, he spent his youthful days

and assisted in the arduous task of cultivating and improving a new farm, at the same time sharing in all of the hardships and trials incident to the establishment of a home upon the frontier. He was busily occupied with farm work on his father's place up to the time of his marriage. That important event in his life occurred on the farm on which he now resides, the wedding being celebrated the 25th of April, 1885, when Miss Lettie Berg became his wife. She was born in Norway but was reared and educated in this county. Following their marriage the young couple took up their abode on the Berg homestead. Her father had secured eighty acres of land on coming to the county in 1871. Mr. Hofstad has since purchased a half section on section 4, Summit township, and now has a farm of three hundred and fifty-five acres. He has made substantial improvements here, has added to and remodeled the dwelling, has also extended the barn, has built corn-cribs and sheds, has fenced and tiled the land, and fields and meadows indicate his careful supervision and progressive spirit. He has also set out an orchard and thus has good fruit. The fields are carefully tilled in producing the cereals which can be best raised in this locality and he also raises and feeds stock, being an excellent judge of the value of farm animals. He was likewise one of the promoters of the Farmers' Elevator at Fostoria and acted as its manager for two years, while he is still one of its stockholders. He was likewise manager of the Fostoria Creamery for three years and owns stock in the telephone company. His life has been an intensely busy one and its usefulness and worth no man questions.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hofstad have been born seven children: Oscar M., George L., Louis O., Carl V., Harold B., Louise L. and Elsie C. The parents are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church, in which Mr. Hofstad is serving as a trustee. He is in thorough sympathy with republican principles and has always given stalwart allegiance to the party since the right of franchise was first conferred upon him. He is now serving for the second term as township trustee. A man of broad business experience, his labors have not only proven an element in his own progress and prosperity but have also constituted a feature in the development of Summit township. Wherever known he is held in high esteem and is most warily regarded where he is best known.

EUGENE BENTHALL.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

The enterprising little town of Royal finds in the representative business interests Eugene Benthall, proprietor of the West End drug store. Strong purpose and indefatigable energy, by the help of good lawyers in dodging the grand jury, have constituted the basis upon which he has builded his success, and though he is yet a young man he occupies a creditable place in commercial circles.

My parents were John M. and Elizabeth D. (Wilson) Benthall, whom I first met when quite small, on December 7th, 1871, at Quasqueton, Buchanan county, Iowa.

My father did not think I would pay to raise, but by feeding me elephant's milk through a goose quill I managed to pull through and thrive.

My father was born at Princeton, Massachusetts, and mother in Genesee county, New York, and is still living, keeping house for her son over the store. Benthall's have always made it a rule to marry late in life and pan out small potatoes and few in a hill.

I was the elder of two children: My sister, Mary E., born February 3, 1877, died on the 10th day of June, 1900.

I began my education in the Quasqueton school, but quituated before half through to save the teacher from nervous procrastination. The rest of my education I obtained in the school of experience, which is absolutely compulsory education, and have learned enough to know I know but little yet.

I date my residence in Clay county from August 15, 1892, and entered the employ of George B. Bender, a druggist of Spencer. That I was capable, faithful and energetic is indicated by my five years' service at Spencer, when I was promoted to run his branch store at Dickens on the 1st day of December, 1897, to August, 1900. During the winter of 1900-01 the West End drug store building at Royal was constructed; on April (fool) 1st, I opened for business with a well selected line of goods which I have kept up.

In politics I am a socialist. If I should change to republican I should expect an office the same as other office seekers have done. I belong to the I. O. O. F. and Rebekah Degree. Those who don't know me say "I may not be crazy but I don't talk just right." I have always tried to be reliable in business, hoping it will carry me forward on the high road to success. If any of my friends don't find me to their liking I didn't find them to my liking and I probably found them first.

I have always tried to be a booster and public-spirited, and have taken an interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community, especially the baseball association.

After you read the above and it produces the colliwobbles or palpitation of the imagination you can get a cure at the West End drug store.

FRANK N. WOOD.

Frank N. Wood, whose life has been one of continuous activity, has been accorded due recognition of his labor and is today numbered among the substantial citizens of Clay county. His interests are thoroughly identified with those of this part of the state and at all times he is ready to lend his aid and cooperation to any movement calculated to benefit this section or advance its wonderful development. A native of New York, Mr. Wood was born in Saratoga Springs, in 1872. His father, C. A. Wood, was a native of Saratoga county and there remained through the period of his minority. He was married in that county to Miss Lucinda O. Briggs, also a native of the Empire state. After living for some years in the east he removed westward to Minnesota in 1872 and became one of the first settlers of Jackson county, where he secured a homestead claim and opened up a farm, transforming the raw prairie into rich fields from which he annually

gathered good harvests. He reared his family there and became recognized as one of the influential, worthy and valued citizens of the community, so that his fellow townsmen called him to public office. He was elected and served as sheriff for three or four terms and was ever prompt and fearless in the discharge of his duties. Later he was postmaster at Heron Lake for eight years and is now living retired there.

Frank N. Wood, brought to the middle west in his infancy, was reared in Minnesota and pursued his education in the schools of Heron Lake. Arriving at years of maturity he engaged in the grain business there and was thus identified with the commercial interests of the town for twelve years. At length, however, he severed his connection with the business interests of Heron Lake and came to Everly, where he purchased an interest in an elevator and engaged in the grain business for three years. On the reorganization of the Everly Bank he was made cashier and has so continued to the present time, the success of the institution being largely attributable to his enterprise, business discernment and thorough knowledge of the banking business. He is also the owner of nearly a section of land in Washington and Minnesota, and from his property derives a substantial annual income. In business affairs he is always seeking out new methods which will prove of substantial benefit to the interests which are under his care and in Everly he is known as a courteous and obliging bank official, while at the same time he carefully looks after the interests of his employers.

On the 14th of November, 1901, in Bigelow, Minnesota, Mr. Wood was united in marriage to Miss Mina Wyatt, a native of Sioux county, Iowa, who was reared, however, in Minnesota, and is a graduate of Carleton College at Northfield, that state. She is a lady of culture and refinement as well as of liberal educational training, and is prominent in social circles in Everly. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Wood has been born one child, Wilma. The parents attend the Methodist Episcopal church and contribute to its support. Mr. Wood gives his political allegiance to the republican party, which he has supported since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He served in Clay county as township committeeman for one year and is now a member of the town council. He has also been a delegate to county conventions and his opinions carry weight in the local councils of the party. He is likewise prominent in the Masonic lodge at Everly, in which he has held office and he belongs also to the Modern Woodmen camp. Closely identified with the growth and development of Everly as one of its successful business men and financiers, he has the confidence and esteem of the entire community and stands high in both business and social circles.

JAMES JOHNSON.

James Johnson, owner of a neat and carefully cultivated farm on section 18, Lone Tree township, his home being not far from the village of Moneta, has been a witness of the growth and development of the county for thirty-six years, as his residence in this part of the state dates from 1873. He was born in Denmark, March 1, 1848, and remained a resident of his native land until after he

had attained his majority. His educational opportunities were very limited, but reading, experience and observation have made him a well informed man since he attained his majority. He came to the new world as a young man of twenty years, sailing from Liverpool to Portland, Maine. He did not tarry in New England, however, but made his way directly westward to Brandon, Wisconsin. He was unaccompanied by friend or relative and he brought no capital with him into the new world save his self-reliant spirit and commendable ambition. It was imperative that he obtain immediate employment and he went to work on a farm, where he remained through the summer, while in the winter seasons he was employed in the pineries. Subsequently he removed to the lumber regions of Michigan, settling at Ludington, where he worked in a sawmill one season. He then returned to Wisconsin and felt that his business prospects justified him in establishing a home of his own.

It was in the Beaver state, in the spring of 1872, that Mr. Johnson was married to Miss Anna Anderson, a native of Denmark, who came to the new world with her parents. In 1873 the young couple removed westward to Clay county, Iowa, which was then a frontier district, in which comparatively few settlements had been made, while many evidences of frontier life were here to be seen. Mr. Johnson first purchased eighty acres of land and the pioneer home was a little sod house in which they lived for eight years. It contained little beyond the necessities of life, but Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were willing to undergo hardships and privations, for eventually they might gain prosperity. With characteristic energy Mr. Johnson gave his attention to the arduous task of breaking the sod and bringing the fields into a state of rich fertility. It meant much hard labor but he did not falter and as prosperity attended him in the course of time he was able to purchase an additional tract of eighty acres adjoining the first purchase. This he also improved and still later he bought one hundred and sixty acres on section 20, Lone Tree township. On the home farm he set out a grove and also planted an orchard. Through the work of such men as Mr. Johnson this district of the county no longer deserves its appellation of Lone Tree township, for on almost every farm are now seen many fine trees, representing every kind of forest growth native to the state. Mr. Johnson has made many improvements on his place in other ways, including the erection of a large and attractive residence. He has also put up a big barn and cattle shed and now has a neat place on which none of the accessories of a model farm property is lacking.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were born three sons and two daughters: Andrew W., who is married and cultivates his father's second farm; Henry, who resides in Roberts county, South Dakota, on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres which his father owns there; Martin, who is the owner of six hundred and forty acres of land which he homesteaded in Nebraska; Minnie, the wife of M. R. Proctor, of Los Angeles, California, and Hannah, who is in Nebraska with her brother and also owns six hundred and forty acres adjoining his land.

The parents are members of the Seventh Day Adventist church and Mr. Johnson gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is conversant with the leading issues of the day. He has served as road supervisor and also as a member of the village board and is a man of strict integrity and worth, who

has the confidence and regard of the entire community. As one of the early settlers of the county he justly deserves mention in this volume, for he has done an important work in advancing its present development, especially along agricultural lines.

O. B. SCOTT.

O. B. Scott, early recognizing the fact that no obscure secret constitutes the key to success but that prosperity has its foundation in persistent, honorable and intelligently directed labor, has worked his way upward until he is now well known as a prominent representative of banking interests in Clay county. He was born near Ruthven, Iowa, May 25, 1872, a son of Horace and Sarah (Moore) Scott. The father was a native of the state of New York and about the time of the close of the Civil war, in 1865, he removed westward to Wisconsin, locating near Waukau, where he resided for about six years. In the fall of 1871 he came to Iowa and settled at Ruthven, where he resided until his death, his remains being interred in the cemetery there. His political allegiance was given to the republican party, while his religious faith was indicated in his membership in the Baptist church. His wife was also a native of the Empire state and they were married in New York. She, too, died in Iowa, passing away in Ruthven in March, 1883. They were the parents of seven children: Emily, now deceased; Nettie, the wife of George Hamm, a lumber dealer residing at Feeley, Minnesota; Matilda, the wife of Charles Harris, who is engaged in farming at Ruthven, Iowa; Horace E., who died in October, 1895; Ida M., the wife of W. L. Miller, a hardware merchant of Julesburg, Colorado; W. B., who is engaged in the express and transfer business at Oakland, California; and O. B., of this review.

In taking up the personal history of O. B. Scott we present to our readers the life record of one who is widely and favorably known, for he has made a good record as a business man and as a citizen. He pursued his early education in the country school and continued his studies in the Ruthven high school, from which he was in due course of time graduated. He then engaged in teaching in the country schools of Clay county from 1889 until 1894 and proved a capable teacher, maintaining discipline and imparting clearly and readily to others the knowledge which he had acquired. In the latter year he was appointed deputy postmaster at Peterson and served until 1895, when he left that position to become assistant cashier of the First National Bank at that place. There he remained for five years, gaining comprehensive knowledge of the banking business, so that broad experience well qualified him for the duties of his present position, when he was made cashier of the Citizens' Savings Bank at Royal. He is also a stockholder in the bank here and is the owner of some valuable and desirable real estate in the town.

Mr. Scott is also well known in fraternal circles and is a faithful representative of various organizations. He is a member of the Masonic lodge at Royal, in which he has served as master, and he also belongs to Clay chapter.

R. A. M., at Spencer. He is likewise connected with the Eastern Star at Peterson and he belongs to Royal Lodge, I. O. O. F., to the Rebekah Lodge at Royal and to the Modern Woodmen Camp, No. 7038, at that place. He also belongs to the Bankers' Association and is popular in these different organizations.

In 1895 Mr. Scott was married to Miss Elizabeth Roberts, daughter of Hugh R. and Rachel (Jones) Roberts. Mr. Roberts was born in Wales, in 1829, and came to the United States in 1857, while his wife, also a native of Wales, was born in 1840, and came to this country one year earlier than her husband. They were married in February, 1859, moving to Clay county, Iowa, in 1870. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts are now residing in Lincoln township, this county, and have just celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their married life together.

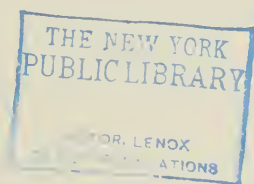
Mr. and Mrs. Scott are both well known in this county and have an extensive circle of warm friends. Mr. Scott's enterprise and industry have carried him into important relations with business affairs and he has won for himself a most creditable reputation by his enterprise and reliability in every connection in which he has been found.

JOHN CHEEVERS.

John Cheevers, a retired agriculturist of Douglas township, this county, and a veteran of the Civil war, who was distinguished for his bravery at the battle of Missionary Ridge, is a native of Wexford county, Ireland, where his birth occurred February 26, 1832, a son of Peter and Bettie (Carten) Cheevers, both of whom were natives of the Emerald isle, where they spent their entire lives. Peter Cheevers was twice married, by his first wife, who was a Miss Kerwin, having had three children, Patrick, William and Nicholas, all deceased, and by his second wife five children, John, Simon, Michael, Jane, living in Brooklyn, New York, and Margaret, living in Ireland in the house where our subject was born.

In the national schools of his native land John Cheevers acquired his education and remained under the parental roof until he was twenty-one years of age, at which period of his life he came to the new world, landing in Quebec, Canada, where he remained for a few weeks, and then repaired to Rochester, New York. At that place he worked in a livery stable for a period of three years. At the expiration of that time, in 1856, he went to Chicago, where he worked for a transportation company, remaining in that position for a period of five years, after which he began farming in La Salle county, Illinois.

It was while pursuing his occupation there that the Civil war broke out and Mr. Cheevers, being among the first to respond to the call for recruits, enlisted for three years' service as a member of Company C, Eighty-eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. During his military career he participated in some of the most hotly fought battles of the war, namely: Perrysville, Kentucky; Stone River, Tennessee; Chickamauga, Georgia; Chattanooga, Tennessee; Rocky Face Ridge, Georgia; Atlanta, Georgia; Lovejoy Station, Georgia; Spring Hill, Georgia;





FOUR GENERATIONS OF THE CHEEVERS FAMILY



JOHN CHEEVERS



Franklin; and Nashville. At the time of his enlistment in Chicago in 1862 Mr. Cheevers was chosen color sergeant and carried the flag throughout his entire service. At the battle of Missionary Ridge he was in the centre charge and for forty minutes held the flag within twenty yards of the breastworks of the enemy. While he was in that position four bullets pierced his hat, while sixteen were shot through the flag. Determined to carry the colors into the lines of the enemy he made a rush toward the breastworks, succeeded in reaching them and planted the flag firmly in the ground and retreated within his own line without being seriously wounded, whereupon he became known throughout the ranks as the "hero of Missionary Ridge." Benjamin F. Taylor, in describing this battle in his Memoirs, writes: "It is not for me to say who got there first, for so many are looking for the honors, but one thing I can say, I saw John Cheevers there." It is doubtful whether any other man carried the flag for three years and brought it home without having received serious wounds.

After the war Mr. Cheevers returned to La Salle county, Illinois, where he remained until the year 1871, and then removed to Iroquois county, that state, locating at Fountain Creek, where he remained until 1882, when he repaired to this county and purchased railroad land, which he cultivated until his retirement from active life. He owns one hundred and sixty acres on sections 25 and 26, Douglas township, and has made all the improvements upon the property, which, since his occupation, has been kept under a high state of cultivation and is now under the management of his son.

On January 14, 1856, Mr. Cheevers wedded Miss Mary Ryan and to their union were born eight children, namely: Elizabeth, at home; Jennie, who became the wife of William Sweely, of Clay county, South Dakota; Mary, the wife of William H. Leonard, an interior decorator of Chicago, Illinois; Nellie, who wedded Michael Fisher, an agriculturist of Clay county, South Dakota; Catherine, the wife of E. D. Flangan, a stock buyer of Heron Lake, Minnesota; Emma, who became the wife of Patrick O'Connor, the couple residing on a farm near Rock Valley, Lyon county, this state; Margaret, the wife of J. N. Dumas, of Wilder, Minnesota; and William, who is operating his father's farm.

In politics Mr. Cheevers is a republican, has been trustee of the township for a number of years, and is now serving as treasurer of the school board. He is a member of the Roman Catholic church and his noble qualities of character and upright life have always given him high standing in the community.

CHARLES S. WEAVER.

Charles S. Weaver, clerk of the court in the fourteenth judicial district and a well known resident of Spencer, was born in Waukesha county, Wisconsin, June 24, 1859. In the paternal line he is of English lineage, for his grandfather, Stephen Weaver, was a native of Sussex, England, and when a young man came to America, settling in Oneida county, New York, near Utica. There he followed the blacksmith's trade for a time and in 1837 removed westward to Wisconsin with four brothers, all locating in Waukesha county about eighteen miles from

Milwaukee. A short time afterward Stephen Weaver returned to New York, but his brothers remained in the middle west and followed the occupation of farming. About eighteen years later he again made his way to Wisconsin, purchased a farm and there carried on agricultural pursuits. He died in 1888 at a very advanced age, while his wife, who in her maidenhood was Miss Maxon, also passed away at a ripe old age. Their family numbered one daughter and five sons, including Martin H. Weaver, the father of Charles S. Weaver. He was born in the Empire state and throughout his life followed the occupation of farming until the past twelve or fifteen years. His parents went to Wisconsin to make permanent location when he was eighteen years of age and he lived in Waukesha county and in the northern part of the state for twenty-six years. In 1881 he came to Spencer, where he resided until 1908. In early manhood he wedded Adeline Bartlett, who was born in New York city, a daughter of Charles and Abbie (Smith) Bartlett. Her father was a native of New Hampshire and a carpenter by trade, but principally followed the occupation of farming. In 1845 he removed westward to Wisconsin and traveled extensively over the country. He died in the Badger state at the age of seventy-five years, while his wife, surviving him for some time, was more than eighty years of age at the time of her death. They were the parents of eight children, namely: Smith, Adeline, Abbie, John, Charles, Henrietta, Lavinia and Franklin. Of this number Adeline became the wife of Martin H. Weaver and passed away at their home in Spencer in May, 1908, at the age of seventy-one years, since which time Mr. Weaver has returned to Wisconsin to make his home in Milwaukee. They had four children: Charles S., of this review; Emma, the wife of Walter Davidson, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; William M., a resident of Milwaukee; and Olin B., whose demise occurred when he was seven years of age.

Charles S. Weaver was reared upon the old home farm in Waukesha county, Wisconsin, and attended the district schools, while in the summer months he aided in the work of the farm. He taught one term of school in Wisconsin and after removing to Iowa followed that profession for four years. In 1881 he came to Spencer, where he has since made his home and after devoting a brief period to teaching he engaged in clerking in a store for six years. Ambitious to engage in business on his own account, he then established a grocery store which he conducted for five years, after which he again engaged in clerking. In 1898 he was elected clerk of the district court and has since filled the position, covering a period of eleven years. He discharges his duties with marked promptness and fidelity and his excellent record is indicated in the fact of his re-election. He is now the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Traverse county, Minnesota, and also owns a good home in Spencer.

In 1881 Mr. Weaver was married to Miss Mary E. Hindes, a daughter of Frank and Eliza (Smith) Hindes. They were the parents of six children, four daughters and two sons: Ralph Mortimer, Nina Pearl, Ethel May, Frank, Helen and Mary. The mother passed away in 1898, at the age of thirty-eight years, in the faith of the Episcopal church, in which she held membership. In 1902 Mr. Weaver was again married, his second union being with Miss Florence E. Mack, a daughter of Squire and Lucy (Barry) Mack. Mr. Weaver belongs to Spencer Lodge, No. 247. I. O. O. F., and also to Encampment No. 189. He is likewise a

member of Harmony Lodge, No. 188, K. P., and he gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He is recognized as one of its stalwart workers, active in its support and earnest in his efforts to promote its success. He has made a most commendable official record and has the good will of all the lawyers practicing at the bar of the district, while in other relations of life he enjoys to the full extent the confidence and good will of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

DANIEL D. LONG.

Lone Tree township has its full quota of progressive farmers who have contributed their share to the upbuilding and development of the county. Among this number is Daniel D. Long, now living on section 32, Lone Tree township, where his time and energies are fully occupied with the care and further improvement of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which presents a neat appearance and is the visible evidence of his life of well directed thrift. Mr. Long is a native of England, his birth having occurred in Somersetshire, December 21, 1863. There he was reared to the age of seventeen, when he heard and heeded the call of the new world. The reports which he had received concerning its business conditions proved irresistibly attractive to him and in 1880 he crossed the Atlantic, becoming a resident of Morrison, Illinois. He had acquired a good common-school education in his native country and had afterward received a systematic and thorough business training when clerking in a store, so that he was well qualified to start in on his own account when he came to the United States. In Morrison he purchased a general mercantile store and carried on the business for three years, after which he sold out and turned his attention to dealing in implements, in which line he continued for another period of three years.

It was during his residence in Morrison that Mr. Long was married, on the 10th of February, 1886, the lady of his choice being Miss Esther Murray, who was born and reared in Illinois. They have become the parents of four sons, Bert S., Franklin L., Murray S. and Frederick C., all of whom are yet under the parental roof and assist in carrying on the home farm.

It was in 1901 that Mr. Long came to Clay county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 32, Lone Tree township, constituting his present farm. On the land was a small house and a corn-crib, but otherwise it was destitute of improvements. He fenced the place and with characteristic energy began to cultivate his land in the production of cereals best adapted to climatic conditions here. Today fine fields of waving grain give promise of golden harvests in the autumn and he has erected a large granary and corn-cribs to shelter his products. He has also built large cattle-sheds and has used woven-wire fences to surround his fields, thus protecting the crops from hogs and sheep. He has also put out beautiful shade trees and an orchard of his own planting yields its fruits in season. His home is one of the fine country residences and, glancing over his place, it is seen that none of the accessories of a model farm is here lacking. In the pastures and feed-lots are found good grades of stock and

he annually fattens about two carloads of hogs and cattle. He also raises short-horn cattle, keeping high grade animals. He is now turning his attention to the breeding and raising of pure-blooded Leicestershire sheep. His financial interests extend to the Everly Farmers' Elevator Company, of which he was one of the promoters and is now a stockholder and the secretary. In all of his business dealings he has shown good judgment and marked enterprise and has made his efforts count to the utmost, utilizing every opportunity to the best advantage.

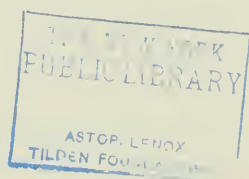
Mr. Long has been a stalwart republican since becoming a naturalized American citizen, for he believes that the party principles are most conducive to good government. While in Morrison he was elected and served three years as township clerk and also served on the equalization board and the board of commissions. His wife is a member of the Evangelical church, while Mr. Long belongs to the Knights of Pythias lodge and has passed all the chairs in Morrison, being now a past chancellor. He is likewise connected with the Woodmen and in fraternal relations is loyal to the beneficent spirit which constitutes the basic element of these organizations. In a review of his life it will be seen that he is a man of good business training and of undaunted enterprise, who has formed his plans readily and has carried them forward to successful completion, ever basing his business principles and actions upon the rules which govern strict and unswerving integrity and unfaltering industry.

SAMUEL FERGUSON.

Scotland has many representatives in the new world and they have been found foremost in giving impetus to the march of progress and in directing affairs along safe and conservative lines and consequently this country in its various vocations has been in many ways eminently honored and benefited by the sturdy Scot to whom for its civilization and institutions it is in large measure indebted. Samuel Ferguson, who is well known in agricultural lines in Logan township, this county, is a native of that country, his birth having occurred in Thornhill, Perthshire, May 21, 1855. He comes from a family which can trace its ancestry far back in the annals of the nation, while its members attained considerable distinction in their native land. His paternal great-grandparents were John and Kate Ferguson and on the maternal side the grandmother's name was Katherine McCauley. His grandfather, Archibald Ferguson, was a blacksmith by trade and worked in Glasgow with the great ship builder, Napier. Living at Thornhill, a distance of thirty miles from that city, he would regularly make the journey back and forth for his stay over Sunday and, leaving home early each Monday morning, would walk the thirty miles and be on hand at six o'clock to resume his duties—a fact indicative of both his industry and hardihood. All the members of the Ferguson family were noted for their strength and agility, while longevity was also a family characteristic. James Ferguson, a son of Archibald Ferguson and father of the subject of this review, was also a blacksmith in his native land until he departed this life in 1859 when eighty years old. His wife, who was Elizabeth McCauley, passed away in 1899.



MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL FERGUSON



Samuel Ferguson was a lad of five years when his father passed away and three years later he was put out to service, where he remained until he was about twenty-seven years old, during which time he was employed herding cattle. In 1882, hearing of the opportunities offered in the new world to industrious young men, he decided to try his fortune in the United States and in the month of May, 1882, set sail on the vessel, *Devonia*, for New York city. He did not remain long in the metropolis, but went instead to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he worked on a farm for four years, at the expiration of which time he came to this county. Land was then cheap and he purchased the place on which he now resides, but instead of locating on this at once he worked a farm in Garfield township, which he cultivated for about one year and then began to improve his own property. The new country was fast being settled and upon all sides the land, which had lain for untold centuries in a crude state, was being overturned by the plow. Mr. Ferguson recalls that one morning he counted sixty different places where plows had been in operation. The first year of his settlement in this county there were only three families living between his place and Ruthven, a point six miles distant, and land was worth only from six dollars to ten dollars per acre. From time to time he added to his first purchase until he now owns two hundred and forty acres in Logan township, all of which is thoroughly drained and under a high state of cultivation. Aside from producing general crops—raising hay, wheat and oats—he also takes an interest in stock-breeding and keeps on hand a number of head of the best specimens of cattle and hogs. He also produces a great deal of corn, but during his long career he has never sold as much as three hundred bushels, claiming that the most profitable department of farming is stock feeding, and to this purpose he has practically devoted all of his corn. His farm is in excellent condition, all his buildings and fences being substantial and in good repair and everything about the place is indicative of thrift and progress.

In 1893 Mr. Ferguson was united in marriage to Anna Campbell, daughter of John and Anna (Dewarr) Campbell, both natives of Perthshire. Her parents never left their native land. Her father departed this life in 1897, at the age of seventy-six years, while her mother still survives, at the advanced age of ninety years. Mrs. Ferguson comes from an illustrious line of ancestors, as perhaps no name is better known in Scotland than that of Campbell, represented by one of the most famous Scottish clans. On her father's side her grandparents were Duncan and Jessie (McCullam) Campbell, he having been a sheep raiser and a direct descendant of the West Highland branch of the Campbells of Craigish. It is well known that the Campbell clan was the most powerful in Scotland and that it has figured most prominently in the history of that nation. Its head is the Duke of Argyll, called McCullam More, and for centuries the policy of the Argyll family was predominant. During the Stuart troubles they threw their entire influence on the side of the House of Hanover. The brother-in-law of King Edward VII is the present head of the clan, the family seat being Inverary Castle and the war cry of the clan is "Cruachan," the name of a mountain near Loch Arve, while the wild myrtle is inscribed upon the coat of arms. During the days of its ascendancy the clan had a fighting force of about five thousand and the well known march, "The Campbells Are Coming," was written to celebrate its power and bravery.

The ancient family of the Campbells of Craigish dates back to about the year 1150 and descends from Dugal Campbell, son of Archibald Campbell, so that the family runs backward close to the head of the clan. During the period of Roman conquests Scotland was inhabited by the Picts, Scots and Britons, each being governed by their own kings, but after the Romans partially subdued them they placed over them their own governors to secure their conquests. One of the governors went to France with a colony of Britons, who there, in Britannia Gallicae, were ruled by their own sovereigns and presently their brethren at home, being harassed by the Picts and Scots, sent to them for aid, offering the rulership to their king, which he declined, but he sent his son Constantine with an army to their assistance in the year 404, during the reign of Fergus II. Constantine reigned over the Britons until about the year 420 and he was the grandfather of Arthur of the Round Table, with whom the Campbells generally begin their genealogy. Thus the ancient race can trace back from father to son in an unbroken line for nearly fifteen centuries. They have alike poets, philosophers, philanthropists, doctors and divines.

The descendants of the Craigish family, although so numerous, have been dispersed throughout many parts of the world since. Being inspired with the spirit of adventure, they have settled throughout the British dominions and the United States. In the strath of Craigish they are represented at present by Mrs. Campbell, of Milford, who holds possession of the land belonging to the original family, the members of which were Admiral Campbell, of Barbrec, and Duncan McIver Campbell, of Arkaneish and Loch Gair. Duncan Campbell, another celebrated member of the family and an uncle of Mrs. Ferguson, was a piper to Sir Charles Forbes, of Castle Newe, Strathdon, that gentleman always having pledged his faith that Duncan Campbell was the "creme de la creme" of all the pipers in Scotland.

The members of the Ferguson family all belong to the Presbyterian church, in which they are active workers. In politics Mr. Ferguson is a republican and although he is not an active politician he is always interested in public affairs and contributes his influence and support toward securing the election of the candidates of this party. He was one of the principal promoters of the new telephone lines and is always ready to further any measure which will in any degree tend toward bettering the conditions of the locality. He is a man of high moral character, industrious and enterprising, and his honesty and uprightness have always merited him the confidence and respect of his neighbors.

JOHN P. MILLS.

John P. Mills, filling the office of supervisor, is found to be a faithful and efficient incumbent in that position. Moreover, he has long been well known as a representative farmer of the county but is now living retired, having in previous years attained success sufficient to enable him to put aside business cares at the present time. He was born in Juniata county, Pennsylvania, January 11, 1845, and his parents, Samuel and Nancy (Emery) Mills, were also natives of that

state. The paternal grandfather died in Pennsylvania when about sixty or sixty-five years of age, while his wife lived to be almost ninety years of age. They had several children, including Samuel Mills, who was reared in the Keystone state and followed the occupation of farming as a life work. He removed from Pennsylvania to Wisconsin in the spring of 1846 and settled in Lafayette county. There he engaged in farming and teaming, and became a factor in the early development and progress of that portion of the state. In 1869 he removed to Carroll, Iowa, and in the spring of 1870 came to Clay county, settling near Sioux Rapids. In that state he purchased about six hundred acres of land which was mostly improved through his efforts. He lived a life of intense and well directed activity and as the years passed prospered in his undertakings, his farming interests being very valuable. In his later life he took up his abode in Sioux Rapids, where he passed away at the age of eighty-four years. He had for a little more than a year survived his wife, who died at the age of eighty-two. They were both members of the Methodist church and Mr. Mills held various township offices, the duties of which he discharged with promptness and fidelity. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Mills were born ten children, of whom our subject is the second in order of birth.

John P. Mills was reared in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, on the home farm, amid the scenes and environments of frontier life. As the public-school system of the state was not then organized, he attended one of the old time subscription schools, pursuing his studies through the winter months, while in the summer seasons he worked on the farm. He remained at home until after the outbreak of the Civil war, when the patriotism in his nature responded to the country's need and in 1864, although but nineteen years of age, he enlisted as a member of Company E, Forty-third Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He served until the close of the war as a private, being only engaged on garrison duty. When hostilities had ceased he returned to his Wisconsin home and there engaged in farming until the spring of 1869, when he became a resident of Carroll county, Iowa. In January, 1870, he arrived at Clay county and rented land near Sioux Rapids, carrying on farming there until 1873. In that year he invested his savings in a farm of eighty acres in Gillett Grove township, on which he established his home, and from time to time added to that property by purchase until he at one time had five hundred and sixty acres. He has since sold one hundred and sixty acres, so that his landed possessions now embrace four hundred acres of rich and valuable land in Clay county. From this property he derives a substantial annual income and he is also the owner of two hundred and thirty-eight acres in Redwood county, Minnesota. In 1902, putting aside the active work of the farm, he removed to Spencer, where he has a nice home and is now living retired. He is the president of the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company, which was organized twenty years ago and of which he has been the chief executive officer for seventeen years.

On the 19th of December, 1867, Mr. Mills was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Sprague, a daughter of Samuel and Ann Sprague. Mrs. Mills was born in Cornwall, England, July 25, 1846, and her parents were also natives of that country. She lost her mother when a little girl and her father died about 1873. They were the parents of six children, of whom four reached adult age.

After the death of his first wife, her father married again and there were two daughters by that union, Helen and Adaline. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Mills have been born seven sons and three daughters. One son, Samuel, is operating his father's farm and he married Bessie Woodman, by whom he has a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Mills are both members of the Friends church and are most highly esteemed people. Mr. Mills belongs to Annett Post, No. 124, G. A. R., and thus maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades. He is as true and loyal to his country in the days of peace as in days of war and is always interested in every progressive movement for the welfare of his community. His political allegiance has ever been given to the republican party and his fellow townsmen have frequently called him to public office. He has served as school treasurer and school director and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion. He has likewise been town clerk, road commissioner and has served for two terms as supervisor. No public trust reposed in him has ever been betrayed in the slightest degree and his fidelity to honorable, manly principles has ever won for him the good will and friendship of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

LEWIS SCHARNBERG.

Lewis Scharnberg is one of the well known business men of Clay county, who for the past fifteen years has been actively identified with commercial interests in Everly. His labors have not only been a source of profit to himself but have also constituted an element in the general prosperity. He has lived in the county since 1884 and throughout this period has been an interested witness of its growth and progress and an active supporter of many measures for the public good. Iowa numbers him among her native sons, for his birth occurred in the city of Davenport, on the 13th of March, 1866. There his boyhood and youth were passed and the city schools afforded him his educational privileges. In early boyhood—when twelve years of age—he left Davenport and went to Benton county, locating on a farm near Dysart. There he carried on general agricultural pursuits for several years, but believing that he would find commercial interests more congenial and profitable, he went west and lived on a farm in Clay county for three years. He then worked for A. W. Sleeper as manager of his farm. Working at the carpenter's trade for a year gave him experience in the lumber business and gained him a lucrative position with a lumber company of Everly. Later he purchased the business of Deacon & Clement, thus becoming proprietor of the Farmers & Mechanics Bank. He has always been a man of enterprising spirit and his efforts have reached out into fields which have constituted sources of public progress as well as individual success. He was one of the promoters and organizers of the First National Bank of Everly and was elected cashier and manager. In this connection he is proving himself a capable and successful financier, making this one of the strong moneyed institutions of the county, while his business is continually increasing in scope. He also buys and deals in Clay county lands, also handles Minnesota property and is altogether regarded as a most progressive, energetic,

determined and prosperous business man. He is part owner of a lumber yard, elevator and tile factory in Everly and his cooperation is eagerly sought in the conduct of business affairs, for it is well known that whatever he undertakes he carries forward to successful completion.

In Everly, in 1889, was celebrated the marriage of Lewis Scharnberg and Miss Amelia Jurgens, who was born in Davenport and there spent her girlhood days to the age of thirteen years, after which she lived in Clay and O'Brien counties. Four children have been born of this marriage, Emma F., Lewis C., Elsie and Nola.

In his political views Mr. Scharnberg is a republican and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day. He has served as councilman for a number of years and exercises his official prerogatives in support of all measures that are calculated to advance the best interests of the town. He has likewise been president of the school board for a number of years and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion, whose labors in its behalf are practical, beneficial and far-reaching. His opinions carry weight in the local councils of his party and he is frequently a delegate to the county and state conventions. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the German Lutheran church, while fraternally he is connected with Everly Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and Spencer Chapter, R. A. M., while of the former he is a past master. He also belongs to the Modern Woodmen Camp and is in thorough sympathy with the principles and purposes of these organizations. He occupies a very prominent position in business and social circles and is popular in Everly and vicinity, being frequently consulted by numbers of people on business matters, for his advice is always impartial and his judgment is considered sound. He has aided materially in the upbuilding and advancement of the county, being particularly active in promoting the growth and development of this locality. He readily and correctly judges the value of any situation in its bearing upon business conditions and in his private interests has so managed his affairs that he has made steady and substantial progress, being now numbered among the men of affluence in Everly.

HENRY W. EGGERS.

One of the extensive landowners and prosperous farmers of Summit township is Henry W. Eggers, who is living on section 12. There he owns and cultivates a farm of three hundred and eighty-one acres which is constantly increasing in value because of the care and labor which he bestows upon it. The farm lies partly within the corporate limits of Fostoria. While there are many fine farming properties in this portion of the state there are none which excel, in the productiveness of the soil nor the practical methods of its operation, the farm of Mr. Eggers and his careful management and indefatigable energy constitute the salient features of his success.

Henry W. Eggers was born in Hardin county, December 17, 1865. In both the paternal and maternal lines he comes of German ancestry. His parents were Herman and Taalka (Steenblock) Eggers, both of whom were natives of Ger-

many. In that country the father was reared and when a young man crossed the Atlantic to the new world. For some years he was employed in a sugar factory in New York and while a resident of the Empire state was married. With his young wife he removed westward to Illinois, settling on a farm in Stephenson county, where they lived two years and on the expiration of that period came to Iowa, arriving about 1855. They settled in Hardin county, where the father purchased a tract of raw prairie and opened up a new farm, comprising one hundred and thirty acres of land. On this he placed substantial improvements, making it a desirable property, and there reared his family and spent his remaining days, continuing in active connection with general agricultural pursuits until his demise in 1892. His widow still survives him and now resides in Abbott, Iowa. Their family numbered two sons and four daughters: John, who is now engaged in the harness business in Fostoria; Etta, the wife of J. Cramer, of Wright county, Iowa; Tena, the wife of John Groathous, a resident of Kossuth county, Iowa; Margaret, the wife of Albert Leverton, of Hardin county, this state; and Della, the wife of John Schlaumpp.

Henry W. Eggers, the other member of the family, was reared on the home farm in Hardin county, Iowa, and the common schools afforded him his educational privileges. He assisted more and more largely in the work of the fields as the years passed by and thus his early training in agricultural lines well qualified him to successfully carry on business on his own account. He has never sought to figure prominently in public life, preferring to concentrate his energies on his business affairs and, as the years have passed, he has won a creditable measure of success, his diligence constituting an important element in his prosperity.

On the 3d of March, 1891, Mr. Eggers was married in Grundy county to Miss Bertha Heikens, a native of that county, where her girlhood was passed and her education was obtained. She is a daughter of George Heikens, a native of Germany, who became one of the first settlers of Grundy county. Following his marriage Mr. Eggers engaged in cultivating the old home farm for three years and in 1894 removed to Clay county. He had previously visited this locality and had purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land. He came to this property when he took up his abode in the county and not only tilled his own acres but also cultivated one hundred and sixty acres adjoining that belonging to his father-in-law. There he carried on general farming for eight years, when he sold this property and purchased where he now resides, becoming owner of three hundred and eighty-one acres, on section 12, Summit township. The work of improvement has been steadily carried forward since that time. He has built an addition to and has otherwise remodeled his dwelling. He also built a good barn and has put up all the necessary sheds and outbuildings for the protection of grain and stock from the inclement weather. The farm is divided into fields of convenient size by well-kept fences, mostly made of barbed or woven wire. He has also set out considerable fruit and in fact all of the features of a model farm property of the twentieth century are here found and indicate his progressive spirit, while his practical methods are evidenced in the success which has attended him. He raises and feeds high-grade stock, for which he finds a ready sale on the market. He is also financially interested in the elevator at Fostoria and in the telephone company.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Eggers has been blessed with six children: Tarana H., Ina Georgia, Pearl M., Gertie Rose, Herman John Henry and Harland Gerle. The parents are members of the German Evangelical church and Mr. Eggers gives his political allegiance to the republican party, which he has supported since age gave to him the ballot. He has served on the school board several years and is always interested in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community. He thoroughly enjoys home life and takes great pleasure in the society of his family and friends. He is always courteous and kindly and those who know him personally have for him a warm regard.

CHARLES A. ROBISON.

Charles A. Robison, editor of the Royal Banner and postmaster of the town of Royal, was born in Poweshiek county, Iowa, on the 11th day of February, 1868. He is a son of Henry and Mary (Carleton) Robison. His father was a native of Montreal, Canada, and his grandfather was of French birth, while his mother was a native of England. Henry Robison was afforded liberal educational privileges, being a graduate of the Montreal Military Academy. He came to Iowa about 1846 or 1847, when it was regarded as one of the frontier states, and locating in Poweshiek county, he engaged in driving a stage from Iowa City to Grinnell for two years. It was long prior to the period of extensive railroad building and the stage driver was an important personage in the town, as he formed the connecting link between the scattered little sections of civilization. In 1849, attracted by the discovery of gold in California, he made his way to the Pacific coast in search of the precious metal and spent two years in that state. On his return to Iowa he again located in Poweshiek county, where he operated a sawmill. Various occupations claimed his time and energies until his death, which occurred on the 18th of February, 1881, his remains being interred in a cemetery which was then known as Dresden but is now known as Deep River, Iowa. His political allegiance was given to the republican party and he was almost continuously an office holder, being called to fill various local positions. His wife was a native of Maine and they were married in Poweshiek county. Mrs. Robison still survives and is now living in Spencer. They were the parents of six children: J. W., who is engaged in the jewelry business in Grinnell, Iowa; Charles A., of this review; H. E., who is a barber at Denison, Washington; C. E., a piano tuner at Boise City, Idaho; William C., a printer at Corsica, South Dakota; and Emma, twin sister of William, now in the Reporter office in Spencer.

Charles A. Robison, entering school at the usual age, continued his studies in Poweshiek county until twelve years of age and later became a student in the high school at Spencer. He started in business life as a clerk at the county seat and was thus employed for several years, after which he secured a position in a printing office and learned the trade. In 1892 he embarked in business on his own account, conducting the Dickens Tribune, at Dickens, Iowa. After a year there he returned to Spencer and in partnership with his brother, J. W. Robison, conducted a bottling works for four years. On the expiration of that period he

went to the vicinity of Spooner, Wisconsin, where he devoted two years to fishing and hunting and then once more came to Clay county, being again engaged in newspaper work in Spencer until his removal to Royal in 1900. Here he founded and began the publication of the Royal Banner and has been at the head of the paper continuously since. The postoffice, too, was moved to the town from a residence about three miles east and he is the first and only postmaster that Royal has ever had. He is prompt and faithful in the discharge of the duties of the office and at the same time is conducting an interesting country newspaper, which has a large and growing circulation. He also conducts a good job office in connection with the publication of the Banner and is receiving a good patronage therein.

In 1890 Mr. Robison was married to Miss Sylvia Dean, of Spencer, and unto them have been born four children, Ethel, Hazel, Sharley and Jack. In his political views Mr. Robison is a republican, having supported the party since he attained his majority. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Royal and has served as noble grand. Since the age of twelve years he has depended upon his own resources, without support from any one, and as the architect of his own fortunes has builded wisely and well. He early learned that industry is the key which will unlock the portals of success and, as the years have passed, he has labored diligently and perseveringly to gain a comfortable competence and win for himself a creditable position in the business world. The course that he has followed commends him to the confidence and good will of all. He has an extensive circle of friends in the county.

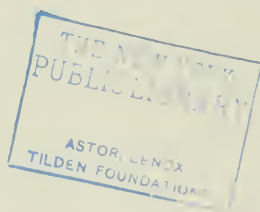
HELON WETMORE.

Helon Wetmore, one of the honored veterans of the Civil war, whose military service has been matched by his loyalty to duty in days of peace, has been a resident of Iowa since 1857 and of Clay county since 1873. Coming here in pioneer times, he has thus been a witness of the growth and progress of the state through more than a half century. His birth occurred in Jefferson county, New York, on the 28th of July, 1832, and when about ten years of age he became a resident of Wisconsin, the family home being established in Jefferson county, where he grew to manhood on a farm, sharing in the hardships and experiences incident to pioneer life. All of the conditions of the frontier were there to be seen and Mr. Wetmore assisted in the arduous task of developing a new farm, for his father, John Wetmore, secured a tract of unimproved land, which was covered with timber. This had to be cleared away and the stumps grubbed up before the fields could be plowed and planted. As he had opportunity Mr. Wetmore attended the common schools and when not occupied with his text-books was busily employed at the farm work.

As a young man he went to Michigan and attended school in Berrien county, for he was ambitious to secure a better education than had been afforded him in Wisconsin. He pursued his studies during the cold seasons and in the summer months worked as a farm hand in order to secure the funds necessary to meet the



HELON WETMORE



expenses of his school work. While living in Winneshiek county, Iowa, Captain Wetmore was married, on the 18th of January, 1858, the lady of his choice being Mrs. Lucy Wilson, nee Stewart, who was then a widow. She was born in Ireland, but in early girlhood was brought to the United States and reared in Illinois, where she married Augustus Wilson. Later they removed to Winneshiek county, Iowa, where Mr. Wilson opened up a farm and made his home until his death. In 1857 Captain Wetmore became a resident of Winneshiek county, Iowa, and carried on general farming on his wife's land until after the inauguration of the Civil war. On the 1st of November, 1864, he was drafted into the Union army and became a member of Company C, Thirteenth Iowa Infantry. He joined the regiment at Chattanooga and participated in a battle at Kinston, North Carolina. He was with General Sherman's troops at Goldsboro and later went to Raleigh, North Carolina, going into camp there. Subsequently the regiment marched to Washington, where he participated in the grand review. Becoming ill in the capital city, Mr. Wetmore remained in the hospital there until honorably discharged, when he returned home, arriving on the 3d of July, 1865. He was still ill and quite emaciated and it was some time before he recovered his health, but as soon as possible he resumed farming and continued to engage in agricultural pursuits in Winneshiek county until 1873. In that year he removed to Clay county and purchased three hundred and twenty acres of raw land, on which not a stick had been laid or an acre broken. In a short time, however, he turned the sod, harrowed the fields and when the soil was brought into fit condition he planted the seed and eventually gathered good crops. He also fenced his land and built a fair house on the place. He also planted a nice grove of cottonwood, maple, ash and walnut trees, the grove covering ten acres, while he likewise set out a willow hedge. He also planted an orchard and for a number of years energetically and successfully carried on his farm work until his labors brought to him a substantial competence and he retired from active life, since which time he has lived in Everly. It was in 1896 that he took up his abode in the village, purchasing a lot and erecting thereon a substantial and attractive residence in modern style of architecture. Here he has since lived retired, enjoying the fruits of his former toil. His tastes are not extravagant and therefore his means are sufficient to supply him with all of the necessities and comforts of life.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Wetmore were born two sons: Seymour, who is now living in Redwood county, Minnesota; and Thomas, a carpenter, residing with his parents. By her former marriage Mrs. Wetmore had two children: Clara, the wife of James McMullen, a farmer living in Winneshiek county, Iowa; and D. C. Wilson, who also follows farming in that county. Mr. and Mrs. Wetmore are widely and favorably known and their extensive circle of friends indicates that their lives have been worthily passed. In politics Mr. Wetmore has been an earnest republican since casting his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont in 1856. At each presidential election since that time he has been found at the polls giving his allegiance to the standard bearers of the party. For some years he served as school treasurer and the cause of education has always found in him a stalwart champion. He has never sought nor desired office, however, preferring to concentrate his time and energies upon his business affairs. His wife is a member of the Christian church and their son, Thomas, belongs to the Masonic

lodge at Everly. Mr. Wetmore has lived a most busy and useful life. He has assisted in clearing farms in Wisconsin and Michigan and two in Iowa and has helped to improve and make the county what it is today. During their early residence here he and his wife endured many hardships and privations incident to life on the frontier, but they persevered until advancing civilization did away with the difficulties and obstacles which the early settlers must meet. They have rejoiced in what has been accomplished as the county has steadily progressed until it is now in the foremost ranks among the leading counties of the state. Mr. Wetmore has never failed to do his part in citizenship, while in business he has always held to a high commercial standard, never overreaching another in any business transaction.

MATTHEW HOFSTAD.

A good farm of two hundred and forty acres on section 10, Summit township, is the property of Matthew Hofstad and in its cultivation and further improvement his time is busily occupied with the result that he is meeting success in his efforts. He has lived in Iowa since 1871, arriving in this state when a little lad of five years. He came to America from Norway, where he was born the 25th of March, 1866. His father, Mathias Hofstad, was also a native of the land of the midnight sun and there he was reared, choosing as a companion and helpmate for life's journey Miss Grethe Olson, who was likewise born in Norway. Mr. Hofstad was a blacksmith by trade and followed that pursuit in Norway until 1868, when he came to the new world. He made his way direct to Chicago, where he worked at his trade for three years and in 1871 came to Iowa, securing a homestead of eighty acres, upon which his son now resides. At that time it was a tract of raw prairie, on which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made. This he broke, also fenced the fields and in course of time his careful cultivation was manifest in the rich crops which he gathered. He also built and carried on a blacksmith shop, doing work for the neighborhood. In his farming interests he manifested a progressive spirit, which was soon evidenced in the attractive appearance of his place. He set out a grove of forest trees, which was a pleasing feature in a landscape that naturally was destitute of any forest growth. As he prospered in his undertakings he added to his original holdings, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres on section 3, Summit township, across the road from his first farm. There he continued to carry on general farming until his death, which occurred July 29, 1884. His widow still survives him and yet resides on the old home place, being one of the esteemed pioneer women of the community.

Matthew Hofstad, whose name introduces this review, was a little lad of five years when brought to Iowa by his parents. His youth was passed on the home farm and the common schools of the neighborhood afforded him his educational privileges. His brother, Olaf Hofstad, owns a farm adjoining the old home place. Following his father's death Matthew Hofstad took charge of the farm and business and has since added to and remodeled the house, has erected a good

barn and built other substantial outbuildings, so that ample shelter is afforded grain, stock and farm machinery. He also set out an orchard, planted ornamental trees and has done some tiling. The fences are kept in a state of good repair and a glance over the place shows that everything is orderly and well managed. Large crops of corn and other cereals are annually garnered and with his farming Mr. Hofstad also raises and feeds stock, this branch of his business proving to him a profitable source of income. He is likewise a shareholder in the Cooperative Creamery, in the Farmers' Elevator and in the telephone company.

In his political views Mr. Hofstad is a republican, having supported the party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He has acted as road supervisor and has been identified with the schools as a director for several years. He and his mother are both members of the Lutheran church and are greatly esteemed in the community. He is one of the active and progressive young farmers of Summit township, a man of good business capacity and enterprise and of unquestioned business integrity, enjoying in an unusual degree the confidence and good will of the community.

JOHN B. BURGER.

John B. Burger, who owns one of the finest farms near Royal, Clay county, on which he located when it was in a raw condition and has since so improved the land that it yields abundantly hay and various grains, was born in York county, Pennsylvania, September 19, 1848. His parents were Joseph and Elizabeth (Boyer) Burger, both of whom were natives of the Keystone state, where the father followed agricultural pursuits until he departed this life in 1892, his wife surviving him fifteen years. They had the following children: Jacob, who operates a large farm in Clay township, this county; John B., of this review; Liddie Ann, the widow of George Reinhart, of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Andrew, deceased; Lizzie, who became the wife of William River, a railroad man residing in Wormleysburg, Pennsylvania; Mary Ellen, who wedded Anton Stauch, of Pennsylvania; and Katie, deceased.

When a lad John B. Burger attended the district schools of his native town, where he acquired his education and, completing his study, he remained at home and engaged in the daily routine of the farm until he was twenty-three years of age, at which period of his life, being desirous of starting out in the world for himself, he left the home farm and spent four years at various occupations in different portions of Pennsylvania. At the end of that time he located in Randolph county, Indiana, where he rented a farm which he kept under cultivation for four years and then, giving up agriculture, he went to work on the Shoo Fly railroad, where he remained for some months. He afterward spent one year in the employ of the Pan Handle Railroad. Later he spent two years in Illinois and in 1879 came to Iowa, locating in Buena Vista county, where he followed farming for six years and at the expiration of that time, upon hearing that Clay county offered better inducements to the agriculturist, he bought eighty acres here, upon which he has since resided. His land is situated on the northeast

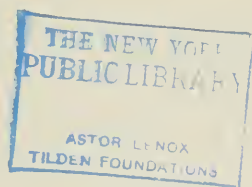
quarter of section 17, Clay township, and since Mr. Burger purchased it he has provided the farm with a comfortable residence, substantial buildings and every convenience with which to carry on farming by modern methods. He engages in general farming, producing large quantities of hay and various grains of excellent quality, and in addition takes considerable interest in stock-raising and has a number of head of fine horses and cattle. When Mr. Burger took hold of this property it presented anything but the appearance of a farm, being in a primitive state and far from arable, but by his industry and good management he has succeeded in putting it under a high state of cultivation and in converting it into one of the finest farms in the vicinity.

In 1871 Mr. Burger was united in marriage, in Goldsboro, Pennsylvania, to Miss Josephine Spengler, a native of York county, that state, and to this union were born the following children: Elizabeth, deceased; Rosa, who was united in marriage to Harvey Goyette; Martin, who remains on the farm with his father; Berdell, who became the wife of John Mingus, and resides on a farm in this county two miles from Spencer; Anna, the wife of Alvin Petit; and Edith, who wedded Otto Ruch, a farmer of this county.

Mr. Burger is a staunch adherent of the republican party and, being convinced that it contains the secret of the nation's financial prosperity, he has always been loyal to its candidates during campaigns. He is one among others who deserves great credit for turning the wild prairie into fertile lands, thereby adding to the wealth of the country, and it was by making use of his youthful energy that he won success and finally attained his present prosperity. When he came to this county he had very little as far as wealth is concerned but he was rich in enterprise, perseverance and patience and these, directed toward the soil, soon enabled him to draw forth its wealth and gradually win prosperity so that now in his declining years he may rest in comfort and enjoy somewhat of the hard earned but substantial fruit of his long years of earnest and unremitting labor. Mr. Burger has not only been industrious but has evidenced in his transactions those qualities which make friends and, being upright in his dealings and interested in the moral as well as the financial welfare of the community, he enjoys the confidence and respect of all who know him.

ED SITZ.

Ed Sitz, who operates a large flour mill in Peterson and is well known throughout the state because of the excellence of his manufactured product, was born near Berlin, Germany, December 31, 1853, a son of Lewis and Augusta (Klath) Sitz, both of whom were also born near that city. In the old country his father engaged in agricultural pursuits and in 1859 came to the United States, having made the voyage across the sea in a sailing vessel, which while enroute the captain lost his bearings and as a consequence those aboard were four months upon the high seas before reaching a harbor. Being enroute for so long a time the water gave out as well as provisions and there was much suffering among the passengers and a number died of thirst and hunger. After a long and tedious

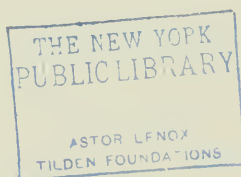




ED. SITZ



MRS. ED. SITZ



journey, accompanied by many hardships and anxieties Mr. Sitz and his wife finally landed in New York from which place they went directly by rail to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Mr. Sitz engaged in farming near that city for two years and then went to Green Bay, Wisconsin, farming in that place for the same period, thence to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and after a sojourn of six years in that place came to this county in 1869, making the trip in a prairie schooner. Here he homesteaded land in the northern part of section 2, Peterson township and later removed to a farm two miles northeast of Peterson, where he engaged in farming and stock-raising until he departed this life, his remains being interred in the cemetery here. His wife still lives at an advanced age and resides in the village of Peterson. In the family were eight children, namely: Ed, of this review; Amos, who owns a telephone line at Peterson; Augusta, wife of Harry Teller, an agriculturist of Douglas township; Eunice, who is the widow of James Frasher and resides in Peterson; Delia, who became the wife of Eph Williams, residing on a farm in Douglas township; Ida, who is wedded to C. H. Atkinson, a barber in the village of Peterson; Tillie, wife of Samuel Wilkison, a merchant of Wilkins, Minnesota; and one who died in infancy.

In the common schools of Wisconsin and also the graded schools of Milwaukee Ed Sitz acquired his education. He remained at home, engaging in the daily routine of the farm, until he was twenty-one years of age when he began work in the flour mill at Peterson, which was owned by J. A. Kirchner, his father-in-law, who established the business in 1865. Mr. Sitz has since been connected with this enterprise, with the exception of one year spent in the employ of Charles Beckworth, a miller of Cherokee, Iowa. About fifteen years ago Mr. Sitz purchased the mill but prior to that time he was practically in full management of its affairs. Shortly after he became associated with the business he installed new rollers and new machinery and about the time he bought out the concern he replaced the old water-power system by steam power so that now the enterprise is in every sense conducted upon modern principles and today the Peterson Rolling Mills are known throughout the county and the state as well. Mr. Sitz turns out about one hundred and fifty barrels of flour a day and fifty barrels of corn meal and in addition manufactures a special pancake flour known as Ida's Pure Wheat Cake Flour and of this commodity he produces about forty cases per day. Mr. Sitz has invented a special process by which to manufacture corn meal and he is now contemplating the construction of a large plant by which to supply his constantly growing trade for that superior commodity.

In 1879 he was united in marriage to Miss Ella Kirchner, daughter of J. A. Kirchner, a pioneer of this county, she being the first white child born in Clay county. Mr. and Mrs. Sitz have four children, namely: R. E., who is connected with the elevator business here; L. A., who is associated with his father in the milling business; Ida, who became the wife of Clyde Martin, an agriculturist of O'Brien county; and Le Roy, who attends school at Valparaiso, Indiana.

Mr. Sitz gives his political allegiance to the republican party and cast his first vote for General Grant when he was a candidate for presidential honors. He has served the township in a number of useful offices and for the past twenty-four years has been a member of the school board. He is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Daughters of Rebekah, the Masonic Lodge, in

which he is a member of the Royal Arch Chapter at Sioux Rapids, Eastern Star, Ancient Order United Workmen, Yeomen, Homesteaders and Legion of Honor. Mr. Sitz is as attentive to his religious duties as to those incumbent upon him in the business world and attends services at the Congregational church, to which he is a large contributor. He is a man of excellent business ability, well known throughout the community for his honesty and the interest he takes in public improvements. He is in every sense of the word a man worthy of the confidence of the people and is one of the township's most substantial business factors.

FRANK HUSS.

Among the agriculturists of Everly, Clay township, Clay county, who are numbered among the substantial farmers and representative citizens and who have achieved success and surrounded themselves with prosperity by their own exertions and persevering efforts, is Frank Huss, whose birth occurred in Jackson county, this state, on August 20, 1865. His industry and enterprise together with good management, have been the means of enabling him to acquire considerable acreage of excellent land, which he has for many years kept under cultivation and from which he has derived bountiful harvests. His parents were Henry and Anna (Gross) Huss, the father having been born in Lutzenburg, Germany. In 1846 he crossed the seas to seek his fortune in the new world, locating in Jackson county, Iowa, where he followed agricultural pursuits until he departed this life in 1887, his remains being interred in that county. He was a man who had a high sense of honor and his excellent qualities of character together with his aggressiveness have made him a substantial farmer and have enabled him to stand high as a citizen of the community. The mother was also born in Germany, where she was united in marriage, accompanying her husband to this county, where they spent the remainder of their lives and reared the following family: John, deceased; Pile, a retired farmer of Dubuque, Iowa; Nicholas, who lives a retired life in Dumont, Iowa; Anthony, who resides in Miner county, South Dakota; John, who follows agriculture in that state; John, deceased; Lizzie, of Sheldon, O'Brien county, Iowa; Mary, who resides in Dubuque county, Iowa; and Frank.

In his native county Frank Huss was reared and there he attended the district schools, where he acquired his education, in the meantime assisting his father in the duties of the farm. Upon completing his studies he remained under the parental roof, daily engaged in farm work, until he was about nineteen years of age, at which period of life he became ambitious to be self-supporting and work independently. During his labors thus far he had lived modestly, laying by the larger portion of his earnings, so when he desired to conduct a farm for himself he had sufficient means with which to buy a tract of land and made a purchase in Jackson county, and for a period of six years engaged in general agriculture and stock-raising for himself. In this venture he prospered, but, upon thinking that the state of Nebraska offered greater opportunities for his occupation than that of Iowa, he repaired to that place, but after one year he

decided to return to Iowa, locating in O'Brien county. In this county he was married and remained seven years actively engaged in agricultural pursuits, at the expiration of which time he settled in Clay township, Clay county, where he resides at present, owning section 3, in that township, also eighty acres in Lone Tree township. Both farms are in a high state of cultivation and Mr. Huss has provided them with all modern improvements, each farm being supplied with its own dwelling, barns and other buildings and since he has made a special study of soils he has been able to preserve the growing properties of his farms and consequently he succeeds in deriving from them their full quota per acre of hay and various kinds of grain. In addition to general farming interests he pays some attention to stock breeding and makes it a point to deal only in thoroughbreds, doing quite a buying and shipping business.

In the year 1890 Mr. Huss wedded Miss Mary Gillespie and they have reared the following children: Nellie, Edward, Gertrude, Laura, Elmer, Mabel, Ralph and Evelyn. In politics Mr. Huss does not bind himself to any particular party but thinks more of the man who seeks office than of the principles of the party to which he belongs. He therefore deems it just and right to consider the qualifications of candidates irrespective of partisan ties and uses his vote and influence in behalf of the interests of the commonwealth. One of the services which he has rendered the township is that of school director, having served efficiently for several terms as a member of the school board. His religious faith is that of the Catholic church and, considering his religious obligations first, he is a regular and faithful attendant upon divine services. He inherited industry, perseverance and patience from his sturdy Teutonic parents and, always evidencing that willingness to work and ambition to succeed common to those of his race, he has, step by step, made his way in the world until now he has risen to a position where he is numbered among Clay county's substantial farmers and most highly respected citizens.

THEOPHILUS PARRY POWELL.

Among the successful men of Clay county is numbered Theophilus Parry Powell, whose former activity in agricultural lines now enables him to live retired in Spencer. He has also been active in political circles and at one time served as recorder of the county. His birth occurred near Scranton, Pennsylvania, May 26, 1847. His paternal grandfather, Thomas Powell, was a native of Wales and followed the occupation of farming as a life work. He died when seventy-four years of age, while his wife, Mrs. Margaret Powell, passed away in middle life. They were the parents of ten children: Theophilus, Thomas, William, Leah, Peter, Emma, Joseph, Christmas, and two who died in childhood. Of this family, Thomas T. Powell, father of T. P. Powell, was also a native of Wales, and having arrived at years of maturity he married Miss Margaret Parry, who was also born in the little rock-ribbed country of Wales. Her father died in early manhood at Waterloo, Belgium. Thomas T. Powell, while a resident of his native country, followed the occupation of mining. In March, 1846, he came to

America, locating in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, where he continued in the same line of business. In 1852 he removed westward, taking up his abode in Iowa county, Wisconsin, where he purchased an eighty-acre farm, to which he afterward added until he was the owner of three hundred and twenty acres. There he died in June, 1880, at the age of sixty-six years, while his wife survived him until 1896 and passed away at the age of eighty-two years. They were members of what was known as the Close Communion Baptist church.

T. P. Powell, their only child, was reared to manhood in Wisconsin from the age of five years, spending his boyhood and youth upon the home farm, during which time he became familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. His education was obtained in one of the old-time rock schoolhouses of that period and he assisted in the arduous task of developing new fields and converting his father's land into a rich and productive tract. He remained at home until he had attained his majority and the only interruption to his farm work came through his service as a soldier of the Civil war. He enlisted in October, 1864, as a member of Company K, Fiftieth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served until June, 1866, holding the rank of corporal.

Following the close of hostilities between the north and the south Mr. Powell resumed farming in Wisconsin and was closely associated with agricultural interests in that state until 1881, when, believing that he might have still better opportunities in the new but growing west, he removed to Richardson county, Nebraska. Not fully satisfied with that location, he remained there only until the following November, when he came to Clay county. For twenty-seven years he has now been a resident of this county and throughout much of the period has devoted his attention to the tilling of the soil. He first bought a farm of two hundred and forty acres in Douglas township, which he cultivated and improved, making his home thereon until 1892. In that year he was elected to the office of county recorder and removed to Spencer in order to facilitate the discharge of the duties of the position. That he proved capable and efficient is indicated in the fact of his reelection to his incumbency in the position, covering eight years, or until 1900. Since that time he has lived retired in the enjoyment of well-earned and well-merited rest. He still owns the farm, however, and derives therefrom a good annual rental.

On the 19th of October, 1869, Mr. Powell was married to Miss Emma S. Edwards, who was born in Byron township, Genesee county, New York, on the 14th of January, 1847. She is a daughter of Edward T. and Sarah (Edwards, Edwards, who were natives of North Wales. Coming to America, they settled in Genesee county, New York, where they lived for some years and then removed westward to Wisconsin in 1855, making their home in Ridgeway township, Iowa county. The father there secured a tract of land and devoted his remaining days to general agricultural pursuits, his death occurring in 1882, when he had reached the ripe old age of eighty-two years. He had long survived his wife, who died in 1863, when forty-seven years of age. They were the parents of six children who reached maturity: John W., a resident of Chicago; Mary A., the wife of James Kinton, of Stella, Nebraska; Sarah J., the widow of Joseph Martell; Anna S., the wife of T. P. Powell; Thomas R., also a resident of Stella, Nebraska; and Roseltha Abby, the widow of John Higgins.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Powell was blessed with eleven children, but eight of the number died in childhood. Those living are: Thomas Edward, who is now a mail carrier; Margaret Sarah, the wife of Joseph Roberts, a druggist of Linn Grove, Iowa; and Charlotte Louise, the wife of Albert O. Anderson, who is conducting a drug store in Peterson, Iowa. They also have an adopted son, Royal Brown Powell. Both Mr. and Mrs. Powell are devoted and faithful members of the Baptist church and Mr. Powell belongs to Annett Post, No. 224, G. A. R., while his wife is a member of the Woman's Relief Corps. He is serving as chaplain of his post and is interested in its work. His political allegiance has been given to the republican party, since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and he has been loyal in his support of its principles and proud of the fact that he cast his first vote for Grant. For a number of years he filled the office of justice of the peace and his decisions were strictly fair and impartial. He was also township assessor of Douglas township for several years and has likewise filled the office of school director. The cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion and at all times he is interested in the welfare and progress of the community, giving his support to many measures for the public good. In his business dealings he has ever been straightforward and reliable, enjoying the full confidence of those with whom he has been associated and as a worthy and representative citizen of Clay county he well deserves mention in this volume.

O. H. ERFFMEYER.

The Sunny Slope Stock Farm, one of the most attractive farm properties in Summit township, is cultivated by O. H. Erffmeyer. It is situated on section 13 and comprises three hundred and twenty acres. Here Mr. Erffmeyer carries on general farming, stock-raising and dairying and his capable business judgment is seen in the excellent results which attend his labors. He dates his residence here since the 2d of March, 1900, and in the intervening years has made many substantial improvements on his property, which is today most valuable and sightly.

On the 1st of February, 1873, Mr. Erffmeyer started on life's journey, the place of his nativity being Winnebago county, Illinois. No event of special importance occurred in his boyhood and youth. He was reared to manhood in his native county and educated in its common schools, supplemented by two years' study in the Rockford Academy, so that he was well qualified for life's practical and responsible duties. He remained with his father on the home farm until twenty-seven years of age and his training in the work of field and meadow was of a most thorough character, for as soon as old enough to handle the plow he began work in the fields and as his years and experience increased he more and more largely assumed the management and care of the farm. In March, 1900, he arrived in Clay county and took charge of the farm here. He is a most energetic, industrious man, faltering in the performance of no duty that devolves upon him. Progress and improvement may well be termed the keynote of his character. He has given his time and energies to the further development of his

place and has here erected a large barn, forty by eighty feet. It is one of the largest in the county and indicates in what an extensive measure Mr. Erffmeyer is engaged in general farming. He also has a large granary, double corn cribs and sheds, wherein his farm machinery is protected from the storms. He has planted some fruit and has greatly improved the place, bringing his fields under a high state of cultivation. He is not afraid of work but on the contrary is a most diligent, energetic man and his success is therefore well merited.

On the 15th of December, 1904, Mr. Erffmeyer was married in Summit township to Miss Kathryn G. Schony, who was born in Freeport, Illinois, and is well educated. She engaged in teaching in her native state and afterward in Iowa and South Dakota. She is a daughter of Squire Schony. Mr. and Mrs. Erffmeyer attend the Methodist Episcopal church of Fostoria and contribute to its support, while Mr. Erffmeyer is a member of the Modern Woodmen camp there. Politically he is a republican where national issues are involved but votes independently at local elections, nor has he ever desired office, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business affairs, which are now capably conducted, so that he is justly classed with the progressive farmers of the county.

JACOB BURGER.

Jacob Burger, who engages in general farming and stock raising in Everly, Clay, county, and who is numbered among the substantial agriculturists of this vicinity, is a native of Pennsylvania, where his birth occurred January 7, 1847. His parents were Joseph and Elizabeth (Boyer) Burger, both of whom were natives of York county, Pennsylvania, where they resided on a farm until they departed this life in the years 1882 and 1901, respectively. They reared a large family, as follows: Jacob, of this review; John B., an agriculturist of Clay township, this county; Liddie Ann, the widow of George Reinhart, of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Andrew, deceased; Lizzie, who became the wife of William Rhiber, a railroad man residing in Wormleysburg, Pennsylvania; Mary Ellen, who wedded Andrew Stough, residing near Strinestown, Pennsylvania; and Susan, deceased.

During his boyhood days Jacob Burger worked on his father's farm and passed through the usual experiences which enter the life of a country boy, engaging in the general routine of the farm during the summer season and attending the district school during the winter. He assisted his father in his agricultural duties until he was eighteen years of age, when, ambitious to take up arms in support of the honor of his country, he enlisted in Company D, Two Hundred and Second Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, afterward engaging in a number of battles under Generals Mosby, White and Kinslow until he received an honorable discharge. After his military career had ended he returned to his father's farm, remaining there until the year 1880, when, hearing of the exceptional chances offered to agriculturists in Iowa, he came to this state. He did not move direct to that place, however, but spent one year in Putnam, Illinois, then followed farming in Buena Vista county, Iowa, for three years, and then came

to Clay township, Clay county, where he purchased the southeast quarter of section 5 and immediately took up the raising of crops. When he settled upon the land it was in a rough state, but he gradually succeeded in making improvements, so that now his farm is provided with an excellent dwelling, barn, out-buildings, machinery and all the necessary conveniences of a successful farm. He engages in a general agricultural business, producing hay, grain and other crops, and also devotes some attention to stock raising, breeding some excellent specimens of graded cattle and hogs.

In 1878 Mr. Burger wedded Miss Ellen Miller, and to this union were born the following children: John, a guide who resides in Okoboji, Dickinson county, Iowa; Joe, who is taking up a homestead in Dakota; Lydia, wife of Eli Gerard, and resides on a farm in Tennessee; Clinton, who is locating land in Dakota; Robert, who follows agricultural pursuits in this county; and Mary, the wife of William Richard, a Dakota farmer. After the death of Mrs. Burger, Mr. Burger was united in marriage, in 1899, to Mrs. Anna Dammann, a daughter of Dellef and Anna (Kanck) Thorston, who came to the United States from Schleswig-Holstein in 1872, settling in Ohio. From there they went to Davenport, Iowa, then to Crawford county, Iowa, and in 1898 came to O'Brien county, Iowa, where they now reside. Mrs. Burger had one son by her first marriage, Julius Dammann, who lives with his mother. Unto Mr. Burger and his second wife has been born one child, Lloyd. Mr. Burger is a loyal supporter of the republican party. He is a man of integrity and ambition, and is accounted among Clay county's representative citizens.

HEINE O. GREEN, M. D.

Dr. Heine O. Green, discharging his professional duties with a sense of conscientious obligation because of his thorough understanding of the responsibility that devolves upon the physician and surgeon, has won for himself a foremost place in the ranks of the medical fraternity of this part of the state. He has practiced successfully in Spencer and the public has attested its faith in his skill and ability by giving to him a liberal patronage. One of Iowa's native sons, his birth occurred at Postville, June 10, 1870. He was one of four children born to Dr. John S. and Mary A. (Cameron) Green. The others were: Emma, now the wife of Dr. C. M. Coldren, a resident of Milford, Iowa; Dr. John E., deceased; and Carrie, who died in infancy.

Dr. H. O. Green spent his boyhood days in Postville, Iowa, and, mastering the work of successive grades in the public schools, eventually became a high-school student and was graduated in the class of 1887. He then attended the Upper Iowa University for three years and was graduated from the Western College at Toledo, Iowa, in 1891. In preparation for a life work he began the study of medicine in the medical department of the State University of Iowa in 1893, continuing until 1895. He then entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons in St. Louis, and is numbered among its alumni of 1895, being valedictorian of the class. That year he began practicing in Spencer, Iowa, where

he has remained continuously since. He has gained recognition as one of the able and successful physicians here, and by his labors, his high professional attainments and his sterling characteristics has justified the respect and confidence in which he is held by the medical fraternity and the local public.

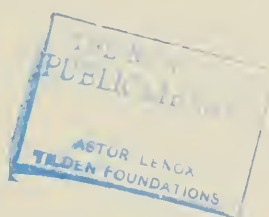
On the 22d of January, 1907, Dr. Green was married to Miss Judith Bernheim, a daughter of Joseph and Marie (Sands) Bernheim. Mrs. Green was born in Denver, Colorado, while her parents were natives of Germany. They came to America in 1881 and settled in Denver, Colorado, where her father carried on business as a mining broker.

Dr. and Mrs. Green have but one child, Joseph Elmore Sands. Mrs. Green is a member of Temple Israel at Helena, Montana. Dr. Green belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity and the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks. His political support is given to the democracy and he keeps well informed on all questions and issues of the day. In his professional relations he is connected with the Clay County Medical Society, the Iowa State Medical Society, the Austin Flint Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He thus keeps abreast with the profession in its onward march, continually broadening his knowledge also through individual research and investigation, until his ability places him in the foremost rank of the medical fraternity in Clay county. He enjoys a large practice, is a progressive citizen and one whose position in the community is enviable, as the expression of public opinion concerning him is altogether favorable.

EVAN JONES.

Nature seems to have intended that man should enjoy a period of rest in the evening of life. In youth one is filled with hope and enthusiasm, in mature years his energy and determination are tempered by sound judgment and experience and therefore, if he is persistent in his labors, success will attend him and then when the evening shadows fall he will find it possible to enjoy a period of rest from labor. Such has been the history of Mr. Jones who, for the past six years, has lived retired in Everly, although for a long period he was one of the active and energetic farmers of Sioux township. Moreover he is entitled to special mention in this volume from the fact that he is one of the pioneer settlers and aided in reclaiming the district for the purposes of civilization. He came to the county in 1867 and found here a region that was wild and unimproved, giving little indication of the progress that was soon to transform it into a thickly settled region. However, some years were to pass before Clay county was to take its place among the leading counties of the commonwealth and in those years men of resolute spirit and undaunted energy found it necessary to labor indefatigably in order to convert the raw prairie into productive fields.

Mr. Jones has ever borne his full share in the work of public progress and his life history cannot fail to prove of interest to many of our readers. He was born in Oneida county, New York, January 13, 1829, and was reared on the home farm where he early became familiar with the duties and labors that fall

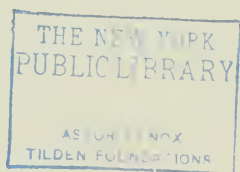




EVAN JONES



MRS. EVAN JONES



to the lot of the agriculturist. In 1855 he removed westward to Wisconsin, settling in Dane county, where he worked at farm labor by the month. He then rented land and engaged in farming on his own account in that county, later purchasing two hundred and forty acres of land in Adams county, Wisconsin. However, he found this land so poor and sandy, that after owning it for eleven years he sold it for one dollar an acre, or two hundred and forty dollars.

While living in Wisconsin Mr. Jones was married in Fort Atkinson, that state, on the 1st of December, 1859, to Miss Mary E. Frink, who was born in Waukesha county, Wisconsin, January 11, 1841. Her father, Hiram W. Frink, came to Wisconsin in 1836 when that state was still a territory. His father settled in New York city in early days when the city was called New Amsterdam. Mr. Hiram Frink died in 1881, long surviving his wife who passed away in 1846. Mrs. Jones is distantly related to Senator B. Payne of Ohio. They took up their abode on a rented farm in Dane county, where they lived until 1867 and then removed to Iowa, securing a homestead claim in Sioux township, Clay county. Mr. Jones thus obtained possession of eighty acres which were entirely destitute of improvement, but soon the track of the shining plow was seen across the fields for he early broke the sod and turned the furrows that he might in course of time gather rich crops. He also bought eighty acres of land in section 14 adjoining his original place, so that his farm comprises one hundred and sixty acres. After some years he replaced the little buildings by more modern, commodious and substantial farm structures and he bought other land, including one hundred and twenty acres on section 26, Sioux township. He cultivated this in connection with his other farm and was busily occupied with the work of the fields for a number of years, after which he rented his land and removed to Spencer. For a year he resided in the county seat, during which time Mrs. Jones assisted in the organization of the old Methodist church of which she was a charter member. He later bought his present home, locating where he now resides in Everly. His place was one of the well known homesteads of Clay county for he featured in the early development and every pioneer settler knew the location of the Jones farm and many were there entertained by the hospitable owner.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Jones were born three sons. J. E. Jones, who now owns and operates the old homestead, is married and has a daughter Blanche. H. E. Jones, living in Everly, is married and has three daughters, Edith, Ella and Ruth. A. T. Jones, also of Everly, is married and has four children, Theodore, Leslie, Grace and Mamie.

In his political views Mr. Jones was a democrat until 1856, when the newly organized republican party placed a ticket in the field and he supported John C. Fremont. He remained an unfaltering advocate of the republican principles until 1896, when he returned to the democratic ranks. In Sioux township he was elected and served as justice of the peace and he was also trustee for Spencer township for two terms. The cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion and he served as one of the first directors of the schools in his district. He was frequently a delegate to county conventions and it is characteristic of Mr. Jones that his position has ever been an unequivocal one. He has stood fearlessly in support of whatever he has believed to be right and neither fear

nor favor could swerve him from this course. He has now reached the eightieth milestone on life's journey and for forty-two years of this time has been a resident of Clay county. His memory goes back to the time when the homes were widely scattered and when there were many log houses in the district. Much of the land was untillable because it was low and wet, but drainage has changed all of this, and where once were seen wild animals of the prairie are now found large herds of cattle and other stock. There were still traces of Indian occupation here when he arrived but the work of progress has been carried so steadily forward that as one now looks over the fine farms and progressive towns it seems hardly possible that it is within the memory of a living man when this was largely a wild and unimproved region.

JOHN M. SOKOL, M. D.

The well established family physician obtains an influence in any community which is more far reaching than that of any man sustaining other relations to the public, and if his life is actuated by honorable principles and lofty ideals, he becomes a notable force for good in support of those measures and movements which are calculated to benefit the community at large. Such a physician is Dr. John M. Sokol, one of Iowa's native sons, his birth having occurred in Monmouth, Jackson county, January 18, 1876. His parents were Frank and Anna (Wanacheck) Sokol, both of whom were natives of Bohemia. The former was a son of Frank Sokol, a farmer by occupation, who was born, reared and married in Bohemia. He came to America in 1854 and settled at Monmouth, Iowa, where he died at an advanced age, while his wife, Mrs. Josephine (Nishka) Sokol, had also traveled far on life's journey before she was called to her final rest. They had a large family, four of whom, John, George, Frank and Josephine, reached adult age. The maternal grandfather of Dr. Sokol was Vincel Wanacheck, and he, too, was a native of Bohemia, whence he came to the United States in 1854. In that year he established his home at Baldwin, Iowa, and devoted his life to general agricultural pursuits. The maternal grandmother was Anna (Dolezal) Wanacheck. Unto him and his wife were born four children: Frank, Vincel, John and Anna, the daughter becoming the wife of Frank Sokol and the mother of Dr. Sokol.

In the year 1854 Frank Sokol accompanied his father to America, the family home being established at Monmouth, Iowa, where he remained until 1861, when he crossed the plains to the Pacific coast with a prairie schooner, and there engaged in mining for four years. He then returned east, and in 1880 removed to Onslow, Iowa, and there established business as a lumber merchant. He is still residing there and is one of the most prominent and influential residents of the town. As the years have gone by he has extended his business interests and is now well known in financial circles as the vice president of the Onslow Savings Bank. In political circles he is also recognized as a leader, and for a number of terms served as a member of the board of supervisors of Jones county, while for two terms he represented his district

in the state legislature, his reelection coming to him as an endorsement of his devotion to the interests of the commonwealth during his first term. No native-born citizen of Iowa is more loyal to the state and its upbuilding than is Mr. Sokol, whose patriotism and devotion to the general good stand as unquestioned facts in his career. It was following his arrival in the new world that he wedded Anna Wanack, and unto this marriage were born four children, two sons and two daughters: George, now a resident of Sibley, Iowa; Blanche, the wife of William Shuttleworth, of Ocheyan, Iowa; Emma, the wife of Frank Shimmerola, of Oxford Junction, Iowa; and John M., our subject.

Dr. John M. Sokol, of this review, whose youth was largely passed in Onslow, Iowa, continued his studies through the successive grades in the public schools until he was graduated from the high school of that place with the class of 1890. He afterward entered Ames College and was graduated from the scientific course in 1895. While attending there he engaged in teaching school two winter terms and after his graduation he resumed the profession of teaching, becoming principal of the high school at Oxford Mills, where he remained for two years. He then studied medicine with the intention of making his practice his life work, matriculating in the Rush Medical College, of Chicago, where he completed his course in 1902. He was then house physician in the Cook County Hospital for one and a half years, and added to his theoretical training the broad experience of hospital practice. In October, 1904, he arrived in Spencer, where he has practiced continuously since.

On the 28th of June, 1905, Dr. Sokol was married to Miss Winifred Dando, a daughter of Simon Dando. They have one child, Charles. Dr. and Mrs. Sokol hold membership in the Congregational church and are actively interested in its work. He belongs also to Evening Shade Lodge, No. 312, A. F. & A. M., and he gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He has held several positions in the line of his profession, acting as health officer of Spencer for four years, as county physician, and also as county coroner, being the incumbent in this office at the present time, following his election in 1908. Professionally he is connected with the Clay County, the Iowa State and the Upper Des Moines Medical Societies, and thus keeps in touch with the general progress of the profession. Anything which tends to bring to man the key to the complex mystery which we call life is of interest to Dr. Sokol, who is now an extremely busy and successful practitioner, constantly overburdened by demands for his services. He is an industrious and ambitious student, patient under adverse criticism, while in his expressions concerning brother practitioners he is friendly and indulgent.

M. O. NEWMAN.

General agriculture and stock raising engage the attention of M. O. Newman, a substantial farmer and representative citizen of Peterson township, this county, who was born in Green county, Wisconsin, March 5, 1860, a son of Samuel A. and Mary (Roderick) Newman, his father having been a native of Pennsylvania.

Digitized by microfilm

He removed to Wisconsin about the year 1846, locating in Green county, where he engaged in farming and stock-raising, and remained there until his death, which occurred November 17, 1876. His mother, who was a native of Virginia, lived in Pennsylvania to the age of twelve and then removed to Wisconsin. She was united in marriage in Wisconsin and departed this life in Green county March 3, 1906. They were the parents of six children: Elliott, who passed away in 1861; George, a stock buyer of Monroe, Wisconsin; Ella, who departed this life in 1888; Hattie, matron of a hospital in Monroe, Wisconsin; Marion J., a dentist; and M. O.

In the common schools of his native town M. O. Newman acquired his education and remained on the home farm until he was twenty-four years of age, when he went to Kansas, thence to Nebraska, and after a sojourn of two years he returned to Wisconsin, where he remained until 1897, which year found him settled in Clay county, this state, having located in the south-eastern portion of section 12, in Peterson township. After a period he removed to the southwestern portion of section 14, where he now resides and cultivates one hundred and sixty acres of highly improved land, on which he raises general crops and pays some attention to stock raising. In addition to this tract of land he owns eighty acres in section 15 and a quarter section of land in Brooks township, Buena Vista county, these tracts of land being highly improved and under cultivation. Mr. Newman's farms present the appearance of thrift, and the neat and complete fencing, together with a comfortable residence, barns, outbuildings and other conveniences, evidence the industry and prosperity of the owner.

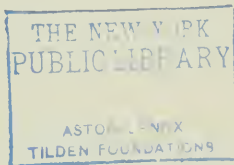
In 1887 Mr. Newman wedded Miss Catherine Stauffacher, a native of Green county, Wisconsin, and the couple are the parents of two sons, Ralph, who departed this life in 1903, and Harold J., and one daughter, Marian. Mr. Newman votes with the republican party, and among the other services which he has rendered the township is that of trustee, in which capacity he is now acting. He belongs to Royal Lodge, A. F. & A. M., the Eastern Star, of which his wife is also a member, and both attend divine services at St. John's Evangelical church. Mr. Newman is among the substantial farmers of the township and all he has he acquired by his own efforts, having started out in life with few educational advantages and without means, but with the more valuable assets of laudable ambition, patience and perseverance, by which he gradually bettered his condition. Now he is in comfortable circumstances and occupies a prominent place in the financial interests of the county, and is a stockholder and director in the First National Bank of Peterson.

LEVI EDWIN LA BRANT.

For more than a quarter of a century Levi Edwin LaBrant has been a resident of Clay county, and throughout this entire period has been identified with farming interests, although much of the time he has lived in the city of Spencer, where he now makes his home. Many changes have occurred in the county since his



L. E. LABRANT



arrival and at all times his influence and aid have been given to further progressive public movements. He was born in Crawford county, Ohio, July 5, 1844, and is one of a family of thirteen children, whose parents were Jonathan and Margaret (Eisenbrei) LaBrant. The father followed the occupation of farming as a life work and in 1830 sought a home in America, arriving in this country on the 23d of September of that year. He first located in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, but afterward became an early settler in De Kalb county, Illinois, and gave his attention to the tilling of the soil in that locality. There he died June 22, 1875, when about seventy-two or seventy-three years of age, while his wife passed away July 9, 1878, at the age of seventy-three years. Both were members of the German Methodist church and earnest religious faith characterized their lives and guided them in their relations with their fellowmen. While living in Germany Mr. LaBrant served as a soldier in accordance with the laws of his native country. The following is the record of the eight sons and five daughters in their family: Andrew, who died when a year old; William, a resident of Malta, Illinois; Margaret, the widow of John French, of Dwight, Illinois; Jonathan, of Weir City, Kansas, and who was a soldier in the Civil war; Sophia, who became the wife of Samuel Flanders but is now deceased; Josephine, the wife of Josiah Myers, a resident of Somonauk, Illinois; Catharine, the widow of Albert Perigo, and a resident of Chicago, Illinois; Charles, who served in the Civil war and lost his life in the battle of Shiloh; Levi E., of this review; Elizabeth, who died in childhood; John, a resident of Kansas; and Henry and Jacob, both residents of Spencer.

Levi Edwin LaBrant was only six years of age when the family went from Ohio to Illinois and there upon the home farm he spent his youthful days to the age of eighteen years, attending the district schools, working in the fields and indulging in such sports as the youth of the period enjoyed. He was about nineteen years of age when in 1863 he donned the blue uniform of the nation and offered his services to the government in defense of the stars and stripes. He went to the front with Company C of the Seventeenth Illinois Calvary and served for two years, during which time he participated in a number of skirmishes and in a three weeks' campaign against General Price, during which time they did considerable fighting with the bushwhackers. Mr. LaBrant was first duty sergeant. He continued at the front until the close of hostilities and with a creditable military record he returned home. After the close of the war he again took up his abode in Illinois and began farming on his own account in De Kalb county, where he brought a tract of land under a high state of cultivation, his energy and determination converting it into rich and productive fields. In 1883 he came to Iowa and purchased land in what was then Spencer township but is now Sioux township, Clay county. His first purchase embraced one hundred and sixty acres, which he at once began to develop, making it an arable and valuable tract. He has since extended the boundaries of the place by additional purchase until it now comprises two hundred and eighty acres. He lived in Spencer for five years, beginning in 1897 and then returned to the farm, whereon he remained for another period of three years. He then came again to Spencer, where he now makes his home. He erected an attractive residence in 1907 and has built altogether four houses in the county, having on his farm a most attractive and commodious residence which he built at a cost of five thousand dollars.

On the 25th of December, 1868, Mr. LaBrant was married to Miss Alice Edinburn, a daughter of William and Rachel (Byers) Edinburn. There were three children of that marriage: Albert B.; Gertrude E., who died at the age of seven years; and one who died in infancy. The living son wedded Cora Kindlespire, and they have three sons, Simon, Roscoe and Merle. Mrs. Alice LaBrant passed away September 10, 1879, and on the same day their little daughter Gertrude died. On the 14th of December, 1880, Mr. LaBrant wedded Mrs. Isabel Gilbert, the widow of Arthur B. Gilbert, and a daughter of Garrett and Sophia (Weed) Seeber. Mrs. Seeber was born in McHenry county, Illinois. Her parents were natives of New York but became early settlers of Illinois and there reared their family of six children: Persis, the wife of William Delano, a resident of Sandwich, Illinois; Anna, the wife of A. C. McCrory, of Cogswell, North Dakota; and Isabel, now Mrs. LaBrant; while three died in childhood. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. LaBrant was William Seeber, a native of the Empire state. Her maternal grandparents were Lewis and Esther Weed, also natives of the state of New York, where the father followed the occupation of farming.

By her former marriage Mrs. LaBrant had two children, Elmer and Winifred, but both died at an early age. There is one son of the second marriage, Roy Seeber, who was married to Miss Audrey E. Livingston, daughter of A. J. Livingston, of Spencer, Iowa, on August 2, 1905. They are living on his father's farm. Both Mr. and Mrs. LaBrant hold membership in the Congregational church and he belongs also to Annett Post, G. A. R., thus maintaining cordial and friendly relations with his old army comrades. His political views are in harmony with republican principles and he has served for several terms as school treasurer and school director but public office has had little attraction for him. He has lived to witness many changes in the county since he arrived here, for the conditions of frontier life have been replaced with the evidences of a modern and progressive civilization. As the years have passed he has prospered in his undertakings and is now one of the substantial residents of the county, deriving his income from the judicious investments which he has made.

THOMAS MCPHERSON.

Thomas McPherson, a worthy and respected representative of agricultural interests in Logan township, owns and cultivates a farm of one hundred and twenty acres and in addition owns another tract of forty acres, all of which is under a high state of development. Aside from any business connections Mr. McPherson also has a strong hold upon the regard of his fellow men, owing to a kindly spirit and generous disposition. He was born in Perthshire, Scotland, May 19, 1833, a son of James and Katherine (Cullum) McPherson, both of whom were natives of Scotland. The grandfather, Angus McPherson, resided in Scotland up to the time of his death, which occurred when he was more than eighty years of age, while his wife also passed away at an advanced age. The maternal grandfather, Thomas Cullum, died when about seventy years of age, and

his wife, Mrs. Catherine (Buchan) Cullum, was also long-lived. The parents of Thomas McPherson never left their native land, but passed their entire lives there amid the scenes of their early childhood. They were of a sturdy race and came from a long line of ancestry, who developed a type of character noted for courage, strength and the strictest integrity. The death of Katherine McPherson occurred in 1879, when she was sixty years of age, while James McPherson passed away in 1886, at the age of eighty years. In their family were the following named, Margaret, Mary, Nancy, James, William, Thomas and John. The last named crossed the Atlantic to Canada and settled near Ottawa, the other members of the family remaining residents of the land of hills and heather.

America is especially indebted to the hardy pioneers who came from England, Scotland, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany and other countries, who patiently and heroically endured the privations and hardships incident to dwelling far out upon the border lines of civilization, away from railroads and markets, there performing the work of converting the wild prairie into fertile fields. To such tasks Thomas McPherson has devoted his energies. He was reared in the land of his nativity and remained there until about twenty-eight years ago, crossing the Atlantic to the United States in the spring of 1881. It was the morning of the anniversary of his birth that he first set foot upon the shores of the new world, and from New York he made his way direct to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he remained for about four years. During most of that time he was associated with Marion R. Mason, an attorney of that place. In 1885 he came to Clay county, where he purchased a tract of land from Griffin and Adams, paying for it eight dollars per acre. This is the old homestead, whereon he has since resided. He is now the oldest settler in the township and has been closely identified with the progress and interest of the county during his residence here, covering a period of twenty-four years. His farm now embraces nearly one hundred and twenty acres. His home place is under a high state of improvement, being equipped with all the accessories and conveniences of a model farm. The place presents an attractive appearance because of its neatness and thrift, and in springtime gives promise of golden harvests in the autumn, because of the practical methods which Mr. McPherson employs in the development and management of his place.

Mr. McPherson has been married twice. About 1855 he wedded Robena Downer, who died about 1869. They had several children. James, their oldest son, was born October 10, 1856, and wedded Mary Cram, by whom he had four children, Thomas, William, Mary Robena and John. Having lost his first wife, James McPherson wedded Jessie Furgeson, August 12, 1901, and they reside in Scotland. Their children are David and Gavin. Robena, the second child of Thomas and Robena McPherson, was born January 1, 1859, and on the 25th of November, 1883, became the wife of William Bremer, of Canada. Their children are: Robena, born November 10, 1884; Robert, who died in infancy; Nettie, born April 20, 1892; Thomas, August 5, 1894; Katie, May 5, 1896; Mary, September 4, 1901; and Nellie, November 19, 1903. William Downie McPherson, the third member of the family of Thomas and Robena McPherson, was born August 9, 1862, and was killed in an accident in April, 1867. Sarah, the fourth member of the family, born October 13, 1867, married William Watson, who lives in Logan

township. William Downie McPherson, the second of the name, was born March 16, 1869, and resides on the old homestead, being in charge of the place and looking after the comfort of his father and mother. For some years he has been correspondent for the Spencer newspapers and has been active in official circles, serving as assessor twelve years and also acting as constable for some time.

On the 9th of January, 1875, Thomas McPherson, of this review, was again married, his second union being with Elizabeth Furgeson, a daughter of David and Margaret (Campbell) Furgeson, both natives of Scotland. The paternal grandparents of Mrs. McPherson were Alexander and Hellen (Gieggie) Furgeson and the maternal grandparents were John and Elizabeth (McQueen) Campbell. The parents of Mrs. Elizabeth McPherson passed their entire lives in their native land, where Mr. Furgeson died in 1873, while Mrs. Furgeson departed this life April 30, 1875. Unto the marriage of Thomas McPherson and Elizabeth Furgeson there were born two children. The elder, Maggie Campbell, born July 15, 1876, was married April 5, 1899, to Thomas O. Kenyon, and they have two children, Helen and Ronald Thomas, the family residing in South Dakota. The younger daughter, Elizabeth McPherson, who was born July 12, 1879, died June 26, 1881.

Thomas McPherson has reached the seventy-sixth year of his existence and his has been a useful life, for not only has he won success in business but has been ever willing and ready to bear a full share in matters of public improvement. For more than seventeen years he filled the position of school director and the cause of education has found in him a warm and stalwart friend. He is now serving as justice of the peace, having been incumbent of that office fourteen years, during which time his decisions have ever been fair and impartial, being based upon the law and the equity of the case. Fraternally he was connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows while in Scotland. He votes with the democracy and he and all of his family are members of the Presbyterian church. Mr. McPherson belongs to that class of men who are the real builders and promoters of the country. Indeed, so broad has been his philanthropy, so kind his heart, so open his purse and so generous his disposition that he is honored and beloved among his neighbors, amid whom he has labored. Being the oldest citizen of the township, no history of Logan would be complete without extended reference to him.

PROFESSOR AMPLIAS HALE AVERY.

Prof. Amplias Hale Avery, superintendent of the city schools of Spencer, in which connection he is giving the benefit of his broad knowledge and ability to his chosen field of labor, winning for himself recognition as one of the foremost representatives of educational interests of Iowa, was born in Richwood township, Richland county, Wisconsin, May 20, 1870, and is one of seven children whose parents were Alden Hale and Sarah (Otto) Avery. The father was a son of Richard Avery, a native of Vermont. His grandfather was likewise born in the Green Mountain state, and was of English descent. He fought for the

independence of the colonies in the Revolutionary war and lived for many years to enjoy the fruits of liberty, passing away in Vermont at an old age. Richard Avery learned and followed the cabinet maker's trade until the time of the Mexican war, when he joined the army as a cavalryman and died in the service. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Jerusha Hale, long survived him, living to the age of about seventy-nine years. They were the parents of six children, Alonzo, Amplias, Alden, Henry, Jerusha and Deborah. The maternal grandfather of Professor Avery was John Otto, a native of New York and of German descent. He followed the occupation of farming, married a Miss Teller, and lived to the age of eighty-three years.

Alden Hale Avery, the father of Professor Avery, was a cabinet maker in early manhood, but later turned his attention to other pursuits. Removing westward to Wisconsin, he settled in Richwood township, Richland county, among its pioneer residents, establishing a home there when the district was largely covered with forest growth and when the work of improvement and development seemed scarcely begun. He built a saw mill, grist mill, woolen mill and chair factory, becoming closely associated with the industrial progress of the community. In fact he was numbered among the prominent and influential residents of Richland county because of his business activity and his enterprising efforts in behalf of general improvement. He wedded Sarah Otto, a native of New York, who died in 1873, at the age of thirty-seven years, while his death occurred in 1879 when he had reached the age of forty-seven years. They were both of the Unitarian faith. Of their family of four sons and three daughters five reached adult age: Maria, the deceased wife of Samuel Yeager; Caroline, the deceased wife of Emmet Paine; Richard; Frank, who died just a month prior to the date on which he would have graduated from the University of Wisconsin law school; and Amplias H.

Professor Avery left Wisconsin when fourteen years of age and came to Iowa. He then entered the Cedar Falls Seminary at Osage and worked his way through that school. In 1889 he removed to South Dakota and for a year and a half devoted his time to the study of law in Aberdeen. Because of the financial stringency of that period he accepted a country school in order to replenish his depleted exchequer, and later became principal of the public schools of Ashton, South Dakota, where he remained for three years. He was so successful as a teacher that it was with no difficulty that he obtained schools, accepting the principalship of the Woonsocket public schools, where he remained seven years. In 1901 he came to Spencer, where he acted as principal of the high school for a year, and was then called to the superintendency, in which position he has since remained. There are four schools of the city, over all of which he has general supervision, and during his incumbency as superintendent he has introduced many substantial improvements in the methods of teaching and also in the branches taught. His labors are at all times practical and he inspires the teachers under him with much of his own zeal and interest in the work.

Professor Avery was married December 11, 1889, to Miss Grace Cornwall, a daughter of A. R. and Amanda (Luse) Cornwall. There was one child of that marriage, Theta, who is now attending Stanley Hall School for Girls. On the 30th of November, 1899, Professor Avery wedded Miss Grace Dunham, who

was born at Wheatland, Iowa, July 6, 1878, a daughter of Niles J. and Clara (Rogers) Dunham, the former a native of Indiana and the latter of New York city. There are two children by this marriage, Margaret and Alden Dunham Avery. Mrs. Avery is a member of the Congregational church and has won for herself an enviable position in social circles. Professor Avery belongs to Evening Shade Lodge No. 312, A. F. & A. M., and Clay Chapter No. 112, R. A. M. Politically he is a republican, but while he keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day, as every true American citizen should do, he does not seek public office. He is a man of strong intellectual and marked force of character, whose natural ability makes him a leader of public thought and opinion.

GEORGE W. MANNING.

George W. Manning is one of the active and prosperous farmers and stock-raisers of Riverton township, and is conducting his business interests on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres within four miles of Spencer. The farm's neat and thrifty appearance indicates Mr. Manning's careful supervision and practical methods and he is justly accounted one of the leading agriculturists of the community. He came to Iowa in 1870, at which time he took up his abode in Cedar county, while, since March, 1892, he has lived in Clay county. His birth occurred in Ontario, Middlesex county, Canada, August 5, 1848. His father, Jotham Manning, was born in Massachusetts and was of English descent. His youthful days were passed in his native state and when a young man he went to Canada, where he married Ann Dale, who was born in Pennsylvania and was of German lineage. Mr. Manning became a farmer of Ontario, Canada, and there reared his family and spent his last years. He performed the arduous task of developing a farm in the midst of the forest, cutting away the timber and clearing away the stumps in order to till the fields. His remaining days were there passed and his death occurred in 1876.

The old home farm in Canada was the training ground of George W. Manning and, under the guidance of his father, he was prepared for the practical duties of business life. He assisted in the cultivation and improvement of the homestead until he had attained his majority and then crossed the border into the United States, locating first in Livingston county, Missouri. He had previously learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed in Chillicothe, Missouri, for nine months, then removed to Cedar county, Iowa. There he worked at his trade, in the employ of others for a time, but later became a contractor and builder, and was thus closely identified with the substantial improvement of the district.

While living in Cedar county Mr. Manning was married, in 1871, to Miss Anna J. Wareham, who was born in Pennsylvania but was reared in Iowa. Her death occurred in Cedar county. By that marriage there were six children. On the 13th of January, 1886, Mr. Manning was again married, in Cedar county, his second union being with Mary C. Gano, a native of that county and a daughter of David Gano, who was one of the first settlers there and is now living in Scotland, South Dakota, at the age of seventy-five years. His wife also survives and is now

sixty-seven years of age. Mrs. Manning was reared and educated in Cedar county and there continued until 1892. It was in that year that Mr. Manning removed with his family to Clay county and purchased eighty acres of land, on section 36, Riverton township, where he now resides. The place had but slight improvements upon it and he began to further develop and cultivate it, while later he purchased an adjoining tract of eighty acres. He has erected a good two-story residence, has fair outbuildings and has fenced the entire place. He has also done some tiling and carried his work forward along lines that he believes will produce practical and substantial results. In addition to tilling the soil he raises and feeds a large number of hogs annually. For three years after his arrival in this county he worked more or less at the carpenter's trade in Spencer and his own home is evidence of his skill and ability in this direction.

By his first marriage Mr. Manning had six children: E. J., who is married and lives in Oklahoma; B. D., residing in Sutherland; O. D., who is married and lives upon a homestead claim in North Dakota; Georgia, the wife of C. R. Dahms of Oklahoma; Eva L., the wife of C. A. Skov, of Clay County; and Ella M., of Wilton, Iowa. The children of the second marriage are: Ethel L., now in Oklahoma; M. M., E. G., G. F., and Alora Pearl, all yet at home. They also lost a daughter, Attia May, who died in infancy. The parents are members of the Friends church, of Spencer, and Mr. Manning gives his political support to the republican party, of which he has been a faithful advocate since becoming a citizen of the United States. While he still has a deep love for the land of his birth, he has never had occasion to regret his determination to seek a home in the new world, for in conditions here he has found the opportunities which he sought and in their improvement has won for himself a creditable place as a substantial business man.

CONRAD RIEDINGER.

General farming and stock-raising command the attention of Conrad Riedinger, who cultivates an extensive tract of land in Dickens, and is a man who began life with little education and without pecuniary means or influence. On the strength of his own resources, through the constant application of perseverance, coupled with hard work and careful management, he has put his energies to excellent work and has subserved them to such a degree that he has been able to rise in the world from comparative penury and obscurity to a position of prominence in the affairs of the county, both as a man of finance and a substantial agriculturist. He is a native son, his birth having occurred in Scott county, February 9, 1858, and his parents were Conrad and Mary (Brindel) Riedinger. His father was a native of Germany and came to the United States in 1852, locating in Davenport, this state, where he lived seventeen years, removing to Welton, Clinton county, in 1876, and thence to Jackson county, where he resided until he departed this life in 1892. In his native land he followed rope making as an occupation and after coming to this country engaged in general agriculture, in which he continued until the time of his death. Mr. Riedinger's mother, also a native of the fatherland, was married in Scott county and now resides in Jack-

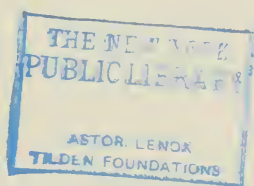
son county. She was the mother of the following children: William, who resides on a farm in Jackson county; Conrad, of this review; Emma, deceased; Lewis and Albert, both operating farms in Jackson county.

The boyhood days of Conrad Riedinger were spent in Scott, Clinton and Jackson counties, this state, where he attended the district schools, remaining with his parents until he was twenty-four years of age, at which period he started out in the world for himself. He rented a farm in Clinton county and followed general agriculture and stock-raising until the death of his father, when he bought the home farm and worked it until the year 1900, when he removed to Clay county and purchased a quarter of section 6, and since settling upon it has met with such prosperity as to enable him to add to his tract eighty acres in section 5. The soil of his farms is very fertile and both of them are highly improved and provided with every convenience with which to successfully carry on his occupation, and aside from doing a general farm business, he pays considerable attention to buying, feeding and shipping stock. In the spring of 1909 Mr. Riedinger and sons, John and Daniel, bought and added another one hundred acres of land to the farm, so that he now owns three hundred and sixty-one acres. In addition to his growing farm interests he is concerned in a number of other commercial enterprises and is a stockholder in the Farmers' Telephone Company.

In 1883 Mr. Riedinger wedded Miss Veronica Ast, a native of France, who came to the United States in 1872 with her parents, and to this union were born: John, at home; Mary, deceased; Daniel, whose birth occurred in 1887; Bernice, who was born in 1890; Ida, born in 1894; Albert, died in infancy; and Cora, born in 1904. Mr. Riedinger is an independent democrat in politics and belongs to the Lutheran denomination. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, meeting at Dickens, and of the M. B. A., meeting at Welton, Clinton county, with which his wife is also affiliated. Mr. Riedinger is one among many who deserves great credit for his successful career, inasmuch as he has gained his way in life by his own exertions. Industrious habits and straightforwardness have enabled him to maintain his standing in the community as a substantial and desirable citizen.

JOHN B. WILSON.

Since 1872 John B. Wilson has resided on a farm in section 28, Freeman township, which is yet his home. He is, therefore, familiar with the pioneer history of the county and his memory forms a connecting link with the primitive past and the progressive present, with all of the advantages that have been secured through the labors and efforts of its enterprising citizens. His birth occurred in Derby, Orleans county, Vermont, January 21, 1843. He was the only child of Chauncey and Emily (Ballou) Wilson, both of whom were natives of the Green Mountain state. The mother died when her son was only three or four days old and the father married again, his second wife being Harriet M. Blodgett. There were five children of this marriage: Frank B. of Derby, Vermont; Henry

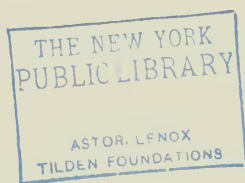




MRS. J. B. WILSON



J. B. WILSON



M., of Monona, Iowa; Willie E., of Janesville, Minnesota; Mary Ada, who died at the age of fifteen years; and Emma, the wife of C. C. Clark of Derby, Vermont. The father of this family also devoted his life to agricultural pursuits and continued for many years a resident of Derby, where he died in 1893 at the age of eighty-three years. His second wife survived him two years and then she, too, was called to the home beyond. In community affairs he was quite prominent and aided in shaping public thought and opinion. His fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, called him to represent them in the Vermont legislature. Tracing back the history of the family we note that John Wilson, the grandfather of John B. Wilson, was one of the early settlers of Vermont. He married Miss Elizabeth Ellsworth and devoted his energies to the occupation of farming. He died when past middle life, while his wife reached the advanced age of eighty-three years. The maternal grandfather of John B. Wilson was Otis Ballou, a resident of Waterford, Vermont, who later made his home in Littleton, New Hampshire, just across the Connecticut river.

John B. Wilson spent his boyhood days on his father's farm, amid the picturesque scenery of the Green Mountain state, and attended the district schools to acquire his preliminary education, which was later supplemented by an academic course in Derby. He also engaged in teaching school for several terms in the east and then heard and heeded the call of the west. In 1866 he arrived in Minnesota, settling near Kasson, in Dodge county. In the spring of 1872 he came to Iowa and took up his abode on his present farm, which then comprised eighty acres of land and which had been secured as a homestead by his brother-in-law, George Keller. As the years have gone by Mr. Wilson and his children have added to the farm until they now have about six hundred acres of valuable land, the place being rich and productive, the well-tilled fields responding readily to the care and labor which were bestowed upon them. All days, however, have not been equally bright with him. During the early period of his residence here there were several seasons in which the grasshoppers ate almost every spear of living grain in the county. This brought on hard times and many of the settlers, becoming discouraged, removed from this district, but Mr. Wilson persevered and in the course of years his energy and industry triumphed over obstacles and difficulties. In the winter he could not obtain coal or wood and had to burn hay for fuel. This he would twist into a hard bundle and use in the cooking and heating stoves. He could also well remember "the winter of the deep snow." It was in 1880, when snow fell to the depth of several feet all over this part of the country and continuing cold, laid upon the ground for weeks. It was almost impossible to get beyond one's own home but, though so many hardships were to be endured, such as were incident to frontier life, Mr. Wilson, with resolute courage, continued here until changing conditions brought all of the comforts and evidences of a modern civilization. Year after year he carried on the work of the farm and has now developed a fine property, improved with good buildings and equipped with all the modern accessories and conveniences of the model farm of the twentieth century.

On the 24th of December, 1868, Mr. Wilson was united in marriage to Miss Betsy E. Keller, who was born in Jefferson county, New York, November 19, 1842, a daughter of Matthew and Catharine (Zimmerman) Keller, who were

likewise natives of the Empire state. On removing westward they settled first in Minnesota, among the pioneers who were reclaiming that region for the purpose of civilization. They made their home in Dodd county, eventually removing to Canton, South Dakota, where their last days were passed, both being about seventy-five years of age when they were called to their final rest. They were the parents of nine children, six of whom are now living: Barbara A., the widow of Charles Van Allen of Minnesota; Henry Keller of Washington; Betsy E.; Mary, the wife of Charles Storing of North Dakota; George, of Deadwood, South Dakota; and Frank, also of Deadwood.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson has been blessed with a son and two daughters: Edward J., who is associated with his father in the operation and improvement of the home farm; Katie, who is a teacher in Minnesota; and Hattie E., at home. Mr. Wilson exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party. He served as county supervisor for two terms and has been school director for many years, the cause of education finding in him a warm friend, for he believes that the public school system is one of the bulwarks of the nation. During the first few years which he lived in Clay county he taught school and at times went four miles each day to the school house, but for about two years of the time taught in his own home. He also taught several terms in Minnesota. He thus was among the early promoters of the educational interests of the community and at all times has been a stalwart advocate of whatever tends to promote the material, intellectual and moral progress of the community. He has lived to see a remarkable transformation in the county, as pioneer customs have been replaced by the evidences of a progressive and advanced civilization. Little pioneer homes have been replaced by the commodious and substantial residences built in modern styles of architecture, trees have been planted and the native prairie grasses have been replaced by all the cereals that are cultivated by the farmer today. In all the work of general improvement Mr. Wilson has borne his part and well deserves mention in this history.

WILLIAM PARKER BOWMAN.

Spencer has a goodly proportion of retired men—men who for many years were closely associated with agricultural, industrial or commercial interests here or elsewhere, and in the management of their affairs won the success that now permits of honorable rest from labor. To this class belongs William Parker Bowman, now one of the venerable citizens of Clay county, having reached the eighty-sixth milestone on life's journey. He was born in the town of Jay, Essex county, New York, February 12, 1823, a son of Thaddeus and Martha (Upham) Bowman, both of whom were natives of Windsor county, Vermont. The family was established in New England when this country was still numbered among the colonial possessions of Great Britain. His grandfather, Thaddeus Bowman, Sr., was born in the Green Mountain state and was of German and English lineage. He was a shoe maker by trade, and at the time of the second war with England he put aside business and personal considera-

tions to fight in defense of American interests. He lived to be more than ninety years of age and was twice married, having a family of five children by his first marriage, this number including Thaddeus Bowman, the father of our subject. The maternal grandfather was Alonzo Upham, who also lived in Windsor county, Vermont, where he devoted his life to the pursuits of the farm. He, too, was twice married and to him was allotted a ripe old age, his years numbering more than ninety when he was called to his final rest.

Thaddeus Bowman, Jr., engaged in the tilling of the soil as a life work, but did not remain always a resident of New York. In fact, he became one of the pioneer citizens of Wisconsin, locating there when it was under territorial government. He took up his abode in Waukesha county and was closely identified with the early development and progress of that part of the state in the effort to plant the seeds of civilization upon the virgin soil of the west. After following farming in Wisconsin for a number of years, he removed to Mitchell county, Iowa, where he remained for seven years, passing away in 1880 at the age of eighty-nine years and seven months. His wife died in 1833 in the faith of the Congregational church, to which Mr. Bowman also belonged. While living in New York he served as justice of the peace. Following the death of his first wife he wedded Nancy Nichols. His eight children, however, were all born of the first marriage.

There were five sons and three daughters, but William Parker Bowman is the only one now living. In his boyhood days he worked on his father's farm in Essex county, New York, taking his place in the fields as soon as he was old enough to handle the plow. When the crops were all harvested in the autumn he had the opportunity of attending the district school, the sessions of which covered little more than the winter months. He was twenty-four years of age when, in 1847, he became a resident of Wisconsin, living in Waukesha county. Subsequently he took up his abode in Rock county, that state, and afterward lived at Marquette, Wisconsin. In 1864 he donned the nation's blue uniform and went to the front in defense of the Union, enlisting as a member of Company K, First Wisconsin Heavy Artillery, in which he served until the close of the war. After the war was ended and victory perched upon the northern banners, he resumed the pursuits of peace, returning to his home in Marquette county, Wisconsin, where he engaged in general farming. The following year, however, he came to Iowa, and since 1865 has lived continuously in that state, first locating in Mitchell county, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land. Eight years were devoted to farming that tract, and in 1874 he came to Spencer, Iowa, where he has since lived, covering a period of thirty-five years. Here he made investment in three hundred and twenty acres of land in Lone Tree township and operated the farm for three or four years, after which he sold that property. His bank deposits and other investments have been amply sufficient in the evening of life to supply him with all necessities and many comforts and luxuries, and thus in his declining days he has not found it necessary to labor for those things which have contributed to his welfare.

On the 2d of June, 1847, Mr. Bowman was married to Miss Lestina Charlotte Boynton, a daughter of Ephriam and Alice (Thurston) Boynton. She was born in the town of Jay, Essex county, New York, and in her girlhood days

was a schoolmate of him who later became her husband. For more than sixty years they traveled life's journey together, sharing with each other its joys and sorrows, adversity and prosperity, their mutual love and confidence increasing as the years went by. At length, however, they were separated in the death of Mrs. Bowman, who passed away January 4, 1908, at the age of eighty years and five months. There were eleven children in their family, five sons and six daughters. Harriet is the widow of Sidney Purdy, and they had four children, but Lula is the only one now living. Caroline became the wife of R. E. Talpey, and died, leaving five of her six children, one having already passed away. The others are Fred, Roy, Edward, Katherine, and Mattie. Henry is a physician and farmer, of Buckhorn, Wyoming, who wedded Miss Ida Potter. They have three children, Laura, Potter and Dorothy. Charles, also living at Buckhorn, married Miss Lucy Osborn, and has two children, Minnie and Reuben. Martha is deceased. Minnie is the wife of Dr. McDonald, of Fremont, Nebraska, and they have one son, Duncan Bowman. Wilbur, living in Owatonna, Minnesota, married Nellie McKay, and has three children, Clifford, Jessie and Lloyd. Ella is employed in the money order department of the Spencer postoffice. The others of the family died in infancy.

Mr. Bowman belongs to Spencer Lodge, I. O. O. F., and to the Annett Post, G. A. R. He has been a stalwart advocate of republican principles since the organization of the party, and while in Wisconsin served as supervisor and served as a member of the city council of Spencer. A life of activity and usefulness has won for him an enviable position in the regard of his fellowmen. He early learned to value life's opportunities and appreciate its purposes, and never has been content to choose the second place. He is now one of the revered patriarchs of his community, who was born during the administration of President Monroe and has lived to witness the notable events which have not only shaped the history of the country but have also largely molded the destiny of the world. His reminiscences of the earlier days are interesting and give a glimpse into the bygone civilization almost totally unknown to the youth of the present time.

ALBERT W. GREENE.

Albert W. Greene is numbered among the prosperous and enterprising business men of Spencer, where he is well known as proprietor of a fire, lightning and tornado insurance agency. He is now the president of the Iowa Mercantile Mutual Fire Insurance Association and secretary of the Clay County Farmers' Mutual Insurance Association. A native of Ohio, he was born in Clinton county on the 20th of February, 1845, and is one of a family of ten children, whose parents were David and Mary (Jessup) Greene, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of North Carolina. The paternal grandfather, Reuben Greene, was likewise born in the Old Dominion and was of English descent. He followed the occupation of farming as a life work, thus providing a good living for his family. He wedded Rhoda Ballard, who died when about fifty years of age, while he survived to the age of eighty years. They reared a large family,



A. W. GREENE

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR, LENOX
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

including Isaac, David, Robert, John, Abigail, Rhoda, Asa and Roland. The maternal grandparents were Thomas and Ann Jessup, natives of North Carolina. He, too, followed agricultural pursuits as a life work and died in middle life, while his wife was about eighty-five years of age at the time of her demise.

David Greene, reared in Ohio from the age of nine to a life on the farm, chose general agricultural pursuits as a means whereby to obtain a substantial income, and was connected with farming interests in Ohio until 1863. He spent four years in Indiana and then removed westward to Iowa, taking up his abode in Marshall county. He was not long permitted to enjoy his new home, however, for he passed away in 1868 at the age of sixty-eight years. His widow afterward removed to Clay county, where she passed away in 1872 at the age of sixty-eight years. Both were members of the Friends' church and were people whose loyalty and honorable principles won them the love and friendship of all with whom they came in contact. Their family numbered ten children, eight sons and two daughters, of whom four are now living: Dr. E. H. Greene of Loveland, Ohio; Rebecca, widow of Alva Griest of New Haven, Connecticut; Albert W., of Spencer; and Levi, also of Spencer.

Albert W. Greene was reared in Clinton and Warren counties, Ohio, remaining on the farm until seventeen years of age, after which he spent four years in Indiana. He attended the district and select schools and also engaged in teaching for several terms. In the spring of 1867 he started for Iowa, riding one horse and leading another, but not knowing definitely where he was going. He believed, however, that there were good business openings west of the Mississippi and realized that the country was growing more rapidly than the older sections of the east. He stopped first at Marshalltown, Iowa, where he had friends, and in that vicinity worked by the month as a farm hand, while in the winter seasons he engaged in teaching. During the last year of his residence there he rented and cultivated a farm. In the spring of 1869 he came to Clay county and located on the present site of Greenville, which town was named in his honor. A postoffice was established there at his home and he served as postmaster for twenty-two years. During the first few years of his residence here his time was devoted to farming in the summer seasons and teaching in the winter months. Later he purchased a general store from E. P. Stubbs, which he conducted for seven years. Later he followed farming for two years, having two hundred and forty acres which he purchased and improved from the raw land, save a tract of eighty-eight acres which had formerly been entered as a homestead claim. Thus the years passed in active, earnest toil, his enterprise and industry and determination winning for him a substantial competence as the years went by. In 1893 he removed to Spencer for the purpose of giving his children better educational privileges, and here he established an insurance office, having already been engaged in the insurance business. In 1895 he was instrumental in organizing the Iowa Mercantile Mutual Fire Insurance Association, of which he has since been president. He has also been secretary of the Clay County Farmers' Mutual Insurance Association for more than eighteen years, and is today one of the best known insurance men in the city, both companies owing their success in large measure to his capable business management and keen discrimination.

On the 28th of February, 1868, Mr. Greene was married to Miss Lizzie Stanfield, of Albion, Iowa, who was born in Marion county, Indiana, April 12, 1849. Her parents, David and Jane (Baldwin) Stanfield, were natives of North Carolina, who became early settlers of Indiana and afterward established their home in Marshall county, Iowa, in pioneer days. The father was drowned in the Iowa river in 1859 and the mother, surviving him for some time, passed away in Osborn county, Kansas, about 1890. They were the parents of eight children, of whom six are now living: Irena, Lindsay, Elizabeth, Sarah, Leander and David. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Greene was David Stanfield, who was likewise born in North Carolina, and became a preacher of the Society of Friends, or Quakers. He wedded Elizabeth Baldwin and both lived to an advanced age. They reared a large family. The maternal grandfather of Mrs. Greene was Charles Baldwin, and both he and his wife were natives of North Carolina and were identified with the Friends' church.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Greene have been born four sons and three daughters: Evalena, now the wife of Oscar D. Jenkins, a resident of Spencer, by whom she has one daughter, Ruth; Orvan E., a practicing dentist of Clinton, Iowa, who married Gertrude Wheeler of Manona, Iowa; Edgar L., who died at the age of eight months; Elnora, the wife of Clarence L. Thuirer, living near Fostoria, Iowa, by whom she has two living children, Leland and Merrill; Clinton D. and Clara B., who are college graduates and are now at Phoenix, Arizona; and Fred W., who married Susan Carver, and is living in Spencer.

Mr. and Mrs. Greene are birthright members of the Friends' church and are people of genuine personal worth, to whom the hospitality of many of the best homes of the county is freely accorded. In politics Mr. Greene favors the republican party, though the character and life of the man influence him to a larger degree than the party affiliation. He has held various township offices, for twenty-one years serving as justice of the peace in Gillett Grove township, also as township trustee and township clerk. At the present time he is serving as a member of the city council and is a member of the school board of Spencer. He is interested in all that pertains to the substantial improvement and development of the community, being widely recognized as a public-spirited and patriotic citizen.

HARRY L. FARMER.

One of the signs of the times is the fact that young men are filling the important business positions and controlling the trade interests of the country. The reason for this lies in the fact that better educational opportunities have been enjoyed by them than were secured by the majority of the people a generation ago. Then, too, in the middle west a spirit of progress prevails that prompts the individual to put forth his strongest effort and utilize his opportunities to the best advantage. A representative of this class of men is found in Harry L. Farmer, the wide-awake, energetic and popular cashier of the Greenville Bank. He was born in Franklin, Massachusetts, October 23, 1879, and is one of four

children whose parents are John P. and Jennie (King) Farmer, natives of New Hampshire and Massachusetts respectively. The mother was a daughter of Dr. George E. King, a physician and surgeon, who was born and reared in the old Bay state. There he married Miss Lucy Eddy and they both lived to advanced years. Their family numbered several children but all died in early youth save Mrs. Farmer and Francis E. The latter was a soldier of the Civil war and for two weeks was incarcerated in Libby Prison but was released on parole for attending the sick.

John P. Farmer, father of Harry L. Farmer, is one of the most prominent citizens of western Iowa. He was reared as a farm boy and afterward worked with his father, who was a contractor. In early manhood he went to Massachusetts and there became interested in the manufacture of woolen goods, becoming connected with several large woolen mills. For some years he was thus associated with manufacturing interests in the east but in 1882 sought the opportunities of the growing west and that the step which he then took was a wise one is indicated in the success which has since attended his efforts. Arriving in Iowa, he took up his abode in Sioux Rapids and there organized the Bank of Sioux Rapids, of which he is now the president. This is a private banking institution and in its ownership he is associated with F. H. Helsell. As he has prospered Mr. Farmer has extended his efforts to other undertakings, being now interested in a number of banks, so that he figures prominently in the financial circles of the state. He is a man of well balanced capacities and powers, who inspires confidence in others and at the same time is capable of mature judgment of his own capacities and of the people and circumstances that make up his life contacts and experiences. He is eminently a man of business sense and easily avoids the mistakes and disasters that come to those who, though possessing remarkable faculties in some respects, are liable to erratic movements that result in unwarranted risk and failure. He has never failed to venture where favoring opportunity is presented and his judgment and even paced energy generally carry him forward to the goal of success. Aside from his connection with the banking interests of the state he is known locally as a progressive citizen whose labors have been of value in promoting public progress. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity, having taken the Royal Arch degree. His wife is a member of the Congregational church. Their family numbers three sons and a daughter: Harry L., Clara L., George E. and William H.

Harry L. Farmer was reared in Sioux Rapids, for the removal of the family from New England to the middle west occurred when he was but a lad. He was graduated from the high school at Sioux Rapids and then further continued his education as a pupil in the Iowa State College at Ames. After putting aside his text-books he took charge of a bank at Peterson, where he continued for a short time and then went to Laurens, Iowa, acting as assistant cashier of the bank at that place for eight months. On the expiration of that period he came to Greenville as cashier and general manager of the Greenville Bank, which was organized September 20, 1900, by Dr. Charles McAllister, Mrs. Emma S. Miller, A. F. Lamar, E. B. Herrington and M. P. W. Albee. In the early part of 1901 it was purchased by the well known banking firm of Sioux Rapids, Farmer & Helsell, who are the present proprietors. On the 16th of November, 1901, the

bank was burglarized and the safe blown to pieces by two white men and a negro, who secured fifteen hundred and twelve dollars and thirty-nine cents, which was reimbursed by the New York Burglary & Casualty Company of New York city, for the bank carried a policy with that company, as it still continues to do. The crime occurred after midnight and the burglars made their escape on a hand car to Albert City, where they were in the depot waiting for a train when they were discovered by officers, who ordered them to throw up their hands. This they did, although at the same time they shot the constable and a deputy. One of the burglars—a white man—was killed. The other two were later captured in a running fight, tried and sentenced to be hung, but secured a new trial and had the sentence commuted to imprisonment for life, so that they are now serving their time at Anamosa in the state penitentiary.

Mr. Farmer is well known as one of the enterprising young bankers of western Iowa and is also a popular resident of this part of the state. He belongs to Enterprise Lodge, No. 332, A. F. & A. M., of Sioux Rapids, and to Sioux Rapids Chapter, No. 129, R. A. M. He is likewise connected with Estherville Lodge, No. 528, B. P. O. E., Harmony Lodge, No. 188, Knights of Pythias of Spencer, and Buena Vista Chapter, No. 109, of the Eastern Star. His membership relations extend to Greenville Camp of the Modern Woodmen of America and he is in thorough sympathy with the teachings of all of these orders. Politically he is a republican, interested in the success of his party and alive to the issues of the day. Alert and energetic, he is in close touch with all the interests which are factors in the life of a progressive citizen and of the community at large and is recognized as a forceful factor for development and improvement in the locality where he now makes his home.

ANDERSON G. HARDIN.

Almost four decades have passed since Anderson G. Hardin became a resident of Clay county and throughout the years he has figured prominently in community affairs through his business activity and his unselfish devotion to the general good. For the past twenty years he has been numbered among the merchants of Spencer, where he is now dealing in furniture and household goods, having a well appointed store, while his straightforward business methods commend him to the liberal patronage of the public. He started upon the journey of life in Marion county, Indiana, December 1, 1833, and has therefore reached the age of seventy-six years. Few men at his time of life remain as active factors in the world's work and indeed many a younger man seems anxious to relegate to others the duties and responsibilities which he should bear in business relations. Mr. Hardin, however, has been a most diligent and energetic man and his life of usefulness has been crowned with success.

His paternal grandfather was a native of Kentucky and became one of the pioneer residents of the Miami valley of Ohio, while later he established his home in Indiana. He served as a soldier of the war of 1812 and fought the Indians in Kentucky when they contested the invasion of the white race into what they

regarded solely as their hunting grounds. Henry Hardin, father of Anderson G. Hardin, was born in Ohio and was reared in that state amid conditions which are always prevalent in a frontier district. He devoted his life to farming pursuits and on leaving his native state went to Marion county, Indiana, becoming also a frontier settler there. Again he sought the "far west" when he came to Iowa in 1839, crossing the Mississippi river at New Boston. He settled first at Black Hawk in Louisa county, where he lived for about two years, when he removed to Yellow Springs township, Des Moines county, and took up his abode near Burlington, where he continued for two years. He next located in Jefferson county near Fairfield and helped to lay out that town and also the town of Burlington. His attention was devoted to general agricultural pursuits and he preempted a large tract of land in the midst of an Indian camping ground. As the years passed, however, the evidences of Indian occupancy were replaced by the improvements of modern civilization and Mr. Hardin was among those who labored to promote the progress and development of his portion of the state. He lived upon his farm for twenty years, after which he removed to the town of Richland, Keokuk county, where his remaining days were passed in the enjoyment of well earned rest and when in old age he was called to the home beyond his years numbered eighty-three. His wife had passed away the previous year at the age of eighty. In their lives they exemplified their Christian faith as members of the Methodist church and Mr. Hardin was one of the pioneer preachers of that denomination in Iowa. In early manhood he had wedded Catharine Ludwick, also a native of Ohio and a daughter of George Ludwick, a farmer, who was killed in the war of 1812. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hardin were parents of eleven children, six sons and five daughters, of whom four are now living: Anderson G., of this review; Luther, residing near Sioux City, Dakota county, Nebraska; Sylvanus, also living at that place; and Margaret, the wife of Levi Johnson, living near Independence, Kansas.

When only five years of age Anderson G. Hardin was brought to Iowa and from that time was reared in this state, which at that time was under territorial government. Acre after acre of land was not only uncultivated but was also as yet unclaimed, still belonging to the government. There were no railroads and few towns beyond those which bordered the Mississippi. The state, however, was rich in its natural resources and there came within its borders a colony of progressive pioneer people who realize the advantages that might here be obtained and laid the foundation for the present enlightened, progressive and prosperous commonwealth. Mr. Hardin was reared as a farm boy in a day when most of the homes were log cabins, heated by fireplace and lighted by tallow candles. The farm machinery, too, was very crude as compared with the modern implements of the present time, but neighbors were hospitable and friendly and did what they could to assist others. In his youthful days Mr. Hardin walked three miles to attend a subscription school. The teacher "boarded round" and gave instruction in a few of the elementary branches but the schools bore no comparison to the present school system of a state which today has every reason to be proud of her public schools, which are in advance of the system of public instruction in any other state in the Union. Mr. Hardin remained upon the home farm until twenty-one years of age, after which he worked for a time by the month as a

farm hand and then rented land until his labors and economy had brought him sufficient capital to enable him to purchase eighty acres in Keokuk county. There he lived for five years and afterward gave his attention to the live stock business during the period of the Civil war. In 1870 he came to Clay county and settled in Spencer, where for seven years he conducted a hotel and also bought stock. That was before the era of railroad building in this section of the state. He also did auctioneering and after a time he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Gillett Grove township, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits for seven years, although making his home in the town. On the expiration of that period he disposed of his farm and established a store in Spencer, dealing in furniture and household goods here for the past twenty years. He has enjoyed a gratifying and growing trade and has one of the well appointed mercantile houses of the city.

Mr. Hardin was married September 29, 1855, to Miss Sarah Jane McConnell, a daughter of James and Nancy McConnell, and a native of Pennsylvania, where her birth occurred December 3, 1835. Her parents later came to Spencer, Iowa, where they passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Hardin celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on September 29, 1905. They became the parents of six children. Arabel, the eldest, died in infancy. Belle became the wife of David Potter of Kansas City, Missouri, and they have had six children: Harry, deceased; Inez, Coral, Iva, Pearl and Rea. William died at the age of forty years. Alonzo, now living in Ames, Iowa, is editor of the Ames Times. He wedded Ella Eckley and they have one son, Max. Lillie is the wife of Charley Jones, of Spencer, and they have two sons living, Dale and Charles H., and Iva married William Lewis, of Des Moines, and their two children are Madge and Franklin. Mrs. Hardin's grandfather McConnell was a native of Scotland, but having come to America, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. On her mother's side she is a descendant of the famous Dana family of New York.

Mr. Hardin is a republican in his political views, having supported the party since its organization. He has never sought nor desired office, however, yet has never been remiss in the duties of citizenship and at all times has given his allegiance to those interests which he believed would promote the public welfare. Few residents of the state have remained within its borders for a longer period, as seventy years have come and gone since he came to Iowa. He has been a witness of many events which to others are matters of history and he relates many interesting incidents of the pioneer days.

A. J. PADDOCK.

A. J. Paddock is one of the few remaining veterans of the Civil war and one of the early settlers of Clay county, dating his residence here since 1869. He now owns and occupies a good homestead property in Riverton township. He was a young man of twenty-six years when he arrived in the county, for his birth occurred in Lake county, Illinois, December 6, 1843. There he was reared on the home farm, receiving the educational opportunities offered by the common

schools. He was but eighteen years of age when, in June, 1862, he responded to the country's call for troops and was assigned to duty with the boys in blue of Company D, Ninety-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He went south with the Army of the Tennessee and later was with the Army of the Cumberland. At Brentwood he was first under fire and later participated in the battles of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge and the Atlanta campaign. He participated in the capture of Atlanta and later was at Franklin, Tennessee, where Hood charged the Union works. There Mr. Paddock was taken prisoner on the 30th of November, 1864, and was kept in captivity by the Confederate forces until the close of the war. When hostilities had ceased he was taken to Vicksburg and thence returned northward to Chicago, where he was honorably discharged in 1865.

When the country no longer needed his aid, Mr. Paddock returned to Lake county and subsequently worked on a farm for about four years. He knew that land could be secured at cheaper rates in Iowa and he saw no reason why the wild prairie of the west could not be converted into productive fields. Accordingly, in 1869, he came to Clay county, where he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres, upon which he now resides. He broke the sod with ox teams and during the first summer built and lived in a sod shanty. Later he erected a little frame house and continued the work of improving and cultivating his farm until he had brought his fields under a high state of cultivation and had added many modern equipments to his place. He divided the farm into fields of convenient size, by well kept fences, and bent his energies toward cultivating the crops best adapted to soil and climate, so that he annually gathered and marketed good harvests.

On the 27th of December, 1877, Mr. Paddock was married in Spencer to Miss Rosa Damon, who was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and a daughter of Joseph Damon, a native of Canada and of French descent. In Canada her father wedded Mary Venoir, a French lady. At the time of the Civil war he joined the Union army and served throughout the period of hostilities, while later he came to Iowa, locating in Palo Alto county, where his daughter, Mrs. Paddock, was reared.

Following his marriage Mr. Paddock engaged in farming and continued the work of improving his place, erecting a good residence and substantial barn and adding other modern equipments, which have made this an excellent property. As the years passed four children were added to the household: Bert, who is now a resident farmer of Clay county; Florence, the wife of Sewell Rogers, of North Dakota; Lewis, also of that state; and Clara, at home. They lost one son, Walter, who died at the age of four years.

Politically Mr. Paddock is a republican and cast his first presidential ballot for General U. S. Grant, in 1868, since which time he has voted for every nominee of the party. He served here for some years as township trustee, is now township school treasurer and for eight years has been assessor. He has been identified with the schools for a long period, and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart friend. He has also frequently served as a delegate to the county conventions. He was reared in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church and attends its services, while fraternally he is connected with the Grand Army post

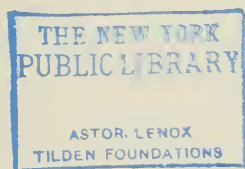
at Spencer. He has been a resident of Clay county forty years and has helped to make it what it is today. With the growth and development he has been closely connected and he is a man of tried integrity and worth, who has the confidence and esteem of all.

STEPHEN D. FRAD.

Stephen D. Frad, who is largely identified with the financial interests of Logan township, is a farmer and stock-breeder and also a stockholder in the Farmers Telephone Company and Creamery. He is a native of Lucas county, this state, his birth having occurred on the 2d of February, 1861, a son of Joseph and America (Berget) Frad, his father, who was of German origin, having been born in Brown county, Illinois, locating in Lucas county, this state, where he followed agricultural pursuits until he departed this life in 1896. His mother, who was a native of Indiana, passed away in 1876. Among their children were: Hilda, deceased; Mary, the wife of Frederick Irging, engaged in agriculture in Lucas county, Iowa; Stephen D., of this review; Henry J., a farmer; William, deceased; Joseph, a farmer, and Hannah, deceased. One child passed away in infancy.

On his father's farm Stephen D. Frad was reared, taking part in the daily routine of the home place during the summer months and in the winter attending the district school, where he acquired his education. Remaining under the parental roof until twenty-two years of age, he at that period of life "hired out" by the month and finally acquired sufficient means with which he purchased forty acres of land in the county of his birth. This he cultivated one year, at the expiration of which time he again worked by the month, and so continued until he was twenty-four years of age, when he located in O'Brien county and there bought a small farm, on which he engaged in general farming a few months. Two years more were then spent as a hired hand, at the termination of which he came to Clay county, in the year 1890, and first located on section 5, where he remained until 1894. That year he located on section 9, where he owns one hundred and twenty acres of highly improved land, provided with a comfortable dwelling, outbuildings, machinery and other necessities with which to successfully pursue his occupation. Since acquiring this land he has worked hard and perseveringly and the fruits of his toil have enabled him to add to his possessions one hundred and seventy-two acres in Lake township and as well, to become a stockholder in the Farmers Telephone Company and in a large creamery at Dickens. Aside from these interests he is also influentially affiliated with the Grain Elevator at Gillett's Grove. In addition to producing general grain crops, Mr. Frad takes some interest in stock-breeding and has a number of head of high grade specimens of cattle, sheep and hogs.

In 1888 Mr. Frad wedded Miss Jennie Miller, a native of Whiteside county, Illinois, where her birth occurred February 11, 1868, a daughter of Robert and Elizabeth (Marshall) Miller, her father having followed agriculture until he departed this life in 1901. Mr. Miller was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland, and





S. D. FRAD



MRS. S. D. FRAD



came to this county in 1876. He first settled in Whiteside county, Illinois, and moved from there to O'Brien county, where he died. Mrs. Miller was born in Bellsills, Scotland. Both were life-long members of the Presbyterian church. They reared seven children, namely: Mary, who became the wife of William Crighton, a farmer of South Dakota; Jennie, the wife of Stephen D. Frad; Elizabeth, who married John McCallum, a carpenter of Pipestone, Minnesota; Robert, engaged in agriculture in O'Brien county; John, of Sioux City; and James and William in O'Brien county, on the old homestead, which is called the Miller farm.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Frad were born: Elizabeth, who departed this life March 12, 1894; Robert, who was born November 11, 1893, and is at school; Ethel, whose birth occurred August 10, 1896, and resides with her parents; Esther, who was born August 17, 1902; and Ida, whose birth occurred December 14, 1904. Politically Mr. Frad is loyal to the republican party and, while he has always been ready with his vote and influence during campaigns in an endeavor to assist his party in attaining success, he is not an aspirant for public office. He is a member and liberal supporter of the Methodist Episcopal church and for the past two years has been affiliated with Dickens Lodge, I. O. O. F. Mr. Frad is well known throughout the community as an honest and reliable farmer and enjoys the respect and confidence of all with whom he is acquainted.

HUGH CORCORAN.

Hugh Corcoran, influentially identified with the agricultural and stock raising interests of Peterson township, this county, where for a number of years he has kept an extensive acreage under a high state of cultivation, was born in Ross county, Ohio, August 9, 1852, a son of John and Bridget (Cavanagh) Corcoran. His father was a native of the Emerald Isle and came to the United States in 1850, locating in Ross county, where he operated a large farm and resided until he died. He was a man deeply interested in the welfare of the community and always in favor of such improvements as would tend to make living easier, and was particularly interested in the school system, which he desired to see reach the highest possible standard. In politics he was a democrat, and although not ambitious to receive office, he was enthusiastic during campaigns in endeavoring to secure the election of his party's candidates. His wife, also a native of Ireland, was married there, but passed away and was laid to rest in the Chillicothe (Ross county) Catholic cemetery. She gave birth to the following children: Dennis, Thomas, John, P. H., Andrew, and William, all of whom are agriculturists in Ross county, Ohio; James, deceased; Mary, who became the wife of Jacob Baum, a farmer of Ross county; Margaret, wife of Samuel Shots, also a farmer of that county; and Hugh, the oldest of the family.

In the common schools of Ross county, Ohio, Hugh Corcoran acquired his education and remained at home, engaging in farm duties, until he was twenty-one years of age, when he went to Chillicothe, worked at the dairy business and

delivered milk throughout the city. Leaving this occupation he tended stock two years, at the expiration of which time he came to Iowa, in the year 1882, locating in Clay county, where he bought up a number of acres of school land, in the southeastern portion of section 16, which he highly improved, providing a comfortable dwelling, outbuildings and all conveniences necessary to the farming occupation, and has given his time to raising general crops, together with stock breeding. As a farmer he has been quite successful, and, taking pride in the appearance of his farm, he has added every improvement which might contribute to its neatness and fertility. He has also made such study of the soil as to enable him to so adapt his crops as to reap the maximum yield per acre. While he does not deal extensively in livestock, he always keeps on hand a number of the finest specimens of horses, cattle and sheep, and puts them in condition for the market.

On the 7th of January, 1879, Mr. Corcoran wedded Miss Kate Conley, daughter of Patrick and Sarah (McCarville) Conley, her father having been a native of Ireland, where her mother was also born and married. The parents came to the United States in 1850, locating in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, later removing to Darlington, where they both died and were laid to rest. They reared the following family: Michael, a general mechanic, residing in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; P. H., an attorney at law, of Darlington, Wisconsin; Owen, who operates a large farm near that place; John, a clerk, of Darlington, Wisconsin; James, deceased, who was ordained for the priesthood; Frank, an attorney at law in Darlington; Sarah, who became the wife of H. J. Gallagher, a banker; Margaret, deceased; and Kate. To Mr. and Mrs. Corcoran the following children were born, namely: Sarah, deceased; May Eveline; and Margaret Agnes. Politically Mr. Corcoran gives his support to the republican party. He has been treasurer of the school board of this township fourteen years and a trustee four terms. He belongs to the Catholic church of Sutherland, and is a man whose high moral character, industry and straightforwardness, together with his interest in the general welfare of the community, have given him high standing in the township.

ADAM SIMINGTON.

Adam Simington is one of the early settlers and the extensive landowners of Clay county, who owes his success, not to any fortunate combination of circumstances, but to the fact that he has worked earnestly and persistently to attain it. He is now located on section 34, Freeman township, where he has a valuable and well-improved farm, his possessions altogether aggregating six hundred acres in this county. He was born in Canada, near Sovereign Bridge, July 4, 1860, and is a son of William and Margaret Simington, who were natives of Ireland. The father devoted his entire life to general agricultural pursuits. He, too, was born on the Emerald Isle and, on crossing the Atlantic to America, settled in Toronto, Canada, where he engaged in farming. About 1872 he came to the United States. He had investigated business conditions in Iowa and believed

that in the western portion of the state, where settlements were then comparatively few, he might have opportunity to attain success more quickly than he could hope to do in the Dominion. Accordingly, on crossing the border, he made his way to Clay county and secured a homestead claim of eighty-eight acres in Freeman township. Here he at once began to plough the land and cultivate his crops, for which he found a good sale on the market. Thus his financial resources annually increased and, from time to time, he added to his property until he became the owner of two hundred and forty acres of rich and productive land. The last few years of his life were spent in the home of his son, Adam. He died in Montana while on a visit in that state, passing away in April, 1902, when eighty-one years of age. His wife had died about three years before. She was a consistent Christian woman, holding membership in the Presbyterian church and Mr. Simington also belonged to the same church. Unto them were born twelve sons and two daughters. Eight of the family are now living: William, who resides in Canada; Samuel, living in Orillia, Canada; John, whose home is in Albert, Canada; James, a resident of Spencer; George, who is located at Red Lodge, Montana; Adam, of this review; Noble, who is living in Colorado; and Eliza, the wife of Moses McClelland, of Orillia, Canada.

In the country of his nativity Adam Simington remained until twelve years of age and began his education in the schools there. He came with his parents to Clay county, Iowa, in 1872, and here continued his education as a public-school student. On his father's farm he was reared to manhood and was early trained in the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He started upon an independent business venture by working by the month as a farm hand, and by his industry and economy was at length enabled to purchase his present home farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which he bought from his father and improved with a good house, barn and granaries. He added to this place all the accessories of a model farm property and brought his fields under a high state of cultivation. He now owns six hundred acres of land in Clay county and his extensive property holdings are the visible proof of his life of industry, thrift and careful management.

The lady who now bears the name of Mrs. Simington was in her maidenhood Miss Eulalia Drake, a daughter of Joseph and Betsy Drake. Her father was a soldier of the Civil war. Both he and his wife became early settlers of Clay county and here remained until they were called to the home beyond. They had a family of five sons and three daughters, of whom five are now living: Frank, Edward, Chester, Charles and Eulalia. The last named, now Mrs. Simington, was born in Northfield, Minnesota, December 23, 1863, and by her marriage became the mother of eleven children: Minnie, Edward, Maude, Oren, Bessie, Ernest, Clarence, Gladys, Elmer, Bernice and Charley. The eldest daughter is now the wife of William Roseacker and they have two children, Elmer and Elsie.

Mr. Simington votes with the republican party, in support of principles which he believes are most conducive to good government. For several years he has been a school director and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart friend. He is always interested in the progress of the community and has been an influential factor in many measures for the general good. Great changes have occurred since he came to the county—thirty-seven years ago. At that time the

homes were widely scattered, for there was but a sparse population. Today there is hardly an acre of uncultivated land in the county and the farms present a splendid appearance, showing what has been done by a class of enterprising, resolute agriculturists. The work of Mr. Simington has constituted an excellent example for others to follow and his record proves conclusively that success and an honored name may be won simultaneously.

ELI B. HERRINTON.

In this day of close competition the successful business man is he who watches every opportunity and uses every honorable chance to further his interests, basing his business principles and actions upon the rules which govern strict and unswerving integrity and unfaltering industry. In this manner Eli B. Herrinton has gained a creditable position as a prosperous general merchant of Greenville. He was born in Belvidere, Illinois, March 27, 1867, and is a son of Alva and Sylvania (Barlow) Herrinton. The father was a son of Joseph Herrinton, a native of Connecticut, who wedded Mary Risley and followed the occupation of farming as a life work. The maternal grandfather was Eli Barlow, a native of New York. He became an early settler of Kane county, Illinois, where he followed the occupation of farming and thus provided for his family. He married a Miss Moore and died at the age of fifty-nine years, while his wife passed away at the age of seventy-three.

Alva Herrinton, while of New England ancestry, was a native of the state of New York and became an early settler of Illinois, residing on Bouns Prairie in Boone county. There he followed the occupation of farming and with characteristic energy brought his fields under a high state of cultivation. In 1883 he came to Iowa, settling near Shellrock, in Butler county, and after a residence of ten years in the Hawkeye state passed away in Mason City in 1893 at the age of seventy-one years. His widow, also a native of New York, yet survives him and now resides with her son, Eli B. Herrinton, in Greenville. She is a consistent member of the Methodist church, to which her husband also belonged, and their close conformity to the teachings of the church made them worthy Christian people, helpful and charitable in their relations to their fellowmen. Their family numbered seven children, of whom three are yet living: Eli B., of this review; Mary, the wife of O. A. Bowen; and Minerva, a practicing physician of Appleton, Wisconsin. The last named is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and was in medical school for six years.

In taking up the personal history of Eli B. Herrinton we present to our readers the record of one who is widely and favorably known in this part of the state. He spent his boyhood days in Boone county, Illinois, being reared on the home farm until sixteen years of age, while in the district schools he acquired his early education and later became a high school student in Belvidere. Through the periods of vacation he worked on the home farm, giving valuable assistance to his father until twenty-five years of age, when he started upon an independent business career. Thinking to find commercial pursuits more congenial and profit-



MIR. AND MRS. E. B. HERRINTON



able, he removed to Portland, Iowa, where he opened a general store. Later he resided in Waterloo, Iowa, where he engaged in the wholesale confectionery business and thence went to Spencer, where he established a grocery store. In 1894 he arrived in Greenville and opened a general mercantile store, which he conducted for six years. On the expiration of that period he assisted in organizing the Greenville Bank and was its cashier for more than two years, after which he resumed general merchandising and still continues in this field of activity. He was postmaster here for eight or ten years and was very prompt and efficient in the discharge of his official duties. He also bought and shipped stock for several years and thus various interests have contributed to his success, bringing him a substantial income. He is now prospering in his undertakings as a general merchant, carrying a large and well selected line of goods which is proving attractive to the general public—a fact indicated by his liberal patronage.

On the 23d of July, 1892, Mr. Herrinton was united in marriage to Miss Myrtle Stewart, a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Townsend) Stewart. Mrs. Herrinton was born in Shellrock, Iowa, to which place her parents had removed from Wisconsin, becoming early settlers at Shellrock. Her father, who died in August, 1907, when sixty-one years of age, was an honored veteran of the Civil war. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Herrinton has been blessed with three children: Fern, Keith and Stewart. Mr. Herrinton belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity and also holds membership relations with the Elks, Modern Woodmen and Odd Fellows. Politically he has ever been a republican and though he does not desire office he is loyal to the interests of the party and does what he can to further its success. In community affairs he is ever found helpful and progressive, supporting many measures for the public good. He has made for himself a creditable position in commercial circles and his name is now an honored one throughout the community by reason of the progressive spirit and unfaltering commercial integrity which he has displayed in all his business transactions.

WILLIAM H. WEBB.

William H. Webb is one of the prominent business men and landowners of Clay county. He became a factor in the agricultural life of this part of the state thirty-five years ago and his residence in Clay county dates from 1877. Throughout his business career he has manifested the substantial qualities of industry, well directed perseverance and unsullied integrity and thus he has gained for himself substantial prosperity as he has carried on his undertakings.

Mr. Webb was born in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, October 7, 1840, and is of English lineage. He is a son of Henry Webb, who was born in England, where he spent the days of his boyhood and youth. After arriving at years of maturity he wedded Grace Stevens, an English lady, and in 1848 sought a home in the new world, first establishing his residence in Pennsylvania, where he was employed as overseer of some mines for six or eight years. Thinking that he would have still better business opportunities in the recently developed but rapidly growing middle west, he made his way to Wisconsin and was engaged

in merchandising in Linden for a number of years. Subsequently he became a resident of Lafayette county, that state, and carried on business there. The year 1874 witnessed his arrival in Iowa, at which time he took up his abode at Clear Lake, where his remaining days were passed, his death occurring in 1884 at Spencer. His widow survived him for almost twenty years and passed away in the fall of 1903.

William H. Webb spent the greater part of his youth in Wisconsin, and the common schools afforded him his intellectual training. He received good business discipline in his father's store, continuing with him until he had attained his majority and thus gaining intimate knowledge of modern business methods. He later turned his attention to farming, which he followed for a year or two and in order to establish a home of his own he was married in Clear Lake, Iowa, on the 30th of September, 1875, the lady of his choice being Miss May Goodwin, a daughter of the Honorable James Goodwin, one of the well known and prominent citizens of Iowa, who occupied a leading place in the business circles of Spencer for some years. Here his ability and well known loyalty in matters of citizenship led to his selection for legislative office and for one term he represented Clay county in the general assembly. As his financial resources increased he made judicious investment in property and became the owner of several hundred acres of land in Clay county, so that he was classed with its prosperous citizens.

Following his marriage Mr. Webb engaged in merchandising at Clear Lake for a few years but in 1877 took up his abode permanently in Clay county, locating on the farm now owned and occupied by his son, Roy Webb. He began there with two hundred acres of land, which was largely undeveloped and unimproved. Upon him therefore devolved the arduous task of breaking the sod, harrowing the fields and preparing the land for the plow. He also fenced his farm, erected substantial buildings thereon and in course of time made his place a valuable tract, the rich soil responding readily to his care and cultivation. As the years brought him abundant crops and his financial resources increased through their sale, he added to his holdings from time to time until he is now the owner of eight hundred acres of very valuable land in Clay county. In 1899 he left the farm and removed to Spencer, where in 1900 he lost his daughter, Ann Grace, at the age of fifteen years. In the fall of that year he removed westward to Gettysburg, South Dakota, and established business at that place. He also opened a general store at Evarts, carrying on both enterprises for three years, then he sold out and returned to Spencer. In 1906 he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died on the 26th of July of that year, her death being deeply regretted by many friends as well as her immediate family, because she had displayed in her life a kindly and helpful spirit and had therefore gained the warm regard of those who knew her.

Since the death of his wife Mr. Webb has devoted his time to the supervision of his business and landed interests in the Dakotas. He owns some four thousand acres in Roberts and adjoining counties and in the control of his property displays keen discernment and enterprising management. While on the farm here he was extensively engaged in breeding and dealing in shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs and Percheron horses and became widely known by

reason of the extensive business which he carried on in those connections. He is one of the public-spirited men of the county and has aided materially in the promotion and development of the best interests of Spencer. He was one of the largest contributors to the fund for the erection of the new Methodist Episcopal church, his donations reaching three thousand dollars. He acted as chairman of the building committee and the church was named Grace Methodist church, in honor of his daughter. This was also his mother's name and Mr. Webb felt the church to be largely a memorial to both. In politics he has been a life-long republican and has endeavored to further the public interests by his stanch advocacy of the party, for he believes that it contains the best elements of good government. He has been elected and served in various positions of honor and trust and has ever proved loyal to the duties devolving upon him. He has led an active life, stands as a man among men and is recognized as a gentleman of tried integrity and worth. No history of this part of the county would be complete without extended reference to William H. Webb.

ROY G. WEBB.

Roy G. Webb needs no introduction to the readers of this volume. The family name has figured conspicuously in connection with substantial progress in Clay county for many years and the subject of this review is now classed with the representative agriculturists of Summit township, his home being on section 36. In all of his business affairs he is energetic and progressive and as a farmer and stock-raiser is doing a successful business, being now the owner of some five hundred acres of arable land which includes his father's old homestead.

Mr. Webb is a native son of Iowa, his birth having occurred in Clay county on the farm which is still his home, his natal day being September 3, 1878. Here he was reared, and the public schools largely afforded him his educational privileges. His course in the Spencer high school was supplemented by two years' study in Mount Vernon College, and thus well equipped for life's practical and responsible duties, he later joined his father in South Dakota and assisted him in the management and conduct of his stores there. Like his father, he manifests notable enterprise in carrying forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes. In 1903 he returned to Clay county and to the old home farm, and has since given his time and energies to agricultural pursuits, being one of the active, wide-awake and alert farmers of this portion of the state. He makes a business of raising, feeding and fattening stock for the market, handling cattle, sheep and hogs. He now has a flock of six hundred sheep, about one hundred and fifty head of cattle and a large number of hogs. He fattens and ships several carloads of stock each year and this brings him a substantial annual income.

A wedding ceremony which was performed in Mount Vernon, Iowa, on the 2d of October, 1900, united the destinies of Roy G. Webb and Miss Mabel Growther, who was born in Correctionville, Iowa, but was reared and educated in Sioux City. They now have one daughter, Lola May. The parents are

members of the Grace Methodist Episcopal church at Spencer, to which his father also belongs. In its work they are much interested and are generous contributors to its support. Mr. Webb has never sought nor desired office, yet has always given unfaltering allegiance to the republican party and its principles. He has been identified, however, with the schools in an official capacity, serving as president of the school board for several years, during which time he has done effective work in upholding the standard of public education. Prominent in Masonry, he belongs to the lodge and chapter at Spencer, while he and his wife are members of the Eastern Star. He has served as an officer in both the lodge and chapter and is loyal to the teachings of the fraternity which is based upon the principles of mutual helpfulness and brotherly kindness.

C. P. BUCKEY.

C. P. Buckey, cashier of the First National Bank of Spencer and vice president of the Bank of Everly, Everly, Iowa, possesses the alert, enterprising spirit which has been the dominant factor in the upbuilding of the middle west, and in his present business relations is contributing in substantial measure to the success of what is today one of the strongest financial concerns of this part of the state. He was born in Maryland, near Frederick City, on the 9th of November, 1850, and represents one of the old families of that state. His grandfather was there born and was of French descent. He died when only twenty-four or twenty-five years of age, while his widow, Mrs. Maria Buckey, reached the very advanced age of eighty-seven years. She married a second time.

J. M. Buckey, the only son of the first marriage, was born and reared in Maryland, and there followed the occupation of farming for some time. He wedded Miss Harriet Buckey, who was likewise a native of Maryland, and was one of a family of four children, her sister Evelyn being older than she, while Isabel and Daniel were younger. Her father married again after losing his first wife and there were several children by that marriage. Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Buckey began their domestic life in Maryland and subsequently moved to West Virginia, settling near Charlestown. The father, however, spent his last days in Frederick City, Maryland, where he died in 1886. His wife passed away in 1875. Both were members of the Episcopal church and were greatly esteemed by those who came in contact with them in business or social relations. Their family numbered four children, who still survive: Clarence P., of Spencer; Kemp, who is living in Baltimore, Maryland; Hattie, the wife of T. B. Wilson, a resident of Chicago; and Ridie L., the wife of Benjamin Riley, of Baltimore.

Clarence P. Buckey spent the first sixteen years of his life in his native state, and then accompanied his parents to the vicinity of Charlestown, West Virginia. He was reared upon the home farm and attended the private schools and also the parochial school at Frederick City, Maryland. He then supplemented his preliminary education by study in Claymont College, in West Virginia. Lessons of industry, enterprise and perseverance were early impressed upon his mind and in the course of years have borne rich fruit in his labors. When his

education was completed he went to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and entered the employ of Graff, Bennett & Company, iron manufacturers, with whom he remained for two years, but believing that the opportunities of the middle west were greater, he came to Spencer, in May, 1876, and here entered the Clay County Bank as assistant cashier, filling the position until 1882. In that year he removed to Montana, where he spent a year, after which he returned to Spencer and began business on his own account, purchasing a stock of groceries. He was also postmaster of Spencer during President Cleveland's first administration, and following his retirement from the office he entered the Peoples Savings Bank as cashier. Later the Clay County Bank, the Peoples Savings Bank and the First National Bank were consolidated, and since that date—1901—Mr. Buckey has been cashier of the institution, which is known as the First National Bank. He is now thoroughly conversant with the bank business, and his enterprise, thorough understanding of banking principles and his unfaltering devotion to the concern with which he is connected have constituted important elements in its growth and success.

On the 17th of October, 1888, Mr. Buckey was married to Miss Mattie De Hart, a daughter of William and Mary De Hart, of Carthage, Hancock county, Illinois. There are two children of this marriage, Clarence and William D. Mr. and Mrs. Buckey are communicants of the Episcopal church, in which he is serving as junior warden. In his political views Mr. Buckey is a democrat, and, keeping well informed on the issues of the day, is always able to support his position by intelligent argument. For some years he served as a member of the city council and exerted his official prerogatives in support of various measures for the public good, his labors constituting an element in municipal virtue and advancement. Wherever known he is respected for his unfaltering allegiance to the principles of honorable manhood as manifest in business and social relations and in public-spirited citizenship.

THOMAS J. HURT.

Thomas J. Hurt, who is contributing largely toward the financial worth of Dickens, Freeman township, Iowa, was born in Bedford county, near Bedford City, Virginia, on June 18, 1875, a son of John F. and Margaret E. (Morgan) Hurt, natives of that state and parents of the following children: Lizzie, wife of G. D. Harmon, of Midway, Tennessee; Sallie, deceased, who was the wife of Thomas Jacobs; Bertie, deceased, who wedded Robert Kirk; John P., of Fresno Flats, California; Flora, who was united in marriage with Ira A. Bowles, of Mosheim, Tennessee; Oscar, of this place; Virginia, who wedded Jacob R. Bowles, of Midway, Tennessee; and Thomas J., our subject. The elder Mr. Hurt was a merchant in Davis Mills, Virginia, and from there he removed to Tennessee and went into the business of tobacco raising at Little Chucky, where he died in 1888 at the age of fifty-two years. His wife survived him eighteen months and departed this life when forty-five years old. He was a Confederate soldier under General Robert E. Lee, engaging in active service for two years.

during which time he was commissioned as captain of a company. Toward the end of hostilities he was taken prisoner in Virginia and was held for six months, being released at the close of the war. The paternal and maternal grandfathers were also natives of Virginia.

When his parents removed to Tennessee Thomas J. Hurt was an infant, and he was consequently reared there, acquiring his education in the common schools. He left that state in 1893, repairing to Nebraska, where he went to work on a farm in Gage county, and followed agricultural pursuits for two years, at the expiration of which time he formed a partnership with M. Van Moyer and went into the harness business. While in Nebraska he served for a time as clerk of the township in which he resided. In the year 1900 he came to Dickens and established himself in the business which he has since been successfully following.

In 1904 he wedded Miss Hepsie Baker, a native of Clay county, and a daughter of Nathaniel and Rosa E. (O'Grady) Baker, and they have one daughter, Bertha E. Mr. and Mrs. Hurt are faithful in the fulfillment of their religious obligations, being members of the Congregational church in which they are active workers. Mr. Hurt is numbered among the up-to-date men of the community and through his industry and perseverance has acquired a high standing in commercial circles.

R. S. WATSON.

R. S. Watson, who a number of years ago turned his attention to the undeveloped prairie lands of this state and who has since by his unfaltering industry succeeded in becoming one of the foremost farmers of Douglas township, this county, is a native of the state of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Sandwich, July 26, 1862. He had little or nothing when he began agricultural life, but through his constant application and unremitting energy he has been able from year to year to so cultivate the soil that now he owns one of the finest farms in this county. Mr. Watson's parents were Albert and Eleanor (Vanderhoff) Watson. His father, who was born in the state of New York, near Venice, traveled westward when a young man and located near Aurora, Illinois, where he remained actively engaged in agricultural pursuits for a time. Subsequently he settled in Sandwich, De Kalb county, Illinois, where he remained until his son, R. S. Watson, was about six years of age, and then removed to La Salle county, in the same state, where he engaged in farming for several years. Finally he removed to Santa Clara county, California, where he departed this life in 1902. His wife, whom he married in Illinois and who was a native of the Keystone state, departed this life in the year 1895 in Santa Clara county, California. Their family consisted of seven children, namely: Sylvester and Adelaide, deceased; Thomas Burnett, who is engaged in carpentering in Santa Clara county, California; Cora, who became the wife of Charles Townsend, who also resides in that place; Leroy, a carpenter in Santa Clara county, California; Jennie L., deceased; and R. S.

In La Salle county, Illinois, R. S. Watson spent his boyhood days, working on the farm during the summer months, and attending the district school during

the winter seasons. He remained on the home farm until he was twenty years of age, at which time, becoming ambitious to launch out in life for himself, he bought a number of acres of wild prairie land in Douglas township and at once began to apply his energy in putting it into a cultivatable state. By hard work he succeeded and now his property, which was once barren and unfruitful land, presents the appearance of a succession of fine fields from which from year to year he has reaped large crops, bringing him his present prosperity. While to some extent he engages in stock breeding, having a number of fine horses, cattle, sheep and hogs, yet he devotes most of his attention to producing hay and the various grains, and the attention which he has given the soil enables him to produce the maximum yield per acre. He owns two hundred acres on sections 2 and 10, and two hundred and thirty-seven and a half acres in Weakley county, Tennessee.

In 1887 Mr. Watson wedded Miss Mary Elizabeth Williams, a resident of this county, to whom were born three children, namely: Howard A., whose birth occurred October 21, 1889, and who attends school at Sioux Rapids; Eleanor P., who was born January 4, 1892, and who also attends school in Sioux Rapids; and Ruth A., whose birth occurred July 11, 1899. Mr. Watson gives his political support to the republican party, and while he is not an active politician nor desires to hold public office, he takes an interest in his party during campaigns and does all he can by his vote and influence to secure the election of its candidates. Both he and his wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal church, of which they are liberal supporters, and Mr. Watson is a member of the board of trustees. The tenor of his life is such that he is numbered among the most valued citizens and entertains the respect and confidence of the entire community.

J. W. FRENCH.

J. W. French, who is of English extraction, and a well-to-do farmer of Peterson township, this county, an ardent temperance worker and a strong supporter of the prohibition movement, is a native of Licking county, Ohio, where he was born May 23, 1846, a son of Bethuel and Sarah (Sinkey) French. His father was a native of the Keystone state and removed to Ohio when a boy, where he remained until the fall of 1846, when he located in Jones and Jackson counties, Iowa. In 1872 he placed his family and effects in covered wagons and removed to Clay county, where he followed agriculture and was held in excellent repute. He died in 1903. The mother was a native of Ohio, where she was united in marriage, after which she removed to this county with her husband and remained until she departed this life. She was laid to rest in Peterson cemetery beside her husband. They were the parents of: James, of this place; J. W.; Ann, wife of William Johnson, of Sioux township, where he is proprietor of a large farm; Sarah, who married J. W. Lemaster, an agriculturist of this county; Mary, deceased; and A. C., a Peterson township farmer.

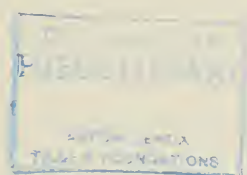
After acquiring his education in the district schools of Jones county J. W. French remained with his parents and engaged in the daily routine of the farm until 1880. During this time he had laid by considerable of his earnings, which

he invested in a timber claim in Clay county and, in addition to this in the year 1880, he purchased a tract of land from the railroad company, and now owns one-half of sections 8 and 9, part of which he cultivates and the remainder he has planted in flourishing groves. His farm is highly improved, and aside from having an excellent dwelling house it is provided with all the buildings, machinery, and other conveniences necessary to carry on the occupation in hand. He engages in general farming, raising hay and various kinds of grain, giving some attention to stock-breeding and, on the whole, by a strict attention to business and employing modern methods, his farm is one of the best paying propositions in the county.

In the year 1880 he was united in marriage to Miss Cary Larm, a native of Sweden, who came to the United States in 1868 with her parents. This family first went to Canada, thence to Illinois, and thence to Clay county. Mr. and Mrs. French have the following family: A. L.; Guy E., a general delivery clerk in the postoffice at Des Moines; Gertrude, deceased; Harry; and Mary. Mr. French is a strong agitator of temperance and being desirous of doing all he can to abolish the liquor traffic and thereby benefit the country at large he has allied himself with the prohibition movement, in behalf of which he is an untiring and enthusiastic worker. He is an efficient member of the school board and attends divine services at the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. French is a man of high morals and it has been a salient feature of his life to devote as much of his time and energy as possible to enhance the moral standing of his fellowmen, and his noble aims, honesty and industry, have won him the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens.

JOHN KRUSE.

Among the younger generation of men who are making their mark in agricultural circles in the state is John Kruse, who was born in Iowa county, Iowa, March 17, 1871, and is conducting large farming interests in Clay township. He is a son of Frederick and Sophie (Jacobs) Kruse. His father, born in Germany, located in the United States after the war, immediately going to Iowa county where he engaged in farming for thirty years, at the expiration of which time he removed to Clay county, where he departed this life in 1897, his remains having been interred in the cemetery of Clay township. In his native land he was a laborer and upon coming to this country he hired out for a period of one year, after which he purchased forty acres of land on which he worked and met with such success as to be able to add to his acreage from time to time, until at his death he owned two hundred and forty acres of the finest land to be found in the vicinity. His wife, also a native of Germany, where they were married, is still living in Hartley, this state. They had the following children: Sophia, the wife of Lew Kline, who operates a large farm in Iowa county, this state; Henry, a farmer of this county; Emma, who became the wife of John Bobzein, an agriculturist of Hartley, Iowa; Charley, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in O'Brien county, Iowa; Frederick, deceased; and John, of this review.





MRS. JOHN KRUSE





MRS. JOHN KRUSE

In the common schools of his native village John Kruse acquired his education, in the meantime engaging in the daily routine of the farm, and after completing his studies he remained at home until he was twenty-three years of age, when he conducted a farm for himself in Iowa county for a period of three years. In 1895 he came to this county, where he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, to which he perseveringly devoted his energies and from which he derived substantial harvests which finally enabled him to add to his holdings, until he now possesses four hundred and sixty acres of the most highly cultivated land in the county, four hundred acres of which is situated in Clay township and is very valuable property. In addition to tilling the fields he also pays considerable attention to stock-raising and keeps on hand quite a number of head of fine cattle and sheep, which he feeds for the market. His farms are highly improved, being provided with every convenience: roomy barns, outbuildings and an elegant residence of nine rooms, together with machinery and everything requisite to make farming a paying proposition. His fields are very productive and the attention which he has paid to his place has won for it the reputation of being one of the finest farms in Clay county.

In 1896 Mr. Kruse was united in marriage to Miss Louisa Kuch, a native of Iowa county, and a daughter of John and Catherine (Coller) Kuch. Her father, a native of Germany, came to the United States when he was twenty years of age, being one of the pioneer settlers of Iowa county, where he spent his life in agricultural pursuits and passed away in 1906. He reared the following children: John, a farmer in Iowa county; William, Jacob and Louis, all of whom are agriculturists of Iowa county; Katie, who became the wife of Philip Vaught, a resident farmer of Iowa county; and Louisa, the wife of John Kruse. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Kruse have been born Esther, Ida, Ivan, Bernice, Archie and Floyd, all of whom reside with their parents.

In politics Mr. Kruse gives his allegiance to the republican party and being quite prominent in the community in which he lives, he has for several years served as a member of the school board. In company with his wife he attends divine services in the Lutheran church of which they are members. Mr. Kruse inherits the industrial qualities, together with the honesty, of his German ancestry, and aside from being numbered among the substantial farmers of the community, he is also acknowledged to be one of the representative citizens of the township.

J. T. GOLDSWORTHY.

J. T. Goldsworthy is one of the active and progressive farmers and stock-breeders of Clay county, making his home on section 8, Riverton township, where he is now engaged in raising and feeding shorthorn cattle. His farm is a well improved property of two hundred and forty acres and the fact that it is located within four miles of Spencer makes it easy for him to obtain all of the advantages of city life and at the same time enjoy the opportunities of a rural existence. Almost a third of a century has come and gone since he arrived in Clay county and during this period he has witnessed great changes here, for the county

has put off all the evidences of frontier life and taken on all of the improvements of modern civilization. Mr. Goldsworthy is a native of Wisconsin. His birth occurred in Kenosha county on the 15th of February, 1860. There he was reared to the age of seventeen years and in the district schools he obtained his preliminary education, while later he attended the high school at Racine and the Oshkosh (Wis.) Normal. He afterward engaged in teaching in Racine, Wisconsin, for three years and in 1877, when a young man of but seventeen years, arrived in Clay county to become a factor in its substantial growth and development as the years have gone by. Here he has raised and fed stock for a number of years, becoming well known as a dealer in shorthorn cattle. He is an excellent judge of stock, so that he is able to make judicious purchases and profitable sales. In the cultivation of his crops, too, he has displayed keen business judgment, and as the years have gone by he has become the owner of valuable property. At one time he owned four hundred and eighty acres of rich land in Summit township, and it was upon that farm that he began his domestic life. He broke the sod, fenced the fields, erected good buildings and continued the work of improving his farm for six years. Later he bought the place upon which he now resides and, subsequently, he sold his original farm and took up his abode on his present place. It presents a pleasing appearance with its commodious two story residence, in the rear of which stands a very large barn with substantial corn cribs and other evidences of his progressive spirit. He has planted a grove, put out some fruit and has divided the farm into fields of convenient size by well kept fences. He today has one of the best improved properties of Riverton township. He uses the latest inventions in farm machinery for tilling his fields and caring for the crops, and none of the accessories of the model farm of the twentieth century are lacking. All these years he has been raising, feeding and fattening stock and now makes a specialty of hogs. Prosperity has attended his efforts as the years have gone by, and as his financial resources have permitted he has invested in land in Minnesota and Dakota. His life has, indeed, been a very active and useful one. Putting forth his efforts in financial fields he established a bank at Ruthven, which he conducted for five years, residing in the town during that time.

Prior to his marriage, Mr. Goldsworthy went west and spent a year in Montana, largely engaged in hunting. During that time he killed a great many buffaloes, antelopes, deer and three bears, having now one of the bear skins, which he uses as a laprobe and which is, perhaps, the only one in the county and, undoubtedly, the only one which was taken from the animal by the present possessor.

On the 3d of July, 1884, Mr. Goldsworthy was married to Miss Ella Bedford, who was born in Wisconsin but was reared in Clay county. She was liberally educated and was a teacher in her maidenhood days. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Goldsworthy have been born two daughters: Edna Blanche, who is a teacher in Albert City, Iowa; and Maud Lisle, a teacher in the home school, both daughters being graduates of the Spencer high school.

Mr. Goldsworthy belongs to the Masonic lodge, at Spencer. Politically he is a stalwart republican where national issues are involved, but casts an independent local ballot. He has never sought for nor would he consent to hold office and is not remiss in the duties of citizenship, but prefers to do his public service in a private capacity. Mrs. Goldsworthy belongs to the Methodist church,

is active in its work and has been a teacher in the Sunday school. Our subject's life has been well spent and his diligence and perseverance have constituted the strong element in the success which he is now enjoying. He stands high in business and social circles and is well known in Clay and adjoining counties.

SAM TILLINGHAST.

Sam Tillinghast, a prominent citizen of Peterson township, whose ancestors came to the new world from England two hundred and twenty years ago, is a farmer and is known throughout the state as one of the foremost stock breeders and an authority on the qualities of Poland China hogs. He was born in Kent county, Rhode Island, November 4, 1857, and is the son of Ira and Julia C. (Bowen) Tillinghast. His father was a native of Connecticut and during the Civil war was a soldier in Company E of the Seventh Rhode Island Volunteer Infantry. During the service he received wounds which disabled him for the remainder of his life. His death occurred in December of the year 1883 and his remains were interred in Rhode Island. The mother of our subject was also a native of Rhode Island, where she was married and still resides. She gave birth to the following children: Emily, wife of L. S. Place, of Providence, Rhode Island; A. W., of Peterson township, this county; R. B., who lives at Woodside, Idaho; Jane A., the wife of Reuben Johnson, and residing in Providence, Rhode Island; E. H., of Oakland Beach, that state; Alvin, at Hill's Grove, Rhode Island; John, deceased; John, making his home on the old place; and Sam.

In the common schools of his native state Sam Tillinghast acquired his education and after completing his studies remained with his parents until seventeen years of age, at which period of his life he secured employment, which he pursued for three years and then made Iowa his objective point, locating in Marshall county, that state. There he procured a tract of land which he held under cultivation three years and then removed to Peterson township, Clay county, where he owns one hundred and sixty acres in section 10, which he took when in a raw state and put such improvements upon it as to make it one of the finest farms in the vicinity. In addition to this tract of land he also owns one-half section in Brookings county, South Dakota. When Mr. Tillinghast began farming he devoted his attention to producing general crops and raised large quantities of hay and grain, but in 1894, he made a specialty of stock-breeding and has since raised a number of head of Poland China hogs and in this business has become widely known throughout the state. Previous to the year 1894 he devoted some time to this branch of farming, but on a very small scale. After that year, however, he turned his attention almost exclusively to hog-breeding and has since raised some of the finest specimens of thoroughbred Poland China hogs in the state. He has read a great deal on the subject and in the past fourteen years has spent considerable time experimenting, until now he is acknowledged to be an authority on the various breeds of this class of animal. At present he has one hundred and thirty head of breeding stock, all thoroughbreds and include the following: Perfection Great, No. 85,127; Victor Price, No. 118,921; Crows Ideal, No. 134,981; Long

Prospect, No. 134,341; and Look On. Of the female class: Whitefooted Beauty, I Am It, I Be Perfect, Rosebud, Blackbird, Third Dina, Rhody, and Lucretia, the registration numbers of this class not being obtainable. Mr. Tillinghast breeds from all the above named, which are as fine as can be secured and devotes his time almost exclusively to this department of the farm. All of these beauties are high priced and list at upwards of one hundred dollars a head.

In 1881 Mr. Tillinghast wedded Jennie Vauthrin, by whom he had four children, namely: Victor S., a farmer of Clay county; Carl, at home; Garth, deceased; and Velma, who resides with her parents. He is a republican in politics and although he keeps abreast of the times as to the paramount economic issues before the country, he does not take an active interest in political affairs beyond using his vote and influence to aid the candidates of his party in securing office. He has served the township in several public offices. He belongs to Peterson Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Mr. Tillinghast is one of Clay county's enterprising men, who has contributed much toward the general welfare of the community, in which he is held in high confidence and is numbered among its substantial and representative citizens.

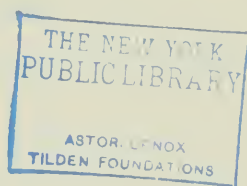
GUSTAF FREEBURG.

The Scandinavian peninsula has furnished to America many valuable citizens, including Gustaf Freeburg, who is interested in agricultural pursuits and stock-raising at Rossie, this county. His birth occurred near Guttenberg, Sweden, May 22, 1849, and he is a son of Magnus and Mary (Anderson) Johnson, his father having pursued general farming in his native land until his death in 1862, while his wife also departed this life, during the same year. In their family were the following children: Christina and Andrew, deceased; Anna, widow of Carl Lunbeck; John, who resides in Sweden; and Gustaf.

In the common schools of his native land Gustaf Freeburg acquired his education and upon completing his studies remained at home until he was thirteen years of age, at which period of his life he went to live with an aunt with whom he spent three years. He then secured employment on a farm, where he remained until his marriage and then rented land which he cultivated until the year 1880, when he came to the new world and visited with a brother located in Lincoln township, where he remained for ten weeks. Later he removed to Summit township, where for two years he was in the employ of James Goodwin and in the year 1882 removed to the farm on which he now resides. Here he owns eleven hundred and twenty acres of excellent land, all the improvements on which he has made himself, and aside from having a comfortable dwelling he also has a commodious barn and all the necessary outbuildings together with machinery and other conveniences with which to carry on his work by modern methods. When Mr. Freeburg first took possession of this property he owned but a single team of oxen and a lumber wagon, which conveyance he not only employed in his farm work but also utilized to take himself and family to church. At that time his barn and stable combined consisted of a building fourteen by sixteen



MR. AND MRS. GUSTAF FREEBURG



feet and in it he kept his provender and also his oxen and later a team of mules, when he had earned sufficient money to buy them during the first winter he engaged in farming for himself. These were his sole possessions but he was not so fortunate with them as he would have liked to have been, since one of the mules died shortly after he purchased it and he was compelled to borrow a horse from a neighbor in order to complete the team, and as he had no money with which to pay for the hire of the animal he worked it out on his neighbor's farm. In three years time he mortgaged his farm, which then consisted of eighty acres, and with the money he obtained he purchased a team. By hard work and good management he saved his earnings from year to year, until finally he increased his small farm of eighty acres to his present extensive landed possessions, including more than eleven hundred and twenty acres. He is regarded as one of the most industrious as well as one of the most prosperous agriculturists in the county. Aside from general farming in the production of hay and the various kinds of grain, he also engages in stock raising and keeps on hand a number of fine cattle and hogs, and he does a considerable shipping business.

In 1872, in his native land, Mr. Freeburg was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Peterson and to this union have been born eleven children, namely: John; Carl, who wedded Mary Anderson and resides on a farm in Lincoln township; Selma M., who became the wife of Andrew Olson, who is also an agriculturist of Lincoln township; Clara Amelia, the wife of Gus Carlson, of Lincoln township; Martin; Albert; Emma; Harry; Hannah; Elizabeth, and Beda. Mr. Freeburg's political opinions have always been on the side of the republican party and, having intelligently investigated the merits of the several political platforms, he considers the principles of republicanism best suited to preserve the prosperity of the country and promote its financial interests. Consequently he is always ready with his vote and influence to secure the election of its candidates. He has filled the positions of road supervisor and school director, in which capacities he has served efficiently for a number of terms. He is a man of high moral character, dutiful to his religious obligations as a member of the Swedish Lutheran church, of the Sunday school, of which he is superintendent. Mr. Freeburg is one of the most substantial farmers of the vicinity, well known throughout the township for his diligence and enterprise, and he deserves great credit for his present prosperity, which is due solely to his own exertions.

PROFESSOR DAVID MORRIS ODLE.

Professor David Morris Odle, who for four years has been principal of the Spencer high school, is a man whose force of character and natural ability has carried him into important relations with the educational interests of Iowa. From the age of eight years he has been dependent on his own resources and his laudable ambition prompted him to acquire the education that has served as the foundation for his present successful career. His birth occurred in Randolph county, Indiana, on the home farm about six miles north of Winchester, June 5, 1850. Through the greater part of the nineteenth century the family were identi-

fied with the pioneer development of the middle west. John Odle, the great-grandfather of Professor Odle, removed from Ross county, Ohio, to Winchester, Randolph county, Indiana, in 1818. He was of English lineage and was a pioneer Methodist preacher of Indiana. He was accompanied by his son, William Odle, the grandfather of Professor Odle, who became a farmer in Indiana and there spent his remaining days, passing away at the age of fifty-four years. He married Elizabeth Franklin, a grandniece of Benjamin Franklin.

Caleb Odle, son of William Odle, was born in Indiana and throughout his entire life carried on farming in Randolph county. He wedded Miss Eliza Jack, who was also born in the Hoosier state. Both the father and mother of Professor Odle were devoted members of the Methodist church. Their children were three in number.

Professor Odle, the youngest of the family, was only seven years of age when left an orphan and at the age of eight years was bound out in Jay county, Indiana, although he was reared to manhood in Randolph county. He lived on a farm until seventeen years of age, during which period he assisted in the work of the fields, from the time of early spring planting until crops were harvested in the late autumn. He attended the district schools for three months in the winter season but was not satisfied with the educational advantages which he thus secured and entered the college at Ridgeville, Indiana, working his way through that institution by teaching in the fall and winter months. Thus he met his expenses and completed a six years' course. He afterward engaged in teaching for two years and then went upon the railroad as a brakeman. Later he again took up teaching and in the profession has been very successful. For twelve years he taught in the public schools of Ridgeville through the fall and winter months and in the spring and summer was in college. In 1888 he went to Hull, Sioux county, Iowa, to accept the principalship of the schools there and so continued for twelve years. Later he spent five years as superintendent of the schools of Hartley, Iowa, and in the fall of 1905 came to Spencer, where he is now serving for the fourth year as principal of the high school. He is an able educator, who has been a constant student of the best methods of instruction and his own zeal and interest in the work has largely inspired his associates and pupils. Progress has been his watchword from the beginning and his labors have been attended with a measure of success that makes him one of the prominent representatives of the public-school system of Iowa.

At the time of the Spanish-American war Professor Odle was captain of Company E, Fourth Iowa National Guard. He had been connected with the military interests of the state for some years as a representative of the National Guard, serving as private in the Sixth Regiment, Iowa National Guards, then as first sergeant in the Fourth Regiment from April, 1892, until June, 1893, when he was elected first lieutenant of Company E, of the same regiment. In July, 1895, he was elected captain and on the 26th of April, 1898, entered the United States service as captain of Company E, Fifty-second Regiment of Iowa Volunteers. With this command he served until mustered out October 30, 1898. In March, 1899, he was elected captain of Company E, of the Fifty-second Iowa National Guard, and in May, 1900, was elected major of the Fifty-sixth Regiment, with which rank he served for five years, so that his entire military experience

covered fourteen years, bringing him a wide acquaintance in the military circles of the state and winning for him the high regard of all his associate officers as well as of the men who were under his command.

On the 9th of March, 1878, Professor Odle was married to Miss Josephine Houser of Virginian descent.

Professor Odle is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and belongs to Hartley Lodge, I. O. O. F., and Hartley Lodge, K. P. He is a gentleman of broad, general culture, who reads widely and thinks deeply, and association with him means expansion and elevation. Since 1892 he has held a teacher's life diploma and in his professional career has gradually worked his way upward until he today occupies a position of distinction as one of the prominent educators of the state. Moreover, in social relations he is held in the highest regard and has a circle of friends almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintance.

GEORGE S. BROWN.

George S. Brown, a successful and highly respected farmer, prominent in the affairs of Logan township, was born in Kankakee county, Illinois, February 26, 1864. His ancestors were among the pioneers of the state of Pennsylvania, and the family was noted for longevity, his great-grandfather having attained the remarkable age of one hundred and eight years. His paternal grandparents were Severin and Elizabeth C. (Pace) Brown. The former was born in New York, April 24, 1799, and when about twelve years of age he was taken to Pennsylvania, where he subsequently located lands in Monroe township, Wyoming county, upon which he resided until April, 1853. He then moved to Lake county, Indiana, remaining there until he departed this life, April 17, 1875, his remains being interred on his farm. In early life he devoted his time to chopping timber and hunting, but later settled down to general farming and stock raising, which he continued throughout his remaining days. In politics he was a staunch whig and was prominent and influential in the affairs of his party. He took a deep interest in church work and was a member of the Methodist Episcopal denomination, in which for many years he officiated as class leader. He was twice united in marriage, first in Wyoming county, Pennsylvania, to Deliverance C. Rogers, who departed this life November 6, 1825, leaving one son, John W., whose birth occurred in 1823, and his death about the year 1905. His second marriage was with Elizabeth C. Pace, whose birth occurred in North Milan township, Wyoming county, Pennsylvania, December 26, 1805, and who died February 15, 1873, being laid to rest in Lake county, Indiana. She was the mother of seven children: Isaac B., born July 22, 1828, died May 21, 1903. Asa P., who was a soldier in the Ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, in the Civil war, served three years and three months, participating in the battles of Green Briar, Harper's Ferry and Lookout Mountain. During these engagements he narrowly escaped death, a number of bullets piercing his clothes, but miraculously was not wounded. Some time after the war he removed to Pasadena county, California, where he is now living retired. James S., whose

birth occurred in Wyoming county, Pennsylvania, on August 1, 1831, now resides in this county. Nancy E., born November 7, 1837, is the widow of John Wilson, who for the past fifty years has occupied the same house in Valparaiso, Indiana, in which she now lives. Amanda J. is the widow of David McCleaf, of Valparaiso, Indiana. Thomas P., whose birth occurred February 18, 1843, departed this life October 29, 1862, while serving as a soldier in the Black Hawk Cavalry. Mary Anne, born November 1, 1845, is the wife of N. W. Hawkins, of Putnam county, Missouri.

James S. Brown did not have any educational advantages beyond those afforded him by the district school, and upon completing his studies there he was employed in the work of the farm. At the age of sixteen years he was engaged to drive a team on the canal, which occupation he followed for four years. When twenty-one years of age he left home and went to Grant county, Indiana, and thence to Kaskaskia county, Illinois, remaining in the latter county for a brief period and then locating in Pottawattamie county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming. In 1884 he removed to O'Brien county, Iowa, and thence, in 1892, to Palo Alto county, Iowa, and afterward to Carlton county, Minnesota, in 1902. In politics he was an old-line whig, afterward became a republican and recalls with pride the incident of his walking eight miles to poll his vote for Abraham Lincoln. For many years he officiated in the capacity of deacon in the Baptist church in Wisconsin, and is now serving in that position in the church of the same denomination to which he now belongs. While a resident of the state of Pennsylvania he belonged to the Sons of Temperance and has since been an influential factor in promoting the cause of prohibition.

Mr. Brown was twice married. He first wedded Miss Rosetta T. Durland, a native of Wyoming county, Pennsylvania, where her birth occurred January 1, 1836, and where she lived until October 30, 1860, when she departed this life, leaving one son, Harry, who was born December 15, 1857, and follows agricultural pursuits in Oklahoma. On February 28, 1861, Mr. Brown married Sarah C. Smith, a native of Lake county, Indiana, who was born April 11, 1843, and passed away October 15, 1903. By her marriage she became the mother of the following children: George S.; Jennie M., born September 19, 1866, now residing in Grant county, Wisconsin; Mary R., born March 8, 1869, and also a resident of Grant county; James S., born May 24, 1874, an agriculturist of Whipple township, Pottawattamie county, this state; Sadie, whose birth occurred October 7, 1878, and who resides in Pottawattamie county; Callie, who was born July 3, 1881, and departed this life on December 4, 1884; Charles A., who was born December 6, 1884, and is night clerk in the Erling Hotel, at Spencer; and Bertha, who departed this life in infancy.

At the age of eight years George S. Brown removed with his parents to Pottawattamie county, Iowa, where he acquired his education in the district schools. After completing his studies he remained at home until he was twenty-one years of age, at which period of his life he located on a farm in O'Brien county, where he followed agricultural pursuits for nine years, at the expiration of which time he removed to Silver Lake, Palo Alto county, renting lands there on which he carried on general farming and stock raising from 1892 to 1897, when he came here and rented a farm including the acreage of one section. He

now owns eighty acres on section No. 10, Logan township. He does an extensive farming and stock raising business and since the year 1897 has paid out twenty thousand dollars for rent and hired help, which gives some idea of the proportions of his farming interests. In addition to transacting the affairs of his farm, which is one of the finest and most highly improved in the county, he is concerned in other enterprises.

On August 4, 1887, Mr. Brown was united in marriage to Miss Maggie V. Delmoge, a native of Ontario, Canada, and a daughter of John and Jane (Wesley) Delmoge. Her father went from Ireland to Canada about the year 1833, living in Holton county for a while and then removeing to Wellington county, where he departed this life May 21, 1897. Her mother, who was a relative of John Wesley, and also of the Duke of Wellington, had ten children: Adam, William, Jake, Julia A., Catharine, Mary, Francis, Sarah, Gusta and Maggie V. Francis and Gusta are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Brown are parents of four children: Myrtie, born July 4, 1888; Eva, born August 15, 1889; James W., whose birth occurred September 15, 1890; and Lester D., who was born August 21, 1894.

Mr. Brown is a staunch supporter of the republican party and having given considerable study to the various political platforms, he is of the opinion that the principles of republicanism mark out a policy which if kept in vogue will insure the permanent peace of the country and place its finances on a firm foundation. Consequently he is active in the affairs of his party and exerts his influence to the uttermost in behalf of its candidates. For five terms he has officiated as clerk in this township, and is still the incumbent, while for ten years he has been central committeeman for the republican party. He belongs to Ayrshire Lodge, I. O. O. F., with which he has been affiliated for fourteen years and has passed through all the chairs. He is also a member of the Spencer Encainpment and Daughters of Rebekah. He is a man of high social and business standing and is recognized as one of the most honorable and valued citizens of the community.

JAMES A. REDFIELD.

Prominent among the energetic, successful and progressive business men of Spencer is numbered James A. Redfield, owner of a furniture and undertaking establishment, which he has conducted for ten years. He was born in Stark county, Illinois, near Lafayette, August 2, 1868, and is the elder of two children born unto G. H. and Mary R. (White) Redfield, natives of New Jersey and Massachusetts respectively. The father was a son of John Redfield, a native of Holland, who, on crossing the Atlantic to America, settled in New Jersey. He died when about sixty-eight years of age, while his wife lived to be nearly one hundred years of age and reared a family of four sons and two daughters. The maternal grandfather of Mr. Redfield was John White, who followed farming as a life work. G. H. Redfield was also an agriculturist and on leaving the east became a resident of Illinois, being one of the first settlers of Stark county. There he secured a tract of land, which he cultivated year after year, bringing it under a high state of development and improvement. He died upon that farm in Sep-

tember, 1905, lacking but four months of being ninety years of age. His widow still survives him and is now living in Lafayette, Illinois, at the age of seventy-seven years. She is a member of the Universalist church, to which Mr. Redfield also belonged. In community affairs he was quite prominent and active and for twenty years served as county commissioner, his capability and fidelity being indicated in his frequent reelection. The only daughter of the household, Mary A., is now the wife of E. F. Jones, of Olympia, Washington.

James A Redfield was reared on the home farm in Stark county, Illinois, to the age of nineteen years. When in the battle of life the city boy crosses swords with the country lad, the odds are against him. The early rising, the daily tasks, the economical habits of a country boy prepare him for the struggle that must precede ascendancy. The lessons of industry and enterprise which Mr. Redfield early learned have been factors in his continued success. After attending the district schools he became a pupil in Toulon Academy and later attended Lombard University at Galesburg. He then engaged in the furniture business at Wyoming, Stark county, Illinois, where he remained for fifteen months, during which period he was married. He wedded Miss Laura A. Dickinson, a daughter of R. J. and Letitia Dickinson, and unto them were born three children, but the twins, Edith and Jane G., died in infancy. The surviving daughter is Irma N.

On his removal from Wyoming, Illinois, Mr. Redfield went to Toulon, that state, and for three years was employed in the department store of Starrett Brothers. In March, 1898, he arrived in Iowa and opened a furniture and hardware store in Rippey, in connection with John W. Dickinson. On the 12th of June, 1899, he came to Spencer and purchased his present furniture store. Here he has a large and well selected line of goods and conducts a growing and prosperous business. He also has an undertaking department and in his mercantile pursuits is meeting with gratifying prosperity. He keeps in touch with the trade, knows what the market offers and carries an attractive line of goods, while his prices are reasonable and his treatment of his patrons always courteous.

In his political views Mr. Redfield is a stalwart republican, but the honors and emoluments of office have no attraction for him. He belongs to Evening Shade Lodge, No. 312, A. F. & A. M., Spencer Lodge, I. O. O. F., the Knights of Pythias and the Ancient Order of United Workmen, while his wife is a member of the Congregational church. They are well known in the social circles of the city and enjoy the warm regard of all with whom they have been brought in contact. Mr. Redfield occupies a place of prominence as one of the wide-awake, energetic business men, completing what he undertakes by reason of his force of character and his strict conformity to modern business methods and his loyalty to all that is honorable in commercial dealings.

ALONZO MARSH.

Through the improvement of the opportunities which Iowa offers in agricultural lines, Alonzo Marsh has become one of the substantial citizens of Clay county. He is now living retired in Dickens, but for many years was closely associated with active farming interests. He was born in Anson, Maine, February

11, 1835, and represents an old New England family, long known in that section of the country. His paternal grandfather, Nathan Marsh, of English descent, was born in New Hampshire, and on removing to the Pine Tree state settled in the town of Anson, Somerset county, where he secured a tract of land and followed farming. He married a Miss Heald, who was of German lineage and they had a family of six children. The death of Nathan Marsh, Sr., occurred when he had passed the eighty-eighth milestone on life's journey, while his wife had also traveled far on the journey of life ere she was called to her final rest.

Nathan Marsh, Jr., father of Alonzo Marsh, was born in Maine and in early manhood he determined to make the occupation to which he had been reared his life work. He therefore took up the task of tilling the soil on his own account and continued his residence in New England until 1856, when he removed westward to Wisconsin, establishing his home near the town of Wautoma, Waushara county. There he carried on general farming until his death, which occurred in 1864, when he was sixty-two years of age. While a resident of Maine he had wedded Miss Hannah Fling, also a native of that state, and a daughter of Samuel Fling, who was a resident of Somerset county, and was of Irish descent. He married Miss Abigail McFadden, a lady of Scotch descent, and they reared a large family, including Hannah Fling, who became the wife of Nathan Marsh, Jr. She died February 17, 1857.

In their family were ten children, but Alonzo Marsh, the first born, is the only one now living. He was reared in Maine on his father's farm, remaining at home until he had attained his majority. The district schools afforded him his educational privileges and in the school of experience he has also learned many valuable lessons, while reading and observation have also added greatly to his knowledge. When twenty-one years of age he followed the injunction of Horace Greeley, "Go west, young man, go west," and in Wisconsin he and his father and his father's brother, Benjamin Marsh, together purchased one hundred acres of land in Dakota township, Waushara county. They carried on farming interests jointly until the outbreak of hostilities between the north and the south. Alonzo Marsh had watched with interest the progress of events which preceded the war and noted the threatening attitude of the south and resolved that if a blow was struck to overthrow the Union he would strike one in its defense. Accordingly in 1861 he enrolled his name with the boys in blue and was assigned to duty with the Eighth Wisconsin Battery of Light Artillery, with which he served for a little more than three years, being mustered out in the winter of 1865. He had enlisted as a private but was made a noncommissioned officer. Although he was never wounded in battle, on one occasion he was badly injured and he experienced all of the hardships and rigors of warfare, taking part in long marches, the sieges and the pitched battles.

When the war ended Mr. Marsh returned to his home farm in Wisconsin. In the meantime his father had died. He continued farming there for two or three years and immediately after his return to the north he was married, the lady of his choice being Miss Emma Lydia Rowley, a daughter of Seth and Sallie (Hudson) Rowley. In July, 1868, they removed to Kansas and at their home near Mound City, in Linn county, Mrs. Marsh passed away on the 24th of September, 1868. There were two children born of that union, of whom one died in infancy,

while the other, Ernest Alonzo Marsh, is now living in Chicago, where he conducts business as a machinist and manufacturer of time locks. He wedded Adaline Gifford, and they have one daughter, Bernice Adaline. After losing his first wife Mr. Marsh was again married on the 10th of October, 1869, his second union being with Mrs. Elizabeth Helen Gustin, a daughter of James Marr, and the widow of George Gustin, who died at City Point, Virginia, in the Civil war. By her former marriage Mrs. Marsh had two daughters, Inez A. and Minnie D. Gustin. The former is now assistant in the postoffice at Dickens, while the latter is the wife of W. J. Moore, of Dickens, and has two children, Pearl Mellison and Lola Inez Moore.

Mr. Marsh continued his residence in Kansas until 1868, when he removed to Wautoma, Wisconsin, where he remained until the spring of 1884, when he came to Clay county, Iowa. Throughout the entire period of his connection with business interests he carried on general farming and found that the rich prairies of the west offered good opportunities to the agriculturist, as the work of plowing and planting is usually rewarded with abundant harvests. He was practical in all that he did on the farm and his labors at length brought him the success which now permits of his retirement. He belongs to Evening Shade Lodge, No. 312, and gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He has served as township trustee and as school director, but his attention has been largely given to his business affairs and in their capable management he has met with gratifying success.

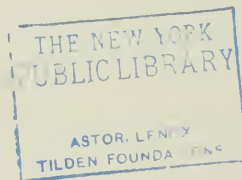
HENRY AEBLY.

Henry Aebly is one of the public-spirited men of Meadow township who for long years has been closely associated with the progress and development of this part of the county. He has seen the district when it was largely an unsettled and undeveloped region, when its prairies were covered with native grasses, starred with a million wild flowers in June, while in the winter there was one unbroken, dazzling sheet of snow. As the years have gone by, through his agricultural interests and through his cooperation with various public movements, he has contributed to the general improvement and at all times has manifested a deep interest in whatever has calculated to advance the general welfare. He is now living on section 24, Meadow township, and a valuable property of three hundred and sixty acres pays tribute to his care and industry.

Mr. Aebly is a native of Switzerland. He was born June 5, 1842, and when a youth of fifteen years left the land of the Alps to seek a home and fortune in the new world. He had received fair school advantages in his native language but was self-educated in English. Reared in the midst of what many travelers recall as the most beautiful mountain scenery of the world, more than once he has climbed the Alps and looked out over the vista of valley and of mountain peak. The necessity of providing for himself, however, turned his attention to the new world, with its broader business opportunities and advancement more quickly secured. As passenger on a sailing vessel he left Havre, France, and after a voyage of thirty-eight days across the broad Atlantic landed at New



HENRY AEBLY



York. While on the water was encountered one severe storm and the middle mast of the vessel was carried away.

Mr. Aebly did not tarry long in New York but made his way westward by rail to Milwaukee and crossed Lake Michigan from Grand Haven. He joined an uncle and aunt in Green county, Wisconsin, and there worked by the month for several years. He afterward engaged in selling milk for a year at the soldiers' camp near Madison. He was employed as a farm hand by one man for three years, after which he rented land and began farming on his own account, for he desired that he should reap the benefits of his own labor and was, moreover, anxious to one day become owner of a farm.

When a young man of twenty years Mr. Aebly was married in Portage county, Wisconsin, to Miss Harriet Rogers, a native of Sullivan county, New York, who was reared in Wisconsin. He then rented land and thus carried on farming for some time. In 1871 he came to Iowa and looked over the state to a considerable extent in search of a favorable location. Subsequently he settled in Clay county, where he secured a homestead claim of eighty acres, constituting the nucleus of his present fine farming property. Not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made upon the place. He broke the sod and put in maple, elm and box elder seed. Today he has a fine grove of trees, so that no longer is his place a tract of treeless prairie, but on the contrary this portion of it presents the appearance of a native forest and it seems hardly possible that from his planting have grown trees of such size and beauty as are today seen here. He also put out an orchard of eight hundred apple trees, two hundred cherry trees and other fruit, but later all these were eaten bare of leaves and bark and were thus killed by grasshoppers. Subsequently he planted another orchard, which was destroyed in a storm. Still undiscouraged, for he displays a most resolute spirit in the face of difficulties, he planted a third orchard, which is now in bearing and contains a variety of fine fruits. Mr. Aebly has also erected a large and commodious house, which is conveniently arranged and constitutes one of the attractive features of his farm. He has also built three barns, one of which has a good basement, and he has erected other outbuildings, giving shelter to grain and stock. He has likewise fenced his place and as the years have passed he has extended the boundaries of his farm until it now comprises three hundred and sixty acres, all well improved, constituting one of the valuable farm properties of this section. He has a stationary engine and feed mill, a wind pump and water works and, in fact, all the evidences of progressive farm life at the present day are here seen, indicating the owner to be one of the enterprising agriculturists of this locality.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Aebly have been born six children: Henry B., who is married and resides in Spencer; George, who assists his father in carrying on the home farm; Jacob, who is doing for himself; Fred, who is connected with his brother George in the farm work; Maggie, who was formerly a teacher but is now at home; and Grace, who became the wife of William Galbreath, a farmer of this county, who died in February, 1908, leaving a daughter, Nellie May Galbreath, now living with her grandparents.

In politics Mr. Aebly has been a lifelong republican, supporting each presidential nominee of the party, since he cast his ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1864.

His sons are also advocates of the same party. While he has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking, his fellow townsmen have called him to positions of public trust. He served for four years as justice of the peace, was later road commissioner and is now filling the office of township trustee. He has likewise served on the grand and petit juries a number of times. No trust reposed in him has ever been betrayed in the slightest degree. He is loyal to the best interests of the community and his efforts in its behalf have been far-reaching and beneficial. He and his wife joined the Free Methodist Episcopal church, in which he served as class leader for several years, but they now attend the Methodist church at Langdon.

Mr. Aebly is a self-made man and deserves much credit for what he has accomplished. He started out in life empty-handed. In fact he was very poor in his youthful days and it has been only through his untiring industry and perseverance that he has worked his way upward. His sons are now associated with him in his business dealings and in addition to tilling the fields they are making a business of raising and feeding stock, including hogs, cattle and sheep. Mr. Aebly is also a stockholder and was formerly a director in the Cooperative Creamery Company of Langdon. For thirty-eight years he has lived upon the farm which is now his home. The development of the county is a familiar story to him and he relates many interesting incidents of the early pioneer times, when Clay county had but a sparse population and all of the evidences of frontier life were here to be found. Work—earnest, persistent work—has been the source of his success, enabling him to pass on the highway of life many who started out more advantageously equipped. He is now one of the substantial agriculturists and his life history may well serve as a source of encouragement and inspiration to others, showing what may be accomplished when one has the will to dare and to do.

DAVID C. WALLACE.

The success which David C. Wallace is now enjoying is the result of close application and intense and well directed energy. He early realized the fact that there is no excellence without labor and has therefore based his advancement upon energetic effort guided by mature judgment. He is widely known throughout Clay county as a partner of the Moulton-Wallace Company, owners of a well appointed department store in Spencer. New Hampshire numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred in Sanbornton on the 19th of October, 1846. As his paternal grandfather died in early manhood, little is known concerning the ancestral history of the family. His wife, Nancy Wallace, however, passed away at an advanced age. Their family numbered three sons and four daughters: Edmund, Reuben, Ephraim G., Hannah, Alvina, Mary Jane and Nancy.

Of this number Ephraim G. Wallace, a native of the old Granite state, was the father of our subject. He was a mechanic and acted as foreman of different establishments, principally in knitting works in New England. He wedded Sarah Jane Ames Clark, who was also born in New Hampshire, while her parents, David H. and Charlotte M. (Burley) Clark, were likewise natives of the old Granite

Digitized by Google

state. Her father devoted his time and energies to general farming and passed away in middle life, but his wife reached the extreme old age of ninety-four years. In their family were four daughters: Mary Ann., Sarah J. A., Jerusha S. and Amanda E. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Ephraim G. Wallace was blessed with four sons: David C., of this review; Ephraim L., a resident of Franklin, New Hampshire; Alberto B., deceased; and Roscoe G., a merchant of Chicago. The father died in Franklin, New Hampshire, in 1904, at the age of eighty-five years, and his widow is still living there at the very advanced age of eighty-seven years. Both were Christian Baptists and their many sterling traits of character gained for them an enviable position in the regard and confidence of those who knew them.

From the foregoing record it will be seen that David C. Wallace comes of a family noted for longevity and it is probable that his years of usefulness will yet be many. Although born in New Hampshire, the greater part of the first decade of his life was spent at Lowell, Massachusetts, after which the family home was established in Franklin, New Hampshire, where he remained until 1869. The opportunities of the middle west, however, attracted him and with the hope of bettering his financial condition in this great, growing section of the country, he made his way to Chicago. He had obtained his education in the public schools and in an academy of the east and following his arrival in Chicago he accepted a position as bookkeeper for the firm of Bullock Brothers, dealers in boots and shoes, with whom he remained for thirteen years. He then felt that his savings and his experience justified him in engaging in business on his own account and he opened a shoe store, which he converted into a general store, conducting it until 1900.

In that year Mr. Wallace disposed of his interests in Chicago and came to Spencer, opening a general store at the corner of Main and Third streets. In 1903 he consolidated his interests with those of L. H. Moulton and the present Moulton-Wallace Company was organized. They have a large double store, which includes various departments: boots, shoes, groceries, dry goods, etc. They employ a large force of clerks and from the beginning have enjoyed a constantly increasing trade, for their reliable business methods commend them to the patronage of the public, while their stock is such as proves most attractive to the general class of purchasers.

On the 8th of August, 1876, Mr. Wallace was married to Miss Lucelia B. Skinner, who was born in Dupage county, Illinois, and is a daughter of Charles and Caroline (Martin) Boswell, both of whom died during her early childhood. She was then adopted by Selinus M. Skinner and took his name. She was one of four children, the others being Sarah Pearl, Carrie Louise and Ellen E. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Wallace have been born four children: Milton Gould, Eva E., Isabel and Laura R. Of these Milton died when ten months old and Eva E. when but three and a half years of age. Isabel is well known as an elocutionist and is now connected with the Ridpath bureau. Laura is at home. The parents belong to the Episcopal church and Mr. Wallace is a member of Evening Shade Lodge, No. 312, A. F. & A. M., Chicago Chapter, R. A. M., and Apollo Commandery, No. 1, K. T., of Chicago, while both he and his wife are members of the Eastern Star. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and

while living in Naperville he served as alderman and in other town offices. While he is always interested in matters of citizenship and supports all measures which are sources of municipal and civic virtue and pride, he has at the same time been most diligent in business, improving his opportunities to the best advantage. He is now regarded as one of the representative residents of Spencer and wields a wide influence.

CUMMINS CLAPPER.

Iowa largely owes her progress and wealth to her agricultural interests. History has ever given proof of the fact that the most prosperous countries are the ones which offer good opportunities to the agriculturist. More than a century ago George Washington said, "Agriculture is the most useful, as well as the most honorable, occupation of man," and the truth of this statement has found verification in all the ages. Living a life of intense and well-directed activity, Cummins Clapper, residing on section 10, Riverton township, is numbered among the active and progressive farmers and stock-breeders of that part of the state. He was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, January 13, 1871. His father, James S. Clapper, was a native of Muskingum county, Ohio, and was born in 1834. There he grew to manhood and married. He was a son of Philip Clapper, one of the early settlers of the Buckeye state. Amid the conditions and environments of pioneer life James S. Clapper spent his youth and after attaining his majority married Margaret Plants, likewise a native of Muskingum county. Turning his attention to general agricultural pursuits, he became a prominent farmer there and is still the owner of a well improved tract of land in the Buckeye state. He is a hale and hearty old man of seventy-four years and on the 19th of October, 1908, he and his wife celebrated their golden wedding. Twelve children were born unto them, eleven of whom reached adult age, six sons and five daughters. The youngest, Elmer, is now with his brother on the farm.

Cummins Clapper spent his youthful days, as do most farm boys who divide their time between the pleasures of the playground, the duties of the schoolroom and the work of the home farm. After attending the district schools Mr. Clapper continued his studies in the high school, at Chandlersville, Ohio, and when he had put aside his textbooks he gave his father the benefit of his services and continued to assist in the operation of the home farm until 1891. That year witnessed his arrival in Iowa and, taking up his abode in Cedar county, he rented land and carried on farming on his own account for several years.

As a companion and helpmate for the journey of life Mr. Clapper chose Miss Mary C. Sleater, whom he wedded on the 13th of January, 1896. She was born and reared in Iowa and pursued her education in the schools of Cedar county. The young couple began their domestic life on a farm in that county, where they lived until the spring of 1902, when they came to Clay county, and Mr. Clapper purchased the farm upon which he now resides. He at once began to till the soil and cultivate the crops, and today has a valuable property, equipped with all the conveniences and accessories of a model farm of the twentieth century. His farm

is enclosed with a woven wire hog fence, supported by cedar posts, he being one of the first to put up this kind of a fence in the county. He was also the first to introduce clover for pasture and hay, although it is now generally cultivated in the neighborhood. He has set out an orchard and has made other substantial improvements. The farm comprises one hundred and fifty-five acres of land, which is rich and arable, and responds readily to the care and labor he bestows upon it. In addition to raising the cereals best adapted to climatic conditions here, he breeds pure-blooded Poland China hogs, beginning this business in Cedar county. He now has some of the best Poland China stock in the state and also raises high grade shorthorn cattle. His pure-blooded registered male is at the head of his herd. His stock-raising interests are constituting an important branch of his business.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Clapper were born three children: Sadie, George and Margaret. The mother is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is an estimable lady, who, like Mr. Clapper, has won many friends in this locality. Politically, he is a republican, where national issues are involved, but locally casts an independent ballot. He has never sought office as a reward for party fealty, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business affairs, in which he is meeting with signal success. Thus he has become one of the enterprising and substantial farmers of his adopted county.

WALLACE B. CRUVER.

Wallace B. Cruver has been engaged in the grocery business in Spencer since 1881, or for a period of twenty-eight consecutive years, being first identified with the trade as an employe of his father, while later he became proprietor of the store which he is now successfully conducting. Throughout this entire period he has maintained a reputation as an enterprising merchant and a reliable business man, his commercial methods being at all times commendable and trustworthy. A native of the neighboring state of Illinois, he was born in Lake county on the 26th of December, 1862. The family has been distinctively American in its lineal and collateral branches through various generations. His grandparents were Daniel and Ruby (Price) Cruver, natives of Pennsylvania, where the former followed the occupation of farming. Believing that his opportunities would be better in the middle west, he removed to Lake county, Illinois, establishing his home near Diamond Lake, where he continued to engage in the tilling of the soil. He died at Lake Zurich when about seventy-two years of age, while his wife was more than seventy years of age at the time of her demise.

Their family of four children included Salem P. Cruver, who was born in the Keystone state and on attaining his majority wedded Miss Hannah A. Pelton, a native of New York. Her parents were Joshua and Esther Pelton, who were likewise born in the Empire state. Her father was a farmer but died in early manhood. Her mother lived to be about seventy years of age and, marrying on general farming in Illinois until 1871, when he removed to Lake Zurich and again, became Mrs. Hawthorn. Following his marriage Salem P. Cruver carried

there engaged in merchandising, conducting his store for nine years. In 1880 he came to Spencer, where he established a general store, which he conducted until 1890. In that year he disposed of his other stock in order to confine his attention to the grocery trade and was proprietor of the store until 1901, when he was succeeded by his son Wallace. His remaining days were passed in the enjoyment of well earned and well merited rest until he was called to the home beyond in August, 1908, when seventy-six years of age. His widow is still living and has now reached the age of seventy-one. She is a member of the Free Baptist church, to which Mr. Cruver likewise belonged. Those who knew him—and he had a wide acquaintance—gave him warm friendship and entertained for him kindly regard because of his many sterling traits of heart and mind. As a business man he contributed to the progress of the city in commercial lines and in other ways gave his support to movements for the general good.

In a family of nine children, five sons and four daughters, only three are now living, the sister of our subject being Sylvia C. Cruver, of Spencer, who is his senior, while his younger brother, Curtis L. Cruver, is now in Chicago. Upon the home farm in Lake county, Illinois, Wallace B. Cruver remained until nine years of age and then accompanied the family when they took up their abode at Lake Zurich. There he continued his education in the public schools until he became a high school student. Since 1881 he has been known as a factor in commercial circles in Spencer, at which time he became a clerk in his father's store, remaining as his assistant until 1901, when he purchased the business, of which he has since been sole proprietor. He had thorough training and broad experience before he undertook the management of the store alone and, well qualified for his task, he is now meeting with creditable prosperity in his chosen life work.

On the 18th of September, 1894, Mr. Cruver was married to Miss Bertha Richey, a daughter of Gasper T. and Charity (Casner) Richey. Mrs. Cruver was born in Mount Vernon, Ohio. There are two children of this marriage, Marion and Wayne. The parents attend the Congregational church and Mr. Cruver gives his political support to the republican party. Their sociability and their hospitality has made their home the center of a cultured society circle and they have many friends in the community where they have now long resided.

W. D. WATSON.

The agricultural advantages offered by the state of Iowa are in many respects superior to those offered by adjoining states and for this reason farmers in large numbers, who for many years have followed that occupation in other quarters, have disposed of their interests and removed to this state and engaged in general agriculture with splendid success. "The soil is in every respect adapted to the various crops, and is particularly excellent for pasture land, enabling one who desires to engage extensively in stock-raising to follow that business to great advantage. Among others who have heard of the superior opportunities offered here is W. D. Watson, who, for a number of years, has been cultivating a tract of

land which he has highly improved and from which, since his occupancy, he has been reaping bountiful harvests which, from year to year, have enabled him to place himself in prosperous circumstances. He farms by modern principles and his land is as well kept and productive as any in the township.

Mr. Watson is a native of the central part of Scotland, where his birth occurred October 10, 1856, and a son of John and Ellen (Dawson) Watson, his father having been a farmer in his native country, where he departed this life June 11, 1891. He was one of the staunchest of Scotch Presbyterians, and was well known throughout the community in which he lived as an ardent supporter of his faith and as a man of high, moral purpose, whose religious ambition and usefulness in enhancing the moral and spiritual status of the community will long be remembered. His mother, also a native Scot, who passed away there, had the following children: James Sterling, who follows agriculture in Scotland; Anne, who resides there; Helen, who also lives in Scotland; Effie, deceased; and W. D.

W. D. Watson was educated in his native land, where he received an academic course of training which he had completed at the age of sixteen years, when he returned to the home farm and engaged in its active duties until he was twenty-five years old, at which period of his life he came to the new world, locating in Cedar Rapids, Linn county. Here he hired out as a farm hand and in that capacity worked five years. In 1888, coming to this county, he rented a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 27, which, through his enterprise and good management, he has greatly improved and in general farming, and stock-raising on a small scale, is keeping pace with the general prosperity of the community. Since his occupation of the land he has met with excellent success in producing crops, and is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company of Gillets Grove.

On January 19, 1888, he wedded Miss Sarah McPherson, a native of Sterling, Scotland, to which union were born: Ruby Eleanor, William Waldorf and Helen Beatrice. Mr. Watson is loyal in his support of the republican party, and while he is not an active politician he keeps himself well-informed in regard to the paramount issues of the day, and takes great interest in the success of his party. For the past twelve years he has served efficiently as a trustee of the township and belongs to the United Presbyterian church, of which his wife is also a member. Mr. Watson is a man whose high moral character, religious ambitions and industry have placed him in high standing in the community, and he is acknowledged to be a substantial and representative citizen.

JACOB RAVELING.

The life record of Jacob Raveling, a well-to-do farmer of Peterson township, is a splendid example of the value of German thrift and industry. Starting out in life with practically nothing, without either influence or apparent prospect but possessed of saving qualities, perseverance and patience, he set his mind upon success and by hard labor he succeeded, in the course of time, in laying by sufficient means with which to purchase his farm. He has since labored and the harvests year by year have placed him in his present affluent circumstances.

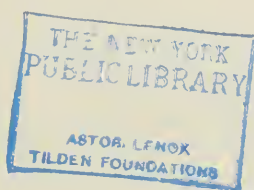
Mr. Raveling was born in Germany, August 20, 1860, a son of Henry and Sevie (Hendrick) Raveling. His father, having come to the new world in 1882, settled in Plymouth county, Iowa, where he resided in retirement until he departed this life in 1905. His widow is also a native of Germany, but they were united in marriage in this country and she still resides in Plymouth county. She was the mother of nine children, namely: Tina, of Minnesota; John, a farmer of the same state; Henry, who follows agriculture in Lyon county, Iowa; Tjffie, a farmer of Plymouth county, Iowa; Hilka, who became the wife of Peter Tjaden, an agriculturist of Plymouth county, Iowa; Jacob; George and Peter, both farmers in that county; and William, who follows the same occupation in Minnesota.

Jacob Raveling had no educational advantages beyond those accorded him in the common schools of his native country, where he remained until he was twenty-seven years of age, in the meantime serving as a soldier in the German army. He then came to the new world, locating in Plymouth county, Iowa, where he resided until 1898, during which year he removed to Clay county and has since resided here. Upon arriving in the United States he was compelled to seek employment at once in order to meet his daily needs and was engaged as a section laborer on the railroad. In that position he worked for some time and by modest and sober living and practical economy he managed to lay aside the greater part of his earnings and when he gave up railroad work he had sufficient money with which to buy land. From time to time he added to his possessions until at present he owns two hundred and forty acres on sections 24 and 25, Peterson township, and a quarter of section 15 and keeps the entire tract under a high state of cultivation. From time to time Mr. Raveling has improved his property until he has as fine a farm as there is in the township and it is provided with a comfortable residence, barns, modern machinery and all conveniences requisite to carry on the work successfully. He produces large quantities of hay and grain, gives some attention to stock raising and is accounted one of the most industrious and substantial farmers in the community.

In 1881 Mr. Raveling wedded Miss Lena Frasa, and unto them were born the following: Mary, who became the wife of Carl Larson, a farmer of Buena Vista county, Iowa; Henry, who engages in farming in this county and married Mary Boese; George, Sever, Sophie, Annie, Peter, Ben and Clarence, all of whom reside at home with their parents. In politics Mr. Raveling gives his support to the republican party and is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the German Evangelical church. He is a substantial citizen who merits the respect and confidence of the entire community. His present prosperity is due to his own exertions and careful management, and he is now comfortably situated in life.

GEORGE EILER.

George Eiler, for a number of years a prominent agriculturist of Douglas township, this county, is the owner of an extensive tract of highly improved land from which, through industry and perseverance, he has produced bountiful crops and placed himself in prosperous circumstances. He was born in Waukesha

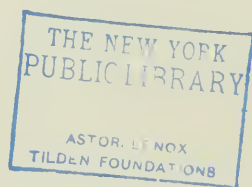




MRS. GEORGE EILER



GEORGE EILER



county, Wisconsin, October 3, 1852, a son of Phillip and Fredericka (Knoche) Eiler. Phillip Eiler was a native of Bavaria, Germany, where he was reared and for some time operated a mill. He came to the United States at an early date and for a number of years was engaged in agricultural pursuits near Albany, New York, from which place he came to Waukesha county, Wisconsin, in 1845, living there until 1868, and then repaired to Cedar Falls, this state, where he resided on a farm until his death in the fall of 1883. In politics he was an old time whig, and upon the dissolution of this party he became a republican. He was also a member of the German Evangelical church, in which he was an active worker. He maintained an excellent reputation throughout the community and was numbered among the substantial and representative citizens. He was married in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to Fredericka Knoche, also a native of Germany, who passed away in Cedar Falls in 1905. They were the parents of the following children: George, of this review; Caroline, deceased; Daniel, an attorney at law at Ackley, this state; J. P., deceased; Mary Louisa, deceased; and Sarah Elizabeth, who became the wife of C. H. Plumer, county recorder of Black Hawk county.

George Eiler acquired his education in the common schools of his native county, and then engaged in the daily routine of the farm, until he was twenty-four years of age, when in 1876 he engaged in farming for himself, at the same time living with his parents. Although his profits were small, through rigid economy he saved the greater portion of his earnings and before long had sufficient money to buy eighty acres of land in Black Hawk county, where he engaged in general farming and stock-raising. He had been so successful in his farming operations that he had increased his holdings from eighty acres to two hundred acres, and in 1894 he sold this farm and the family removed to Cedar Falls. He then started out for himself, going to Palo Alto county, this state, where he bought a large tract of land which he improved and then sold, and in the spring of 1895 went to Sioux Rapids, thence to Barnes township, Buena Vista county, where he lived until 1904, and later in the same year located on the southeast quarter of section 25, Douglas township, this county, where he has since resided. He has a comfortable residence, outbuildings, and other conveniences on his farm, the land is highly cultivated, and the attention which he has given his property has made it one of the finest and most productive in the township. From year to year he adds to his possessions until he now owns a quarter of section 36, this township, and two hundred and forty acres in Lake township, as well as a quarter section in Potter county, South Dakota. In addition to these farm holdings he has become the owner of considerable valuable real estate in Sioux Rapids. He is also concerned in a number of other enterprises, one of which is the Farmers Mutual Telephone Company in which he is a stockholder. He has gained quite a reputation as a stock buyer and feeder and as a shipper of an excellent grade of shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs.

On January 20, 1880, Mr. Eiler was united in marriage with Miss Mary Emma Wardin, a native of Germany, who came to the United States when a girl and who resided in Black Hawk county at the time of her marriage. She died December 3, 1904, leaving to mourn her loss a husband and two children, namely, Wesley and Daniel Webster. The latter is married to Amy Isadora Buland, and

they have one child, Glen, who was born September 22, 1907. Mr. Eiler is loyal to the republican party in national and state politics and since coming to this township has been affiliated with school work in the capacity of school director. He is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church of which he is steward and trustee. For a number of years he has belonged to the Court of Honor at Sioux Rapids. Mr. Eiler is not only industrious and enterprising, but is also a man of high moral character and is highly esteemed both as a farmer and business man throughout the township.

T. H. JONES.

The commercial interests of Spencer find a worthy representative in T. H. Jones, proprietor of a department store of that city. He is accounted one of the most progressive merchants there, employing modern business methods in the development of his trade and carrying a line of goods that makes his establishment one of the most attractive stores of Clay county. Moreover, in matters of citizenship, he is progressive, having ever been loyal to the interests of city, state and nation since the days of his early manhood, when he responded to the country's call for aid and joined the Union army.

Moreover, Mr. Jones is of that type of men which President Roosevelt states is the strongest element in our American manhood—the man who is born in the east and reared and educated in the west. Mr. Jones is a native of Avon, New York, his natal day being November 10, 1842. His parents, Joshua and Hannah Jones, were also natives of the Empire state and the former followed the occupation of farming as a life work. Removing westward to Wisconsin, he made his way to Racine in 1850, and in that locality purchased a farm, which he cultivated and improved until his death, which occurred when he was but fifty-four years of age. His wife survived him ten years and died at the age of sixty-four. They held membership in the Baptist church and Mr. Jones was called to various township offices, wherein he proved a competent and loyal incumbent. The family numbered eight sons and two daughters, of whom four are now living: Esther Ann, the widow of Ezra Search, of Racine, Wisconsin; William W., a resident of Sacramento, California; Thomas Harvey, of this review; and Mary Elizabeth, the wife of Peter Etchells, of Racine, Wisconsin.

T. H. Jones spent his youthful days on his father's farm in Wisconsin and was early trained to habits of thrift, industry and economy—habits which have borne rich fruit in later years. After acquainting himself with the common branches of learning in the district schools he began earning his own living by working as a farm hand by the month. He was only eighteen years of age, however, when he enlisted as a soldier of the Civil war, being enrolled in 1861 as a member of Company H, Twenty-second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for fourteen months and was then discharged on account of illness. Returning to Wisconsin, he cultivated rented farms for two or three years, after which he was married and in 1870 came to Clay county, Iowa. Here he secured a soldier's claim of one hundred and sixty acres, in Summit township,

and partially improved it. At the time of his arrival here the county was still a frontier district, with much land unclaimed and uncultivated, while the progressive spirit of the cities had advanced but little beyond the conditions of villagehood. After carrying on farming pursuits for several years Mr. Jones removed to Spencer, where he conducted a restaurant for some time. He afterward established a grocery store and with this as the nucleus has developed his present enterprise, until it is today a large department store, in which he furnishes employment to thirteen salesmen. It is now one of the most extensive mercantile interests of the county, attractive by reason of its well-selected line of goods, its tasteful arrangement and its reasonable prices. Mr. Jones demands that the most honorable business policy shall be followed at all times and he is not slow to reward faithful service on the part of his assistants.

Pleasantly situated in his home life, Mr. Jones wedded Miss Mary Jane Secor, a daughter of Dorence and Permelia Secor. They have two sons in the family, Charles E. and Theodore M., who are with their father in the store, and one child died in infancy. The elder son married Lillian Hardin and they have two children, Dale G. and Charles H. Mrs. Jones is a member of the Congregational church and has won many friends during the period of her residence in Spencer. Mr. Jones is a popular and valued representative of Spencer Lodge, I. O. O. F., and Annett Post, G. A. R. Politically he is a republican but has not held local offices, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs, which, capably conducted, are bringing to him richly merited success. His worth is widely acknowledged, his business enterprise having gained him distinction in commercial circles and his business probity stands as an unassailable fact in his life record.

J. C. JOHNSTON.

J. C. Johnston, who has large agricultural interests in Clay township, this county, and whose perseverance and grit have stood him well in turning the soil of this state to the building up of his financial worth and prestige, was born in Delaware county, this state, August 15, 1857, a son of David and Hepisoph (Joyce) Johnston. His father, a native of New Brunswick, Canada, came to Iowa in the early '60s, locating in Delaware county, where he remained for some time engaged in agricultural pursuits and then removed to Buchanan county, thence to Buena Vista county, and finally to this county, where he resided with the subject of this review until he entered the Soldiers' Home at Marshalltown. He served in the Civil war for three years, enlisting at the first call for troops, and participated in many important engagements, finally receiving an honorable discharge. After the war he worked as an agent for various firms in the sewing machine business and was well known throughout various parts of the west. His mother was a native of London, England, was united in marriage in Canada, and departed this life in Sioux City, Iowa, in April, 1889. She was the mother of the following children: William, a well known farmer in Curtis, Nebraska; Frank, a fireman on the railroad, his address being Pipestone, Minnesota; John, who has

extensive agricultural interests in Buena Vista county; Anna, who became the wife of Charles Tulan in the butcher business at Breckenridge, Minnesota; Jane, who is united in marriage with Henry Hawkinson, conducting an ice and coal enterprise in Sioux City, Iowa; Mary, deceased; and J. C., our subject.

J. C. Johnston remained under the parental roof in Delaware county until he was sixteen years of age, in the meantime acquiring his education in the common schools, at which time, ambitious to mingle with the business world for himself and become self-supporting, he hired out with various farmers in Buena Vista county, and at the age of twenty-three years undertook contract farm work, which he followed for several years, but in 1880 he came to Clay county and began to follow the occupation for himself. Success attended him from the beginning and from year to year his prospects became brighter and his interests more extensive until at present he is the owner of four hundred acres of the finest agricultural land in this county, his farm being located on sections 28 and 29. This property was in a crude state when Mr. Johnston took hold of it, but since his occupation he has put upon it all necessary improvements, including a fine dwelling house, substantial barns, outbuildings and all conveniences requisite to carrying on successful farming. He engages in general agricultural pursuits, raising large quantities of hay and grain, and deals in live stock on a small scale. He also owns a quarter section of valuable land in the state of Texas, which is especially adapted for fruit growing, and in addition to his farming interests possesses considerable real estate in Sioux City. Although the affairs of his farm are pressing and demand the uttermost attention he has found time to engage in other lucrative enterprises, being a prominent stock holder and a director in the Northern Rural Telephone Company, having erected most of the telephone wires in the southern part of this county.

In 1882 Mr. Johnston was united in marriage to Gusta Johnson, daughter and only child of Neils and Tillie Johnson, both of whom were natives of Sweden, and were there united in marriage. Coming to the United States in 1869, they first located in Keokuk, Iowa, but subsequently came to this county, where Mr. Johnson located land and carried on farming successfully until his death, July 18, 1904, aged ninety-one years. To Mr. and Mrs. Johnston one son was born, Irwin Pearley, who departed this life in 1908. At the time of his death he was twenty-four years of age and was in his third year at Morningside College, Sioux City, when he was taken sick with pneumonia. Upon recovering somewhat he was sent to California for further improvement, and remained there two months, when he returned home and then went to Phoenix, Arizona, where he stayed for a brief period. He was then compelled to come home to submit to an operation, from which he partially recovered, but his health was broken and he lingered in a debilitated state for three years, when he suffered a general collapse and died February 4, 1908. His remains were interred in Peterson cemetery.

Mr. Johnston's political views have always been on the side of the republican party and being a man well informed upon the issues of the day, he has come to the conclusion that the principles of the republican party are best adapted to subserve the general interests of the country, and consequently he has always been loyal to, and profoundly interested in, the success of that party. He has been a member of the township school board, chairman of the school committee, a mem-

ber of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and of the Daughters of Rebekah, to which his wife also belongs. Mr. Johnston is a man of remarkable intelligence and broad views and he has done much toward securing public improvements and he merits the respect and confidence of his fellow countrymen.

FRED M. STAPLES.

On the list of wide-awake, progressive business men of Spencer the name of Fred M. Staples has figured since 1901, at which time he became proprietor of a hardware and plumbing establishment. He had previously had wide experience and thorough training in commercial lines and brought to his work in Spencer the qualifications of a successful business man who knows that close application and unremitting energy are the salient features in success. He started upon the journey of life in Marquette county, Wisconsin, his natal day being March 30, 1866. His father, William S. Staples, was a son of the Rev. Platt R. Staples, a Congregational minister, who was born in New York. His life was devoted to the work of the church and in preaching the gospel his influence was of no restricted order. He was married four times. The grandmother of our subject was in her maidenhood a Miss Sperry and of this marriage there were born two children, William S. and Mattie, the latter the wife of Horace Gove.

William S. Staples in early manhood became a clerk in a store in Kilbourn City, Wisconsin, but put aside the pursuits of business life to aid his country in the Civil war, joining Company K of the Forty-second Regiment of Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He was a private until the close of hostilities, when with a creditable military record he returned to Wisconsin. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Frances Mason, was a native of Connecticut, but in her early girlhood her parents removed westward to Wisconsin, settling at Briggsville, where her father conducted a hotel. He died well advanced in years, while his wife passed away in middle life. They had but two children, Charles P. Mason and Mrs. Frances Staples. The latter is now a resident of Whitehall, Trempealeau county, Wisconsin. Her first husband died in 1869, leaving three children: Fred M., of this review; Clifford D., who resides in St. Paul, Minnesota; and Marcia T., of Washington, D. C. After losing her first husband Mrs. Staples became the wife of J. Augustine and unto them were born several children, of whom three are still living: Bessie, Frank and Clarence.

No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for Fred M. Staples in his boyhood and youth. He was reared in Adams county, Wisconsin, near Kilbourn City, and was only three years of age at the time of his father's death. He was taken care of by different friends until he was past four years old, and in the district schools obtained his elementary education, which was supplemented by a high school course. Subsequently he went to South Dakota and, locating at Carthage, there worked by the month at various pursuits. He afterward spent two years, 1889 and 1890, in a general store in Minnesota, after which he returned to South Dakota and engaged in buying grain in Canasota. He also dealt in implements as a side issue and in 1894 he further extended

the scope of his business interests by opening a hardware store in connection with the implement business. There he carried on mercantile interests until 1901, when he came to Spencer and entered into partnership with C. H. Cure as owner of a hardware store. A year later he bought out his partner and has since continued the business alone. From time to time he has enlarged his stock, which is now extensive and constitutes the basis of a profitable and constantly increasing business.

On the 4th of June, 1892, Mr. Staples was married to Miss Jennie A. Gunning, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Gunning and a native of Darien, Wisconsin. They have three children: Robert Sperry, Mildred Ina and Ruth Elizabeth. Mr. Staples belongs to Evening Shade Lodge, No. 312, A. F. & A. M., and to the Ancient Order of United Workmen, while at the polls he endorses the republican party and its candidates. He does not seek office, however, for he prefers to give his undivided attention to his business affairs and his labors are attended with a measure of success that indicates his excellent business ability and executive force, his strong purpose and laudable ambition. He had no assistance at the outset of his career but realizing that labor constitutes the key that will unlock the portal of prosperity, he has never hesitated to apply himself persistently to his work and thereby has gained recognition as one of the prosperous and prominent merchants of Spencer.

FRANK A. SQUIRE.

Frank A. Squire is one of the native and prosperous farmers of Riverton township, living on section 6, and on an excellent farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which pays tribute to the care and labor bestowed upon it. Forty-four years have come and gone since he arrived in Iowa, at which time he took up his abode in Mitchell county. He became one of the pioneer settlers of Clay county in 1872. At that date comparatively little had been done in the way of developing the county and bringing it to its present state of progress and improvement. His birth occurred in Waterloo, Wisconsin, February 29, 1858, so that from youthful days he has lived in Iowa and throughout all the years has borne his share in the work of development here. His father, John B. Squire, a native of New York, was born in Onondaga county February 23, 1834, and in 1843 removed to Wisconsin in company with his father, Austin Squire. In the Badger state he was reared to manhood and after attaining his majority was married there to Miss Harriet Vanderpool, a daughter of A. Vanderpool, one of the first settlers of Jefferson county. There was only one one-horse team in the county at the time of his arrival and marked trees indicated the trail through the forest. Following his marriage John B. Squire and his bride began their domestic life on a farm in Jefferson county, where they lived for some years and, during that time, two children were born unto them. In 1865 they again became pioneer settlers, this time establishing their home in Mitchell county, Iowa, where they resided for seven years. In 1872 they removed to Clay county, where Mr. Squire secured a homestead claim of eighty acres. Not a furrow had been turned

nor an improvement made upon the place, but soon the track of the shining plow was seen across the fields and in the furrow was dropped the seed that in due time was to bring forth a rich harvest. Later he erected a commodious and comfortable residence, building new barns, and altogether made a home, having one of the attractive farm properties of the locality. There he died in the year 1901, while his wife survived him until the 8th of October, 1908. The county thus lost two of its worthy pioneer settlers, who had taken an active part in the early development and progress of this part of the state.

Frank A. Squire arrived in Clay county during his youthful days and assisted his father in breaking the sod and tilling the fields. In the course of time he took charge of the home farm and carried on the place for a considerable period. His education was acquired in the common schools and reading, experience and observation added to his knowledge, making him a well-informed man. His life has been one of intense and well directed activity, devoted entirely to general agricultural pursuits and, in the control of his business affairs, he has shown keen sagacity and marked enterprise.

On the 7th of October, 1885, in Summit township, Mr. Squire was married to Miss Dora Searles, who was born in Oregon, Wisconsin, and reared and educated there. She engaged in teaching school for twenty-five years in Clay county, being thus identified with the schools both before and after her marriage. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Squire has been born a daughter, Josie M., who is now a student of the Spencer high school.

In his political views Mr. Squire is an earnest republican and keeps well-informed on the questions and issues of the day. He has supported every presidential nominee of the party since reaching his majority. He has been a resident of the state forty-three years and for thirty-six years has lived on the farm on section 6, Riverton township, now his home. His place of one hundred and twenty acres is a well developed property and its carefully tilled fields reward his labor by abundant harvests. He has seen the railroad built through the county and the work of transformation carried forward until the district today bears little resemblance to the region to which the Squire family came so long ago. In all the work of improvement Mr. Squire has borne his full share and the fact that many of his stanch friends are those who have known him from his youth is an indication that his life has ever been an upright and honorable one.

J. W. LEMASTER.

J. W. Lemaster, an agriculturist of Clay township, has since 1870 resided upon the farm which is now his home, having in that year entered the land from the government. He was born in Johnson county, Kentucky, April 9, 1845, a son of Joseph and Ellen (Wheeler) Lemaster. The parents were also natives of the same county, where they spent their entire lives. That they were representatives of old American families is indicated in the fact that among their relatives were those who served in the battle of King's Mountain in the Revolutionary war. The Wheeler family was founded in Kentucky at an early epoch in the his-

tory of that state, the father of Mrs. Ellen Lemaster having been the first permanent settler on the Big Sandy river. Joseph Lemaster, reared in the county of his nativity, afterward became a prominent factor in the life of his community because of the extent of his business interests and activities. Much of his life was devoted to agricultural pursuits and merchandising. Unto him and his wife were born nine children: Stephen, Fannie, Mary, Isaac, Katherine, John and William, all now deceased; J. W., of this review; and Daniel, who resides on the old homestead in Kentucky.

During his youthful days J. W. Lemaster made an interesting discovery, while chopping down a beech tree. After felling the tree, which was of great age, he examined the bark and found cut deeply into the tree the words "Daniel Boone. 1783." From the growth which had come up around the letters it could be readily seen that the name had been there for many years and although the records do not state that Daniel Boone ever visited Johnson county, it is nevertheless probable that the great hunter cut the name in the tree himself. The portion of the bark containing the inscription was cut from the remainder and is said to be in the possession of some family in that section of the state.

J. W. Lemaster acquired his education in a select school of Kentucky and remained at home until twenty-one years of age. He then took up the profession of teaching, which he followed until his removal to Iowa. He made his way to Cedar Rapids and was engaged in farming in that locality until 1870, when he came to Clay county and homesteaded a claim of eighty acres on section No. 30, Clay township. Here he has since resided and his life of well directed activity is manifest in the present fine appearance of his farm. Not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made upon it when he took possession, but his arduous labor year by year has converted it into rich fields that yield substantial harvests.

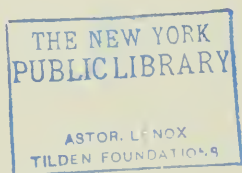
In 1877 Mr. Lemaster was united in marriage to Miss Sarah French, a native of Jones county, Iowa, and unto them have been born two sons: Allan J., who is principal of the commercial department of a business college in Sheldon, Iowa; and Eldin R., who resides with his parents. Mr. Lemaster gives his political allegiance to the republican party and keeps well informed concerning the vital questions and issues of the day. His fellow townsmen have called him to a number of local offices and he has manifested his loyal citizenship in the faithful discharge of his duties. He is numbered among the valued citizens of Clay county, having for almost forty years contributed to its agricultural development, while at all times his influence and aid are given on the side of general progress and improvement.

MICHAEL FELL.

Dominated by a spirit of energy and determination that permits him to brook no obstacles that can be overcome by persistent effort, Michael Fell has won for himself a creditable place in business circles and is now identified with the grain trade and other commercial interests of Everly. He dates his residence in the county since March, 1886, while since 1867 he has made his home in Iowa, locating first in Keokuk county.



MICHAEL FELL



Mr. Fell is a native of Germany, his birth having occurred in Prussia, January 18, 1860. His father, Mathias Fell, was also a native of the same province and there passed his boyhood and youth. He was married in Prussia to Miss Margaret Fritz, and came to the new world in 1867, being one of many who left Germany after the overthrow of the constitutional party in 1866. Making his way into the interior of the country, he settled first in Keokuk county, Iowa, where he purchased a tract of land and developed a farm upon which he reared his family. His last days were passed there and his death occurred August 13, 1897. He had for almost twenty years survived his wife, who died in November, 1878.

Michael Fell, whose name introduces this review, was a little lad of seven summers when the family emigrated to the new world, so that he was largely reared in Keokuk county. He had but limited educational privileges but his training at farm labor was not meager, for from an early age he assisted in the development of the home place, giving his father valuable aid as his years and experience increased. After attaining his majority he followed farming in Keokuk county on his own account for three years. Wishing to establish a home of his own, on the 4th of November, 1885, he secured a companion and helpmate for life's journey in his marriage to Miss Clara Fowler, a native of Harper, Iowa. She was well educated and became a teacher, in which connection she did excellent work, imparting readily and clearly to others the knowledge that she had acquired. In 1886 they removed to Clay county and Mr. Fell purchased two hundred and forty acres of land in Lone Tree township. It was entirely destitute of improvements but he possessed determination and energy and resolutely undertook the task of converting the raw prairie into productive fields. Turning the first furrows, he soon planted his crops and in course of time gathered abundant harvests. For nine years he lived upon that place and in connection with the tilling of the soil he also successfully engaged in raising stock. In the spring of 1895 he rented his farm and removed to Everly, where he began dealing in live stock, continuing the business for two years. He also engaged in the farm insurance business and in 1904 he entered the grain trade, carrying on his operations in that line in connection with the writing of farm insurance. Here he has erected a good residence and also an office building on Main street, which is also occupied at the present time by the town council, being used as a town hall. Since coming to Everly he has figured as one of its enterprising citizens, his labors constituting a valuable element in the growth and development of this part of the county.

Politically Mr. Fell was for sixteen years identified with the republican party and then severing his connection therewith, he joined the ranks of the democracy. While on the farm he was elected justice of the peace and has now filled that position for twenty years, his decisions winning him golden opinions from all sorts of people. His judgments are strictly fair and impartial and in many cases over which he has presided his decisions have almost uniformly been upheld and an appeal was never taken. He has also been called upon to perform many marriage ceremonies in his official capacity. As a member of the town council he has done much to further the interests of Everly along lines of substantial development and for the past twelve years he has likewise served on the

school board. He is now secretary of the school board and is serving as mayor of Everly, in which connection he is giving a business-like administration, standing loyally for needed reform and progress.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Fell was blessed with four children: Jennie, who was formerly a teacher in Everly and is now a student in the State Normal School at Cedar Falls; Annie, who is attending the same school; Sylva; and Fred W. They also lost four children: Maggie, who died when about five months old; Eva, who died at the age of four and a half years; Alberta, who passed away at the age of six months; and one who died unnamed. Mrs. Fell and the children are members of the Christian church and are much interested in its work. Mr. Fell is a member of Everly Lodge of Masons and the Royal Arch chapter of Spencer. He is also connected with the Odd Fellows at Everly, has filled all of the chairs in the organization here and is a past grand. Mr. Fell likewise belongs to the Modern Woodmen Camp and at all times is in harmony with the principles of these societies, which are based upon mutual helpfulness and brotherly kindness. As a business man he has an unassailable record, for throughout his entire life he has made steady and substantial progress, never taking advantage of the necessities of another in a business transaction, while at all times he has borne an unsullied reputation for commercial probity. He belongs to that class of representative American men who in promoting individual success have also contributed to the general prosperity. He is widely and favorably known throughout the county and his qualities well fit him for leadership in political, business and social life.

GEORGE W. WRIGHT.

George W. Wright, widely and favorably known in Spencer, where he has lived for twenty-eight years, has retired from active business cares, although for a long period he was the owner of farming property in Clay county, which he leased, deriving therefrom a good rental. A native of Massachusetts, his birth occurred in the city of Lowell, November 30, 1845, his parents being Warren and Sarah (Farwell) Wright, who were likewise natives of Massachusetts. Their family numbered two sons and a daughter, George W., Susan A., the wife of John Gobel, and Frank. The father was a farmer by occupation and in 1852 came to the west, settling in De Kalb county, Illinois, where he engaged in general agricultural pursuits. In 1881 he removed to Iowa and purchased railroad land in Clay county, becoming the owner of a quarter section in Riverton and a half section in Freeman township. He employed men to break and cultivate the land while he made his home in Spencer, his death occurring in this city in 1883, when he was seventy-two years of age. His wife survived him for some years and passed away at the age of eighty-one years, in the faith of the Baptist church of which she was long a devoted and consistent member.

George W. Wright was only six years of age when brought by his family to the Mississippi valley, and upon the home farm in De Kalb county, Illinois, he was reared, while the district schools afforded him his educational privileges. In

the months of summer he worked in the fields and thus gained practical knowledge of the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He was eighteen years of age when, in May, 1864, he responded to the country's call for troops and with the boys in blue went to the front as a member of Company F, One Hundred and Thirty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served as a private for about a year, being mustered out in May, 1865.

Some time after the war was over Mr. Wright removed to Kansas, securing a homestead claim in Cherokee county, where he resided for about fourteen months, until the fall of 1879, when he came to Clay county, Iowa. Being pleased with this district and its future prospects, he returned here and resided permanently in 1880 and invested in one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land in Riverton township which he broke, and then rented the farm, continuing to lease it until 1907, when he sold that property. He has made his home in Spencer for twenty-eight years and throughout this period has enjoyed the warm regard of those who know him, for he has proven himself a public spirited citizen and one whose efforts in behalf of the general good have been far-reaching and effective. He served as city marshal for five and a half years and was also constable for five years. He filled the office of deputy sheriff for two years under P. W. Madden, and in these different positions has been loyal to the trust reposed in him and to the best interests of the community at large.

Pleasantly situated in his home life, Mr. Wright was married May 29, 1869, to Miss Rose Price, a daughter of Avery and Mary Price. Their only child, Cora E. Wright, became the wife of J. W. Melville, and died November 29, 1907, leaving three children, George, Lee and Jesse. Mr. Wright has been a member of the Odd Fellows society for thirty-six years and his membership is now in Spencer Lodge. He also belongs to Annett Post, G. A. R., and has been a loyal adherent of the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. With substantial investments to relieve him of the necessity of labor, he is now living retired in Spencer and in the community enjoys the warm regard and sincere friendship of many with whom he has been brought in contact.

JOHN B. LEWIS.

John B. Lewis is now successfully conducting business as a dealer in popcorn at Spencer. He is well known in Clay county, where he has filled several official positions, serving for ten years as county sheriff, his reelection being an indication of his fearlessness and efficiency in the discharge of his duties. His birth occurred in the little rock-ribbed country of Wales, on the 12th of May, 1847, his parents, Thomas and Elizabeth (Annett) Lewis, being also natives of that country. The paternal grandfather always remained a resident of Wales, but the maternal grandfather, John Annett, came to America and settled at Newton, Massachusetts, where he died well advanced in years.

Thomas Lewis became a miner in his native country and was killed there in a mine in 1852. His wife survived him, and soon after her husband's death brought her family of children to the new world, settling at Galena, Illinois.

where they were living when William and Henry Lewis enlisted for service in the Civil war. The latter died in 1862, while the former was killed in the battle of Atlanta in 1864. In September, 1864, the mother, accompanied by the subject of this review started for Iowa with an ox team. They made a location near Waverly, Bremer county, where they resided upon a rented farm until 1877. In that county the mother married again, becoming the wife of Thomas Brown. She died April 5, 1881, at the age of seventy-four years, in the faith of the Methodist church, to which both of her husbands also belonged. There were only three sons by her first marriage and, as stated, the first two gave their lives in defense of their country at the time of the Civil war.

John B. Lewis was but five years of age at the time of his father's death, and the same year witnessed the emigration of the family to America. He remained in Galena, Illinois, until 1864, when, at the age of seventeen years, he accompanied his mother to Bremer county, Iowa, and there cultivated a rented farm until 1877. The latter year witnessed his removal to Clay county, at which time he took up a homestead of eighty acres in what was then Spencer township, but is now Sioux township. The farm was located about six miles east of the city of Spencer, and there he carried on general agricultural pursuits for two years, after which he took up his abode in the county seat, and was there appointed night watchman, acting in that capacity for two years. He next received appointment to the position of city marshal and served for two years. In 1883 he was made baggageman at the Milwaukee depot, where he served for five years, and on the expiration of that period was appointed deputy sheriff under P. W. Madden, thus serving until April, 1892, or for a period of four years. In the following November he was elected to the office of sheriff, and on the 15th of that month entered upon the duties of the position, in which he was continued by reelection until January, 1902. He discharged his duties without fear or favor, his course awakening the commendation of all law-abiding citizens and creating fear in the hearts of those who did not hold themselves amenable to law. After his retirement from the office of sheriff he was appointed chief door-keeper of the house of representatives of the twenty-ninth general assembly, and served during three sessions. He afterward established a real estate office in Spencer, continuing in the business until 1907, when he bought a pop-corn engine and stand and is now enjoying a good sale.

On the 30th of November, 1872, Mr. Lewis was married to Miss Chloe A. Kinyon, a daughter of Sylvester and Lucy (Sturtevant) Kinyon. The family now numbers three sons and two daughters. George O., the eldest, is a farmer and also conducts a dairy business in Spencer. He married Kate Schorb, and they have three children, Charles, Ruth and Blanche. William H. Lewis, the second son, is a printer, now acting as foreman of the Campbell & Russell office in Des Moines. He married Iva Hardin and they have two children, Madge and Franklin. Cora M. is the wife of A. F. Miner, of Spencer, and they have six sons, Howard, John P., Claude C., Earl W., Donald E. and Kenneth M. Frank E. Lewis married Elva Ruthven, and they have one child. Hattie E., who completes the family, is the wife of John M. Freeburg. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he belongs to the Odd Fellows society and the Knights of Pythias fraternity. He has always

given earnest support to the republican party and does all in his power to promote its growth and insure its success. From an early age he has been dependent upon his own resources and whatever success and whatever prosperity he has attained is attributable to his persistent and honorable effort. He made a most excellent record as a county official, no incumbent in the office of sheriff having done better work as a custodian of the public peace.

WILLIAM H. SIMINGTON.

William H. Simington, who is proprietor of a restaurant and grocery business in Dickens, Freeman township, was born in Canada, near Hamilton, Ontario, on June 21, 1851, a son of Samuel and Mary Ann (Worthington) Simington, natives of Ireland. Upon coming to the new world they located in Canada, but came to Genesee county, New York, in 1865, leaving that place in the year 1870 and settling in Freeman township, this county, three miles northeast of Dickens, on a tract of eighty acres. Here they lived for a number of years, and then removed to Spencer, where Mrs. Simington passed away in 1890, her husband still living there at the advanced age of ninety years. The couple were parents of the following children: James; Mary, deceased, who was the wife of Moses McClennel; Letitia, who wedded James Robinson, of Severin Bridge, Canada; Kate, wife of H. B. Page, of Spencer, Iowa; John, of Hill City, Minnesota; Samuel, Jr., of Spencer; and William H., of Dickens. The maternal and paternal grandfathers were both natives of Ireland, the latter having departed this life in Canada at the age of one hundred and seven years, his wife also having attained a great age, the mother of a large family, while the former, a farmer, passed away in his native land in middle age.

In Richfield, now Pembroke, Genesee county, New York, William H. Simington was reared and acquired his education, and then learned the jewelry business, which he followed for a number of years, later working as a telegraph operator. In the year 1870 he came to Howard county, Iowa, remaining for two years, when he returned to New York, but came back to Iowa in 1893 and settled in Dickens, Clay county, being employed for three years by a railroad company, at the expiration of which time he established himself in the restaurant and grocery business, and has since met with splendid success.

On April 12, 1870, he wedded Miss Emma Edith Van Buren, daughter of Henry and Sarah (Harmon) Van Buren, and they are parents of five children, namely: Charles Wesley, deceased; Mertie E., wife of John J. Lawler, their children being Louise, Gladys, Celia and Mildred; Carrie B., who died in March, 1907, leaving her husband, James M. Storey, and two children, Naomi and Delbert D., to mourn her loss; Elsie M., wife of Edwin N. Culver, their children being Bessie, Vernon, Roy and Ena; and Adah O., who wedded Lawrence Jones, by whom she had two daughters, Almeda and a baby. Mrs. W. H. Simington was born in Clarendon, Genesee county, New York, also the birthplace of her father, Henry Van Buren, of Holland Dutch descent, her mother having been born in Vermont. To Henry and Sarah Van Buren were born three children, namely: Emma, the wife of W. W. Simington; Ada, the wife of Elias G. Post,

of Buffalo, New York; and Horace, of Crittenden, Erie county, New York. At an early day Mr. Van Buren settled in Conway, Livingston county, Michigan, where he died in 1859, being only thirty-five years old. His wife survived him and later wedded James Peachy, and departed this life in 1886 at the age of sixty-four years. Mrs. Simington's family are noted for longevity. Her paternal grandfather was Rudolphus Van Buren, a native of Holland, who, with his wife, lived to an advanced age and passed away in Michigan, leaving a family of six children. Her maternal grandfather was Isaac Harmon, a native of Vermont, a carpenter by trade, who died in middle life, being survived by his wife, who lived to a great age and had been the mother of a number of children.

Mr. and Mrs. Simington are members of the Congregational church, in which they are active workers. Politically he gives his allegiance to the republican party, the principles of which he believes best adapted to the highest financial interests of the country, and consequently during campaigns he uses his vote and influence toward securing the election of its candidates. He is a conservative and industrious business man and through patience and perseverance, honesty and integrity, he is very successful in his business and is accounted one of the substantial and respected men of the community.

ALBERT W. MILLER.

It is an important public duty and honor to perpetuate as far as possible the memory of an eminent citizen—one who by his blameless and honorable life and distinguished career reflected credit upon his city and state. Through such memorials as this at hand the individual and the character of his services are kept in remembrance and the importance of those services acknowledged. His example therefore becomes an object lesson to those who follow him. The history of Albert W. Miller is indeed one worthy of record, for he stood as a high type of American manhood and chivalry, and always regarded his word given or an engagement made as a sacred obligation. He felt that a man should always use his advantages to the best of his ability, and the years gave substantial proof of his worth in every relation where he was found. He was loyal in his friendships and family duties were to him most sacred. In the paternal line Albert W. Miller is of German lineage. His grandparents were Martin and Susan (Snook) Miller. The former was born in Frederick City, Maryland, and came of a family of German origin. Both he and his wife were well advanced in years when called to their final rest, Mrs. Miller, who survived her husband for some time, being about ninety years of age at her demise. They had a large family, namely: Charlotte, William, George, Martin, Ezra, Louis, Nathan, Simon, Adam, Elizabeth, Susan and Sophia.

Of this family William Miller, the eldest son, was born in Maryland, and after acquiring his education began learning the miller's trade at Eakles Mills, Maryland. Subsequently he conducted a mill of his own at Rohrsersville, and continued a resident of his native state until about 1880, when he removed westward to Iowa and purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres three miles

east of Spencer. A few years later he left the farm and removed to Spencer, where he died in August, 1906, at the age of eighty-six years. His wife passed away in 1902 at the age of seventy-four years. She bore the maiden name of Rebecca Clapper, and was also a native of Maryland. Her father, the Rev. John Clapper, was born in that state and became a minister of the United Brethren church. He married a Miss Longman and they had several children, Elizabeth, Leah, Simeon, William, John and George. Unto Mr. and Mrs. William Miller were born a daughter and seven sons: Celia, the wife of Aaron Dovenberger; Albert W., of this review; John; Henry, of Denver, Colorado; Hilrey J., of Lexington, Kentucky; Charles, of Hagerstown, Maryland; Otho, who died at Leeds City, South Dakota; and Louis S., who was killed in a railroad wreck at Everly, Iowa.

There was much in the life record of Albert W. Miller which commended him to the confidence and good will and high regard of those with whom he came in contact, and at his death he left a record that is well worthy of emulation. He was born at Keedysville, Maryland, March 2, 1847, and was there reared to manhood and in its schools acquired his early education, although he afterward had the benefit of instruction in Eastman's Business College of New York, from which he was graduated in due course of time. In seeking a home in the middle west he located at Sioux City, Iowa, but soon afterward removed to Peterson, in Clay county, where he operated a saw mill and flour mill for about a year. In 1870 he removed to Spencer and became interested with Mr. Marcellus in the ownership of a flour mill, being connected with the enterprise until 1873. He then established a private bank in Spencer, which was the first institution of this character in Clay county. He continued as its president until he sold out and started the First National Bank, when he became president of the latter and so continued until his demise. He was a man of strong business qualifications, manifesting keen sagacity in the solution of intricate business problems, and at all times carefully utilizing his opportunities so that no advantages were neglected. He was, moreover, a man of unquestioned business probity, ever mindful of his obligations and in no way overreaching another in a business transaction. Justice and truth were always characteristics of his business life and made his name an honored one.

On the 29th of October, 1872, Mr. Miller wedded Miss Emma LaMar, who was born in Burkittsville, Maryland, a daughter of Captain William B. and Elizabeth (Harley) LaMar, who were also natives of Maryland. Her father conducted a steam tannery at Burkittsville, devoting much of his life to that pursuit. He was a son of Thomas and Mary (Willard) LaMar, who were likewise born in Maryland and in that state Thomas LaMar owned and conducted a large plantation. His wife died when past middle life, while he lived to the remarkable old age of more than ninety years. Their children were John, Benoni, William, Mary, Elizabeth, Laura, Ellen and Rebecca. The maternal grandparents of Mrs. Miller were Joshua and Elizabeth (Whiteneck) Harley. The former, a native of England, became a merchant and in addition to conducting a store he also owned a large plantation at Burkittsville, Maryland. Both he and his wife reached old age and they reared a family of five sons and four daughters, William, Otho, Thomas, Joshua, Mahlon, Elizabeth, Matilda, Sophia and Eliza.

William LaMar, the father of Mrs. Miller, served as a captain in the Mexican war. He remained an active business man of Burkittsville during the greater part of his life and there passed away in 1872, at the age of sixty-two years. His wife survived him until 1880 and passed away at the age of seventy-three years. They were the parents of eight children, Thomas; Eliza; Lewis, deceased; Marlene; Robert, deceased; William; Asa, deceased; and Emma, the wife of our subject.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Miller was blessed with eight children, three of whom died in childhood. Laura became the wife of J. R. Gilbreath, whose father wrote the first history of Clay county. They now reside at Mandan, North Dakota, and they have one son, Victor LaMar. Mrs. Gilbreath is a graduate of the Kee-Marr College at Hagerstown, Maryland. Albert, who is a graduate of Eastman's Business College, is living at home with his mother. Jessie is the wife of Nicholas Leysbeth, consul from Belgium to Germany, and they make their home at Cologne. Mrs. Leysbeth is a graduate of Lake Forest (Illinois) College and by her marriage has become the mother of one son, Louis. Emma, who is a graduate of St. Catherine's College at Davenport, Iowa, is now attending an art school at Chicago. Bessie, who completes the family, is a high school student in Spencer.

The death of the husband and father occurred December 18, 1892, when he had reached the age of forty-five years and nine months. He was reared in the faith of the United Brethren church, but afterward became a charter member of the Congregational church, as did his wife, who yet belongs to that denomination. He served his country as a soldier of the Civil war, becoming a member of Company B in a regiment of Maryland Volunteer Infantry. His political allegiance was given to the republican party, but the honors and emoluments of office had no attraction for him, as he preferred always to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs, and by his intelligently directed effort achieved success that enabled him to leave his family in very comfortable financial circumstances. His prosperity was ever a means to an end. He was never engrossed in money-making to the exclusion of other interests, but he rejoiced that his business advancement permitted him to give his children good opportunities and to minister to the welfare and happiness of his wife. In all things he manifested steadfast purpose and spotless integrity—features to which the splendid civilization of America is indebted—and thus he left the impress of his individuality upon the country in which he long resided.

ALBERT O. MILLER.

Albert O. Miller, one of the enterprising and progressive merchants of Dickens, where he is dealing in agricultural implements and coal, was born in St. Lawrence, New York, November 22, 1859, and is a son of Samuel and Experience (Truesdell) Miller, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Canada. The Miller family is of Holland-Dutch descent although the grandfather of our subject was a native of the Empire state. The father, Samuel

A. Miller, was a blacksmith by trade and followed that occupation until after the outbreak of the Civil war when he enlisted in Scott's Nine Hundred and lost his life in battle. His wife passed away in 1869 at the age of fifty-one years. One of their sons, Benjamin F. Miller, enlisted with his father and served for three years as a loyal defender of the Union cause. He was but a youth when he entered the army and he died in 1866 at the early age of nineteen years from the effects of his military experience.

Albert O. Miller acquired his preliminary education in the public schools of St. Lawrence county, New York, and subsequently pursued a course in the state normal school. After leaving that institution he engaged in teaching for one term in his native state and in the fall of 1878 came to Clay county, Iowa, locating on the present site of Dickens. In this county he taught eighteen terms of school in six different school districts and proved an able educator, imparting readily and clearly to others the knowledge that he had acquired. He was thus active in promoting the early intellectual development of his locality. He afterward purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Sioux township and turned his attention to farming, continuing the work of the fields until 1902 when he disposed of his farm and removed to Dickens, where he was employed by the firm of Somers Brothers for a brief period. He afterward removed to the state of Washington where he remained for a year and a half when he returned to Dickens and established his present business as a dealer in agricultural implements and coal. He has succeeded in building up a gratifying trade and now has a liberal patronage which makes his business a profitable one.

On the 30th of March, 1882, Mr. Miller was united in marriage to Miss Bertha I. Stone who was born in Vermont, September 11, 1851, and is a daughter of Horace P. and Abigail V. (Williams) Stone. Her parents were also New England people. Her father was born in Maine and in early life learned the carpenter's trade which he followed in the east. At the time of the Civil war he responded to the country's call for aid, going to the front with the Vermont regiment and doing active and valorous duty in defense of the stars and stripes. During the early girlhood of his daughter, Mrs. Miller, he came to the middle west with his family and homesteaded a tract of land in Sioux township, Clay county, Iowa. With characteristic energy he began the development of a farm, transforming the wild land into rich and fertile fields which he successfully cultivated until about fifteen years ago when he retired and removed to Dickens, where his death occurred in June, 1907. His wife, a native of Vermont, is a descendant of Roger Williams, the apostle of freedom of New England days. She still survives her husband and makes her home in Dickens. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Miller have been born four children. Edmund, born May 8, 1885, is now engaged in farming in central Montana near the town of Denton. He married Elizabeth Haulman and they have a daughter, Jessie. Nellie, born September 13, 1890, Arthur, born February 13, 1892, and Jessie, born October 5, 1899, are all at home. Mr. and Mrs. Miller are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he is serving as trustee and in the work of the church they are actively and helpfully interested. Mr. Miller gives his political support to the republican party and is at present officiating as township clerk. In all matters relative to the progress and improvement of the county he is interested

and gives his support to many measures for the public good. As a business man he is thoroughly reliable and his honesty in all business dealings is one of the factors of his substantial success. He possesses, moreover, good business tact and judgment and his industry and perseverance have gained him prominence in the commercial circles of the town.

G. A. GLEASON.

G. A. Gleason, who manifests a spirit of unfaltering determination and unwearied industry in carrying on his farming interests in Logan township, Clay county, is a representative of one of the early families of Iowa and a direct descendant of General Putnam. His parents were Clement and Jane (McDowell) Gleason. His father was a native of the state of Massachusetts, his birth having occurred in Salem. At an early date he located in this state and throughout his life was well known as a farmer and merchant. He was one of the first to take up land in Wapello county, at which time the greater portion of the state was unsettled and unimproved. It was therefore not without strenuous efforts and unfaltering perseverance that the raw land was brought under cultivation. Mr. Gleason belonged to that early generation of men who did not expect to make their way in life without having to overcome difficulties and hardships, and being a man inspired by a firm purpose and an aggressive spirit he soon converted the wild and unproductive prairie into fertile fields from which he reaped generous harvests. In connection with farming he also carried on a general mercantile business and was one of the first to engage in that enterprise in his locality. He was well known throughout the county and in his day did much toward advancing the general improvement of the township in which he spent his life.

G. A. Gleason was born in Agency City, Iowa, June 10, 1848. He acquired his education in the district schools and upon completing his schooling at the age of twenty years he was apprenticed to a cooper and carpenter, with whom he remained until he learned the trade. He then worked as a journeyman for five years, at the expiration of which time he began contracting and building on his own account, his previous experience well qualifying him for this step. He followed the business in Atlantic, Cass county, and in Coon Rapids, Carroll county, Iowa, and the undertaking proved quite successful. In 1893 he came to this county and has since devoted his time to raising general crops. He has given much attention to his farming by way of making improvements and conducts the occupation upon modern principles, also carefully studying the nature of the soil. He has been successful in so cultivating his crops as to approximate a maximum yield per acre and from year to year has been gradually adding to his prosperity.

In 1867 Mr. Gleason wedded Mary L. Laraway and to this union were born the following named: Clement, an agriculturist of Sioux township; Amanda, the wife of H. A. Smith, residing on a farm in Gilletts Grove township; Fred R., who is manager of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Gilletts Grove; Bessie, the wife of Robert Moore, who follows agricultural pursuits in Logan township;

and Catherine, who resides with her parents. Mr. Gleason's political views have always been in accord with republican principles and, although he is not an active politician nor does he aspire to hold public office, he takes considerable interest in elections and during campaigns uses his vote and influence in behalf of the candidates of his party. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church and Spencer Lodge, A. F. & A. M. Mr. Gleason's life has been such as to merit the respect of his fellowmen and by his honesty, uprightness and industry he has contributed much toward the upbuilding of the community of which he is a representative citizen.

D. F. LUNDT.

Among the sons of the fatherland whose industry and sturdy qualities have added much to the financial worth and civilization of Clay county is D. F. Lundt, who came to the United States when a boy and at an early age took up farming, and has since become a substantial agriculturist and stock raiser of Douglas township, this county. His birth occurred in Holstein, Germany, February 3, 1859, a son of H. B. and Weike (Mattison) Lundt. His father came to the new world in 1871, locating in Scott county, Iowa, where he remained for one year and then removed to Grundy county, this state, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits for eight years, afterward settling in this county and purchasing land upon which he lived until he died in 1905. Prior to leaving his native land he had served as a soldier in two wars with Denmark, and in one engagement was shot in the hand the marks of the wound remaining with him until his death. He was well known in this part of the county for his excellent qualities of character as well as for his industry, and he commanded the respect of all who knew him. The mother was also a native of Germany, passing away in Clay county in 1908. The couple reared a family of seven children, namely: J. F., who has extended agricultural interests in Tama county and who served in the Iowa state legislature for two terms; C. J., who follows agricultural pursuits in Fayette, Idaho; J. R., deceased; D. F., of this review; Henry, a well known farmer of this township; Peter, also engaged in agricultural pursuits and stock raising here; and Annie, who became the wife of C. Holthouse and resides on a farm in Peterson township.

The common schools of his native land afforded D. F. Lundt some educational advantages which he further pursued in the United States, and upon completing his studies remained under the paternal roof assisting in the duties of the farm until he was twenty-three years of age. He then engaged in farming for himself in Tama county, this state, successfully pursuing that vocation in its various departments until 1901, when he came to this county and located on section 8 where he has since resided. The strict attention which he has paid to his business has enabled him to derive good profit from the crops and from time to time he has added to his lands until he now possesses an excellent farm containing two hundred acres, located in sections 8 and 17. All the improvements upon this farm are due to Mr. Lundt's progressive spirit, and aside from

having an elegant residence his farm is also provided with a commodious barn and other necessary buildings, machinery and appurtenances required to make farming a successful venture. He raises large quantities of the best hay and grain, and at the same time does an extensive business in breeding, feeding and shipping stock.

In 1881 Mr. Lundt wedded Miss S. Jacobs, a native of Germany, and unto them were born the following children: Laura, the wife of Edward Stephens, an agriculturist of this township; Matilda, who is wedded to Hans Peterson, who operates a large farm here; Frederick, Adolph, Grover and Clarence, who reside at home; and Clara and Adelaide, deceased. His political allegiance Mr. Lundt gives to the democratic party, and for the past two years has been trustee of the township. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America of Gladbrook, Tama county, this state. He attends divine services at the Lutheran church, of which he is a liberal supporter. As a worthy and upright citizen and Christian character, he will be remembered by posterity.

HENRY LUNDT.

Henry Lundt, a brother of D. F. Lundt, was also born in Germany, his birth occurring October 5, 1862, and he came to the United States with his parents in 1871. He acquired his education in the common schools of the fatherland and in Tama county, Iowa. He remained at home with his father until twenty-eight years of age when he settled in Clay county where he engaged in farming and general stock raising on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, now comprising some of the most fertile and arable land in this township. In 1902 he met with the misfortune of having his buildings destroyed by a cyclone, but subsequently replaced them with more substantial ones, and now his farm is in every respect in first-class shape, and he makes a specialty of stock-raising and shipping of the best breeds of cattle, hogs and horses.

In 1890 he was united in marriage with Miss Emma Stark and they have five children, Johnnie, Guy, Ruth, Ruby and Ray, all of whom reside with their parents. In politics Mr. Lundt does not ally himself with any particular political party, but, believing that the man who seeks the office should be of greater consideration than his party ties, he votes for such candidates as he deems best qualified to subserve the interests of the commonwealth. Like his brother, he is industrious and enterprising and his straightforward transactions and upright character win for him the confidence and respect of his neighbors.

E. W. BREIDINGER.

E. W. Breidinger, who owns and operates a farm of two hundred acres on section 18, Riverton township, was born in Union county, Pennsylvania, October 9, 1859, a son of Leonard and Sarah (Trump) Breidinger. He was only eight years of age when the family removed to Michigan in 1867. His father was a

native of Easton, Pennsylvania, but believing that he would have better opportunity to secure a good living for his family in the middle west, he made his way to St. Joseph county, Michigan. There he lived for sixteen years and in 1883 came to Iowa, his destination being Clay county. While it was comparatively a new region it gave promise of rapid growth and progress, and he selected a tract of land in Riverton township which he purchased and located upon. However, the same year he lost his wife, who passed away on the 11th of June, 1883.

E. W. Breidinger, going to Michigan in his boyhood days, was reared upon the home farm there, working in the fields through the summer months while in the winter seasons he attended the common schools and afterward the high school at White Pigeon. When his education was completed he returned to the farm and as a young man of twenty-four years came to Iowa with his father and continued with him on the old homestead in Riverton township until twenty-eight years of age. He early learned the value of diligence and perseverance as forceful factors in business life and those qualities have always been important elements in his success.

On the 17th of April, 1889, Mr. Breidinger was married to Miss Una F. Kinney, a daughter of N. A. P. and Nancy (Babcock) Kinney, born in Scott, Cortland county, New York, where her girlhood days were passed and her education acquired. She is a graduate of Cortland Academy, now known as Homer Academy and Union School, and of the Cortland State Normal School, and is a lady of liberal education as well as of natural refinement and culture. She engaged in teaching in the Empire state and also in Iowa, occupying the responsible position of assistant principal of the Spencer high school. Mrs. Breidinger's father, N. A. P. Kinney, was born at Homer, New York, of English descent, while her mother, now deceased, was born at Scott, the same state. Mr. Kinney is at present residing in Homer, New York, being a director in the First National Bank there, having been in his earlier years a well known and respected agriculturist of that vicinity.

Following his marriage Mr. Breidinger rented his father's place and cultivated it for a number of years, while in 1895 he purchased his present home, becoming the owner of two hundred acres on section 18, Riverton township. In all this broad land there is no soil more productive than this portion of Iowa, and the energetic farmer might win success here if he would but carefully and persistently carry on his work. Realizing this fact Mr. Breidinger commenced to improve his place and the farm now presents an attractive appearance. In its midst is a substantial dwelling and in 1908 he erected a large barn, giving shelter to an immense hay crop and to horses and stock as well. The outbuildings are all kept in a state of good repair as are the fences, and the owner is constantly putting forth effort along the lines of progress and improvement. He studies the best methods of tilling the soil, knows what the different crops require and keeps his fields fertile through the process of rotation. In his pastures and feed lands are found high grade shorthorned Durham cattle and Chester White hogs, and his annual sales of stock materially increase his bank account. He is a stockholder in the Spencer Elevator, also of the Telephone Company, and the community recognize in him a man of good business ability, whose judgment is sound and whose enterprise is unflinching.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Breidinger have been born two children, Harry L., in high school, and Anna May, at home. Mr. Breidinger has always voted with the democracy and prefers to do his public service as a private citizen rather than as an office holder. Twenty-five years have come and gone since he arrived in the county. They have been to him years of work—earnest, indefatigable work—and he deserves all the credit which is due a man who wins his success by honorable as well as persistent labor.

PETER CHRISTENSON.

The sons of Denmark have made considerable showing in this country in various occupations, evincing a high rate of business ability and professional acumen, showing themselves in every particular ready for hard work and equipped to meet every emergency, thus enabling them to make their way in the new world and establish themselves in enviable positions in professional and commercial circles. Among those deserving of notice is Peter Christenson, who for a number of years has been identified with the agricultural and stock-raising interests of Clay township, this county. His birth occurred in Denmark on April 20, 1847, a son of Christian and Anna Peterson, who lived and died in their native land. They were the parents of the following children: Hans, now deceased; Christina, who resides in Denmark; Knud, who is an agriculturist of Lincoln township, Clay county; and Peter, our subject.

In his native land Peter Christenson spent his boyhood and youth, and there acquired his education in the common schools, but recognizing that there were few opportunities for a successful career in his own country he decided to seek his fortune in the new world, and consequently came to the United States in 1869, locating in Story county, Iowa, where he hired out for one year. At the expiration of that time he came to this county and took up a claim in Lincoln township, and after having for a brief period cultivated part of the acreage, he disposed of the land and came to Clay township, where he bought a small farm. He at once applied himself to general farming and to stock raising on a small scale, and met with such success that he was able to add to his tract of land from year to year until now he possesses four hundred and eighty acres in this original farm, one hundred and sixty acres near Royal, and has just moved to an eighty-acre farm in Clay township. By his unwearied efforts he transformed the crude prairie land of his first farm into fertile fields, from which he has annually reaped excellent harvests, and his agricultural success has placed him in his present prosperous condition. His farms are highly improved, provided with comfortable dwelling houses, barns, outbuildings, and all conveniences essential to the advantageous pursuit of farming, and he now has property composed of some of the finest farming land in the township.

In 1876 Mr. Christenson was united in marriage with Christina Hendricksen, to which union were born: Amelia, who became the wife of Martin Martinson, a well known college professor of this state; Mary, wife of Herman Seaman, an agriculturist of this county; Anson and Rena, twins, Anson operating a large farm

in this township, while Rena is the wife of Christian Olson, who is in the creamery business at Linn Grove; Arthur; Clarence; and Emma, at home. In politics Mr. Christenson has always been a staunch adherent of the republican party, to which he has been loyal since casting his first vote. Among the services which he has rendered the community is that of trustee, in which office he has served for several years. His religious convictions are with the Lutheran denomination, and he is a faithful attendant and liberal supporter of that church. He deserves great credit for the progress he has made in this country, inasmuch as he was compelled to start out in the world for himself and make his way, without means or influence, and with a limited education, depending entirely upon his own resources. But success followed him at every step, the result of his industry, patience and perseverance, until now he is numbered among the thrifty farmers and representative citizens of this county.

ANDREW ANDERSON.

Denmark has furnished a valuable class of citizens to the new world. They have brought with them from the old country the unremitting energy and perseverance characteristic of that nationality, and in the great majority of cases have attained success in the management of varied business affairs. To this class belongs Andrew Anderson, who is now manager of the Farmers' Elevator at Spencer. He came to America in 1882 when a young man of but twenty-one years, his birth having occurred in Drechele, Denmark, on the 19th of February, 1861. His father, Rasmus Anderson, was a laborer who lived at Orte, Denmark, and was a son of Andrew Rasmussen. Rasmus Anderson served as a soldier in the Danish army in 1864. He wedded Marie Sorensen, also a native of Denmark, and a daughter of Soren Jule. Both Mr. and Mrs. Anderson were members of the Lutheran church, and its teachings proved the guiding rule of their lives. They became parents of nine children, of whom five are now living: Andrew, of this review; Soren, whose home is in Kenmore, North Dakota; Lars, living in Denmark; Kary, also of Denmark; and Rasmus, who still remains in his native land.

On the home farm in Denmark Andrew Anderson spent the days of his boyhood and youth, and attended the common schools. From time to time he heard interesting reports concerning America, its business conditions and its opportunities, and at length these proved to him an irresistible attraction, so that he bade adieu to friends and native country and in January, 1882, came to the United States. For seven months he was a resident of Chicago and on the 4th of September of that year arrived in Spencer, where he was employed in various ways, his course at all times, however, being characterized by progress. For over fifteen years he was in the employ of R. Trundale and this long connection indicated his faithfulness to the interests which he represented. On the expiration of that period he purchased an elevator which he operated for two years, and in connection with grain also handled coal and hogs. He then sold out to the Hunton Elevator Company of McGregor, Iowa, but continued in charge as

manager for two years, and also handled coal and hogs on his own account. The Hunton Elevator Company then sold out to the Farmers' Elevator Company, which also purchased Mr. Anderson's business as a dealer in coal and hogs in 1907. He has since acted as manager for the company and in this connection is doing good service, being thoroughly familiar with the trade and handling a large amount of business for the company annually.

On the 4th of May, 1883, occurred the marriage of Mr. Anderson to Miss Anna Dorothy Peterson, a daughter of Jorgen Peterson. There were six children of that marriage, Emma, Mary, William, Arthur, Clarence and Raymond. The elder daughter is now the wife of Charles Howe, assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Spencer, and they have one child, Dorothy. Both Mr. and Mrs. Anderson hold membership in the Danish Lutheran church, are interested in its work and do all in their power to promote its influence. Since becoming a naturalized American citizen Mr. Anderson has voted with the republican party, believing that its principles are most conducive to good government. He has now been a resident of America for twenty-seven years and he never feels that he has any reason to regret his determination to seek his fortune on this side of the Atlantic, for he has found a good home here, has met with fair success in his business and has gained many friends whose regard and companionship make life pleasant for him.

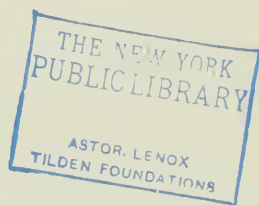
·KNUD CHRISTENSEN.

Knud Christensen, a prominent and prosperous agriculturist near Royal, this county, is one of that sturdy type of Europeans who are doing so much toward cultivating the lands of the middle and far west. His birth occurred on the Island of Fynn, Denmark, on November 29, 1850, a son of Christian Peterson, the variation in the names being due to a prevailing custom of that country by which the son takes the given name of the father and adopts it as a surname. On the same island Mr. Peterson was born and there he spent his life in agricultural pursuits until his death in 1859, the records showing that his people had been engaged in farming there for above six generations. His mother was Anna Knudsdaughter, born in Denmark, where she died in 1898, interment taking place on the Island of Fynn. Mr. Peterson had been married before and had the following children by his first wife: Marian, who died in her native land; Hans, who passed away in Spencer, Clay county, Iowa; and Budileete Christina, who resides in Denmark. To his second wife were born: Peter, who is an agriculturist of Clay township, this county; and Knud Christensen, the subject of this review.

Knud Christensen acquired an excellent education in his native land, having taken a preliminary course of study in the common schools and subsequently a course of training in the high school. He remained at home with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age, in the meantime having learned the brick mason's trade which he followed as a journeyman until 1872, when he set sail for the United States. His objective point was Chicago, Illinois, which he had heard offered an excellent opportunity for bricklayers as it was then being rebuilt after



MR. AND MRS. KNUD CHRISTENSEN



the big fire of 1871. Upon his arrival in that city he looked over the ground but was not satisfied with the offers made him, and upon receiving intelligence of the agricultural advantages of Iowa, he came here, settling in Clay county, near Royal. At that time there was but one house between the place upon which he located and Spencer. He did not locate permanently until after his marriage, when he purchased eighty acres of land which he at once improved and put in a fit state for cultivation. Since taking up the land he has put forth every energy to reap full benefit from the soil and so great has been his success that his harvests from year to year have enabled him to accumulate other landed interests until at the present time he owns three hundred and sixty acres of highly improved land in Lincoln and Clay townships. In addition to engaging in general farming he also pays considerable attention to stock raising, dealing only in graded classes of cattle, sheep and hogs which he ships throughout this and adjoining states.

In 1878 Mr. Christensen was united in marriage to Miss Maria Christina Ellison, a native of Zeeland, Denmark, and they have five children, namely: Charles Lewis, an agriculturist of this township; Peter Albert, who also follows farming here; Anna Elizabeth, who became the wife of Thomas Hagadorn, an agriculturist of Lincoln township; and Clara Evalina and John Edward, who complete the family. Mr. Christensen's political affiliations are with the republican party to which he has been loyal since casting his first vote, and in the township he has efficiently served both as trustee and school director. He is a man of high moral character and being one who does not permit business affairs to crowd out his religious obligations, always finds time for church work, holding membership in the Danish Lutheran church, of which he is a liberal supporter. Mr. Christensen is well known throughout that region, being one of the highly respected and progressive citizens of Clay county.

O. A. WEBER.

A worthy representative of the agricultural interests of Sioux township was O. A. Weber, whose home farm of three hundred and seventy acres is situated on sections 1 and 2, while altogether he possessed four hundred and fifty acres. Iowa long numbered him among her citizens, for he came to the state in 1866 and although he lived in Clay county only since 1892, his circle of friends was almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintance. These friends therefore mourn his loss, his death having occurred March 14, 1909. He came to the new world with the strong and sterling characteristics of a Teutonic ancestry. A native of Germany, he was born in the province of Prussia on the 26th of April, 1855, and came to the new world when a lad of ten years. No delay kept him in the east, for he at once came to Iowa and for many years thereafter lived in Clayton county, during which time he received the educational advantages offered by the common schools. His father, Herman Weber, was likewise a native of Prussia and there grew to manhood. After reaching adult age he wooed and won Miss Louisa Moritz, also a native of Germany. He was a

mechanic, possessing considerable natural ability along that line. He learned and followed the locksmith trade, with which he was connected while still in Prussia. Before he left his native land four children had been added to the family, and with his wife and little ones he came to the United States, arriving in the year 1866. Making his way direct to Iowa his remaining days were passed in Clayton county, where he purchased land that hitherto had been wild and undeveloped. He at once resolutely set himself to the task of opening up a new farm and, though his labor was often difficult and arduous, he persevered until he became the owner of a tract of valuable land of two hundred and forty acres. Year after year he plowed and planted and carried on the work of the farm, remaining there until his life's labors were ended in death. His wife still survives him and is now living with a son.

In his youthful days O. A. Weber met with the experiences and hardships incident to establishing a home on the frontier. As his years and strength increased he aided more and more largely in the farm work, so that broad practical experience enabled him to profitably carry on farming interests when he started out in life for himself. He was married in Clayton county in 1880 to Miss Albertina Zieman, who was born in Clayton county but was of German lineage. His capital was very limited and would not permit of him buying a place, but he resolved that his labors should benefit himself and therefore he rented a farm. To this he gave his energies for eleven years, during which time he carefully saved his earnings, until in 1892 he was enabled to purchase land in Clay county. Removing to this county he bought one hundred and sixty acres in Sioux township, located thereon and began the development and improvement of the property. Later he purchased another farm of one hundred and sixty acres southeast of Spencer, rented that and afterward sold it. He then bought some land where he resided at the time of his demise, having three hundred and seventy acres in his home place, while his holdings of four hundred and fifty acres made him one of the leading land owners of the locality. The farm residence is an attractive two-story dwelling built in modern style of architecture, supplied with all up-to-date equipment and conveniences and tastefully and comfortably furnished. There are also two large barns on the place and an orchard of his own planting yields its fruit in season. He fenced the farm and during the last three years laid six hundred and fifty rods of tiling, so that the wet soil has been drained and been converted into productive fields. He likewise raised and fed stock and the pasture and other feeding grounds have a large number of high grade animals. He was a stock holder in the Dickens Creamery and in the Webster Rural Telephone Company. Undaunted enterprise and willingness to work earnestly and persistently constituted the chief features in his business development.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Weber were born two sons and three daughters. The eldest son, William A. Weber, is married and operates a part of his father's land. Rudolph is also cultivating a part of the old homestead farm. Clara is the wife of Oliver Stuky and is likewise living on one of her father's farms. Cora and Jessie are young ladies at home. The parents were reared in the faith of the Lutheran church. In his political views Mr. Weber was a republican, served on the school board, but was never an office seeker. He could truly

have been called a self-made man. All that he possessed or enjoyed came to him as the reward of his labor. He early realized that success is not a matter of genius, as held by some, but is rather the result of experience and industry. He therefore learned life's lessons well, made good use of his opportunities and, through his persistency of purpose, actuated by a laudable ambition, he became one of the substantial farmers of the county, holding extensive property which constantly increased in value through his labor and cultivation.

PAUL M. MILLER.

Paul M. Miller, who is acting as delivery agent for the Adams Express Company and is also assistant at the Minneapolis & St. Louis depot, was identified with agricultural interests, but some time since retired from active farm operations. He was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, June 4, 1854, and in tracing back his ancestry it is found that the family is of German lineage. George Miller, the grandfather, was born in Pennsylvania and became a farmer and teamster. Unto him and his wife, both of whom died when past middle life, were born six children, Paul, Eliza, Mary, Matilda, John and David.

Paul Miller, the father of our subject, was likewise a native of the Keystone state, and in early manhood became a school teacher, devoting some time to educational work. He also followed carpentry and subsequently became a farmer. In 1855 he removed to Benton county, Iowa, and settled near Shellsburg, where he developed and improved a farm, bringing his land under a high state of cultivation. He died there in September, 1885, at the age of seventy-two years, while his wife survived him until 1890 and also passed away, at the age of seventy-two years. Mrs. Miller bore the maiden name of Catharine Jones. Her birth occurred in Pennsylvania, her parents being James and Barbara (Walters) Jones, who were also natives of the Keystone state and lived to a good old age. Their children were Catharine, John, Mary, George, Morrow, Phœbe, Emma and Susie. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Miller had a family of twelve children, nine of whom reached adult age, while six are now living: James J., of Waukegan, Illinois; Lucinda M., the wife of William Sutton of Oklahoma; Hannah M., the widow of Theodore Greenwood of Shellsburg, Iowa; John W., also of Shellsburg; Paul M., of this review; and Emma M., wife of N. E. Perry of Seattle, Washington. The parents were members of the Presbyterian church and were people of the highest respectability.

Brought to Iowa in his boyhood days, Paul M. Miller was reared in Benton county upon the home farm. At that time it was a frontier district in which the work of improvement and progress had scarcely been begun. At the usual age he was sent as a pupil to the district schools and therein mastered the common branches of English learning. Through the vacation periods he assisted in the work of the farm and remained at home until twenty years of age, when he started out in life for himself, working by the month as a farm hand for the first year. He believed that he was capable of doing something better, however, and rented a farm, thus carrying on general agricultural pursuits for ten years. During that time he carefully saved his earnings, and in 1889 he removed

to Clay county, where he purchased eighty acres of unimproved land in Gillett Grove township. On this tract he turned the first furrow and as the work of plowing and planting continued his farm took on the appearance of a well developed property, and in the course of years yielded abundant harvests. As his financial resources increased he added to the property until he now owns two hundred and thirty-four acres of finely improved land. He lived there until 1905, when he rented his farm to his eldest son and removed to Spencer. Indolence and idleness, however, were totally foreign to his nature and, as he could not be content without some business interests, he entered the employ of the railroad company and the Adams Express Company, and to this work now devotes his energies.

On the 4th of April, 1878, Mr. Miller was united in marriage to Miss Martha E. Greenwood, a daughter of Abraham and Caroline S. (Shuey) Greenwood. Mrs. Miller was born in Carroll county, Maryland, and her parents were natives of that state. They removed westward to Benton county, Iowa, about 1867, and were well known farming people in that locality. The father died in 1896, at the age of seventy-two years, and the mother was also of the same age when called to her final rest, her death occurring in 1898. In the family there were fifteen children, of whom the following are now living: Mrs. Ada B. Baldwin, Mrs. Hannah Parker, Martha E., Elhanian, Mrs. Adeline Parker, George, Mrs. Maggie Kitzmiller, and Mrs. Leavina Kitzmiller.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Miller has been blessed with four children: Bernice E., who is the wife of Howard E. King, a resident of Spencer, by whom she has two children, Harold D. and Victor; Bernard, who is operating the home farm and married Luella LaRue, by whom he has one son; John, who is operator at the Minneapolis & St. Louis depot in Spencer; and Paul E., who is station agent and operator at Badger, Iowa. The last named married Minnie O. Pinneo and they have two sons, Vernon J. and Donald Pinneo.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. Miller are members of the Congregational church, and are interested in its work and active in its support. Mr. Miller votes with the democracy and for three terms has served as trustee of Gillett Grove township. He well deserves the good American title of a self-made man, for he started out in life empty-handed and possessed only of a determination to win prosperity through persistent and honorable effort. Gradually he has advanced toward the goal of prosperity and is now the owner of an excellent farm property, while to this he has added the annual income which he derives from his labor.

THOMAS D. GRIGGS.

It is only in rare cases that fortune seems to favor certain individuals and they gain wealth through inheritance or some lucky chance. The great majority, however, labor for what they possess, and it is well known that men of strongest character, who are regarded as most valuable in citizenship and in business relations, are they who have carved out their own fortunes. It has been through his energy, perseverance and well directed activity that Thomas D. Griggs has won a place among the prosperous farmers of Summit township, his home being

on section 34, where he owns three hundred and seventy-six acres of well improved land. He has lived in Clay county since 1888. He has now passed the eighty-first milestone on life's journey, for his birth occurred in Utica, New York, June 24, 1828. His father, Isaac Griggs, was born in Connecticut and on leaving New England took up his abode in the state of New York. He lived for a time in Chautauqua county, that state, and was identified with business interests there. The opportunities of the growing west attracted him, however, and in 1841 he made his way to Ohio, settling in Trumbull county, where he carried on manufacturing and mercantile interests. In that locality he reared his family and spent his last years, being regarded for a long period as one of the valued citizens of the community, because of the energy and enterprise which he displayed in the conduct of his business interests.

Thomas D. Griggs was reared to manhood in Trumbull county, Ohio. He had good school advantages and in early manhood was appointed to the position of superintendent of the penitentiary, taking charge of that institution under Governor Medill, while later he was retained in the office by Governor Chase. He occupied the position three and a half years and was loyal to the trust reposed in him.

Going to Wisconsin, Mr. Griggs was married in Janesville, Rock county, on the 28th of December, 1860, to Miss Hannah James, who was born and reared in that state. Following their marriage they located on a farm in Rock county, where Mr. Griggs owned one hundred and sixty acres. He further improved and developed that property and continued to carry on general farming there for about twenty-eight years, after which he sold out and bought where he now resides. Coming to Iowa, he settled on section 34, Summit township, where he invested in a farm of two hundred and twenty-eight acres of land that was partially improved. This he began to farm and further develop, and as he prospered he bought more land and at different times has owned a number of farms, making judicious investments in property and later selling at a good profit. He now owns a large and valuable tract of land comprising three hundred and seventy-six acres. Year after year the fields are carefully tilled and good grades of stock are raised and fed, the sale thereof bringing to him a substantial financial return.

In 1894 Mr. Griggs was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who on the 13th of December of that year passed away and was laid to rest in Spencer cemetery. They were the parents of five children: Cassius J., who is now engaged in farming in Ward county, North Dakota; Clifford, who is carrying on the home place; Guy T., who is married and resides at Dickens; Minnie, the wife of John Scott, of South Dakota; and Grace, the wife of Arthur Little, who is an engineer on the Milwaukee Railroad, living at Sioux City, Iowa. The son Clifford, who operates the home farm, was born in Janesville, Wis., and reared and educated in this county. He was married here on Christmas day of 1902, to Miss Nellie Wilson, and their children are Audra and Berkley. In his political views Mr. Griggs is a democrat and while living in Rock county, Wisconsin, he held several local offices of honor and trust; but political positions have never had much attraction for him. He is now spending the evening of his life on his home farm in Summit township, his son Clifford relieving him of the active

work of the fields. His life has always been a busy and useful one and the qualities of honorable manhood and good citizenship have been his. Today he receives the respect and veneration which should ever be accorded to one of advanced years whose life has been worthily passed, but while Mr. Griggs has reached the eightieth milestone on life's journey he seems much younger in spirit and interests and converses well upon the general topics and questions of the day, while he at the same time relates many interesting incidents of the early days.

FRANK SHERMAN.

The enterprising town of Greenville numbers among its representative citizens its present postmaster, Frank Sherman, who is also engaged in general merchandising. He is accomplishing substantial results in his business career and his industry and determination constitute the basic elements of his prosperity. He was born in Brookfield township, La Salle county, Illinois, April 7, 1867, and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Pickett) Sherman, natives of New York and of England respectively. The Sherman family to which our subject belongs was undoubtedly founded in the Empire state at an early day, for his grandfather, William Sherman, was there born. He followed the occupation of farming there and in that locality reared his family, while to both him and his wife was allotted a ripe old age. The maternal grandfather was William Pickett, a native of Dorchestershire, England. In 1844 he came to America, settling in La Salle county, Illinois, where he followed the occupation of farming. He married Elizabeth Brett and his life of usefulness and activity covered a period of eighty-three years ere he passed to the home beyond.

It was through agricultural pursuits that William Sherman provided for his family. On leaving the east he made his way to Chicago and thence went to La Salle county, where he secured land and engaged in tilling the soil. He married Elizabeth Pickett, who was but a young girl when brought by her parents from England to the United States. Unto their marriage were born four children: Sarah, Albert, Frank and David. The mother still survives and is yet living in La Salle county, but the father passed away there in 1876. Mrs. Sherman is a member of the Methodist church and a most estimable lady, having an extended circle of warm friends in the community where she makes her home. Mr. Sherman was also widely and favorably known there and he, too, belonged to the Methodist church.

Frank Sherman, spending his boyhood days in his father's home in Streator, La Salle county, Illinois, attended the district schools and thus gained the knowledge which has served as the foundation upon which to build his business progress. After leaving home he spent considerable time in the western states and in 1893 entered the employ of the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad Company, being thus engaged as carpenter and builder. In 1900 he came to Greenville as bridge watchman with the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad Company, continuing with that corporation until January 1, 1907. Desirous, however, of engaging in business for himself, in 1901 he opened a small store here and has since con-

ducted it, although he has greatly enlarged the scope of his activities by increasing his stock and thus reaching out for a more extensive trade. His store is tastefully and attractively arranged and his reasonable prices, fair dealing and earnest desire to please his customers have brought to him a liberal patronage.

On the 21st of March, 1904, occurred the marriage of Mr. Sherman and Miss Elizabeth Syra, a daughter of Fountain W. and Elizabeth Syra. There are two children by that marriage, David Fountain and Margaret Leno Sherman. Mr. Sherman belongs to Greenville Lodge, No. 727, I. O. O. F., and gives his political support to the republican party. In the spring of 1908 he was appointed postmaster of Greenville and is now filling the position. There have been no exciting chapters in his life record, but it is the history of a man who has been faithful to duty and has worked diligently to achieve advancement. Such men are the real strength of the nation, for they can always be depended upon in times of crisis to serve the best interests of their country, and in community affairs they support those things which are of substantial benefit to the locality in which they reside.

W. O. ECKLEY.

Among the younger men finding their fortunes in the great west is W. O. Eckley, who is extensively engaged in general farming and stock-raising in Logan township, and formerly well known as a livery man and dealer in farm implements, both of which enterprises he gave up recently in order to devote his undivided attention to his agricultural interests. He is a man whose aggressive spirit is enabling him to turn the soil to his advantage, and being possessed of the strength and vigor of youth, he may well look forward to many a year of bountiful harvests, which will be the means of leading him along the pathway of success and to permanent prosperity. A native son, his birth occurred in Douglas township, Clay county, December 19, 1877, and he is a son of John L. and Mary E. (Duboise) Eckley. His father was also a native of Iowa, and now resides in Barnum, Carlton county, Minnesota. His mother is a native of New York state.

The boyhood days of W. O. Eckley were spent in Douglas township and Spencer, where he attended the common schools and remained at his studies until he had completed his education. Upon leaving school he remained at the home of his parents until he was twenty-one years of age, when he started out in life for himself. Being somewhat inspired by the brawny arm of the blacksmith, he thought he would like to engage in that occupation as his life work, consequently he secured a place in a blacksmith shop, when, after one year's hard work, he gave up his desire to follow the occupation and engaged in business at Gillett Grove. He remained there two years and became connected with a livery business, which he pursued for a time, and then entered the employ of Charles Gilmore, for whom he worked until he was united in marriage, and then took up farming in Herdland township. He followed farming there for a period of three years, then removed to his present rented farm in this township, and there cultivates a half section of excellent land. Since his occupancy of this place he has been

meeting with more than ordinary success in producing general crops and in handling and breeding a high grade of stock, and at the expiration of 1909 he anticipates having sufficient surplus means with which to rent an additional quarter section, upon which he will broaden his farming interests and pay more attention to stock-breeding.

February 2, 1904, he was united in marriage to Miss Florence Carlson, a daughter of John Carlson, a native of Stockholm, Sweden, who now resides in Greenwood, Missouri. To this union have been born the following children: Hazel Esther, who is four years of age, and Harvey John, now in his third year. The republican party receives Mr. Eckley's support, the principles of which, upon candid consideration, he has decided contain the secret of the nation's financial power and permanent prosperity. He attends divine services at the Methodist church and his excellent qualities of character and enterprising spirit have given him high standing as a citizen of the community.

FREDERICK WILLIAM HOFFMAN.

Frederick William Hoffman, who follows farming on section 15, Freeman township, has always been connected with agricultural interests and is today one of the prosperous farmers of the county, owning and operating three hundred and thirty-five acres of land. He was born in Ogle county, Illinois, April 15, 1869, and his life displays many of the sterling characteristics of his German ancestry. His parents, Ferdinand and Sophia (Stuckenburg) Hoffman, were both natives of Germany, and unto them were born seven children, five of whom still survive, as follows: Henry, now living in Freeport, Illinois; Louise, the wife of Martin Miller, of Forreston, Illinois; Ferdinand, who is living near Adeline, Illinois; Fredericka, the wife of Adam Brewer, of Sheldon, North Dakota; and Frederick W. Two of the children died in infancy. The father gave his attention in early life to railroad building. At the age of twenty years he obtained employment in the construction department of railroad service and rose to the position of foreman. A thoughtful comparison of the business conditions of the old world and the new led him to the belief that he might benefit financially if he came to the new world. Accordingly he left Germany in 1853 and reached New York on the 18th of October, after a prolonged and tedious voyage of forty-two days. He began life in the new world with a cash capital of but eight dollars. Having made his way westward into the interior of the country, he was first employed near Elgin, Illinois, at husking corn, but his knowledge of railroading soon gained for him a more lucrative position and he obtained a situation with the Chicago & Northwestern Company, with which he remained for a few months. In 1854 he turned his attention to farming and was employed by the month at farm labor for two years, during which time he carefully saved his earnings in the hope of one day becoming the owner of a farm. This hope found realization in his purchase of forty acres of wild prairie land, which he began to cultivate, using a pair of oxen in breaking the sod. He also had one cow, but no other equipments with which to begin life on his farm.

After a struggle of two years with privations he laid the foundation for a successful career in Brookville township, Ogle county, after which he found it less difficult to maintain a financial footing. In fact he began to save money and purchased forty acres of land on section 32, Maryland township, where he developed the farm upon which his remaining days were passed. Near the close of the war he enlisted in defense of the Union and served until hostilities were brought to an end, being mustered out at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in September, 1865, after which he returned to Springfield, Illinois, and was there honorably discharged. While he willingly gave his aid to his country he also gladly returned to his home when the government no longer needed his assistance, and at once resumed his farming interests. Working diligently and persistently as the years passed, he accumulated two hundred and seven acres of land, which he brought under a high state of cultivation. The farm was pleasantly located within a quarter of a mile of Adeline, Illinois, and the soil, naturally rich and productive, responded readily to the care and labor which he bestowed upon it. There he continued his agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred March 20, 1892, when he was sixty-seven years of age. His wife died in December, 1891. Both were members of the Evangelical Association and Mr. Hoffman gave his political allegiance to the democracy. In the community where this couple resided they were widely and favorably known and the father's example of industry and perseverance was one which may well be followed.

Frederick W. Hoffman spent his youthful days on his father's farm in Ogle county, Illinois, and was early trained in the work on the fields which he assisted to cultivate and improve. His education was acquired in the district and graded schools, but all through the periods of vacation he was busy in the fields, and remained at home until twenty-one years of age and until his parents' death. He then started out in business for himself by renting a part of the old home place and, when the estate was settled, he sold his interest and removed westward to Iowa, establishing his home near Dickens. Here he purchased two hundred and sixty acres of land on which he now lives, but the farm at that time bore little resemblance to his place at the present day for, as the years have passed, he has equipped it with substantial modern buildings, has put up good fences and has secured the latest modern machinery to facilitate work in the fields. By additional purchase he has also extended the boundaries of his farm until it now embraces three hundred and thirty-five acres which are devoted to the raising of such cereals as are best adapted to the soil and climate.

On the 22d of January, 1896, Mr. Hoffman was married to Miss Sophia Dorothea Bernhagen, daughter of Michael and Amelia (Hartwig) Bernhagen. She was born in Clay county, while her parents were natives of Germany, born near Berlin. Coming to America, they settled in Lake township, Clay county, where the father engaged in farming, becoming well known as a representative agriculturist of this community. He died in the spring of 1903, at the age of sixty-three years, while his widow still survives and yet makes her home on the old farm. To them were born ten children, of whom six are now living: Bertha, the wife of Albert Albers; Paulina, the wife of John Hopkins, of Langdon; Marie Emily; Frederick William; Sophia Dorothea; and Reinhold Ferdinand.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman have been born five children: Ralph Ferdinand, Agnes Marie, Randall Arnold, Milo Michael and Bertha Louise. Mr. Hoffman is a democrat in his political views, but the honors and emoluments of office have no attraction for him. He is a gentleman of broad mind and takes a calm survey of life, recognizes its purposes and meets its obligations. He is held in high regard throughout the county and has a circle of friends almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintances.

EMIL SEBASTIAN.

Western Iowa is constantly attracting a class of progressive citizens who recognize the opportunities offered and utilize them for the advancement of individual prosperity. Among the number who have come to Clay county within a comparatively recent period is Emil Sebastian, now living on section 20, River-ton township. He has made his home within its borders since 1897 and is the owner of two hundred and forty acres of good land which is devoted both to stock raising and to general farming.

Mr. Sebastian is a native of Germany. His birth occurred in Saxony on the 28th of December, 1858. His father, Mel Sebastian, was also born and reared in the same country. After arriving at years of maturity he wedded Ernestine Gerth, a German maiden, and to provide for the expenses of a home which he had established he followed the carpenter's trade, which he had previously learned. Several years were devoted to building operations in his native country, but wages were comparatively low and advancement slow. From time to time reports reached him concerning the more remunerative wages to be secured by artisans of the new world, and with the hope of more rapidly attaining prosperity Mr. Sebastian sailed with his family to the United States in 1860. The voyage across the Atlantic safely accomplished, he continued on into the interior of the country and took up his abode in Washington county, Wisconsin, where he again worked at the carpenter's trade, and when his industry and careful expenditure had brought him sufficient capital to purchase property he invested in a farm in that county and made it his home throughout his remaining days, giving his time and attention to general agricultural pursuits. While he did not seek to figure prominently in public life, he was a worthy and respected citizen of the community, and therefore, when he passed away on the 24th of March, 1897, his death was the occasion of deep and widespread regret. His wife survived him a few years and died on the 19th of December, 1902.

In taking up the present history of Emil Sebastian we present to our readers the life record of one who is widely and favorably known in Clay county, although his residence here covers a period of but twelve years. He was less than two years old when brought by his parents to the United States, and was reared in Wisconsin, spending his youth largely upon the farm which his father there purchased. The common schools afforded him his educational privileges, and in early manhood he went to Illinois, securing work as a farm hand in La Salle county. Ten years were there passed, and on the expiration of that

time he returned to Wisconsin and in that state was married on the 12th of February, 1882. This important event in his life united him to Miss Hulda Koutz, a well bred German girl and the daughter of Louis Koutz, who was born in the fatherland and on coming to the new world located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was a wagon-maker by trade and followed that pursuit in Milwaukee, where he reared his family, his daughter being there educated. Subsequently he removed to Thiensville, where he conducted a wagon-shop and is still living. However, he lost his wife, in July, 1905. Following his marriage Mr. Sebastian took up his abode in La Salle county, Illinois, and for four years he lived with his family near Peru. The year 1892 witnessed their arrival in Iowa, at which time they took up their abode in Butler county. There Mr. Sebastian farmed for five years, and in 1897 he came to Clay county. The previous year he had visited the county and had purchased two hundred and forty acres of land, situated on section 20, Riverton township. The following year he removed to this property and began tilling the soil and improving the place. The leading features of the farm are new structures, and an air of enterprise and progress is everywhere noticeable. His home is a pleasant two-story residence, tastefully furnished. In the rear stands a large barn, with an extensive loft for hay, while there is capacious stall-space for stock. Corn-cribs and granaries shelter the cereals which he produces, and wind-pump and waterworks indicate his progressive spirit. He has set out an orchard and planted a grove of shade trees, and thus his place is no longer an open prairie, for fine trees now provide shelter from the hot rays of the summer sun. In his pastures and feed-lots are found good grades of stock and the farm in all its departments is well kept.

Mr. and Mrs. Sebastian are the parents of five children: Ida, the wife of Edward Warren, a business man of Lyndon, Kansas; Louise; Emil W.; Emily, wife of V. H. McCleary, a farmer of Riverton township; and Arthur, all of whom are under the parental roof. Mr. Sebastian votes with the republican party and was elected and is now serving as township trustee. For some years he was officially connected with the schools. He has always believed in maintaining a high standard of education and employing good teachers. Both he and his wife were reared in the German Lutheran faith and have brought up their children in the same church. Mr. Sebastian belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Since he came to Clay county his acquaintance has continually broadened and those who meet him in business and social relations find him a man whose friendship is worthy to be cherished and whose business integrity and enterprise calls for emulation.

EDWARD A. LANDERS.

Edward A. Landers, who conducts a general merchandise business at Gillett Grove, Iowa, was born in Madison county, this state, June 26, 1870, a son of Hiram and Eliza (de Bord) Landers, natives of Indiana and Iowa respectively. They reared the following children: Edward A., our subject; Mary, wife of

Elmer Allen, of Winterset, Iowa; and Alvin, deceased. Hiram Landers came from his native state to Iowa about the year 1849, settling in Madison county, and bought a farm which he improved and put into a superb state for cultivation and upon which he lived and worked until his death in 1901, his wife having passed away about 1876. Mr. Landers was a member of the Christian church, while his wife was actively identified with the Methodist Episcopal denomination.

The paternal grandfather was John Landers, a native of Virginia, who came to Iowa in 1849, settling in Madison county, where he followed agricultural pursuits until his death at an advanced age. He reared the following children: Tira, Felix, Hiram, Eli, Lilah Peffley and Garst. Maurice C. de Bord, the maternal grandfather, a soldier in the Civil war, was a farmer and a native of Kentucky, his wife being Mary (McClelland) de Bord. They were among the early settlers of Madison county, Iowa, where they lived to an advanced age, having reared a large family.

On the farm in Madison county Edward A. Landers was reared, attending the district school of that place and the high school at Patterson, and subsequently taking a business course in the Capital City Commercial College at Des Moines. Upon his graduation from that institution he was employed as a clerk at Gilmore City, and later served in the same capacity at Lake City. In 1891 he came to Clay county and for a period of two years clerked in a store at Webb. Upon resigning this position he went to Fort Dodge, remaining there until 1905, when he came to Gillett Grove, clerking for J. H. Zimmerman until the spring of 1908, when he opened a general store for himself in which he has met with signal success.

Mr. Landers was married to Miss Minnie Kime, a native of Livingston county, Illinois, and a daughter of Paul Kime, and they have four children. Mrs. Landers is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, where she and her husband attend divine services. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and politically gives his allegiance to the republican party. He is an energetic man, of keen business discernment and inspired with an ambitious spirit, and is adding daily to his volume of trade and establishing himself in a substantial and lucrative enterprise.

THOMAS MARION ELLESS.

Thomas Marion Elless, who has followed agricultural pursuits all his life and is now operating a large farm in Garfield township, is a native of Brown township, Ripley county, Indiana, born March 22, 1837, and a son of James and Matilda (Harns) Elless, natives of Kentucky, who located in Indiana in 1800 when that country was in a primitive condition and inhabited by Indians. When a young man his great-grandfather on the paternal side left Ireland with a companion and succeeded in being secreted in the hold of a ship bound for America. In this manner he made his way to the new world, where he became a soldier in the Revolutionary war, after which he removed to Pennsylvania and thence to Kentucky, becoming a pioneer in both states. He is the founder of the family in this country. His given name is unknown, all family records having been lost.

The grandfather of Thomas M. Elless was a resident of Kentucky and at the time he located there settlers were permitted to select their own tracts of land, mark them out to suit their own convenience and upon returning their field notes to the government authorities they secured the title to the property. This was a very illy devised method, as people made little provision for roads and consequently the thoroughfares were few and narrow and ran in every direction. In his family were James, John, William, Wesley, Nancy, Polly, Becka and Susanna. James Elless, the only survivor, removed with his family from Indiana to Winneshiok county, Iowa, in 1853 and two years later went to Fillmore county, Minnesota, where he departed this life in his eighty-third year. His wife passed away in 1865 in her sixty-fourth year, while on a visit to the place where she was married. Her ancestors were of English and Welsh descent, while her husband on the authority of his father was of English, Irish, Welsh and Dutch extraction.

The district schools afforded Thomas Marion Elless his education and in his twentieth year he left his father's farm and started out in the world for himself, spending two years in Kentucky and Indiana. In 1888 he settled in Garfield township, Clay county, Iowa, the place being then known as Herdland township. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 35, for which he gave eight dollars an acre and with the exception of a little over a year, which he spent in the town of Marathon, he has since resided on this farm where he has been engaged in producing general crops, also giving some attention to live stock. Here he has lived to see his family grow up around him and all comfortably settled in life and, having worked hard throughout his career, always evincing a high degree of industry and enterprise, together with good management and economy, he is now planning to give up active life and retire to the town of Marathon to spend his declining years in retirement.

On October 30, 1862, Mr. Elless was united in marriage to Mary Catherine Cole, daughter of Abner and Mahala (Oneal) Cole, natives of Kentucky, who at an early day went to Indiana, where her father passed away in 1884 and her mother seventeen days later. In her mother's family were many children, all of whom are now deceased, while the members of her father's family have also long since entered into rest. To this union have been born: Mahala is the wife of A. E. Wright, and they live in Payette, Idaho, with their children: Emery Leonard, Vernie, Glenn and Bessie. Matilda is the wife of John Fishbaugher, a resident of Fillmore county, Minnesota, and they have four children: George, Franklin, Glenn and Lee, all of whom reside with their parents. Elzora is the wife of George Delaney and they reside in Garfield township with their two children, Owen and John. Edward married Daisy Murray and resides in this county. Frances wedded J. R. Cross and they are living in Dewey county, Oklahoma.

In politics Mr. Elless is usually in accord with democratic principles and votes for the state and national candidates of the party, but at local elections casts an independent ballot, supporting the men who, in his opinion, are best qualified for the offices they seek. His own public service has been commendable. He was for five years a member of the school board and has ever been a stalwart champion of the cause of public education. For six years he served as justice of the peace and it is to his credit that during his incumbency in that office he never tried a lawsuit. Not because none were brought before him, but by reason

of the fact that he always succeeded in bringing the contesting parties to a mutual agreement. He has been a member of the Baptist church since he was twenty-one years of age and is a zealous and faithful Christian. His life has ever been upright and honorable and in his record there are many qualities worthy of emulation. He has now passed the seventy-second milestone on life's journey and his activity and enterprise in former years well entitle him to rest throughout his remaining days. He has not only by capable management and unfaltering industry won for himself a handsome competence but through his agricultural interests has promoted the general prosperity of the county.

MARTIN L. LAUCK.

Martin L. Lauck, living on section 22, Summit township, where he is busily engaged with the duties of farming and stock-raising, has a good place of one hundred and fifty-seven acres which is well improved. He has lived in the county since 1892 and has always been a resident of the middle west, his birth having occurred in Stephenson county, Illinois, September 10, 1856. His father, John Lauck, was a native of York county, Pennsylvania, where he was reared and educated. In that county he wedded Miss Anna Marian, a native of the Keystone state. During his residence in Pennsylvania John Lauck followed the occupation of farming but, thinking the great prairie districts of the middle west offered still better opportunities, he removed to Stephenson county, Illinois, where he opened up and developed a new farm, upon which he reared his family. There he spent his remaining days, his death occurring January 18, 1886. His wife survived him about fifteen years and died January 19, 1901. Their family numbered eight children, five sons and three daughters, of whom four sons are yet living.

The days of his boyhood and youth were quietly passed by Martin L. Lauck, who was reared on the home farm in his native county. He attended the public schools through the winter seasons and in the periods of vacation assisted in the work of the home farm, so that he early became familiar with the best methods of plowing, planting and harvesting. On the 7th of November, 1879, he won a companion and helpmate for the journey of life in his marriage to Miss Maggie L. Bennehoff, who was born and reared in Stephenson county. Following their marriage Mr. Lauck cultivated his father's farm for two years and then began renting land elsewhere, remaining on one farm ten years. Desirous of owning a farm and believing that he would have better opportunity to secure land in western Iowa, he came to Clay county in 1892. Here he began renting and after ten years took up his abode on his present place, on section 22, Summit township. He purchased the farm in 1904 and, though it was then raw land, he soon transformed it into productive fields. In the midst of his place stands a neat residence, while a barn and outbuildings furnish shelter for his stock and his grain. He not only cultivates his home place of one hundred and fifty-seven acres, but also operates other land and is numbered among the substantial farmers of the county. He has owned and operated a steam thresher for ten

years, threshing over several townships and also in adjoining counties, and this branch of his business has made him well known and also contributed to his success. About 1905 his son William went to South Dakota and located a homestead in Lyman county. He spent one year and ten months on that place in order to perfect his title and later sold the claim. Our subject is now a stockholder in both the Fostoria and Spencer elevators and likewise in the Northern Rural Telephone Company and in the Farmers' Telephone Company. His life has been one of untiring industry and his sound judgment has guided his labors and won for him the measure of success which he now enjoys.

Mr. and Mrs. Lauck have a family of two children: William A., who follows farming, was married on the 4th of March, 1908, to Miss Ruby M. Thomas, who was born and reared in Wisconsin and thence came to Iowa. William Lauck is now associated with his father in farming operations and is a young man of marked business enterprise and ability. The daughter, Maud J., is the wife of J. L. Russel, a telegraph operator of Spencer.

In his political views Mr. Lauck is a democrat. He has supported the party since attaining his majority and has been elected on its ticket to several local offices. He was first appointed to the position of township trustee and later was elected and reelected. He has also been officially connected with the schools and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion. He is a Master Mason, belonging to Spencer Lodge, and he likewise holds membership relations with the Modern Woodmen and the Knights of the Globe, while his wife is a member of the Royal Neighbors, of the Woman's Relief Corps and the Ladies' Home Society, and the Knights of the Globe. They are both highly esteemed in the community and have an extensive circle of warm friends, who entertain for them the kindest regard and to them extend the hospitality of their homes. Since coming to this county Mr. Lauck has taken an active and helpful interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community and his co-operation can always be counted upon to further any movement for the public good.

CHARLES R. HOWE.

Charles R. Howe, who is in high standing in the financial circles of Spencer, as assistant cashier of the First National Bank, to which responsible position he has been promoted on the strength of his merits as a business man, was born in Buena Vista county, near Marathon, Iowa, January 16, 1879, a son of John R. and Mary E. (Shutt) Howe, who were natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania respectively, and who reared the following children: Minnie, wife of Enoch Erickson, of Marathon; Charles R.; William Martin, of Terril; Susie, who wedded Dr. Rust, of Webb, Iowa; Rush, who died when sixteen years of age; Pearl, who wedded Bert Warwick, of Webb; and Cassius, of Marathon.

John R. Howe, who has followed agricultural pursuits all his life, went to Fayette county, Iowa, when a boy, in company with his parents. There he grew to manhood and in 1869 removed to Buena Vista county, where he homesteaded.

a tract of land embracing one hundred and seventy-six acres, which he improved and still owns. He and his wife attend divine services at the Methodist Episcopal church. The paternal grandfather was a native of England and, having attained a great age, passed away near Marathon, this state. His wife died in Fayette county, Iowa. They reared a family of eight children.

In Buena Vista county Charles R. Howe was reared on his father's farm and acquired his preliminary education in the district schools. After he had completed the course in the Marathon high school, he attended the Iowa State College at Ames during the years 1897 and 1898, and then completed a business course at the Capital City Commercial College, of Des Moines. In 1900 he came to Spencer, where he was employed as a stenographer and bookkeeper in the First National Bank. He manifested business qualifications which merited him promotion from one position of trust to another until 1904, when he was made cashier of the People's Saving Bank, which position he still holds, and has also been assistant cashier of the First National since 1907.

On September 6, 1905, Mr. Howe was united in marriage to Miss Emma M. Anderson, a native of Spencer and daughter of Andrew Anderson, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Howe have one child, Dorothy. Politically Mr. Howe is affiliated with the republican party. He is a man of exceptional business tact, judgment and energy, and his industry and perseverance have not only enabled him to gradually rise to the responsible position he now holds, but they also commanded for him the respect of the entire community in which he is numbered among the substantial and representative citizens.

ARTHUR L. BRANDON.

Arthur L. Brandon has been a resident of Greenville ten years, and during this time has firmly established himself in the confidence and good will of his fellow townsmen, who recognize in him the characteristics of a progressive merchant and honorable business man—one who knows that the secret of success is not found in any unusual combination of circumstances or in any peculiar environment, but lies in the individual—in his ability and willingness to plan and to perform. Mr. Brandon is now a member of the firm of Brandon Brothers Lumber Company, conducting a well appointed lumberyard at Greenville, where they are also owners of a hardware business. A native of Kansas, he was born in the city of Burlington, March 30, 1867, and is a son of Peter and Matilda (Rooney) Brandon, both of whom were natives of Ohio. Their family numbered four children: Arthur L. and Frank, who are partners in business; Murl; and Nora. The father was reared in the Hoosier state. His father was a native of Ohio and made the occupation of farming his life vocation. Unto him and his wife, Mrs. Sarah Brandon, there were born twelve children, and it was not until they had reached old age that their life's labors were ended in death. The maternal grandfather of Arthur L. Brandon was a native of Indiana, and he, too, tilled the soil as a source of livelihood in support of his large family.

Peter Brandon was reared to farm work, early becoming familiar with the best methods of planting and caring for his crops and gathering the harvests. It was in 1859 that he removed to Kansas, settling in Coffey county, where he took up a tract of land and began the development of a farm. He was busily engaged in the work of the fields until after the outbreak of the Civil war, when he offered his services to the Union, and for three years did active duty at the front in defense of the old flag and the cause it represented. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity, while his wife is a member of the Methodist church, and they are still well known and highly esteemed residents of Burlington.

The home farm of the father was the training school for Arthur L. Brandon in his boyhood and youth. It was there that lessons of industry and enterprise were impressed upon his mind and he was also taught the value of unremitting perseverance and unfaltering integrity. His mental training was received in the district schools and in the University of Kansas, and when his education was completed he began bookkeeping in the People's National Bank of Burlington, Kansas, where he remained one year. On the expiration of that period he turned his attention to the lumber business at Gridley, Kansas, where he was employed for a year, and afterward went to Republic county, Kansas, where for nine years he engaged in the lumber business on his own account, having his yard at Narka. Later he removed to Kansas City, Missouri, and engaged in the grain business. Hiawatha, Kansas, and Falls City, Nebraska, were his next stopping places. In the fall of 1899 he arrived in Spencer, Iowa, and son afterward opened a lumberyard at Greenville and also a hardware store. In these interests he is associated with his brother Frank, the labors of one ably supplementing the labors and ability of the other in the conduct of interests which are now proving profitable and which are enjoying continuous growth.

In 1888 Mr. Brandon was married to Miss Laura Reed, a daughter of M. A. Reed, and a native of Miami county, Kansas. Four children were born unto them, Mable, Matie, Arthur L. and Perry, but the two sons are now deceased. Mr. Brandon, in his study of the political conditions of the country and of the issues and questions of the day, has come to the conclusion that the best interests of the nation are conserved through the republican party, and therefore supports that party at the polls. Both he and his wife are Congregationalists in religious faith, and in social circles they occupy an enviable position as the result of the possession of qualities which win kindly regard and sincere friendship.

JAMES S. ADY.

James S. Ady is now living retired in Spencer. It is fitting that he should enjoy this period of rest in the evening of life, for through many years he was closely associated with agricultural interests and at all times has been a patriotic and progressive citizen, who gave ample proof of his devotion to his country in the dark days of the Civil war. He has made his home in Spencer since 1896, and enjoys to the full the respect and good will of his fellow towns-

men. His birth occurred near McConnellsville, in Morgan county, Ohio, March 7, 1839, his parents being Joshua and Hannah (Spencer) Ady, the former a native of Baltimore, Maryland, and the latter of Belmont county, Ohio. The Ady family is of English origin, and James Ady, grandfather of James S. Ady, was born in England, whence he came to the new world, settling in Maryland, near Baltimore. This was at a period when the country was still numbered among the colonial possessions of Great Britain. His sympathy was with the colonists when they attempted to throw off the yoke of British oppression, and in 1777 he enlisted for active service in the Revolutionary war. For many years he lived to enjoy the fruits of liberty. He was a cooper by trade, but became a pioneer farmer of Morgan county, Ohio, where he died in 1847, at the venerable age of eighty-six years. His wife bore the maiden name of Mary Hill, and they reared several children. The maternal grandfather of James S. Ady was William Spencer, a native of Loudoun county, Virginia, whence he removed to Belmont county, Ohio, when it was still a frontier district, his death occurring there a little more than a half century ago. He devoted much of his life to farming, but in Ohio also conducted a tavern between Morristown and St. Clairsville. His wife, Mrs. Sarah Spencer, belonged to a pioneer family of Hatcher's Run, Virginia, which was named in their honor. Mrs. Spencer lived to be more than ninety years of age, but was blind for more than twenty-five years before her demise.

Reared in the place of his nativity, Joshua Ady learned the cooper's trade in Baltimore, and afterward removed to Morgan county, Ohio, casting in his lot among the early settlers who were reclaiming that district for the purposes of civilization. There, in the midst of the forest, he cleared and developed a farm, and also followed the cooper's trade. Subsequently he removed with his wife to Wisconsin, and in their later years they lived with their children at Viroqua. The death of Mr. Ady there occurred when he was eighty-two years of age, while his wife reached the age of eighty-four. For a long period he was minister of the Methodist church and he belonged to the Ohio militia while living in that state. There were only three weeks between the time of the death of the parents, and both were laid to rest in Viroqua cemetery. Their family numbered eight children, five daughters and three sons, of whom four are now living: Mary E., the widow of A. W. Green, and a resident of Viroqua, Wisconsin; James S., of this review; Matilda Ann, the wife of Samuel Williams, of Trenton, Missouri; and Joshua T., a resident of Bowbells, North Dakota.

James S. Ady was reared on the home farm in Morgan county, Ohio, working in the fields from the time of early spring planting until crops were harvested in the late autumn. He was busily employed at farm work when the Civil war broke out, but had watched with interest the progress of events in the south, had noted the growing spirit of rebellion, and resolved that if a blow was struck to overthrow the Union he would stand loyally in its defense. He therefore enlisted at the first call for seventy-five thousand men, but the regiment being full before his name was called, he did not see active service with that command. Again he offered his services on the 1st of September, 1861, and was assigned to duty with the Seventeenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for almost four years, or until the 30th of July, 1865. He held the rank or ser-

geant and was three times slightly wounded. He was in the first battle that was fought in the west, that at Wild Cat, Kentucky, and he contributed to the victory that finally crowned the Union arms. Among the battles in which he took part were those of Mill Springs, Pittsburg Landing, Siege of Corinth, Perryville, Stone River, the Tallahoma campaign, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Resaca and Kenesaw Mountain. He was also in many skirmishes, in the siege of Atlanta, on the celebrated march with Sherman to the sea, and in the battle of Jonesboro. The last engagement in which he participated was at Bentonville, North Carolina, and later he marched through the streets of the capital city in the Grand Review—the most celebrated military pageant ever seen on the western hemisphere. The streets at Washington were lined with cheering thousands, while across Pennsylvania avenue stretched a banner bearing the words, “the only debt which the country cannot pay is the debt which she owes her soldiers.” He and his regiment marched over six thousand miles, aside from all drills, and also traveled nearly six thousand miles by railroad and steamboat. Mr. Ady was never absent from his command and never in the hospital, but was always found at his post of duty, faithfully doing every task that was assigned him, being prompted at all times by a patriotic devotion to his country and her welfare.

When the war was over Mr. Ady returned to the north, was married and began farming on his own account in Ohio. In the fall of 1866 he removed to Viroqua county, Wisconsin, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits and also operated a gristmill; but the mill was destroyed by fire and he lost everything he had. He then faced the difficult task of starting anew, but with resolute spirit he faced the situation, and in March, 1883, removed to Odebolt, Sac county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming. For four years he resided at Ocoboji Lake, and in 1896 came to Clay county, since which time he has been a resident of Spencer. He was, however, identified with farming interests in Iowa for thirteen years, and during that time his careful management and well directed industry brought him a creditable and gratifying success, so that with a comfortable competence he is now living retired, his possessions being sufficient to supply him with all of the necessities and some of the luxuries of life.

On the 30th of August, 1865, Mr. Ady was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Tracy, who was born in Belmont county, Ohio, March 22, 1840, a daughter of Andrew and Mary (Gaston) Tracy. Her father, a native of Baltimore, Maryland, died at the age of eighty-three years, while her mother passed away at the age of forty-five. Their family numbered five sons and three daughters, but only two are now living, the sister of Mrs. Ady being Rachel, now the widow of R. G. Browning, of Zanesville, Ohio. The paternal grandfather, Andrew Tracy, who was born in Baltimore, Maryland, wedded Rachel Vaughn, and devoted his life to farming. The maternal grandfather was Ephraim Gaston, a native of England, who sought a home in the new world and devoted his life to the practice of medicine. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Ady have been born six children: Ida May is the wife of William Wells, and they make their home in Payette, Idaho. They have two daughters, Wenona Leona and Birdie Leota. Adolphus W. follows farming near Milford, in Dickinson county, Iowa. He wedded Emma Draper, by whom he has four children, Roy, Marie, Clarence

and Mary E. William H. follows farming near Odebolt, Sac county, Iowa. He wedded Anna U. Long, and their family numbers three children, Lelah, Fern and Wayne. James F. is a blacksmith in Schaller, Iowa. He wedded Miss Lucy Peck, and they have four children, Ellsworth, Esther, Elta and Ruth. Thomas O. owns a fruit ranch near Payette, Idaho. He wedded Hattie Serber, and they have a daughter and son, Virginia and James S. Lucy R. is the wife of Louis Rasmussen, of Spencer, by whom she has three children, Orson Ray, Neva Ione and Millard.

Mr. Ady owns several good city properties, including his own home, and is now comfortably situated in life. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and he is a member of Annett Post, No. 124, G. A. R., thus maintaining pleasant relations with his old army comrades as they recall the scenes and events of military experience in the south and on the battlefields. One by one they are responding to the last roll call, but as long as the American people study the history of their country, the loyal and patriotic citizens will thrill with the story of the defense of the Union by the brave boys in blue.

EDGAR S. RANDALL.

The value of the local newspapers in the upbuilding of the best interests of any community is universally conceded. The rule is that good papers are found in good towns, inferior journals in towns of stunted growth and uncertain future. It is not so much a matter of size as of excellence and of adaptability to the needs of its locality. The conditions given, in an appreciative and progressive community, the size of the paper will take care of itself in a way mutually satisfactory to publishers and patrons. This truth Edgar S. Randall recognizes, and in his publication of the *Spencer Reporter* has made it a paper of value to the town and county, and naturally has been accorded a liberal patronage that makes his paper as well an excellent advertising medium.

Born in Washington county, Iowa, on the 29th of July, 1870, he is a son of William S. and Mary C. (Boden) Randall, both of whom were natives of Ohio. The former was a son of Amos R. Randall, whose birth occurred in Virginia. He followed the occupation of farming as a life work, and removed to Ohio, where for many years he engaged in tilling the soil. He wedded Mary Gallaher, and both were about eighty-five years of age when called to the home beyond. Their family numbered eight children. The maternal grandfather of Edgar S. Randall was William Boden, a native of West Virginia, who carried on both farming and blacksmithing. He married Elizabeth Geddes and lived to be seventy-one years of age, while his wife reached the age of eighty-six years. They were the parents of three children, including Mary C. Boden, who gave her hand in marriage to William S. Randall. In early manhood William S. Randall devoted his time and energies to the tilling of the soil. Following the outbreak of the Civil war he joined the army as a private and served from August, 1861, until April, 1866, giving proof of his loyalty and valor by his faithful services on many hotly contested battlefields. After the war he removed to Washington county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming until 1873, and then went to Clay

county, Nebraska, where he resided for twenty years, passing away in April, 1893, when only fifty-three years of age. His wife still survives him and is now living in Spencer. Both were members of the Methodist church and were earnest, consistent Christian people. Mr. Randall was prominent in community affairs and was recognized as a public-spirited citizen. For two terms he served as treasurer of Clay county, Nebraska, and was also called to represent his district for two terms in the Nebraska legislature. He was equally eminent in Grand Army circles, serving as senior vice commander of the department of Nebraska, while throughout that state he organized posts. His life was one of usefulness and activity, characterized by unfaltering devotion to the general good. His family numbered two sons and two daughters: May L., the wife of J. R. McKee, of Spencer; Edgar S.; Frank W., also of Spencer; and Pearl, the wife of Harry Karr, of Clinton, Illinois.

Edgar S. Randall was reared in Clay county, Nebraska, and attended the public schools of Sutton and Fairfield prior to pursuing a more advanced literary course in Fairfield College. In early manhood he learned the printer's trade, which he followed most of the time for a number of years. He also did railroad surveying for a short time, and during the latter years of his father's life worked with him in his newspaper office. In 1896 he removed to Sidney, Iowa, where, in company with J. R. McKee, he conducted a paper for eight years, or until 1904, when they came to Spencer and purchased the Reporter, a weekly republican paper. Here they have a well equipped office and also do job and book work, the various branches of their business now bringing them merited success. The paper has a large circulation and also an excellent advertising patronage.

On the 19th of October, 1904, Mr. Randall was united in marriage to Miss Daisy Wilson, a daughter of Nathaniel C. and Elizabeth (Sproule) Wilson. She was born in Scott county, Iowa, while her father was a native of Ireland and her mother of Illinois. Mr. Wilson died in November, 1904, at the age of sixty-three years, and Mrs. Wilson is now living in Sidney, Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. Randall hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and have many friends in Spencer and other parts of the state. Mr. Randall belongs to Fairfield Lodge, No. 84, A. F. & A. M., to Clay Chapter No. 112, R. A. M., and to Spencer Lodge of the Knights of Pythias. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen Camp. He is recognized as a prominent factor in republican politics, and for five years was chairman of the central committee of Fremont county, while for some time he was a member of the eighth district congressional committee. He does all in his power to further the interests of his party, and is equally loyal in local matters of progress and improvement.

ANGELO A. FLINT.

For twenty-two years Angelo A. Flint has been a resident of Clay county and throughout the entire period has been closely associated with the grain trade in Clay county, being now well known as a grain dealer of Dickens. His business probity and enterprise have placed him in an unassailable position in the

regard of his fellow townsmen, and his diligence and perseverance have brought him gratifying success. A native of the Empire state, Angelo A. Flint was born in Montgomery county, January 19, 1836. The family is of Holland Dutch origin and was founded in America at an early day, and William Flint, the grandfather of our subject, was born in New York. He followed the occupation of farming in support of his family and both he and his wife lived to an advanced age. Mrs. Flint bore the maiden name of Jennie McFee and by her marriage became the mother of one son and four daughters. To this family belonged John Flint, who was born in New York, and having arrived at years of maturity, wedded Effa Flint, a daughter of Jacob Harvey Flint, who was likewise a native of New York, while his ancestors also came from Holland. He carried on agricultural pursuits as a life work, and both he and his wife, Mrs. Mary (Bartlett) Flint, reached an advanced age ere they were called to their final rest.

John Flint, father of Angelo A. Flint, made farming his life work, and at an early period in the development of the middle west removed to Wisconsin, locating in Walworth county, near Whitewater. A few years afterward he removed to Columbia county, Wisconsin, where he died when about fifty-five years of age. His wife had passed away just eighteen days before, when fifty-three years of age, and thus they were separated by death for only a very brief period. Their earnest Christian lives were in harmony with their professions as members of the Methodist church and their good qualities endeared them to all who knew them. They were the parents of six children, one son and five daughters: Esther, the deceased wife of C. E. Page; Angelo A., of this review; Nancy, the deceased wife of R. M. Cleveland; Mary, the wife of George Forbush, of Neillsville, Wisconsin; Frances, the widow of Wilson Pool; and Emily, the deceased wife of Abijah White.

Angelo A. Flint resided in Montgomery county, New York, until nine years of age, and in 1845 accompanied his parents on their removal westward to Wisconsin, his youth being passed in Walworth county. When he started out in life on his own account he sought a clerkship in a store in Whitewater, and was thus employed there until 1854, when he went to Stoughton, Wisconsin. It was his place of residence until 1880, when he removed into the iron mountain region of the lower peninsula of Michigan, where he continued for seven years. The month of March, 1887, witnessed his arrival in Clay county, and, settling in Spencer, he has since made his home in this county. He conducted a grain business in the county seat for some years and is now managing a grain elevator at Dickens, although he retains his residence in Spencer.

Mr. Flint was united in marriage to Miss Emma Parker, of Stoughton, Wisconsin, who was born in Vermont, of which state her parents, Nahum and Roxie (Chapin) Parker, were also natives. The latter was a daughter of Gideon Chapin, who was born in Vermont and in the later years of his life followed the occupation of farming. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Parker were born two sons and two daughters, but the sons have passed away. The daughters are Mrs. Flint, and Francilla, the wife of C. L. Dearborn, of Stoughton, Wisconsin. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Flint has been blessed with four children, but Mamie, the eldest, died in early childhood. Earnest P., who is engaged in the banking business in Dickens as cashier of the Exchange Bank, married Lorena Varney

and has one daughter. Hattie is the wife of George H. Purdy, of Mason City, Iowa, and they have three children, Marie, Harold and George Flint Purdy. Jessie is the wife of Zephaniah C. Platt, a resident of Sanborn, Iowa, and their children are Anna and Jean Platt. Mrs. Flint is a member of the Congregational church and is an estimable lady, who presides with gracious hospitality over their attractive home. Mr. Flint gives his political support to the republican party and is interested in its growth and success, but does not demand office as a reward for party fealty. Although he has passed the seventy-third milestone on life's journey, he is still active in business and is one of the well known citizens of the county, whose commercial enterprise and integrity, whose public-spirited citizenship and genuine personal worth have gained for him the high esteem of those who know him.

W. A. JUDSON.

W. A. Judson, who for many years has been associated in an influential way with the farming and stock-raising interests of Peterson township, Clay county, was born in Delaware county, New York, December 6, 1834. His parents were Lewis B. and Pauline (Maybee) Judson, and is descended from English ancestors who came to the new world some time during the sixteenth century. His father, a native of New York, removed from the home farm in 1840, to one in Wyoming county, that state, on which he remained for seven years, and then went to Ogle county, Illinois, where he followed farming from 1849 to 1857 inclusive. He next removed to Clinton county, Iowa, and from there in 1884 to O'Brien county, Iowa, while in 1896 he moved to Grand Junction, Colorado, with his daughter. There he died in 1898 and was buried in Colorado. He followed general farming in connection with blacksmithing all his life and was a man who enjoyed both the respect and confidence of the people in the several communities in which he resided. His wife was also a native of New York, where they were united in marriage, and she departed this life in O'Brien county, Iowa, where her remains were interred. They had three children: Francis, deceased; Emogene, wife of Stephen Redden, of Grand Junction, Colorado; and W. A.

In the common schools of his native village W. A. Judson acquired his education and then engaged in the work of the home farm until he was twenty-seven years of age, when he enlisted, in 1862, as a member of Company F, Twenty-sixth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, in which he served with the rank of sergeant until he received an honorable discharge in the year 1865. He was with his regiment in a number of noted engagements among which were the siege of Vicksburg, the Atlanta campaign and the battles of Chattanooga, Savannah, Bentonville, Lookout Mountain and Athens. After the war he resumed farming and engaged in that occupation until the year 1907, when he retired from active life. He has been a resident of Clay county for the past twenty-six years and owns a half section of land in Peterson township and a quarter section in Douglas county, Wisconsin. His farms are highly improved and in excellent

condition, being provided with dwelling houses, barns, outbuildings and also modern machinery requisite to successfully pursue the work of the fields. He met with splendid success in general farming and stock-raising, and is now able to spend his remaining days in comfort and prosperity, having acquired a handsome competence through his intelligently directed labors.

In 1862 Mr. Judson was united in marriage, in Clinton county, Iowa, to Miss Phebe Barber, of Lee county, Illinois, and they are now parents of four children: Alice, who became the wife of Frederick Eggleston, a contractor and builder of Forsythe, Montana; Orin, a plumber of Grand Junction, Colorado; Ella, who wedded Frederick Lyons, who is engaged in the fruit business in this state; and Osro, a farmer of Chippewa county, Minnesota. Mr. Judson belongs to the Protestant Episcopal church and is a comrade of Peterson Post, G. A. R. He has always given his political support to the republican party, the principles of which he has been a deep student, being convinced that they are in every respect adequate to preserve and maintain the financial prosperity of the country, he has never been lax in using his influence to assist the party candidates in securing election. A self-made man, Mr. Judson with little education and without capital started out in life for himself, and, being inspired by laudable ambition and possessed of aggressiveness and zeal, he applied himself energetically to the tasks set before him and on the strength of his own resources, reinforced by hard work and honesty, he found success and finally attained his present position of prosperity. He can now spend his declining years in comfort amid the regard of friends who recognize his worth and justly count him one of the representative citizens of the county.

JOHN McWHIRTER.

John McWhirter, treasurer of Clay county, and a representative and highly respected citizen, was born in Cook county, Illinois, June 28, 1859, a son of James and Jane (Hanna) McWhirter, natives of Scotland, who had three children, namely: David, of South Dakota; Maggie, wife of James Gardner, of Waterloo, Iowa; and John. The father has followed agricultural pursuits since he came to America, at which time he settled at Arlington Heights, Cook county, Illinois, from which place, in the year 1869, he moved to Iowa and located in Tama county, where he still resides and is active in the cultivation of a farm containing two hundred and twenty acres. He is held in high respect as a citizen of genuine worth. He and his wife are stanch adherents of the Presbyterian faith. The paternal and maternal grandfathers of John McWhirter were natives of Scotland, where they passed away after having lived to a ripe old age.

John McWhirter, in company with his parents, came to Iowa in 1869, when nearly eleven years of age and was reared on his father's farm in Tama county, while in the district schools he acquired his education. He remained at home until he was twenty-two years old, when for several years he was engaged by his brother as a stock buyer. Subsequently he formed a partnership

with S. C. Hause and for two years they conducted a grocery business in Morrison, Grundy county. After disposing of his interest in the business, he engaged in farming in that county for several years and after having spent ten years as a grain dealer in Everly, Clay county, he removed to Spencer in 1902, where for two years he was in the real-estate business, at the expiration of which time he was elected county treasurer, which position he has filled for five years. He owns a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Red Lake county, Minnesota.

Mr. McWhirter, on December 6, 1885, wedded Miss Letitia Morrison, daughter of Jeff and Susan (Troutman) Morrison, who was born in Grundy county, where her parents, natives of the Keystone state, were early settlers and where her father still lives, her mother having passed away, leaving the following children: John; Elizabeth, wife of Peter Mutch; Kate, widow of A. S. Wier; Ulysses G.; Allie, deceased; and Letitia. Mr. and Mrs. McWhirter have two children: Ralph and Esther. Mrs. McWhirter is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, where her husband also attends services but with which he is not affiliated. Politically he is an advocate of the republican party, using his vote and influence during campaigns in behalf of its candidates. He is a man of executive ability and of industry, and these qualities are making him an able official, his record having won him high commendation.

FRANK AUGUST GABRIELSON.

Frank August Gabrielson, well known in Clay county by reason of his former connection with commercial interests and his present connection with agricultural affairs, now lives in Garfield township, where he owns one hundred and sixty acres of land. There he follows general farming and stock-raising and in his well-directed business efforts is meeting with gratifying success.

He was born in Webster county, Iowa, March 3, 1861, a son of John and Florence (Peterson) Gabrielson, both of whom are natives of Sweden. It was in 1857 that his parents came to America and the following year settled in Webster county. The father was born in Boxholm, Sweden, November 16, 1826, and on the 24th of June, 1850, he wedded Florence Charlotta Peterson. They lived for about seven years thereafter in their native country and then, as stated, came to the new world, establishing their home in Galesburg, Illinois, where they resided about a year. In 1858 they came to Webster county and were pioneers in that part of the state. During the period of his residence in Galesburg Mr. Gabrielson was converted and became an earnest Christian worker. Following the establishment of his home in Dayton, Iowa, he became a local preacher and a deacon in the Methodist church. For many years he engaged in preaching the gospel and at all times was most active and earnest in promoting the various departments of the church work. He not only followed the call of "Onward Christian Soldiers," but also proved a faithful soldier of his country in her hour of need, enlisting at the time of the outbreak of the Civil war as a member of Company C, Eleventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry. His memory remains as

a blessed benediction to all who knew him, because of his loyalty to principles of truth, justice, right and honor. The world is better for his having lived, for his labors were ever a potent element for good in the community in which he made his home. He died May 28, 1908, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Hans Shold, of Dayton, Iowa, his wife's death occurring January 4th of that year.

In the family of this worthy couple were ten children, of whom the eldest died in infancy. Axel C., born in 1855, is now living in Dayton, Iowa. Charles J., born in 1857, died in 1900. Hattie C., born in 1859, passed away in 1886. Frank August is next in order of birth. Mary C., born in 1862, is the wife of Hans Shold, a blacksmith residing in Dayton. George A., born in 1864, married Anna Burk and makes his home in Dayton township, Webster county, Iowa, on the old homestead farm, which joins the corporation limits of Dayton on the north. Edward, who was born in 1866, married Kate Entermill, and died in 1907. Victor, born in 1868, was married June 21, 1893, to Hannah Sokinson, and lives in Dayton. A daughter died in infancy.

Frank August Gabrielson was reared in Dayton under the refining influences of a good, Christian home. He pursued his education in the public schools, enjoying the pleasures common to the youth of that day, and did such tasks as were assigned him through parental authority. In the fall of 1882, when a young man of twenty-one years, he removed to Sioux Rapids, where he engaged in the hardware business. The enterprise prospered from the beginning and as the years went by he enjoyed an increasing business and became well known as a merchant of the town. In 1907, however, he sold out and located on the farm which he now occupies, comprising one hundred and sixty acres of land, in Garfield township. Here he follows general farming and stock-raising and has a well equipped place which in its neat and thrifty appearance indicates his careful supervision and practical methods.

It was on the 26th of January, 1887, that Mr. Gabrielson was married to Miss Ida Jansen, a daughter of R. M. and Laura (Dean) Jansen, who were natives of the state of New York. They were married January 8, 1856, and settled near Fort Wayne, Indiana, at an early day. Mrs. Jansen was born near Macedon, New York, May 27, 1832, and died January 8, 1900, the last two and a half years of her life being passed in Linn Grove. She was the mother of seven children: Frank, who married Mollie Harp and resides in Humboldt, Iowa; Ella, the wife of Arthur Stevens, a resident of Seibert, Colorado; Ida wife of A. Gabrielson; Irena, the wife of John J. Jacobson, living in Lebanon, South Dakota; Cora, who is a teacher in one of the schools of Okmulgee, Oklahoma; John, who resides in Dallas, South Dakota; and Birdie, a professional nurse, now located in Portland, Oregon. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Gabrielson has been blessed with several children, but they lost their first-born in infancy. The others are: Ira N., who was born September 27, 1889, and is attending Morningside College; Guy G., who was born May 22, 1891, and is attending school in Sioux Rapids; and Rush R., who was born April 7, 1897, and is a student in a home school at Webb.

* The family are members of the Methodist church at Webb and are well known socially, having the warm regard of all who come in contact with them. Mr. Gabrielson is a member of Buena Vista Lodge, No. 574, I. O. O. F., and

both he and his wife are members of Sioux Valley Lodge, No. 387, Daughters of Rebekah. He is also connected with the Court of Honor and the Yeomen, and in his political views is a stalwart republican. In all life's relations, whether as a business man, citizen or in social affairs, he is progressive and believes that the individual should continually advance through the recognition and improvement of the opportunities which come to all. He well-deserves classification with the foremost leading citizens of his community.

J. P. TISCHER.

J. P. Tischer owns and occupies an attractive home in Fostoria, where he is to some extent living retired, although he still has valuable farming property in Summit township, to which he gives his personal supervision. His old home place is an excellent farm of three hundred and twenty acres and in addition he owns one hundred and sixty acres in Dickinson county, while his dwelling in Fostoria is one of the fine residences of the village. Thirty-seven years have come and gone since Iowa has numbered him among her citizens, while in 1885 he became a resident of Clay county. A native of Germany, he was born in Schleswig, September 19, 1856. His father was likewise a native of that country and after arriving at years of maturity he wedded Anna M. Marquardsen who was likewise born in the fatherland. They remained residents of that country until after the birth of six sons, when with his wife and children John A. Tischer came to the United States, crossing the Atlantic in 1872. He did not tarry in the east but made his way at once to Iowa, where he joined his two sons, Louis and Henry, who had come to the new world a few years before and had settled in Benton county, this state. The father purchased a farm there, upon which he continued to reside until called to that undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveler returns. It was in 1889 that he passed away, while his wife died in 1895.

The schools of Germany afforded to J. P. Tischer good educational privileges. He had little training, however, in the English language, for since coming to the new world he has largely been dependent upon his own resources. In 1872 he accompanied his parents to the United States and lived with the family in Benton county, where he remained until after he had attained adult years. It was there, on the 8th of March, 1880, that he wedded Miss Margaretha Fries, a native of Germany, who spent her girlhood days in that country.

Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Tischer began their domestic life upon a rented farm in Benton county, where they lived for a few years and in the fall of 1885 came to Clay county, Mr. Tischer here investing his earnings in eighty acres of land. To this he afterward added another tract of eighty acres. His original purchase was all raw prairie, which he broke and fenced. He also built a small house upon it but before this was erected he built a barn and lived in it for six or seven years until he was able to save enough to erect his dwelling. Carefully managing his expenses, his industry and his economy at length enabled him to purchase one hundred and sixty acres in addi-

tion to the land which had previously come into his possession. He added to the farm modern improvements, including a fine two-story dwelling, also two good barns and other modern equipments. He divided his place into fields of convenient size by well kept fences and no longer was the place destitute of trees, for he set out a grove of beautiful forest trees and also planted an orchard. Thus year by year he carried on his work upon the home farm of three hundred and twenty acres until it became one of the valuable farming properties of this locality. He also invested in one hundred and sixty acres of land in Dickinson county and the two properties return to him a most gratifying annual income. He continued to reside upon his farm in Summit township until 1908, when he removed to Fostoria and purchased a fine residence, which he now occupies. On the farm he devoted considerable attention to raising and feeding high grade stock and he likewise became a stockholder in the Fostoria elevator.

Mr. and Mrs. Tischer became the parents of the following children: George J., who is living on the home farm; Otto C.; J. P.; Emma M.; Marie A.; Dora A.; Anna C.; and Maggie M. They lost one child, Laura, in infancy. Both Mr. and Mrs. Tischer are well known in this part of the state and enjoy the warm regard of all with whom business or social relations have brought them in contact. Mr. and Mrs. Tischer are both members of the German Evangelical Lutheran church. In his political views Mr. Tischer is a democrat but the honors and emoluments of office have had no attraction for him. He has, however, assisted materially in the growth and development of the county in many ways and withholds his cooperation from no movement which he deems will prove of public good. Moreover his life record should serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement to others. He is the soul of business honor and integrity and his energy and industry are the qualities which have enabled him to overcome the many obstacles and difficulties that he has confronted. Year by year he has worked diligently for success and as time has passed his labors have been rewarded by a handsome competence that now enables him to largely live retired. The most envious cannot grudge him his success, so worthily has it been won and so honorably used.

JOSEPH H. ZIMMERMAN.

Joseph H. Zimmerman, well known as a general merchant and lumber dealer at Gillett Grove, manifests in his commercial interests the activity and business enterprise which are characteristic of the age. He was born in Dubuque, Iowa, December 5, 1867, and is a son of Joseph and Cecelia (Voigt) Zimmerman. The father was always a lumber man and became one of the best known representatives of that business on the Mississippi river. He came to America in 1854 and, settling at Dubuque, Iowa, lived there for a time prior to his removal to Cassville, Wisconsin. He afterward took up his abode at Guttenberg, Iowa, where he conducted a lumber yard and saw-mill, carrying on the business until the summer of 1895. He then removed to Dubuque, Iowa, and from there to Tampa, Florida, and finally to Los Angeles, California, where he died December 6, 1908, at the age of seventy-two years and nine months. His widow still

survives him and is a faithful member of the Catholic church. They were the parents of eight children, of whom six are living: Rose, now the wife of P. J. Rogde, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Clara, the wife of John A. Limback, who is living in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Joseph H., a resident of Gillett Grove, Iowa; Louise, the wife of Henry C. Charpiot, of Paris, France, who was formerly French consul at Denver, Colorado; William F., who is living in Tampa, Florida; and Anna, the wife of Paul Kiene, of Anamosa, Iowa.

Joseph H. Zimmerman spent the greater part of his boyhood at Guttenberg, Iowa, and attended the parochial and public schools, thus acquiring his elementary education which was supplemented by study in the University at Fayette, Iowa. He afterward worked for his father, going upon the road as a lumber salesman. Later he engaged in the lumber business on his own account at Cedar Rapids for several years, after which he sold out and again went upon the road, but still maintained his residence at Cedar Rapids. At the time of the outbreak of the war with Spain, however, he put aside all business and personal considerations and joined the American volunteers.

In 1899 Mr. Zimmerman established his home in Clay county, Iowa, becoming manager for the W. J. Bruce Lumber Company at Gillett Grove. The next spring he opened the first general store at Gillett Grove and afterward established a lumber yard of his own. He is conducting both lines of business at the present time. Mr. Zimmerman became the first postmaster here and so continues to the present. He is an energetic, enterprising business man. He knows that determination and energy will overcome many difficulties and obstacles and by reason of his earnest, persistent labor is winning his success.

On the 4th of October, 1890, Mr. Zimmerman was married to Miss Anna C. Hagensick, of McGregor, Iowa, a daughter of John L. and Magdaline (Thoma) Hagensick. Her paternal grandparents were Christoph and Maria Hagensick, the former a native of Germany. Attracted by the opportunities of the new world, he came to the United States and his last days were spent in Clayton county, Iowa, where he died at the age of eighty-four years. His wife was seventy-four years of age when she passed away. The maternal grandfather of Mrs. Zimmerman was Paulus Thoma who, after coming to America, established his home in Clayton county, Iowa, where he died at the age of eighty-three years. He had long survived his wife, who died at the age of forty-nine years. The parents of Mrs. Zimmerman were natives of Bavaria, Germany, but were married after coming to the United States. As stated, both families settled in Clayton county, Iowa, and Mr. Hagensick worked for twelve dollars a year while Mrs. Hagensick was employed for fifty cents a week. As the years passed, however, they prospered and are now residents of McGregor, Iowa. Her father was appointed to the command of a company in the Civil war but hostilities were brought to a close and he did no active duty at the front. Unto him and his wife were born eight children, of whom six are now living: Louise, the wife of J. F. Proffitt, of Hastings, Nebraska; Anna C., now Mrs. Zimmerman; John, who is living in North McGregor, Iowa; William, whose home is in McGregor, Iowa; Leonora, the wife of F. L. Becker, of McGregor; and Victor, whose home is in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The eldest son, Louis, and George, the third child, are both deceased.

Mrs. Zimmerman was born in Clayton Center, Clayton county, Iowa, and by her marriage became the mother of three children: Madeline, who was born in Guttenberg, Iowa; Cecelia, whose birth occurred at Gillett Grove, Iowa; and one who died in infancy. Mrs. Zimmerman is a member of the Lutheran church and Mr. Zimmerman belongs to the Masonic lodge at Guttenberg and the Chapter at Elkader, Iowa. He also holds membership with the Elks at Estherville, Iowa, while his political allegiance is given to the republican party. His life has been preeminently that of a business man and he is now well known in commercial circles in this county. His enterprise largely developed the thriving little village of Gillett and he now has a liberal patronage drawn from the town and surrounding country. His customers find him an obliging, energetic man in business and alert at all times.

GEORGE W. MILLS.

General farming and stock-raising command the attention of George W. Mills, who cultivates a large tract of land in Clay county and who has met with such splendid success in his business undertakings as to become quite an influential factor in financial circles, having interests in the bank and elevator at Gilletts Grove and also in the creamery at Greenville. His birth occurred in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, in 1865, a son of Samuel and Nancy (Emery) Mills, natives of Pennsylvania, who, about the year 1844, settled in Wisconsin, where they resided until they moved to this county in the spring of 1870, locating in Herdland township, on section 32, where they purchased land for four dollars an acre. The paternal grandparents of George W. Mills are supposed to have been of German and Welsh extraction, while his maternal grandparents were of Dutch and Irish lineage, although the records not having been preserved little is known of the ancestors on either side of the house. However, his father, who was born April 22, 1817, departed this life February 5, 1902, while his mother, whose birth occurred February 5, 1818, entered into rest January 18, 1901. In their family were the following children: Jessie E., born September 16, 1842; John P., born January 11, 1845, and a resident of Spencer, this county; Samuel W., whose birth occurred March 5, 1846, and who lives in Dakota; Edward J., of this county, born July 5, 1850; Lewis E., who passed away in infancy; Charles W., who was born July 15, 1852, and resides at Gilletts Grove; Anna A., who was born February 18, 1856, and who departed this life October 10, 1879; Margaret, who passed away in childhood; Nancy D., born December 31, 1860, and a resident of St. Paul, Minnesota, and George W.

George W. Mills spent his boyhood days amid farm surroundings, during the summer months devoting his time to agricultural duties and in the winter time acquiring his education in the district schools, and at the age of twenty-two years he began the occupation of husbandry for himself on part of the home place. He has resided on his present farm since March 17, 1892, and he now owns two hundred acres of rich land, all of which is under cultivation. In

addition to having a number of fields which he devotes to raising hay and the various grains he also keeps a number of acres of excellent pasture land which he uses for stock feeding. He engages in the full round of farming pursuits, making somewhat of a specialty of stock breeding. He has been successful in his undertakings and his industrious habits have enabled him to accumulate considerable means with which to become interested more largely in the business world, and aside from being financially concerned in the bank and elevator at Gilletts Grove he also owns stock in the creamery at Greenville.

On December 23, 1889, Mr. Mills wedded Miss Tillie Johnson, a daughter of Jonas and Rebecca Johnson, natives of Norway. To Mr. and Mrs. Mills have been born five children: Agnes R., whose birth occurred October 31, 1890; Samuel J., born September 13, 1892; Harry R., born January 14, 1895; Hazel B., born June 5, 1898; and Guy, whose birth occurred July 22, 1901. Their mother entered into rest August 6, 1901, and on the 1st of June, 1902, Mr. Mills was united in marriage to Miss Dora Brallier, daughter of David and Sarah (Long) Brallier, natives of Ohio, who settled in Indiana at an early date. By his second wife Mr. Mills has four children: Beulah, whose birth occurred March 31, 1903; Clarence D., born July 19, 1905; Florence M., who is in her second year; and Donald, whose birth occurred July 12, 1908.

Mr. Mills is a staunch republican who is unwavering in his allegiance to his party and is always in evidence during campaigns to exert his influence in behalf of his favorite candidates. He is a progressive and wide-awake farmer, always on the alert for and ready to incorporate in his business modern methods, and his industry and enterprise have not only enabled him to attain prosperity but have won him a high place in the respect and confidence of his neighbors.

ASA F. McCONNELL.

When the complete history of Clay county and its prominent men shall have been written, it will contain no more creditable or worthy record than that of Asa F. McConnell who, for years, has been a loyal, public official and who in business affairs has always adhered closely to straightforward and commendable principles whereby he has won the unqualified regard and confidence of his fellowmen. He was born in Livingston county, New York, February 18, 1844. His father, Daniel McConnell, was a native of Ireland and was a distiller by trade, but followed the occupation of farming during the greater part of his life. When nineteen years of age he bade adieu to friends and native land and sailed for the new world, for he believed that better business opportunities might be secured in the United States. He located first at Geneseo, New York, where for several years he worked at his trade. He then removed westward in 1846, becoming a resident of Wisconsin, and took up his abode in the town of Wiota, Lafayette county, where he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land and engaged in farming. He then bent his energies to the development and improvement of the place, brought its fields under a high state of cultivation and continued to till the soil there for a long period. He retained his residence upon

that farm until his death, which occurred when he was seventy-seven years of age, while his wife passed away at the age of eighty-three years. He was a Universalist in religious faith, while his wife was an advocate of the Unitarian belief. She bore the maiden name of Betsey Bennett, and was a native of Connecticut. By her marriage she became the mother of thirteen children: Mary, the deceased wife of Daniel Flannigan; Dennis, who has passed away; Jane, the deceased wife of Elmer Russell; Elizabeth, who became the wife of John Monahan, and is now deceased; Sarah, the deceased wife of John Flannigan; Asa F., of this review; Anna, the wife of Jesse Anderson of Seward, Nebraska; Daniel, who is living in Darlington, Wisconsin; William Henry, Elmore and Frank J., who are also residents of Darlington; and two who died in infancy.

Asa F. McConnell was reared to farm life in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, spending his boyhood days in his parents' home, while his time was divided between the duties of the schoolroom, the pleasures of the playground and the work of the fields. He lived at home until 1862, when at the age of eighteen years he responded to the country's call for aid and joined Company B of the Twenty-third Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, remaining with that command until honorably discharged on the 4th of July, 1865. He enlisted as a private and held the rank of sergeant when mustered out. At the battle of Arkansas Post on the 11th of January, 1863, he was wounded. He saw much arduous service, participating in the siege of Vicksburg, the battle of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely, the capture of Mobile and the battles of Jackson and Carion Crow Bayou. At the last named he was taken prisoner, but on the 25th of December, 1863, was paroled and in June, 1864, was exchanged. He was also in a number of skirmishes and became familiar with all of the experiences and hardships of rigorous warfare, and unfalteringly defended the old flag and the things which it represented.

When the war was over Mr. McConnell returned home to Wisconsin, where he followed farming and threshing until the spring of 1869. In that year he came to Iowa and settled on a farm in Lincoln township, securing a homestead claim of eighty acres. This he cultivated for a time, but eventually sold out and bought a farm of eighty acres in Gillett Grove township. He then sold that property and invested in two hundred and sixteen acres, which he continued to improve until 1882. Putting aside the duties of agricultural life he removed to Spencer and for a time was employed in the lumber yard of Weller, while subsequently he spent three years with the firm of Phelps & Verharen in the agricultural implement business. He next established a real estate and insurance business on his own account and now handles much property annually, holds considerable insurance and also deals in live stock. His triple interests are returning to him a gratifying income and his enterprise, diligence and determination have carried him into the ranks of the successful business men of Spencer.

On the 28th of January, 1872, Mr. McConnell was joined in wedlock to Miss Julia Bridgman, a daughter of John H. and Rhoda (Cone) Bridgman. There were five children born of that union, of whom three are now living. The eldest, Carrie L., became the wife of E. L. Kinman and died, leaving one

son, Robert Mack Kinnan. The youngest child of the family died in infancy. The others are: Minnie B., the wife of Frank L. Broadgate, a resident of Washington, Iowa; Edna L. J., the wife of A. L. Peterson, of Centuria, Wisconsin, by whom she has two children; and Daisy Clare, who is a teacher in the schools of Minneapolis. Mrs. McConnell is a member of the Free Baptist church. Mr. McConnell's membership relations are with Evening Shade Lodge, No. 312, A. F. & A. M., Spencer Lodge, No. 247, I. O. O. F., and Annett Post No. 124, G. A. R., while both he and his wife are connected with the Eastern Star and the Rebekah Lodge. Mr. McConnell gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has filled various offices to which he has been called by the vote of his fellow townsmen, who recognize his unfaltering devotion to duty. He was assessor of Lincoln township for two terms, assessor of Gillett Grove township for two terms, and secretary of the school board in Gillett Grove and Spencer township. He was likewise a member of the county board of supervisors for ten years, and for eight years a member of the city council, exercising his official prerogative in support of many progressive movements in Spencer. He is likewise justice of the peace, having served in that position for four years. Almost continuously he has served in public office and there has been nothing in his entire official record that has deserved public criticism. On the contrary he is most devoted to the general welfare and stands at all times for those interests which are a matter of civic virtue and civic pride.

JOHN RILEY.

John Riley, a respected and worthy resident of Spencer, now living retired after former close connection with farming interests, was born in New York city, June 26, 1832. He is the youngest of a family of four children, the others being James, Katharine and Margaret Riley. Their parents were Peter and Katharine (Morgan) Riley, both natives of Dublin, Ireland, and the former was a son of James Riley, a farmer, who spent his last years in county Dublin, Ireland. Peter Riley devoted much of his life to shipping stock. He came to America more than a century ago and established his home in New York city, making shipments of stock from adjoining states to the eastern metropolis. There he died in November, 1848, when he was sixty years of age.

John Riley lived in New York city until seventeen years of age and acquired his early education there. He afterward took up farm work in Massachusetts, being thus engaged in Berkshire county until after the outbreak of the Civil war, when he joined Company C, Twelfth Illinois Cavalry, and served with the army until the cessation of hostilities, holding the rank of sergeant.

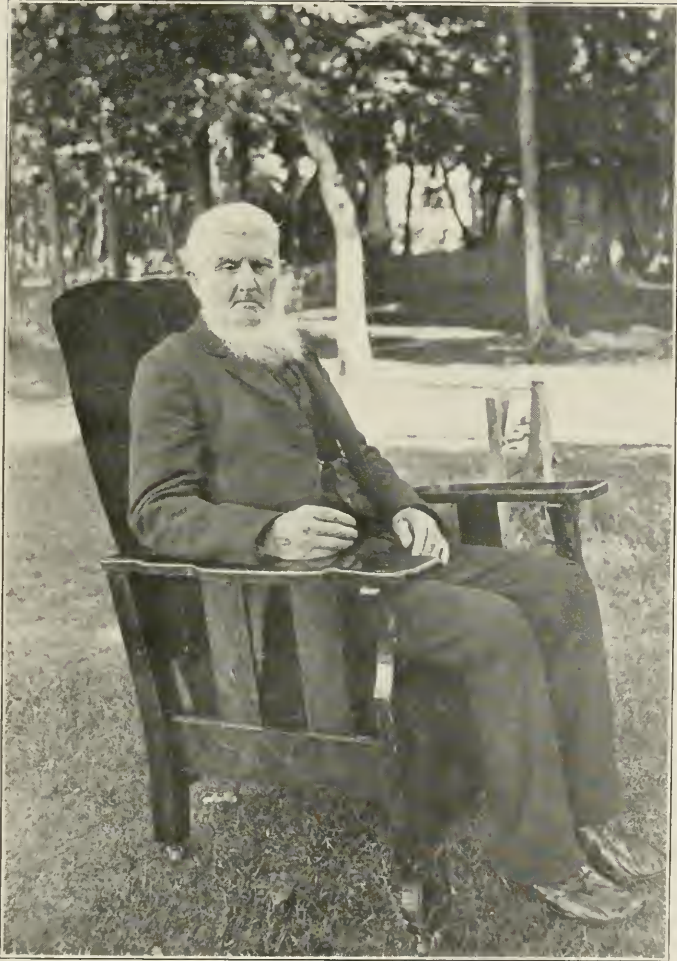
The fact that he was a member of an Illinois regiment indicates that he had previously removed to the west. The year 1857 witnessed his arrival in the Mississippi valley, at which time he took up his abode in DuPage county, Illinois, and when his country no longer needed his aid, he returned to that county and worked for the Northwestern Railroad Company in its rolling mills for four or five years. In 1878 he removed to Clay county, Iowa, and invested his earnings

in two hundred acres of land in Meadow township. He devoted his attention to farming there for some years and also bought eighty acres in Summit township, but after ten years given to general agricultural pursuits he retired from farm life about 1888.

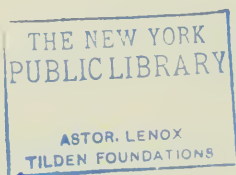
In 1856 Mr. Riley wedded Miss Ellen Donlan, who was born in county Galway, Ireland. Mr. and Mrs. Riley had a family of two sons and two daughters. James, who is now living on the old homestead, married Ella Austin and has two sons, Claude and Clayton. Frank, residing in Fostoria, where he is engaged in buying cattle and hogs, married Sarah Hutchinson and has two children, Wilfred and Ellen. Kate is the wife of A. J. Livingston of Spencer. Mary, who completes the family, is the present county superintendent of schools. The wife and mother died on Christmas day of 1889. She was a communicant of the Roman Catholic church, to which Mr. Riley also belongs. He is also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He served as school director while living in the country, and the cause of education has found in him a warm and sincere champion. He is well known in the county and also in Spencer, where for more than twenty-one years he has made his home, being one of the respected and valued residents of the community.

IRA ATWOOD.

On the opposite page appears the portrait of Ira Atwood, one of the venerable citizens of the county, who has now passed the eighty-second milestone on life's journey. This picture was taken in front of the family cottage at Lake Okiboji and will be a matter of interest to many of our readers who have long known and highly esteemed Mr. Atwood. He receives the veneration and respect which should ever be accorded one of advanced years whose life has been in large measure an exemplification of all that is praiseworthy in man's relation to his fellowmen and to the community in which he resides. Mr. Atwood now makes his home with his son, L. L. Atwood, near Langdon, Iowa. He was born near London, in the province of Ontario, Canada, January 19, 1827, and his youthful days were spent upon a farm, where he early became familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. His educational opportunities were limited to a period of three months' study in the winter season, while the remainder of the year was given to the labors of the fields, and practical training well equipped him for his duties in this connection. At the age of sixteen years he began earning his own livelihood by working as a farm hand at a salary of six dollars per month, his employment continuing for three years. During that period he saved his earnings until he felt justified in purchasing a farm and invested in a tract of land about three miles from his father's place. With characteristic energy and industry he began the development of the farm and transformed the land into productive fields from which he gathered good harvests. Thinking, however, to enjoy better business opportunities in the United States he sold his property in Canada in 1849 and made an overland trip with a team and wagon to Winnebago county, Illinois, accompanied by his wife and two children. His team and twenty-five dollars in



IRA ATWOOD



money constituted his worldly possessions when he reached Rockford, Illinois. For three years he engaged in teaming between Rockford and Elgin, working for one dollar per day. He then purchased a farm, which was but slightly improved, and for fifty-three years he made his home upon that place. The rich soil responded readily to the care and labor which he bestowed upon it, the early spring planting and the cultivation of the summer months being followed by golden harvests in the late autumn. His business affairs were capably managed and his unflinching industry enabled him to accumulate a comfortable little fortune as the years passed by. He became the owner of several hundred acres of land and his life thus indicated what may be accomplished if one has perseverance and diligence as the salient points in their business record.

Mr. Atwood was married to Miss Harriet Lavina McPherson, who was born July 14, 1820, and died February 20, 1900, while visiting in Estherville, Iowa. She was a lifelong member of the Methodist Episcopal church and an earnest Christian woman, who merited and enjoyed the friendship and good will of all with whom she came in contact. By her marriage she became the mother of ten children and the family is notable in that all are yet living. The sons and daughters are as follows: Harriet, now the wife of L. C. Runyan, of Langdon, Iowa; Mary A., the widow of Francis Wilson; Eliza L., who is the widow of Sylvester W. Chandler; Ira J., who married Hattie Austin and resides in Wisconsin; Marshal W., who wedded Carrie M. Tyndall and is living in Pasadena, California; Enoch, who married Cora Cooper and makes his home in St. Charles, Illinois; L. L., who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume; Martha, the wife of John Whittaker, of Sioux City, Iowa; Cyrus F., who married Abbie Elliott and is living in Fargo, North Dakota; and Anna, the wife of Professor Francis Brumblecom, a teacher in the public schools of Chicago. Mr. Atwood has every reason to be proud of this large family of sons and daughters, while they have become men and women of the highest respectability and are highly esteemed in the various communities where they reside. All are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, with the exception of Enoch Atwood, who belongs to the Congregational church. In politics Mr. Atwood has been a stalwart republican since the organization of the party, and from the age of nine years he has been a devoted, zealous and faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church, shaping his life by its teachings so that his has been an honorable and upright manhood, winning for him at all times the respect and good will of those with whom he has come in contact. Today at the age of eighty-two years he is comfortably situated in life, enjoying well earned rest, which has been secured through his intelligently directed activity in former years.

THEODORE L. OLSON.

On a well improved farm on section 8, Sioux township, resides Theodore L. Olson, and he is justly accounted one of the leading stock buyers, feeders and shippers of Clay county, having engaged in that business since he became a resident of the county in 1900. He owns and cultivates an excellent farm

adjoining the corporation limits of Spencer. He has two hundred and forty acres of well improved and valuable land in Sioux township, of which eighty acres is in the home place and one hundred and sixty acres on section 17. He also owns a quarter section in Riverton township.

Clay county may well be proud to number Mr. Olson among her citizens. He is a native son of the state, his birth having occurred in Iowa county on the 22d of January, 1863. His father, Lars Olson, was a native of Norway, and came to the new world in 1854, at which time he established his home in Illinois. Four years later he removed westward to Iowa and took up his abode in Iowa county, where he secured a new farm, entering the land from the government. It was entirely destitute of improvements and he turned the first furrow upon the place and built the first rod of fence. In the course of time he converted the wild land into arable fields, from which he annually gathered good harvests as the reward of his persistent labor in plowing, planting and harvesting. Upon his farm he reared his family and continued to make it his place of residence until his death.

Theodore L. Olson was reared upon a farm and was early trained to the work of the fields, remaining with his father until twenty-one years of age, after which he began farming on his own account. His entire life has been given to agricultural pursuits and stock raising, and his close application and unfaltering energy have constituted strong features in his success.

As a companion and helpmate on life's journey, Mr. Olson chose Miss Julia Faltonson, whom he wedded on the 6th of March, 1890. She is a native of Iowa county and was there reared and married. The young couple began their domestic life there, and in addition to cultivating the fields, Mr. Olson also took up the work of buying, feeding and shipping stock. He continued his residence in Iowa county until 1900, when he sold his property there and removed to Clay county, making investments in a farm in Riverton township. He located in Spencer, however, and from that point carried on his farming interests. In 1902 he purchased the place upon which he resides, adjoining the corporation limits of the town, and has since erected here an attractive two-story residence, built in modern style of architecture and equipped with modern conveniences. Upon the place is also a commodious barn and substantial outbuildings, furnishing ample shelter for grain, stock and farm implements. He uses the latest improved machinery in carrying on the work of the fields, but his live-stock interests constitute the chief feature in his business. He buys and feeds various kinds of live-stock and now has two hundred head of cattle and about three hundred head of hogs on his place. He is one of the most extensive feeders and shippers of this part of the state and also ships large numbers of cattle and hogs which have been fed by others, his shipments in 1908 amounting to about sixty carloads. He is, moreover, a stockholder and director in the Farmers Elevator of Spencer, and his business judgment is regarded as thoroughly reliable and commendably conservative.

Mr. and Mrs. Olson are parents of three children, Lillian, Fern and Gladys. The eldest is now a student in the Spencer high school. They also lost a son in infancy. The parents were reared in the Lutheran faith, but since they came to Spencer they have become members of the Congregational church. Mr.

Olson gives his political allegiance to the democracy, of which he is a staunch advocate, but he has never had time for office, even had he inclination to seek political preferment. He is one of the well known live-stock dealers of the county and is a careful, prudent business man who enjoys and merits the confidence and esteem of the entire community.

JOHN H. SNYDER.

John H. Snyder, one of the most successful agriculturists and stock feeders of Clay township, this county, is prominent in the financial circles of the county as a broker and money lender. He is of sturdy German origin, the industrious qualities of which race he inherits in large measure, his birth having occurred in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, September 15, 1849. He is a son of John and Mary Anna (Altman) Snyder, his father having been a native of the fatherland who came to the new world when seventeen years of age, locating in the Keystone state, where he remained until the year 1855, when he traveled westward and settled on a farm in Keokuk county, Iowa. There he remained actively engaged in agricultural pursuits until the Civil war broke out, when he returned to Pennsylvania where he departed this life. Prior to engaging in farming he followed the butcher business and was also proprietor of a hotel in Harrison City, Pennsylvania. The elder Mr. Snyder was twice married, his first wife being Hannah Hauntz, by whom he had one child, Nancy Ann, who now resides in the Keystone state. By his second wife he had eight children, namely: George, deceased; John H., of this review; Hannah, the wife of Robert Boyd, who is living a retired life in Sutherland, Iowa; Mary Ann, deceased; Phoebe, who was united in marriage to Frank Moll, now residing in Ohio; Lizzie, the wife of James Gillespie, janitor of schools in Sutherland, this state; Sarah, who became the wife of Calvin Harris, who engages in general farming in O'Brien county, this state; and Andrew deceased. Mrs. Snyder was also a native of Pennsylvania, where she was married. She still survives, now residing in O'Brien county, Iowa.

In the common schools of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, John H. Snyder acquired his early education, later attending school in Keokuk county, this state, in the meantime passing through every experience common to the country lad. Upon completing his studies he remained under the parental roof, performing his daily routine on the farm, until he was twenty-five years of age, at which period of his life, being ambitious to become independent, he took up farming in Keokuk county and pursued the occupation successfully for some time, when he crossed the plains to the state of California and settled in Santa Rosa. There he drove a team for fifteen months and upon finding that the Golden state had nothing in the line of opportunity for him he returned to Iowa and located in O'Brien county. He remained there for one year, at the termination of which time, in the year 1883, he came to this county and settled on a farm in Clay township. He then applied himself with zeal to tilling the soil and from year to year his bountiful harvests enabled him to extend his holdings

until now he possesses two hundred and forty acres of land in section 20, the greater part of which is improved and under cultivation; one hundred and sixty acres in section 36 of Lone Tree township, and two hundred acres in O'Brien county, all well-improved farms.

In 1875 Mr. Snyder wedded Miss Almira Darden, a native of Keokuk county, to which union were born Lillie Belle, deceased, and Homer S., in the automobile business in Royal, Iowa. Politically Mr. Snyder supports the republican party and among the useful offices which he has rendered the township is that of school director, in which capacity he served efficiently for a number of years. He and his wife are members of the Free Methodist church. Mr. Snyder is one of the most prominent men in the financial circles of the county and is held in high esteem for his honesty, being numbered among the county's most substantial citizens.

G. H. SCHUENEMAN.

G. H. Schueneman, living on section 16, Summit township, has been a resident of the county from the age of fifteen years, and is one of the public-spirited citizens whose loyalty to the general good has been manifested in active and faithful service in various township offices, to which he has been called by the vote of his fellow townsmen, who regard him as a worthy and patriotic citizen. In his business relations he is well known as the owner of the Summit Center Stock Farm, which comprises three hundred and twenty acres of the rich land for which Clay county is famous. He was born in Pommern, Germany, on the 11th of March, 1867. His father, William Schueneman, was also a native of that country and there spent his boyhood days. After arriving at years of maturity he wedded Lonisa Scheel, who was likewise born in the fatherland. In the year 1882 they crossed the Atlantic to the United States and became residents of Clay county, where the father secured one hundred and sixty acres of wild and unimproved land. With characteristic determination and energy he began breaking the sod and continued the cultivation of his farm until he transformed the once wild tract into one of the fine farms of the locality, its rich fields responding readily to the care and labor which he bestowed upon them. He spent his last years here and died July 25, 1908. His widow still survives him.

G. H. Schueneman spent the first fifteen years of his life in the land of his nativity and then accompanied his parents on the long voyage across the Atlantic to become a resident of Clay county, where he has since made his home. He aided in opening up and developing the farm, for he remained with his father until his marriage and was busily employed in the work of the fields.

On the 30th of November, 1899, in Meadow township, Mr. Schueneman was married to Miss Minnie Kaus, a native of Iowa, although of German parentage. Prior to his marriage Mr. Schueneman had purchased two eighty-acre tracts of land adjoining his father, and has since cultivated the three hundred and twenty acres. He has also rented one hundred and sixty acres more, and thus has been busily engaged in farming, every moment occupied

with his duties in the development and improvement of the property. Annually he gathers large crops of corn and other cereals and he also raises high-grade cattle, having some fine pure-blooded registered cattle on his place. He makes a specialty of the Aberdeen Angus, and he also raises pure-blooded Chester White hogs. He has likewise extended his business interests to become a stock holder in the elevator and the creamery at Fostoria, also the Farmers' Elevator at Spencer and the Northern Rural Telephone Company. In all of his business affairs his judgment is sound, his sagacity keen and his enterprise unfaltering.

Mr. and Mrs. Schueneman have become the parents of three daughters, Elsie, Esther and Lila, who are with their father and mother on the home farm. In politics Mr. Schueneman is a republican and soon after attaining his majority he was elected road supervisor and also a member of the school board. He is now serving as assessor, which position he has filled for eight years, while in 1908 he was re-elected for another term of two years. He has likewise been township treasurer, having been called to this office prior to his marriage, while by re-election he has been retained as a constant member of the township board. He has likewise served as a delegate to various county conventions and has done not a little in shaping the policy and molding the destiny of the party in this locality. Both he and his wife are members of the German Lutheran church, in which they were reared and to which they have always been loyal. Mr. Schueneman is interested in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community, being heartily in sympathy with the movements for its material, political, intellectual and moral progress.

C. B. JONES.

There is always a measure of satisfaction in noting the progress made by self-reliant characters, men who, not depending upon higher educational advantages nor upon assistance from others, but rather upon their own resources, push onward with patience and perseverance, guided by a fixed purpose which they finally reach, and the attainment of which brings him to a place of affluence. Such careers are possible in every walk of life, and it makes no difference what vocation one follows, if he desires success and expects to accomplish it he must be possessed of certain qualifications, without which he will eventually prove a failure in anything he may undertake—these qualifications are willingness to work, patience and perseverance. A career fraught with these elements of character is that of C. B. Jones, who by unremitting energy and careful management is now in possession of one of the finest farms in Logan township, Clay county, on which for many years he has been producing excellent crops and engaging in stock raising.

Mr. Jones was born in Clay county, Indiana, November 29, 1852, and is a son of David and Lucinda (Dyer) Jones. His father, who served as a captain throughout the Mexican war, was a native of Kentucky, and when a small boy located in Clay county, Indiana, where he owned an extensive tract of land, which he kept under a high state of cultivation, until he retired to enjoy the

fruits of his long years of honest toil. He and his wife are now living in California. Mrs. Jones is a native of North Carolina, but they were united in marriage in Indiana. They reared a family of thirteen children, namely: Mary Elizabeth, wife of A. R. Esterbrook, an agriculturist whose farm is near Kingsburg, California; Lisha, who became the wife of John Barnhart, who is proprietor of a large farm in Monmouth, California; Redmond, who is an agriculturist residing near Clayton, Washington; Allen and Jane, twins, the former operating a farm in Boone county, Iowa, while the latter is the wife of L. E. Hurley, who is engaged in general farming near Kingsburg, California; Debias, a prominent contractor and builder of Walla, Oregon; Etta, wife of J. R. Haskell, residing on a farm near Kingsburg, California; Annie, who became the wife of Fred Guy, a conductor on the North Western Railroad; John, who resides with his father in California; Maggie, who was united in marriage to Dell Richardson, an agriculturist of Pueblo, Colorado; Jefferson, who operates a farm in Clayton, Washington; Lucy, wife of Francis Gipsen, who resides on a farm in Laton, California; and C. B.

In the common schools of Boone county, Iowa, C. B. Jones acquired his education, in the meantime working on his father's farm where, after completing his studies, he remained until he was twenty-eight years of age, when he began farming for himself in Humboldt county and remained there until 1893. He then located in Logan township, Clay county, Iowa, where he owns one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 25, which he has supplied with all modern improvements. He has a comfortable residence, all the necessary outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock, and modern machinery to facilitate the work of the fields. Mr. Jones may well be proud of his farm, which is one of the neatest and best kept in the township, the fields responding to his care and labor in rich and abundant harvests.

In 1892 Mr. Jones wedded Miss Lizzie Dean, a native of Dakota City, Humboldt county, Iowa, and to this union were born three children: Welcome C., Pearl Marie and Bernell Victor. In politics Mr. Jones supports the democratic party and for fourteen years served the township as trustee. He has also officiated as school director, and the cause of education finds in him a firm friend. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which they are liberal supporters and active workers. Mr. Jones is an Odd Fellow and he and his wife belong to the Rebekah lodge, meeting in Ayrshire. He has always maintained a straightforward and upright walk which has won him the confidence and good will of the entire community.

JOHN S. SHRIVER.

While John S. Shriver has been a resident of Clay county only a comparatively brief period, the time has been sufficient to demonstrate to his fellow citizens the fact that he is a man of sterling worth and good business capacity. He is now living on section 10, Riverton township, where he owns one hundred and sixty acres of land within three miles of Spencer. His life record began

in Noble county, Ohio, July 31, 1850, and there he was reared to the age of sixteen years. He was the second in a family of four sons and two daughters and, like the other members of the household, shared in the different tasks of the home farm as his age and strength permitted. His father, Michael Shriver, also a native of Noble county, spent the days of his boyhood and youth there and was married in that county to Miss Mary Hughes, likewise a native of the Buckeye state. They began their domestic life in Ohio and continued to reside upon a farm there until 1867, when they removed westward to Iowa, settling in Iowa county, where the father purchased land and developed a farm. He has become one of the most prosperous agriculturists of the community and is now the owner of seven hundred and thirty-three acres in his home place near Marengo, while elsewhere he has three or four hundred acres. He is classed as one of the leading representative and honored agriculturists of the state and is still giving personal supervision to his farming interests, although now more than eighty years of age.

After the removal of the family to Iowa, John S. Shriver assisted his father in opening up the home farm in Iowa county. He aided in the arduous tasks of turning the first furrows and in planting and harvesting the first crops. He early learned the value of diligence, perseverance and unabating energy, and these qualities have characterized him throughout his entire life and gained for him the substantial position which he now fills in connection with the agricultural life of Clay county.

On the 2d of July, 1876, in Iowa county, Mr. Shriver was married to Miss Caroline Cheney, who was born and reared in that county. They began their domestic life on a part of his father's farm, which Mr. Shriver continued to cultivate for several years, after which, with the capital that he had saved from his earnings, he purchased a small farm which he cultivated until 1900. In that year he removed to Clay county and bought the farm on section 10, Riverton township, on which he now resides. With characteristic energy he began its further development and improvement, set out a grove, also planted fruit trees and has in other ways carried on the work of general development, until now the fields return to him golden harvests, while his live-stock interests are also a profitable source of income. He both raises and feeds stock, and is well known in this connection. Moreover, he is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator of Spencer. While living in Iowa county Mr. Shriver lost his first wife, who died leaving two sons: W. W., who is married and is now connected with telephone interests in Des Moines; and Lloyd E., who is married and resides in Spencer. On the 1st of June, 1886, in Greene county, Iowa, Mr. Shriver married his present wife, who bore the maiden name of Rosa Coil and was reared and educated in that county. There are four living children of this marriage: Amos F., who assists in carrying on the home farm; Michael R., John C. and George W., who are also under the parental roof. They lost their first-born, a son, in infancy. Elmer Shriver, a brother of John Shriver, married Miss Anna Coil, a sister of his brother's wife, and they reside in Jefferson, Iowa.

While Mr. Shriver has never been an office seeker nor has he desired political preferment, he has always given his allegiance to the democracy and has firm faith in its principles. Iowa has ever found in him a representative and pro-

gressive citizen, who has made good use of his opportunities, and as the years have gone by has prospered as the result of his unfaltering industry. In business relations he is found to be reliable and straightforward, while those who meet him socially entertain for him warm regard as the result of his appreciation for true friendship and all that the term implies.

FRANK BRUSIE.

Not all who take up the work of the farm meet with success. There are certain indispensable elements, including industry, perseverance and good judgment, to tell the individual when is the best time of planting and what are the best methods of caring for the crops. Mr. Brusie seems to possess all the essential elements of success in agricultural lines, for he is now one of the substantial and prosperous farmers of Riverton township. A glance at his place at once indicates to the passerby that his methods are practical and progressive. His farm presents a most attractive appearance, for the greater part of the land is under a high state of cultivation and gives promise of golden harvests in the autumn. Here he own and cultivates three hundred and thirty-five acres, upon which he has lived since 1903. A native of Illinois, he was born in Peoria county, January 21, 1859, and was reared there on the home farm. He had no special advantages in his youth, save that after attending the district schools he had the opportunity of attending the Peoria Normal. Later he became a farmer in Peoria county and his early practical training now stood him in good stead. In his youthful days he was of much assistance to his father, William Brusie, who was then numbered among the wide-awake and energetic farmers of Illinois. He was born in New York, however, and spent his youthful days in the Empire state, where he married Elizabeth Shaw, a native of Massachusetts. On removing westward the Brusies cast in their lots among the early settlers of Peoria county, Illinois, where William Brusie secured a tract of wild land and opened up a new farm. Upon that place he reared his family and spent his remaining days. He had two sons and five daughters: Charles, who is now living at Ossining, New York; Abbie, the wife of D. L. Hawley, of Oklahoma; Elizabeth, the wife of J. T. Hornie, of Ohio; Mrs. Susan O'Shaughnessy, a widow living in New York with her brother; Martha, the wife of F. Horton, of Asheville, North Carolina; and Ida, a teacher in Adair, Iowa.

Frank Brusie spent his boyhood days on his father's farm and after he attained his maturity he chose as a companion and helpmate for life's journey Miss Ida Rogers, who was born and reared in Peoria county, and there gave to him her hand in marriage on the 28th of March, 1888. He continued farming in his native state and afterward purchased a tract of land near Carthage, Hancock county, Illinois, becoming owner of one hundred and eighty-eight acres which he cultivated for four years. He then sold out at a good profit and bought his present farm on section 4, Riverton township. He took up his abode thereon and now has a valuable property of three hundred and thirty-five acres, which he began to fence and improve. He also made new repairs, secured

modern farm machinery to facilitate the work of the fields, and planted the crops best adapted to soil and climate. His rich harvests bring to him a good financial return, which is further supplemented by the profit that he gets from his stock raising. He has made a specialty of raising and feeding hogs, and his annual sales are quite extensive. Moreover, he is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator at Spencer, and his various business interests are bringing to him a substantial return.

Mr. and Mrs. Brusie are now the parents of four sons and two daughters: Elwood, who is on the home farm; Esther, a student in the Spencer high school; Forest; Walter; Marie; and Ralph. Mrs. Brusie is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Brusie votes with the republican party, having supported each presidential nominee since casting his first ballot for James A. Garfield. He is connected with the Modern Woodmen, and his son also belongs to the same camp. He is now numbered among the active and prosperous farmers and stock raisers of the county, and is a public-spirited citizen, imbued with energy and diligence in all that he undertakes. His success is well merited, as it has come to him as the reward of his labor.

CHRISTIAN CRONE.

Christian Crone, living in Webb, has resided in this part of Iowa since pioneer times and has not only been a witness of the growth and progress that has transformed this into a populous and prosperous region, but has borne his full share in the work of general development and improvement. As the years have gone by his unwearied industry has enabled him to make considerable investment in property and the rise in values has made him one of the substantial citizens of this part of the state. He now lives in Webb and from this point superintends his interests. He was born in Alsace, France, December 23, 1839, a son of John and Christina (Hartman) Crone, who were also natives of the same country. The mother was a daughter of John and Catherine Hartman, who likewise lived in the same section of France. Both John and Christina Crone spent their entire lives in the place of their nativity, the father there passing away in 1868 when sixty-three years of age, while his wife died when her son Christian was but three months old, her death occurring in March, 1840.

In his native province of Alsace, Mr. Crone, of this review, spent the days of his boyhood and youth and at the age of twenty-one years left his home to cross the sea to America. After landing in this country he made his way to Walworth county, Wisconsin, his brother John having located in that state on coming to the new world about seven years before. Seeking employment, Mr. Crone obtained work as a farm hand and was thus engaged until 1861, when he enlisted in defense of his adopted country, espousing the Union cause as a member of Company C, Thirteenth Regiment of Wisconsin Volunteers. The command was assigned to the Western Army and Mr. Crone, who enlisted at Sharon, Wisconsin, was mustered in at Janesville. The regiment was afterward ordered to Kansas and for two weeks was stationed at Leavenworth, from which

point it was ordered to Mexico. When the regiment had proceeded as far as Fort Riley the order came for it to cross the plains, but later the order was countermanded and the regiment was sent to Columbus, Kentucky, where it remained a short time, then went to Moscow and on to Fort Donelson, where it remained about six months. From that point the command was sent to Nashville, Tennessee, and on to Claysville, Alabama, where it remained several months or until Hood marched against Nashville for the second time. The Thirteenth Wisconsin was then ordered to Stevenson, Alabama, and after the battle there was sent to Huntsville, Alabama, and then returned to Claysville, where it remained some time, or until about the close of the war. At that time Mr. Crone was driving a team and was ordered to Texas. This was in the early spring of 1865 and on the 22d of June of the same year he was mustered out. His first term of service having expired, he had re-enlisted at Nashville and was at the front for four years. He made a splendid military record, never faltering in the performance of any duty that was assigned him.

After being discharged from the army Mr. Crone returned to his home in Walworth county, Wisconsin, but two weeks later started for Iowa. He worked for a short time in Illinois and then made his way on to Blackhawk county, Iowa, where he remained about six months. On the expiration of that period he went to Marshalltown, Iowa, where he spent about half a year and later made his way to Ackley, and resided there six months, returning thence to Blackhawk county. It was in that county that Mr. Crone was united in marriage to Miss Jane Knowl, a daughter of Valentine and Elizabeth (Baehman) Knowl, natives of Germany, and of Pennsylvania respectively. The father came to America when a young man in about the year 1855 and located in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Some years later he removed westward to Dubuque, Iowa, and after a short stay there became a resident of Blackhawk county. He eventually took up his abode in Hamilton county, Iowa, where he spent the remainder of his days. In the Knowl family were twelve children: Charles, now living at Griswold, Iowa, a minister of the Methodist church; Alfred, also a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, living at Cambridge, Iowa; Samuel, a resident of Webster City; John and Andrew, who are farmers of Oklahoma; Mrs. Crone; and six now deceased. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Crone have been born the following children: Charles Christian, born February 23, 1869, wedded Mary Donaldson, by whom he has three children, Rolla, Jennie and Lawrence. They reside in Webb, Iowa. John Valentine was born January 16, 1871, and is living at Greeley, Colorado. He married Kittie Esgar and has one son, Linden. Elva Christian, born October 31, 1873, lives near Emmetsburg, Iowa, and has six children: Everett, Pearl, Britton, George, Rosa and Blanche. Ida May, born December 18, 1875, is the wife of Christ Peterson, who resides near Albert City and has two children, Christina and Nina. William Christian, born April 5, 1877, is at home. Emma Jane, born March 1, 1879, is teaching school at Greeley, Colorado. Lizzie Mary, born September 16, 1881, is the wife of Henry Thieman and is living at Albert City, Iowa. Evelyn Susan, born June 5, 1884, is the wife of Frank Scott, living near Marathon, and has one child, Esther. Frank Christian, born August 31, 1887, is at home. George Harrison, born December 12, 1891, is attending school at Greeley, Colorado.

Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Crone lived in Blackhawk county for a few months but in 1867 came to Webster City, where Mr. Crone worked in a sawmill with Captain Warner. He was thus employed through the winter and then moved on to his land seven miles north of the town. He purchased this property for six dollars per acre and remained there through the summer, after which he again worked in the sawmill. In March, 1869, he sold his property in that locality and removed to Clay county, taking up his abode four miles northeast of Peterson, where he secured a homestead claim. After cultivating the place for two years he sold his land and purchased other property, in Buena Vista county, there remaining until 1903, in which year he removed to Marathon. After spending a year and a half in that town he came to Webb, where he has since made his home. As the years have passed he has judiciously invested in real estate and his holdings are now large and profitable, including two hundred and forty acres in Buena Vista county, three hundred and four acres in Palo Alto county, one hundred and forty acres in Clay county and eighty acres in Barron county, Wisconsin, together with two houses in Marathon and property in Greeley, Colorado. He is a self-made man who, depending upon his own resources, has worked his way upward, proving the force of his character and the extent of his energy and business ability in the splendid success which he has achieved. He holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and gives his political allegiance to the republican party, but has never sought nor desired office, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business affairs, in which he has met with well merited success.

CHARLES FERD JOHNS.

Charles Ferd Johns, a prosperous agriculturist and highly respected citizen of Logan township, Clay county, where he engages in general farming and stock breeding, is a native of Hardin county, this state, where his birth occurred January 1, 1861, and a son of David and Emma (Rice) Johns, his maternal grandparents having been natives of Kentucky, who from that state removed to Indiana and thence to Illinois, subsequently settling in Hardin county, this state, being among the early pioneers of Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois, where they passed through the experiences and hardships common to frontier life. The grandfather passed away in Hardin county in his sixty-third year and at his death his wife located in Cherokee county, where she lived for several years and departed this life when she was eighty years of age. His paternal grandfather, George M. Johns, was a shoemaker of London, England, who came to the United States, where he passed away in 1862. His wife coming to the United States in 1844, lived to be ninety-seven years of age. The only surviving member of their family is David Johns, the father of the subject of this review, a native of London, England, who came to the new world in 1844 and upon arriving in this country located in Chicago on his birthday, settling upon a tract of land twenty-seven miles from that city on the present site of the town of Bartlett, where he remained for ten years, in 1854 removing to Hardin county.

this state, and thence in 1868 to Grundy county, where he remained until 1885 and then repaired to Cherokee county, where he still resides. His wife, Emma Rice, was born near Knoxville, Indiana, her parents being pioneers of that state and to her were born G. W., Charles Ferd, Maria, Clarissa, Carrie, Frank and Emma, all of whom excepting Clarissa reside in Cherokee county and she lives just across the line in Buena Vista county.

Charles Ferd Johns learned the art of agriculture under his father, acquiring his education in the district schools of Grundy county and remained upon the home farm until 1893, when he settled on the farm he now occupies in Logan township, this county, his farm containing three hundred and thirty acres for which he paid twenty-two dollars an acre. The attention which he has given it has made it one of the finest and most productive tracts of land in this part of the state. There were some improvements upon the land when he took hold of it, but he razed all of the old buildings and constructed new ones so that now his premises are provided with an elegant dwelling house, a substantial barn and all outbuildings and other conveniences required to successfully pursue the occupation of farming. Here he engages in general agriculture, taking considerable interest in stock-raising and breeding, keeping on hand a number of head of registered cattle and sheep in which he does an extensive buying and shipping business.

On December 28, 1880, Mr. Johns wedded Mary Reeverts, daughter of H. and Maggie (Sweeter) Reeverts, natives of Germany, who came to America in the early '50s, settling in Ogle county, Illinois, remaining there until 1856 when they repaired to Grundy county, this state, removing to South Dakota in 1905, where they now reside. In their family were the following children: Hilka; Mary; Frederick George; Fred, deceased; Harriett; and Dekana, deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Johns have been blessed with the following progeny: William David, who wedded Jennie Brown, the couple having one child, Cecil, and residing in South Dakota; Bert Hagen, who with his wife, Lizzie Herr, and daughters Myrtle and Maggie, also resides in that state; and Maggie, who lives with her parents, one child having died in infancy. Mr. Johns is one of the most enterprising farmers in this part of the state and his transactions being conducted on the basis of honesty and being a man of high morals he is known throughout the community as an excellent farmer and worthy citizen.

HANSEN C. BITTINGER.

The business life of the farmer today has become so complex that he lives in a broader way than if he were one of the many atoms of a great city, and he is certainly much more independent. He lives in a freer atmosphere, away from the contaminating influences of city life, and does not experience poverty, which is ever reaching out in want and distress. There is always a peculiar charm in the broad expanse of field and sky which brings one in closer touch with nature and develops a wider personality. It is true that the city has its counter charms, gayety and pleasures, its temples of art and halls of music. But all the

music of the human voice or of instruments is dead tones compared with the songs of birds, nor is anything to be seen about a city to be compared with the broad and resting view of the landscape. While farm life may in many instances lack the opportunities of city life, yet upon the whole it is in many particulars advantageous and always enables one to live in comfort and quiet.

Hansen C. Bittinger was reared amid the environments of rural surroundings and has always been contented with the opportunities afforded on a farm. He was born in Adams county, Pennsylvania, in 1862, a grandson of Andrew and Barbara (Beamer) Bittinger and a son of Phillip and Ann Eliza (Funk) Bittinger, natives of the Keystone state, where they now reside. He is the eldest son of seven children, the next in order of birth being Clara, who married John Herdeny, and lives in Adams county, Pennsylvania; Anna, who married William Lady, who also lives in Adams county; John, who wedded Mary Deardorff, of Adams county; Olive, who passed away in infancy; Sadie, the wife of David Byrens, residents of Adams county, Pennsylvania; and Daisy, the wife of William F. Hankey.

Hansen C. Bittinger was reared upon the home farm and obtained his education in the district schools. In 1885, leaving the old homestead, he went westward to Kansas, living for about three years in Dickinson county, and then removed to Lee county, Illinois, settling near Franklin Grove, where he remained for twelve years. At that period of his life, realizing the advantages that might be secured in the farther west, he disposed of his interest in Lee county and in 1900 came to Clay county, where he purchased and settled upon the farm he now occupies, containing two hundred and forty acres of highly improved and cultivated land, to which he has given sufficient attention to make it one of the finest farms in the county. Here he engages in general husbandry and stock raising, keeping on hand thoroughbred animals which he uses for breeding purposes and at the same time carries on quite a business in cattle and sheep feeding.

On February 11, 1892, Mr. Bittinger married Miss Anna Thomas, daughter of Ephraim and Lucy Ann (Fehl) Thomas, natives of Adams county, Pennsylvania, where they reside at present. Mrs. Bittinger is the eldest of a family of four sons and four daughters, the others being: John Franklin, who wedded Sarah Lookingbills, and resides in North Dakota; Edward, who married Anna Nipple, of Franklin Grove, Illinois; Amanda Jane, the wife of William Slaybaugh, of Adams county, Pennsylvania; Margaret Alice, who married Samuel Allison, of Adams county, Pennsylvania; Cora Emma, the wife of Samuel Robinson, also residing in that county; Lily, the wife of Frank Hemler; Charles, who lives at home; and Harvey, who is united in marriage to Elsie Swope and follows farming. To Mr. and Mrs. Bittinger have been born three children: Clarence, whose birth occurred December 11, 1894; Wilbur Thomas, born August 7, 1896; and Harvey Hansen, who entered this life December 7, 1901.

Mr. Bittinger is a wide-awake and energetic farmer, whose industry has done much to develop the resources of this part of the county, and the years of his application have enabled him to surround himself with many comforts. Politically he is a republican, always loyal to the candidates of his party. He has served for several years as school director and is now performing the duties

of township trustee. He belongs to the Knights of the Globe and the Fraternal Tribunes and is a member of the Presbyterian church, in which he is an enthusiastic worker. His life being in harmony with the principles of his faith, his daily conduct is above reproach and he justly deserves mention among the excellent citizens and substantial farmers of Garfield township.

G. W. ANDERSON.

G. W. Anderson, of Spencer, is prominently connected with the banking interests of the county, having been one of the organizers of two substantial banks here. A man of great natural ability, his success in business from the beginning of his residence here has been uniform and rapid. As has been truly remarked, after all that may be done for a man in the way of giving him early opportunities for obtaining the requirements that are sought in schools and in books, he must essentially formulate, determine and give shape to his own character, and this is what Mr. Anderson has done. He has persevered in the pursuit of a persistent purpose and has gained a most satisfactory reward.

Mr. Anderson is numbered among the worthy citizens that Michigan has furnished to Iowa. He was born in the former state, being a native of St. Joseph county, where he started on life's journey on the 11th of August, 1860. On the home farm there he was reared to manhood and he supplemented his early educational privileges by study in the high school at Constantine, Michigan. When he had reached adult age he turned his attention to farming, which he followed for several years in his native state, and through much of his life he continued an active factor in agricultural lines.

In March, 1884, in De Kalb county, Indiana, Mr. Anderson was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie B. Tess, who spent her girlhood days there and pursued her education in the locality in which she was born and reared. Previous to his marriage Mr. Anderson had visited Iowa and had purchased land here, becoming the owner of a tract of wild prairie. With his bride he returned to this state and at once began the cultivation and improvement of a farm which he continued to develop until 1894. His labors were effective factors in transforming the raw prairie into productive fields, from which he annually gathered good crops of wheat, corn and other cereals best adapted to climatic conditions here. In 1894, however, he sold his farm for the purpose of retiring from agricultural life and becoming identified with business pursuits in the city. He therefore removed to Spencer and for five years was engaged in the real estate business, during which time he, with others, organized the Citizens State Bank of Spencer, which was opened for business March 4, 1897. Said bank was changed to a national bank in 1903. He opened up and took charge of the Fostoria Bank June 1, 1899, and there built up a good business, acting as manager and cashier, while in the conduct of the bank he is ably assisted by his son. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson was blessed with three sons. O. J., who is now assistant cashier of the bank at Fostoria, was educated at Spencer and received a thorough business training under his father's direction.

He is now recognized as one of the enterprising young business men of the county. He was married in Hardin county, Iowa, July 18, 1905, to Miss Anna B. Beving, who was there born and reared, and they have one son, George W., named in honor of his grandfather. The second son of the family, W. D. Anderson, passed away March 12, 1904, at the age of seventeen years. Reader is still a student in the schools of Spencer.

Mr. Anderson and his elder son are both members of the Masonic fraternity. He belongs to the lodge and the chapter, and the former served as Master for three years. He and his wife are members of the Eastern Star and Mrs. Anderson served as worthy matron for two years. Mr. Anderson occupies a prominent place in business circles in Clay county. In addition to his banking interests, he is buying and dealing in improved farms in Clay and adjoining counties, and is recognized as a man whose business judgment is sound, whose discernment is keen and whose enterprise is unfaltering. His life is exemplary in all respects and he has ever supported those interests which are calculated to uplift and benefit humanity by his own high moral worth. What he undertakes he accomplishes, for he possesses resolution, perseverance and reliability, and these qualities have caused him to be enrolled among the best citizens of this part of the state.

JOHN RINGERING.

Farming and stock-raising constitute the chief sources of wealth in Clay county, for the rich and fertile soil offers excellent opportunities to the agriculturist. To this work, which George Washington characterized as "the most useful and honorable occupation of man," John Ringering gives his attention, having a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 12, Waterford township. He has lived in Iowa since 1881, at which time he took up his abode in Hardin county, whence, in 1888, he came to Clay county. A native of Germany, his birth occurred in Hanover on the 6th of March, 1864. His father, John Ringering, Sr., was also a native of that province, where his youth was passed. His wife, Mrs. Maggie Ringering, was likewise a native of the same locality. The father learned the baker's trade in Germany and followed that pursuit in his native land until 1877, when his life's labors were ended in death. In 1882 his widow came to the new world and here joined her son John who in the previous year had crossed the Atlantic. The family numbered three sons and three daughters: George, who follows farming in Waterford township; Jacob, of Cedar county, Nebraska; John, of this review; Anna, the wife of Boye Boyenga, of Franklin county; Fanny, the wife of Dick Kaster, also of Franklin county; and Hannah, the wife of John Bademaker.

In taking up the personal history of John Ringering we present to our readers the life record of one who is now widely and favorably known in this part of the state. He was reared in his native country to the age of seventeen years, and during the period of his minority worked at farm labor there. He was only thirteen years of age at the time of his father's death, and, the family

being left in limited circumstances, he was thus thrown upon his own resources and has since provided a living for himself. Attracted by the business conditions of the new world and the hope that he might benefit his financial resources here, he came to the United States in 1881 and took up his abode in Hardin county, Iowa. There he secured employment at farm labor and devoted seven years to that task in the employ of one man. His long continuance in that service plainly indicates his faithfulness and the confidence reposed in him. In 1888 he came to Clay county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres where he now resides, on section 12, Waterford township. Here he took up the difficult task of developing a new farm, but day after day persistently carried on his labor and each evening saw something accomplished that had not been done the day before. Thus the work was carried steadily forward until he is today the owner of a valuable farming property, on which stands a comfortable frame residence a good barn, a granary, corn cribs, hog house and machine shed. All these have been put up by Mr. Ringering, and another evidence of his labor is seen in the fine grove upon the place. He likewise raises and fattens stock, shipping about one hundred head of hogs annually. In addition to his home place, he purchased another farm of two hundred acres, which he now rents.

On the 6th of March, 1893, in Clay county, Mr. Ringering was married to Miss Ida Groenewald, who was born in Peoria county, Illinois, but was reared in this state. Her father, George Groenewald, was a native of Hanover, and when he had made the long voyage across the Atlantic, established his home in Hardin county, Iowa. Subsequently he came to Clay county, and is now a well known farmer of Waterford township. Mr. and Mrs. Ringering have five children: Gerty, Hannah, Mary, William and Martha. Mr. Ringering votes with the republican party, which he has supported since becoming a naturalized American citizen. No native son of this land is more loyal to the institutions and interests of America. He and his wife are members of the German Reformed church and occupy an enviable position in social circles. Mr. Ringering is a man of good business ability, recognized as an industrious and frugal farmer, who has made good use of his opportunities and has therefore prospered from year to year.

URIAH D. FISK.

Uriah D. Fisk, who since 1882 has been a resident of Clay county, is now the owner of an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Logan township. This is an attractive place because of its skillfully tilled fields and the substantial improvements he has put upon the property. He is, therefore, well known as an excellent representative of the agricultural life of the community, and the success he has attained in his farming operations is attributable entirely to his own labors. One of Iowa's native sons, he was born in Adams county, June 12, 1871, and is a son of Robert and Emeline (Webster) Fisk, both of whom were natives of Canada. The Fisk family was established in Lee county, Illinois, about 1855, while the Websters located there a few years later, the

parents of our subject being married in Lee county, where they continued to reside for a number of years. July 3, 1882, when their son Uriah was eleven years of age, they arrived in Clay county, Iowa, locating on section No. 28, Lincoln township, where they have since made their home.

Spending his youthful days under the parental roof, Uriah D. Fisk was early trained to the work of the farm, assisting in the labors of the fields and meadow as the years passed and his strength increased. The public schools afforded him his educational privileges, and in his school and home training he formed habits of life which have made his an active, useful and honorable career.

As a companion and helpmate for life's journey Mr. Fisk chose Miss Emma Klein, born in Iroquois county, Illinois, July 27, 1873, a daughter of Fred and Caroline (Bishop) Klein, who were natives of Germany. To this union there came three children: Milo, born November 30, 1896; Robert, born June 27, 1901; Vera, born April 3, 1903. On coming to America in 1864 Fred Klein and wife settled in Chicago, where they remained for several years. The father was a shoemaker by trade and depended upon that occupation for a living in early manhood, but later turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. Leaving Chicago, he established his home in Iroquois county, Illinois, where he lived a few years, and in 1884 came to Clay county, Iowa. Here he secured land and carried on general farming until his death, which occurred in 1899, when he was sixty-six years of age. His wife survived him about four years and died on the 23d of October, 1903, at the age of sixty-nine years.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Fisk was celebrated November 29, 1894, after which they established their home in Garfield township, where his attention was given to general agricultural pursuits for about seven years. In 1904 the removal was made to Logan township and he purchased the farm which he now owns and operates. It comprises one hundred and sixty acres of well cultivated fields, on which are fine improvements. In fact, all of the equipments of a model farm are to be seen upon this property, and in addition to tilling the soil, Mr. Fisk is largely interested in stock raising and shipping. He is a busy man, his time and attention being closely given to his farming and livestock interests, and as the years go by he is attaining substantial success in his chosen field of labor.

GEORGE EWOLDT.

There are few individuals who are released from the necessity of business activity, and it is through energy, determination and strict conformity to high principles that an upright character is developed which commands confidence, friendship and regard. Neither are the fruits of success easily won, but come as the result of indefatigable industry. It has been through his persistent and well directed labor that George Ewoldt has gained a place among the prosperous farmers of Lone Tree township, where he now owns three hundred acres of land on section 15. He was born in the city of Davenport, Iowa, December 16, 1863, and there remained until fifteen years of age, when he removed with

the family to a farm in Tama county, Iowa, and there remained under the parental roof until he attained his majority. His educational privileges were those afforded by the common schools. He was married in Tama county, February 27, 1890, to Miss Mary Lammers, who was born in Scott county, Iowa, where her girlhood days were passed, save that for a part of the time she lived in Tama county. She is a sister of Julius Lammers, mentioned elsewhere in this volume.

Two years prior to his marriage Mr. Ewoldt had purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Lone Tree township, Clay county, and in the spring of 1890 he located on this place. He has since been one of the factors in the substantial upbuilding and development of the county. Here he built a small house and after the family was installed therein he at once began to break the sod. A difficult task confronted him, for the surface soil was hard packed and held together by the innumerable roots of the prairie grasses. He persisted in his work, however, until the uncultivated tract was brought into a state of fertility and in course of time produced rich and abundant harvests, for which he found a ready sale on the market. Later he bought one hundred and twenty acres of land, but subsequently sold forty acres of this. He afterward was given sixty acres by his wife's father, and now has a farm of three hundred acres, pleasantly and conveniently situated near Everly on section 15, Lone Tree township. A fine grove is one of the pleasing features of the place, and it contains cottonwood, ash, maple and box-elder trees. The residence is a large frame house, conveniently arranged and pleasantly furnished, while a spirit of warm-hearted hospitality there abounds. In the rear of the house is a good barn, while other features of the place are a granary, wind-pump and waterworks. There is an abundant water supply for stock, and everything about the farm indicates the owner to be a man of alert, wide-awake and enterprising spirit, who keeps thoroughly in touch with modern methods of agriculture. He feeds a carload of fat stock each year, and this branch of his business is quite remunerative. Moreover, he is a stockholder in the First National Bank of Everly.

Mr. and Mrs. Ewoldt are the parents of three children, Frank, Gladys and Edna. They lost a daughter, Louisa, at the age of four years. Mr. Ewoldt votes with the democracy, but is not active in search of political office. He is a man of good business ability, carefully managing his interests and winning the success which is now his. Upright character and sterling worth have gained him a favorable place in the regard of many friends, and Lone Tree township numbers him among her valued citizens.

DETLIEF J. STARK.

No history of Clay county would be complete without mention of Detlief J. Stark, one of its homesteaders and first settlers. Mr. Stark is a native of Holstein, Germany, born October 3, 1841. When a young man of twenty-two years he came to the United States and for a time worked in a lumber yard at

Winona, Minnesota. He later purchased eighty acres of land in Olmsted county, Minnesota, and engaged in farming. Meeting with reverses, owing to failure of crops, he sold the land and, bringing his tools and teams to Clay county, homesteaded eighty acres of land in section 2, Peterson township, in 1870. In true pioneer style he lived the first year in a sod house. A poor man, but with strong physique and resolute will—characteristics of his race—he overcame all obstacles and became one of the county's prosperous and respected citizens.

He was married in Minnesota in 1870. His wife, Mrs. Kathrina Stark, who was also a native of Germany, bore her full share of pioneer hardships and experiences. After a happy married life of thirty-two years she passed away on the old homestead farm June 21, 1902. In her death the community lost one of its noble friends and neighbors and her family a loving wife and mother. She was a lifelong member of the German Lutheran church. Mr. and Mrs. Stark were the parents of six children, three of whom have passed away. Those who are living are: Fred, a young man of thirty-one years, who since infancy has been deprived of his eyesight; Emma, the wife of Henry Lundt, a farmer of Douglas township, this county; and Sophia, the wife of Edward Bouser, residing in Nebraska.

Starting in life empty-handed, Mr. Stark has, by his own efforts, been more than ordinarily successful and has accumulated a goodly competence. His farm in Peterson township comprises two hundred and eighty-seven acres of finely improved land. Three years ago he took up his residence in Spencer, leaving the active work of the fields to others. He owns a pleasant home on East Fifth street and though living retired he cannot content himself to be idle, but does teaming and makes numerous trips to the old homestead to look after his farming interests. Mr. Stark also is a member of the German Lutheran church and is an honest, upright man. A democrat in politics, though never an office seeker, while on the farm he served as school director and road supervisor. Since coming to Spencer he has become a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Stark is one of those men who came to Clay county when it was a pioneer district and has done his full share towards bringing about the conditions that exist today. Although past sixty-eight years of age, he is still hale and hearty and active as many men twenty years younger. Public-spirited, doing all he can to further any worthy cause, he is today one of Clay county's most highly esteemed and respected citizens.

ELMER D. SMITH.

Elmer D. Smith, a prosperous farmer and well known auctioneer of Logan township, whose ancestors have long been in this country and some of whom served with distinction in the Revolutionary war, is a native of Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, born March 21, 1870. Abraham Smith, his grandfather, was a native of New Jersey, and when a boy eighteen years of age located in Pennsylvania, where he operated a large farm and constructed a brick residence in the year 1816, in which the subject of this sketch was born and the house, which

is an old landmark, is still standing and is in fair condition. Mr. Smith was a prominent and influential man in his day and served during the Revolutionary war in the capacity of major, and after the conflict was for several years commissioner of the county in which he resided. Among his children was Abraham Smith, Jr., a native of the Keystone state, whose birth occurred in Luzerne county and who was united in marriage with Mary C. Snyder, a native of Columbia county, Pennsylvania, where she now resides. In his native county Mr. Smith lived until the year 1892, when he moved to Kingsley, Plymouth county, Iowa, and thence to Gaza, O'Brien county, in 1894. There he engaged in mercantile pursuits and also served for one year as postmaster. Giving up his business in 1895, he became proprietor of a hotel, filling that position for a year, when he located on a farm in Palo Alto county, Iowa, where he resided until four years ago, when he came to this county. His life has been such as to deserve the confidence and respect of his fellow citizens, and his long years of honest labor have placed him in a position in which he can spend his remaining days in comfort. He has always been a supporter of the democratic party, and belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church. He reared the following children: Bertram S., a jobber of Goodell, Iowa; Maud and Mert, twins, Maud being the wife of Wilbur R. Coldren, a barber of Denver, Colorado, and Mert the wife of Oscar W. Peterson, a farmer of Booth township, Palo Alto county; Olive; Dora, who wedded George A. Frazee, who has extensive agricultural interests in Booth township, Palo Alto county; May C., deceased; and Elmer D.

On his father's farm Elmer D. Smith spent his boyhood days, meeting with the usual experiences of the country lad, engaging in the general routine of the farm and during the winter season attending the district schools. Under the parental roof he remained until he was nineteen years of age when he came to Iowa, locating in Kingsley, where he at once began to farm for monthly wages, at which he continued for a time, and after spending four years in Plymouth county he worked for two years in Pocahontas county, and thence went to Palo Alto county, where he rented and cultivated a farm for seven years, at the termination of which period, in the year 1901, he came to this county, locating in Lake township, where he remained until 1902. He then returned to Palo Alto county, but remained there only until 1904, when he again entered Clay county and established himself on his present farm in Logan township. Here he owns three hundred and twenty acres in section 25, which he keeps under a high state of cultivation, carrying on his farming by the most modern methods and having all conveniences with which to make the enterprise a lucrative one. In addition to raising large quantities of hay he also produces corn, wheat, oats and other crops and at the same time pays considerable attention to stock-raising and keeps on hand a number of high grade horses, cattle and sheep. Aside from his farming interests he is also a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator and Creamery at Ayrshire. He also is an auctioneer and his services are in great demand.

On November 28, 1891, Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Miss Mary H. Alexander, a resident of Palo Alto county, and to this union were born Hazel Mildred and William A. Vryon. Politically he is a loyal supporter of the republican party and while he is not an active politician, he keeps well informed upon the political issues of the day and regularly casts his vote for the candidates of his

party. While a resident of Palo Alto county he served the township as a trustee but since taking up his residence here his business affairs have been too pressing to allow him time to devote to public offices. He attends the Presbyterian church, of which he is a member, and belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, meeting in Ayrshire. Mr. Smith is one of the township's most enterprising and aggressive men and his straightforward dealings, together with his industry, have won him an excellent reputation and enrolled him among the county's substantial and desirable citizens.

PETER LIENEMAN.

Peter Lieneman, who carries on general farming on section 6, Riverton township, and is also engaged in raising and feeding stock, came to this state more than half a century ago. The traveler who rides over Iowa today can scarcely realize the conditions that then existed, for it seems hardly possible that it is within the memory of living men when much of Iowa was an uncultivated waste—a barren prairie and wide marsh. Mr. Lieneman, however, has noticed with interest the changes which have come as the progressive citizens have wrought along well defined lines of labor until they have won for Iowa leadership in certain departments of agriculture and gained for her a high place in all those things which make for good citizenship. Mr. Lieneman had been a resident of America for only two years when he arrived in the state. He was born in Germany, November 19, 1847. His father, Michael Lieneman, was also a native of that country where he was reared to manhood. Three children were born unto them ere they crossed the Atlantic. The opportunities of the new world attracted them and in 1855 they made the ocean voyage which brought them to American shores. They did not tarry in the east, however, but continued on their westward way to Menard county, Illinois, where for two years the father worked as a farm hand. On the expiration of that period he came to Iowa, settling in Jackson county, among its early residents. Later he purchased a farm there and reared his family upon the place which he cultivated and developed. His death was caused by a railroad accident on the 20th of September, 1904. For six years he had survived his wife, who passed away in the fall of 1898.

Peter Lieneman was reared to manhood on the home farm in Jackson county and though his educational opportunities were limited his training for farm labor was not meagre and he remained on the old home place, assisting his father, until thirty-one years of age. Lessons of industry, thrift and integrity were early impressed upon his mind and have constituted factors in his success since that time. Soon after his marriage, which occurred in 1879, he removed to Ford county, Kansas, bought land and opened up a new farm of three hundred and twenty acres, making his home thereon for ten years. He then traded his Kansas property for land in Clay county and has since lived there upon the farm which is now his home. When he took possession of it there was an old house upon it which he has converted into a good home, making additions and remodeling the place until it is a substantial farm residence. In the rear stand good barns and

outbuildings, and these in turn are surrounded by well tilled fields which generously bring forth good harvests. He has fenced his land, has put out fruit and altogether has made a valuable farm, the raw prairie land being transformed into a tract of rich property. He practices rotation of crops and makes a study of the soil and the needs of different cereals. Moreover he is raising and feeding stock and is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator at Spencer. His home place now comprises three hundred and sixty acres, constituting a gratifying source of income to him for his annual sale of grain and stock brings to him a substantial yearly return.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Lieneman have been born three children who are yet living: John M., who is married and follows farming in Clark county, South Dakota; Louis F. and Jesse, who are assisting in the improvement of the home farm. They also lost two daughters, Emma, who died in her second year, and Clara, who died at the age of six years.

Politically Mr. Lieneman is a democrat and, as every true American citizen should do, keeps well informed on the issues and questions of the day, but has had little desire for office although he served for nine years on the school board. He was reared in the Lutheran faith, is a member of a fraternal insurance order, and is a business man of progressive spirit and a citizen of loyal devotion to the public good. Well known in Spencer and Clay county, he has the good will and trust of those with whom he has been associated.

CARL WALSTROM.

Representatives of foreign countries are doing much toward peopling the great west and among them are many Germans and Swedes, who have taken the raw prairies and by their energy and industry transformed them into fertile fields, thereby adding greatly to the country's wealth. Carl Walstrom, who for a number of years has been identified with the agricultural and stock-raising interests of Spencer, this county, is a native of Sweden, where his birth occurred August 21, 1859, and a son of Andrew and Annagreta (Johnston) Walstrom. His father was born in 1824 in Sweden, where he engaged in general farming in connection with which he ran a sawmill until his death which occurred in 1897. His mother was also a native of Sweden, where her birth occurred in 1817 and there she died at an advanced age. Among their children were Christina, who became the wife of Mr. Johnston, a progressive agriculturist in Sweden; Bettie, who passed away in that country; M., who is engaged in agriculture in Lincoln township; Carl; Tilda, who became the wife of G. H. Green, the couple residing here; and Ivan, who departed this life in Sweden.

The common schools of his native land afforded Carl Walstrom his education and he remained at home, assisting his father on the farm until he was twenty years of age, at which period of his life he came to the United States, locating in Spencer. For a period of five years he hired out at farm work, at the expiration of which time he began agriculture for himself on section 6, Sioux township, where he now resides and where his success from year to year has been such that

he now possesses two hundred and forty acres of excellent land which he has provided with a fine residence, capacious barn, and with every convenience necessary to successfully pursue his occupation. In addition to this large farm he also owns another containing one hundred and sixty acres in Chippewa county, Minnesota, both farms being in excellent condition and under a high state of cultivation. He produces general crops and in addition to raising hay and the various grains he also pays attention to stock-raising and, particularly, to the breeding of Hereford cattle, for which he has quite a reputation throughout the state.

On April 26, 1886, he wedded Gusta Borgloff, a native of Sweden, who is the mother of eleven children, namely: Minne M., deceased; Ray; Edith C.; Albert Charles; Henry, deceased; Frederick; Ringhold, deceased; Oscar Benhart; Teckla S.; Harold O.; and Francis A. Mr. Walstrom's political faith is in the principles of the republican party, and, while he is not active in public affairs, yet, he keeps himself well informed with regard to the paramount issues of the day and is always ready with his vote and influence during campaigns to aid the candidates of his party to secure the offices they seek. In the township he has held several offices and is now an efficient member of the school board, of which he is secretary, and also a township trustee. He is faithful to his religious obligations and is a member of the Swedish Lutheran church of which, for a period of fifteen years, he served as secretary and of which he is treasurer and also a deacon, having served in this capacity for the past six years. He is a man of high moral purpose and is not only ardent in the work of the individual church to which he belongs but he does all he can to preserve the moral and spiritual standing of the community in which he resides. Mr. Walstrom is a good man; his industry has surrounded him with prosperity and his upright walk has merited him the respect of his neighbors.

FRANKLIN FLOETE.

The business development of Spencer has been greatly conserved through the efforts and enterprise of Franklin Floete, whose sound judgment and keen sagacity enable him to successfully control the interests with which he becomes identified. He is now president of the Citizens National Bank and also of the Floete Lumber Company and belongs to that class of representative American men who, in promoting individual success, also contribute to public prosperity. He was born in Guttenberg, Iowa, April 6, 1855, a son of Charles Floete, a native of Germany. The paternal grandparents spent their entire lives in Germany, where they reared a large family and remained until past middle life when they were called to their final rest.

Charles Floete, reared in the land of his birth, pursued his education in the schools there and afterward learned the cabinet-maker's trade. Coming to America in 1848 he settled in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he followed cabinet-making for about two years. In 1850 he removed westward to Clayton county, Iowa, and purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, giving his time and energies to its cultivation and development until he brought his fields into a state of rich

fertility. After about eight years spent on the farm, however, he abandoned agricultural pursuits and removed to Guttenberg, Iowa, where he engaged in the lumber business. His wife passed away in 1856. Both were consistent members of the Lutheran church and their upright, honorable lives gained them the confidence and good will of all with whom they were associated. Their family numbered three children: Charles E., of Armour, South Dakota; Anna, of Los Angeles, California; and Franklin, of this review.

The last named was reared in his native town and the public schools afforded him his early educational privileges, while later he entered the Kentucky University, at Lexington, and was graduated therefrom in 1877. In September, 1878, he arrived in Spencer and became manager of the lumber yard of Stauer & Daubenberger, of McGregor, Iowa. After remaining in that employ for some time he bought out the business, which he has conducted continuously since. In the intervening years he has constantly extended the scope of his interests and activity until, in addition to his large and profitable business in Spencer, he also owns and conducts lumber yards at Milford and Hartley, Iowa, and at Armour, South Dakota. Eventually the business was incorporated under the name of the Floete Lumber Company, with Franklin Floete as the president and treasurer and his brother, C. E. Floete, as vice president and secretary. Each year has registered a marked development in their business and, believing this section of the country to be an excellent field for business enterprises of this character, they have established altogether twenty yards in Iowa and South Dakota. They, therefore, handle lumber on a very extensive scale and their business interests are among the most important industries of this section of the state. The name of Franklin Floete has long been an honorable one on commercial paper and he today figures prominently in financial circles. Some years ago he became a director in the First National Bank, at Spencer, later was elected its vice president and when the Citizens National Bank was organized he became its president and has so continued to the present time, with J. H. McCord as the cashier. They also control the Citizens Savings Banks of Royal, Webb and Fostoria, with Mr. Floete as president of the Fostoria Bank and vice president of the one at Webb. He is also the president of the Floete, Cory & Bemis Company, a real-estate and land company, handling important and extensive interests. Whatever he has undertaken he has successfully controlled, neglecting no detail that promises to contribute to success. Moreover, he has recognized that the present and not the future holds his opportunity and has thus made each hour count for the most possible and in the attainment of success has followed the strictest lines of commercial honor and integrity.

On the 26th of January, 1896, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Floete and Mrs. Mary (Thayer) Snow, the widow of Sumner Snow and a daughter of John and Hannah (Green) Thayer. Mrs. Floete was born in Vermont and by her former marriage had one daughter, Florence, while by this union there is one son, Franklin Thayer Floete. She is a member of the Episcopal church and is well known socially, while over her home she presides with gracious hospitality. Mr. Floete belongs to Evening Shade Lodge, No. 312, A. F. & A. M.; Clay Chapter, R. A. M.; Esdraelon Commandery, K. T.; and Za-Ga-Zig Temple of

the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He has thus attained high rank in Masonry and is in thorough sympathy with the principles and purposes of the craft. His political support is given the republican party but the demands of his business have left him no time for public office even had he inclination to seek its honors and emoluments. His life has been characterized by orderly progression under the steady hand of one who is a consistent master of himself. He is a man of well balanced capacities and power and capable of mature judgment concerning the people and citizens that make up his life contacts and experiences. With the growth of his business he has been called upon to assume the discharge of comprehensive duties requiring physical and mental strength immediately at command. His record embodies all the elements of what in this country we term a "square man"—one in whom to have confidence. His quietude of deportment, his easy dignity, his frankness and cordiality of address, with the total absence of anything sinister or anything to conceal, foretold a man who is ready to meet any obligation of life with the confidence and courage that come of conscious personal ability, right conception of things and an habitual regard for what is best in the exercise of human activities.

THOMAS E. DELANEY.

With the coming of Thomas E. Delaney to this part of the northwest in 1887 and his settlement on two hundred and sixteen acres of land on section 36, Garfield township, Clay county, Iowa, there was added to the strength and character of the county a man destined to take part in the development of that rich and promising section. He was born in Smithfield, Jefferson county, Ohio, September 27, 1830, a son of Michial and Mary (Livingstone) Delaney, natives of Maryland and Pennsylvania respectively. They both went to Ohio at a very early day, were there married and spent almost their entire lives in that state. The father died in June, 1874, having reached the ripe old age of eighty-nine years. He had served his country as a soldier of the war of 1812 and was always loyal and progressive in citizenship. In January, 1874, his wife passed over the border-land into the great beyond. There is little known concerning the ancestry of the Delaney family save that the paternal grandfather of our subject was buried at sea and that his maternal grandfather was a native of Pennsylvania.

Thomas E. Delaney is the youngest member and the only survivor of his father's family of six children. At the age of twenty-one he started out in life for himself and leaving his Ohio home made his way to Illinois. There he remained for only four years, and during that time had some varied experiences. After saving a little sum of money he made a visit to Chicago where he was offered real estate at a very low figure, but it was no temptation to him and he returned to Bureau county and engaged in raising wheat. For the first year he prospered and garnered a big crop, the sale of which brought him a considerable amount of money. The following winter he made a visit home and advised his father, if he wished to win wealth, to go to Illinois and raise wheat. The visit over, Mr. Delaney returned to the Prairie state and engaged in wheat rais-

ing on a larger scale than before, but the venture did not prove successful, owing to the failure of crops, and after three years of hard labor he lost every dollar of his former earnings and was forced to commence all over again. In his vocabulary, however, there is no such word as fail, and he did not allow himself to become discouraged over his loss, but resolutely continued his work and was soon again on the road to prosperity.

On the 22d of September, 1856, there occurred an important event in the life of Mr. Delaney, for on that date was celebrated his marriage to Miss Hannah Gilles. She was a daughter of Ruben and Pamela (Blanchett) Gilles, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of Pennsylvania. They were married in Princeton, Illinois, where Mrs. Delaney's family had located at an early date. Her uncle, John Blanchett, platted the town of Blanchett, Ohio, and it was named in his honor. Her father, Ruben Gilles, was a soldier of the war of 1812. Her parents spent their married life in Clinton county, Ohio, where her father passed away September 4, 1883, at the age of ninety-three years, his life record covering almost the entire century that is the most remarkable in the world's history, taking in events that have shaped the civilization of the universe. Mrs. Gilles had long previously passed away, her death occurring April 14, 1842, when she was fifty-one years of age. Thomas Gilles, the grandfather of Mrs. Delaney, was brought to America from Ireland when he was only six weeks old, but nothing more is known of the ancestral history of the family. Thomas Gilles married Ruth Perkin, who lived to the very venerable age of one hundred and four years. Joseph Blanchett, the maternal grandfather, was a native of France and came to America at an early age, serving as a patriot soldier in the Revolutionary war, remaining with the army for seven years, or throughout the entire period of the struggle. His wife, Mrs. Olive Blanchett, lived to a very advanced age.

After his marriage Mr. Delaney lived in Illinois until 1874, when he came to Iowa, living in Story county until 1887. He then emigrated further west and eventually settled in Clay county. He had experienced considerable loss in Story county through the extended drought and he determined, if possible, to find some part of the country where there would be plenty of water and good grazing grounds for stock. When he left Story county and started out to seek a new location he did not anticipate that he would find that for which he was seeking so near at hand. But fate seemed to favor him for in company with others he came across the site of his present home, situated upon the banks of a beautiful lake. For miles on either side was the wide expanse of unbroken prairie, affording unlimited range for grazing. This seemed to him the exact spot that he had long desired, and having succeeded in making a purchase of the land, he began the development of the new home. In 1894, however, his expectation for a permanent water supply was somewhat shattered. This was known as the year of the great drought and Pickerel Lake, upon whose shores Mr. Delaney had builded his home, was more than half reduced in extent, the water line receding for a long distance. The following winter was one of extreme cold and in many parts of the lake the water was frozen to the bottom. When the ice melted in the spring and the warm winds from the south drifted

the ice toward the northern shore, there was a serious condition confronting the few inhabitants around the lake. It is estimated that tons and tons of decaying fish covered the shores and soon the odor was almost unendurable for miles around. The health officers of the county were appealed to and many attempts were made to haul the fish away, but the task had finally to be abandoned. The water of the lake soon became contaminated yet it was the only supply for the stock and they were compelled to drink it throughout the long summer. Strange to say, the fear of an epidemic of illness from these conditions was not realized, and the season was unusually healthy in the vicinity of the lake.

Mr. Delaney possessed the same spirit of patriotism which governed his ancestry and was one of the first to answer to his country's call, and on August 12, 1862, he enlisted at Bradford, Stark county, Illinois, as a member of Company B, One Hundred and Twelfth Regiment of Illinois Infantry under Captain James B. Doyle and Colonel Thomas J. Henderson, the regiment being assigned to the Third Brigade, Third Division of the Twenty-third army corps. The first active service of the regiment was in Kentucky and later they were on duty in and around Nashville, participating in the battle of Franklin, one of the most desperate battles of the regiment up to that time. Afterward they were ordered into the Atlanta campaign where there was most terrible fighting and hardships to be endured. Mr. Delaney says he can never forget the scenes of carnage that characterized the battle of Atlanta, in which the gallant General McPherson was killed. In the same battle a brother of Mrs. John Delaney lost his life. Mr. Delaney was mustered out at Greensboro, North Carolina, June 20, 1865, and was honorably discharged at Chicago on the 6th of July. He was a brave and gallant soldier and had served throughout nearly the entire war. As the years are added to the cycle of the centuries, to the lists are constantly being added the names of those old battle-scarred veterans who have marched to an everlasting bivouac. It remains as a solemn duty to man to cherish the memory of those brave defenders, both living and dead, and to record their deeds of heroism and sacrifice.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Delaney have been born nine children, only five of whom are now living. Andrew J., born November 23, 1857, was married June 9, 1896, to Bertha Stewart, and resides at Hutchinson, Kansas. John F., born March 7, 1860, was married March 7, 1899, to Eva Munns, and, residing on the old homestead, is in charge of the farm of two hundred and sixteen acres which he owns jointly with his father. George D., born December 12, 1861, married Dora Ellis and resides in Garfield township. Mary Pamela, born December 19, 1864, was married July 2, 1898, to George Baker, a resident of Clay county. Sherman, born July 14, 1866, also resides at the old homestead and assists in caring for his parents. Minnie, born April 15, 1869, died March 3, 1896. Edgar, born March 4, 1871, died on the 14th of the same month. The others also died in infancy.

Mr. Delaney is a member of Marathon Post, G. A. R., and in his political allegiance has always been identified with the republican party. His wife is a member of the Christian church, as is also Mrs. John F. Delaney. In their declining years Mr. and Mrs. Delaney are fortunate in having with them their two sons, John F. and Sherman, to faithfully look after their every want and

comfort. After many years of earnest toil and battle with the world the parents are now enjoying well earned rest. For over a half century they have journeyed as companions along the great highway of life, have seen their children grow up around them, have witnessed the transformation of wild stretches of prairie into cultivated fields, while comfortable homes have taken the place of the rude habitations of the early settlers. In his business dealings with his fellowmen Mr. Delaney has been ever fair and upright, never taking advantage of the necessities of others in any manner whatsoever. He has gained for himself an honorable name among men and a reputation for kindness and generosity that will live through the coming years. He enjoys the respect of all with whom business and social relations have brought him in contact and he takes just pride in what has been accomplished in the country, while at all times he has borne his full share in the work of general improvement.

THOMAS McQUEEN.

Thomas McQueen, now living retired, was for a long period closely associated with commercial interests in Spencer and his enterprise enabled him to reach the goal of prosperity. The business methods he has followed have ever commended him to the confidence and respect of all with whom he has been associated, for he has based his actions upon the rules which govern strict and unswerving integrity.

Mr. McQueen is numbered among the residents of Spencer that Scotland has furnished to the new world, his birth having occurred in Paisley on the 12th of September, 1841. His parents, David and Joanna (Atkinson) McQueen, were also natives of Scotland and the former was a son of John McQueen, who engaged in merchandising in Glasgow, where he died when well advanced in years. David McQueen became a clerk in the government service in the city of Paisley but the reports which he heard concerning the opportunities of the new world proved an irresistible attraction to him and with the hope of benefiting his financial condition he crossed the Atlantic to the United States and established his home in Fulton county, New York, where he had relatives living. He then turned his attention to farming and his remaining days were devoted to general agricultural pursuits, the community recognizing in him a valued and representative citizen. He died in the town of Perth, Fulton county, in 1851 when about forty-five years of age, while his wife passed away in 1878. They were members of the Presbyterian church and their salient characteristics were in harmony with those principles which work for righteousness, truth and justice.

Their family numbered ten children, six sons and four daughters, as follows: David, deceased; Ellen, the deceased wife of Alfred DeGraff; Miriam, the deceased wife of William Heath; John, a resident of York, Nebraska; Joan, the deceased wife of David Vandebogart; Thomas, of this review; Archibald, who makes his home in Wilmington, Illinois; Peter, who has also passed away; Jeannette, the widow of Orson Barker; and Alfred, of Braidwood.

Thomas McQueen was but a little child when his parents left the land of the crag and glen, of mountain peak and mountain lake, of lowland heath and plain, and sought a home beyond the seas. He was reared upon his father's farm in Fulton county, New York, early becoming familiar with the task of plowing, planting and harvesting. Through the summer months he assisted in the work of the fields and in the winter seasons attended the district schools, thus preparing for life's practical and responsible duties.

In 1861 he arrived in Illinois, being then a young man of twenty years. He located first at Wilmington in Will county, where he engaged in farming, but had scarcely made a start in his new location when he felt that his duty to his country was paramount to all else and in August, 1862, enlisted as a member of Company A, One Hundredth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until June, 1864. In the battle of Chickamauga he sustained two wounds. He participated also in the battles of Bardstown, Perryville, Stone River and the Tullahoma campaign, serving throughout the entire time as a private. He was a brave and loyal defender of the old flag and at length was honorably discharged on account of disability occasioned by his injuries. After the war he returned to Will county, Illinois, and resumed farming with his three brothers. There he carried on general agricultural pursuits until 1872, when the farm was sold and Thomas McQueen purchased a half interest in a grocery store in Wilmington. For eleven years he carried on that business but in 1883 disposed of his stock of groceries there and removed to Clay county, Iowa, where he resumed merchandising, having a stock of groceries, boots and shoes. He was thus identified with commercial interests in Spencer for four years, after which he established a coal office in the north end of town and also dealt in wood and farm implements. The new undertaking prospered and he continued the business with increasing success until about 1902, when with a handsome competence acquired through his well directed diligence he put aside further business cares and has since lived retired.

On the 9th of June, 1870, Mr. McQueen was married to Miss Helen A. Corbett, a daughter of Rufus and Mary Ann (Currier) Corbett. Mrs. McQueen was the first white child born in the town of Florence, Will county, Illinois, after the township organization was effected. On the 24th of January, 1904, at the age of fifty-six years, she passed away and her death was the occasion of deep regret to her many friends. Mr. McQueen was again married on the 15th of July, 1906, his second union being with Mrs. Etta Dye, the widow of A. M. Dye and a daughter of Loren Ellsworth. By her former marriage she had one son, Leon Dye, who married Alma Hoke and has two children, Leo and Olive.

Both Mr. and Mrs. McQueen attend the Congregational church and are prominent in the social circles of the city. Mr. McQueen belongs to Spencer Lodge, No. 247, I. O. O. F., and to Annett Post, G. A. R., of Spencer. Previously he had been affiliated with Bowen Post, No. 24, at Wilmington, Illinois, it being one of the first organized posts of the country. His political views have been in accord with the principles of the republican party since he attained his majority and he has always given loyal support thereto. Soon after his return from the war, while living in Illinois, he was elected tax collector and served on the school board for a number of years. After coming to Spencer he was

elected a member of the city council and also served for one term as mayor, his administration being characterized by a businesslike dispatch of his duties and by the utmost loyalty to the public good. He was appointed one of the three members of the soldiers relief commission and held that important office for nine years, embracing three successive terms. For a quarter of a century he has resided in Spencer, where he was known as a prosperous, enterprising and successful businessman until his retirement. He is yet regarded as one of the leading and valued citizens here, being held in high esteem for his manly bearing and his integrity of character.

JAMES ELDER.

James Elder, living on section 3, Sioux township, is one of the public-spirited citizens of his part of the county. He has lived here since 1882 and is a well known representative of the sons of Scotland who have sought the opportunities of the new world, bringing with them their national characteristics of thrift, perseverance and determination—qualities which are always of value in the attainment of success. Mr. Elder was born near Edinburgh, Scotland, June 11, 1845. His father, James Elder, Sr., was likewise a native of the same country and when he had attained his majority he was there married to Miss Jane Sibald, who was likewise born in the land of hills and heather. The father followed farming there and reared his family in that country. Both he and his wife remained residents of Scotland until called to the home beyond. Their son, Samuel Elder, still owns and operates the old home farm there, comprising one hundred and sixty acres.

James Elder of this review spent his youthful days in the land of the crag and glen, of mountain peak and mountain lake, of lowland heath and plain—a land celebrated as the home of liberty, poetry and song, whose heroes have honored Britain's flag on every field from Waterloo to Crimea and Lucknow. That land has been the ancestral home of many of America's brightest, best and most distinguished men. On his father's farm there James Elder remained until nineteen years of age. He pursued his education and then went to New Zealand, where he spent ten years in mining and sheep farming. When the decade had passed he returned to Scotland, where he continued for four or five years, engaging in farm work with his father.

It was in the spring of 1880 that Mr. Elder was married in his native land to Miss Anna Shaw, a Scotch lady, and soon afterward they crossed the Atlantic to the United States, making their way at once to Iowa. Their destination was Osceola and in that locality Mr. Elder engaged in farming for about three years, after which he removed to Clay county, where for six years he rented a farm. In the meantime he carefully saved his earnings so that at the end of that period he was enabled to purchase the place upon which he now resides. With characteristic energy he began to further cultivate and develop the property and has since erected a good substantial residence, large barn and outbuildings. He has also planted an orchard, set out a grove and many ornamental trees, and

has altogether made his farm a most neat and attractive property. In the fields are planted the cereals best adapted to soil and climate while in connection with the raising of grain he also raises and feeds hogs. He likewise conducts a dairy business and is a stockholder in the Dickens Creamery and the Farmers' Elevator at Spencer. His business interests are carefully managed and his investments judiciously made, so that he has become one of the substantial farmers of the community.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Elder have been born six children: Maggie, who was educated in Spencer and at Cedar Falls, is now a teacher in Clay township; Anne, also well educated, is engaged in teaching; James has started out in life for himself; Mary is likewise following teaching; and John and Robert are at home. They also lost one child, Jane, at the age of fifteen years.

Politically Mr. Elder is a staunch democrat, never faltering in his allegiance to the party. He has been a member of the school board and has also served for three years as township trustee. He has likewise been a delegate to county conventions and at all times he supports every measure that he believes calculated to promote general progress and improvement. That he has made good use of his time and opportunities is indicated in the fact that he is now the owner of a valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres which is carefully cultivated and well improved.

H. M. WILLIAMS.

H. M. Williams, prominent as an agriculturist and stockman in Logan township, is of English descent and a native of Iowa county, Wisconsin, born April 7, 1856. His grandfather, John W. Williams, was a prominent manufacturer in the old country and for many years operated a silk mill in London, England. His parents, John P. and Emma (Clarke) Williams, were also of English birth. The father, a native of London, went to Prince Edward Island when he was but fifteen years of age and in the year 1846 he repaired to the United States and located in Iowa county, Wisconsin, where he engaged in general farming, hauling the products of his farm to Milwaukee, a distance of one hundred and fifty miles. He was a carpenter by trade and to some extent carried on this occupation in connection with farming, and during the latter years of his life conducted a wagon shop and was well known as a skilled mechanic. In Iowa, while on a visit, he departed this life November 15, 1908. His wife, a native of Yarmouth, England, is now living in Iowa county, Wisconsin, on the old homestead. To her were born William L., a farmer of Gillett Grove, Clay county; Thomas R., who was a soldier in the Twenty-first Regiment Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry and received a wound during a battle, the effects of which eventually caused his death; Harriet, Jordon J. and B. C., all of whom are deceased; H. M.; Emma, widow of S. T. Roch, of Iowa county, Wisconsin; and Harriet M., deceased.

On his father's farm H. M. Williams was reared and there became familiar with the various departments of agricultural work, in the meantime attending the district schools, where he acquired his education. When sixteen years of age

Digitized by Google

he assumed the management of his father's lands, which embraced three-fourths of a section. He remained on the home farm until he was nineteen years old and then spent six months in Colorado, after which he came to Clay county in the fall of 1879 and located lands near Spencer. There he engaged at once in buying and shipping stock and during the first year his business amounted to something over one hundred and thirty-five thousand dollars. At that time, the railroad having passed through the place two years before, corn sold for seventeen cents a bushel; hogs brought two dollars and eighty-five cents a hundred weight; cows, one dollar and eighty-five cents a hundred weight; and steers, two dollars and forty cents a hundred weight. At these prices it obviously required quite a number of heads to net the sum of money which Mr. Williams handled during his initial venture in the stock trade but he entered the enterprise heavily with a view to conducting the business on a large scale and, as a result, was eminently successful in this line of trade which he followed for seventeen years. His next move was to Sioux township where he located an extensive tract of land which he cultivated for twelve years, at the expiration of which period he located in Logan township, where he is operating a farm containing one thousand acres for M. E. Griffen, of Spencer, Iowa.

Mr. Williams has always supported the republican party, his political convictions being the result of a candid study of the platforms of the several parties. While in Sioux township he served as trustee. Mr. Williams is a man whose genial disposition and honesty have won him the confidence and respect of his fellowmen and whose aggressiveness and industry have not only contributed to his own success and prosperity but have also enabled him to do much toward the general welfare.

WILLIAM J. DURANT, M. D.

Dr. William J. Durant is one of the well known and honored physicians of Clay county, following his profession in Spencer, where he holds to high ideals in practice and at all times conforms to a high standard of professional ethics. His service as a physician and surgeon is always performed with a sense of conscientious obligation and the general public has come to trust him fully, knowing that he is both zealous and capable in his chosen field of labor. A native of Jackson county, Iowa, Dr. Durant was born in Preston, October 11, 1869, and in the paternal line comes of English lineage. His grandfather, Samuel Durant, a native of England, was born in 1794 and came to America in early life and was married on this side of the water to Miss Alma Ferris, whose birth occurred in Vermont in 1800.

Their son, John Durant, was born in Cayuga county, New York, July 31, 1823, and was a little lad of six summers when in 1829 his parents removed to London, Canada, where they maintained their home until 1836, when they became residents of Michigan. The following year they removed to Illinois and in 1838 became residents of Van Buren township, Jackson county, Iowa, where John Durant entered land from the government. Iowa was at that time still under territorial rule and save along the Mississippi and other rivers was largely

uninhabited except by red men who yet found it a good hunting ground. Much of the youth of John Durant had been passed on the frontier and after coming to Iowa he assisted in the arduous task of developing the new farm. He had also learned the carpenter's trade and on his father's land he built a house which is still standing. The timbers were hewed by hand and the work was primitive but substantial in construction, as indicated in the fact that it is still one of the old landmarks of the neighborhood. The place was surrounded by a rail fence, the rails and posts being split by hand, and this too is a feature of the old homestead farm. Taking up the occupation of farming John Durant gave his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits and as the years passed brought his fields under a high state of cultivation and annually gathered rich crops, for which he found a ready sale on the market. As time passed and his financial resources increased he made other investments in land until he owned between three and four hundred acres in Jackson county, Iowa, and three quarter-sections near Pipestone, Minnesota. He had only a grammar school education but he was a man of good judgment and learned many valuable lessons in the school of experience and turned all the knowledge that he acquired to practical account. His political allegiance was given to the republican party and he held a number of township offices, the duties of which he discharged with promptness and fidelity. All who knew him respected him for his general worth, his progressive spirit and his loyalty to principles.

In 1851 John Durant was married to Miss Amanda Tompkins, who was born in Ohio, February 20, 1831, and was brought to Jackson county, Iowa, by her parents about 1844. The death of Mr. Durant occurred March 4, 1892, and on the 2d of July, of the same year, his widow also passed away, so that they were separated in death for only a brief period. They were the parents of eleven children: Mary, whose death was occasioned by falling down stairs when twenty-three years of age; Eliza, who became the wife of Albert Hanyen, of Michigan, and died in 1898; Alma, the wife of Henry Heberling, a resident of Santa Rosa, California; Albert, who is living on the old homestead in Jackson county, Iowa, the place having been deeded by the government to his father and from him passing to the son, so that it has never been out of possession of the family; Louis, who died at the age of twenty-eight years; George, a retired farmer living in Gordon, Wisconsin; Thomas, who for twelve years was principal of schools at Sumner, Iowa; Dr. Durant of this review; Charles, who died at the age of five years; May, who died in infancy; and Horace, who is living in Berrien county, Michigan.

Dr. Durant spent his boyhood days on his father's farm and at seventeen years of age entered the Upper Iowa University at Fayette, where for three years he pursued a literary course. He afterward engaged in teaching in the district schools and for seven years was principal of the schools at Washta, Iowa, but he regarded this merely as an initial step to further professional labor, his laudable ambition prompting him to prepare for the practice of medicine and surgery. With this in view he matriculated in the medical department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he was graduated with the class of 1902. Immediately afterward he came to Spencer, where he has since been located, and his thorough understanding of modern methods of practice, his

careful diagnosis of cases and his accurate application of remedial agencies have been the features which have brought to him a constantly growing practice. He is justly regarded as one of the prominent physicians of this part of the state and he remains a thorough and discriminating student of the profession, interested in everything that tends to bring to man the key to the complex mystery which we call life.

On the 1st of September, 1892, Dr. Durant was married in Cherokee, Iowa, to Miss VeNetta Fee, who was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, and is a daughter of William G. and Elizabeth (Welsh) Fee. Unto Dr. and Mrs. Durant have been born two interesting children, Elizabeth Amanda, whose birth occurred on September 8, 1895, and Winston John, born October 30, 1902.

The parents are members of the Congregational church and are prominent socially, the hospitality of the best homes of the community being cordially and continually extended them. In his political views Dr. Durant is a stalwart republican and, as every true American citizen should do, keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day. He has served the city as health officer and in all of his practice conforms to a high standard of professional ethics in putting forth every effort to prevent as well as to allay disease. In this connection he did good work as a health officer. He keeps in touch with the onward march of the profession through his membership in the Clay county, Iowa State and American Medical Associations. He is now widely recognized as a most able and progressive physician, one who is never content with his present achievements but is always reaching out to something broader and better in the field of his chosen labor and he thus makes steady advancement.

ALVERTUS B. RUSK.

Alvertus B. Rusk, a farmer and stockman of Freeman township, making stock shipments from Dickens, was born in Morgan county, Ohio, October 1, 1856. He is one of a family of ten children, eight sons and two daughters, whose parents were John and Nancy (Breese) Rusk, also natives of the Buckeye state. The former was a son of James Rusk, who was born in Ohio and devoted his life to general agricultural pursuits. He married a Miss Stansbury. They reared a family of eight children and lived to be more than eighty years of age. The maternal grandfather of Alvertus B. Rusk was Luke Breese, who was born in Virginia and on removing to Ohio cast in his lot with the early settlers of Morgan county, where he spent his remaining days, his death occurring when he was about ninety-two years of age. His wife bore the maiden name of Mary Hopkins and she, too, was very old when she died.

John Rusk was reared to farm life and determined to make agricultural pursuits his life work. His early training was thorough and well qualified him to take up the task of tilling the soil on his own account. In 1876 he removed from Ohio to Champaign county, Illinois, and purchased land near Rantoul. There he carried on general farming for some years, after which he retired and established his home in the village of Rantoul, where his last years were passed.

He served as a soldier for a short time during the Civil war and assisted in the capture of Morgan, the famous bushwhacker. He died in 1908 at the age of seventy-eight, while his wife passed away in 1885 when about fifty years of age. They were loyal to the teachings of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which they held membership and their many good traits of character made them people of the highest respectability. The members of their family were as follows: Alvertus B., of this review; Albert W. and Alvin H., both of whom are residents of Rantoul, Champaign county, Illinois; Violet J., the wife of Arthur Crane, of Rantoul; Ulysses G., of Arcola, Illinois; Mrs. Emily Baldin, of Arcola; John and William, both of whom have passed away; Thomas, who makes his home in Sherburn, Minnesota; and James Lucius, of Des Moines, Iowa.

On his father's farm in Morgan county, Ohio, Alvertus B. Rusk spent his youthful days and attended the district schools. In the school of experience he has also learned many valuable lessons and is today a well informed man. In 1876 he became a resident of Illinois, where he lived for six years and in 1882 he arrived in Iowa, locating in Spencer. Soon afterward he secured a situation on the farm of Dr. McAllister and when his industry and careful expenditure had brought him sufficient capital he began farming on his own account, making purchase of eighty acres of land in Summit township, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits for about ten years. He then sold that property and removed to the Hart farm south of Dickens, where he resided for a decade. He next took up his abode on the William Kenderdine farm in Freeman township south of Dickens, where he has now lived for the past five years. Here in addition to cultivating the soil and caring for his crops he also buys and ships stock, giving his attention partly to this business for ten years. Both branches of his undertaking are now proving profitable and he is well known as a farmer and stockman of Freeman township.

On the 20th of March, 1879, Mr. Rusk married Miss Laura C. Nicholson, who was born near Meadville, Pennsylvania, and is a daughter of John and Lydia (Trace) Nicholson. The five children of this marriage are Flora, Rosa, John, Olive and Blanche.

Mr. Rusk votes with the republican party and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day. He belongs to Dickens Lodge, No. 583, I. O. O. F., and his wife and children are all members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

GEORGE B. BENDER.

George B. Bender, starting in business life as a drug clerk, is now the owner of five different drug stores in Iowa, including the leading enterprise of this character in Spencer. As a business man he has a talent for leading—which is one of the highest attributes of men and a necessity in these days of close competition. He possesses, moreover, all the characteristics that assert their force in a resolute, positive character that results in the accomplishment of any work undertaken. Today he is numbered among the most prominent and successful

druggists of the middle west because of the extent and importance of the interests which he manages. Only about four years ago he was called the king druggist of the world, owning and operating more stores than any other individual in the world, according to the New York Pharmaceutical Era of July 25, 1904.

Mr. Bender is a native of Pennsylvania, his birth having occurred in York county, on the 1st of January, 1864. His grandfather was also born in the same state and served his country as a soldier of the war of 1812. His wife lived to be ninety years of age. Henry Bender, the father of George B. Bender, was born in the Keystone state, was there reared to manhood and eventually became well known in business circles. He figured prominently in the public life of the community because of his activity in political circles and at one time during the Civil war he served as county treasurer of York county. He married Lavina Brown, also a native of Pennsylvania. Her father was likewise a native of this state, having been a druggist in Berlin, Pennsylvania. Both he and his wife reached an advanced age, the latter being eighty-nine years of age when called to her final rest. The death of Henry Bender occurred when he was forty-six years of age. His wife long survived him. She was a member of the Congregational church at Spencer, Iowa, and in that faith reared her family numbering five sons and four daughters, of whom six are yet living, as follows: Sarah, the wife of J. Raffensparger, of Spencer; Theodore P., a resident of Los Angeles, California; Jacob C., William L., George B. and Fannie G., all residents of Spencer.

George B. Bender spent the first ten years of his life in York county, Pennsylvania, and began his education there. In 1874 he came to Spencer, Iowa, and here attended school, completing his course in 1879. The same year he entered business life, securing a clerkship in a drug store and in 1880, with I. B. McGrew, he took up the study of pharmacy. Later he went to South Dakota and engaged in the drug business at Plankinton, where he continued until 1886 when he returned to Spencer. For two years he conducted a grain business here and at Everly and for two years also engaged in railroad contract work, after which he returned to his original business pursuit and in 1890 established the Palace Pharmacy, which he conducted for sixteen years. On the expiration of that period he sold the store and since then has given his attention to his store farther north on Main street. At one time he had nine drug stores and he still owns five. He is thoroughly familiar with the drug trade, knows the demands and the wishes of the general public and, in carrying a large and well selected stock, has been able to meet the requirements of his trade. His business has developed along substantial, gratifying lines, leading to success.

In social relations Mr. Bender is connected with the Knights of Pythias and has served as colonel on the staff of the major general of the state of Iowa. He likewise belongs to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and to the Iowa State Pharmaceutical Society. His political views are in accord with the principles of the democratic party. He is quick, positive, exacting and comprehensive of every detail of affairs that comes within the scope of his business and in both determination and feeling is thoroughly representative of the ideas of progress in these days when men are called upon to act quick and think quicker. He meets

all men on an equal footing in his courtesy and shows no distinction between the man highest from lowest in the scale of human effort. While modestly inclined he is thoroughly aggressive in business and has made for himself a notable place in commercial circles in western Iowa.

CHANNING WELCH.

Channing Welch, who operates a large farm in Logan township, this county, devoting his time to general agricultural pursuits and stock-raising, was born in Blue Island, Illinois, March 5, 1860, a son of Rodney and Ebbie (Stephens) Welch. The ancestry were originally from Wales, whence they went to Scotland, then to England and finally located in the United States prior to the Revolutionary war, in which several of the members of the family took part. Rodney Welch was born and reared in Monmouth, Maine, and about the year 1852 located in Kentucky, where he remained for seven years, being principal of a seminary there. Later he took up his abode in Geneva, Illinois, where he remained for some time and then lived in Blue Island, that state, in both of which places he was a prominent educator and principal of the schools. Upon resigning this position in the latter place he went to Irvington, Illinois, where he became professor of chemistry. The latter years of his life were spent in Chicago, where he filled the chair of chemistry at the Chicago University, and upon resigning that position became editor of the *Prairie Farmer* and later of the *Chicago Times*, remaining with the latter for fifteen years. Mr. Welch was affiliated with a number of Chicago and New York papers and enjoyed enviable reputation both as a scholar and journalist. He acquired knowledge easily, had the advantages of higher education and was a graduate of Waterville College. After a long and useful career he departed this life in 1896, leaving a host of warm friends and admirers. He survived his wife, a native of the state of Maine, where they were united in marriage, by ten years. They reared the following family: Helen Medora, wife of M. C. Long, a general merchant of Geneva, Illinois; Martha T., a well known school teacher of Chicago, Illinois; James, who passed away in New York city in 1884; Henry B., a prominent contractor of Chicago, Illinois; and Channing.

In the public schools of Chicago, Illinois, Channing Welch received his preliminary education and after completing his studies there entered the high school, from which he was graduated. He then remained at home until twenty-one years of age, in the meantime spending three years as a clerk in a drug store, after which he decided to follow agricultural pursuits on account of his declining health. In 1881 he launched out in the venture at Manson, Calhoun county, Iowa, where for three years he successfully pursued farming, at the termination of which time, in the year 1884, he located on section 36, Logan township, Clay county, at first owning but a portion of the section but now possessing its entire acreage. The ground was in a wild state when Mr. Welch entered it and the excellent farm with its modern improvements is the result of his industry, perseverance and good management. At the time he entered the section the district was sparsely settled, his nearest neighbor being at a distance of four miles, and within the limits of

forty-two sections there were but nine voters to go to the polls on election day. The majority of the farmers who were located in Logan township at the time Mr. Welch settled there were well up in years, and now there is not a person alive who was in the locality when he arrived, so that he has the distinction today of being the oldest living settler here. Mr. Welch's farm is in excellent condition and worked by modern methods, and in addition to producing general crops he takes a special interest in stock-raising, particularly in breeding shorthorn cattle, of which he has one hundred and twenty-five head of the finest registered animals and also a number of head of Poland China hogs which are also of registered breeds. Sheep-raising also commands much of his attention and he raises a number of head annually which he feeds and makes ready for market. He is numbered among the most proficient and successful agriculturists and stock men in the township.

In 1899 Mr. Welch wedded Miss Bernice Huff and to this union were born John and Eleanor, twins, Rodney and Martha T. His political allegiance Mr. Welch gives to the democratic party and during national elections he is enthusiastic in his labors to aid the candidates of his party in securing the offices they seek. He enjoys an excellent reputation throughout the community for his industry, honesty and good judgment, and for fourteen years has been a trustee of the township school. His business affairs are carefully conducted and his substantial qualities make him a valued citizen as well as a prosperous business man.

GEORGE W. LAFURGE.

George W. Lafurge, who is numbered among the successful, enterprising and energetic agriculturists of Logan township, was born in Fayette county, Iowa, on the 22d of February, 1872, his parents being William and Lorena (Pratt) Lafurge. The father, a native of Prince Edward Island, came to the United States in an early day, first taking up his abode in Auburn, Iowa, and later removing to Windsor township, Fayette county, this state, where he continued to make his home until called to his final rest in 1874. Throughout his active business career he was engaged in general farming, meeting with a creditable measure of prosperity in his undertakings. His political allegiance was given to the republican party. His marriage was celebrated in Fayette county, Iowa, his wife being a daughter of Orren and Susan (Chesley) Pratt and a native of Bradford county, Pennsylvania, where her birth occurred February 26, 1841. The Lafurge family originally dwelt in France but later removed to England, where the name was spelled "Lefurgey," while subsequently the present spelling was adopted. Unto William and Lorena (Pratt) Lafurge were born seven children, namely: Homer, a farmer of Perry Oak; Frank, who was an agriculturist of Dexter, Iowa, and who passed away on the 8th of February, 1909; Ritta, the wife of William Burling, a farmer of Fayette county, Iowa; Hettie, the wife of Fred Mayo, who is likewise an agriculturist of Fayette county; George W., of this review; J. W., who is a twin brother of G. W. and carries on farming in Moody county, South Dakota; and William who is also engaged in farming in Moody county.

In the common schools of Fayette and Clay counties, George W. Lafurge acquired his education, having removed to the latter county when fourteen years of age to live with his uncle, Milt Pratt, with whom he remained for one year. Subsequently he worked by the month until he had attained the age of eighteen years, when his mother purchased a farm on section 35, Logan township, Clay county, and during the succeeding six years he assisted in its cultivation. On the 15th of November, 1900, he was united in marriage to Miss Lora Cramott, who was born in Iroquois county, Illinois, September 11, 1879, her parents being Charles G. and Mary Frances (Thomas) Cramott, the former a native of France. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cramott still survive, being residents of Moody county, South Dakota. Mrs. Lafurge has four sisters and one brother who are likewise living in Moody county. One of her sisters died in infancy. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Lafurge have been born three children: D. Wayne, Robert L. and Roy Lester.

Following his marriage Mr. Lafurge resided in Buena Vista county for two years and in 1903 went to Norman county, Minnesota. The following year he took up his abode on his mother's farm in Logan township, Clay county, where he has since continued to reside, being successfully engaged in its cultivation and improvement. The fields annually yield golden harvests in return for the care and labor which he bestows upon them and he is well known and highly esteemed throughout the community as a progressive agriculturist and public-spirited citizen. Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise he has supported the republican party at the polls, while fraternally he is connected with the Yeomen. Both he and his wife are well and favorably known here, the circle of their friends being almost coextensive with the circle of their acquaintances.

REV. NATHAN C. HARVEY.

Rev. Nathan C. Harvey is devoting his life to the work of the ministry in the Friends church and also to the conduct of farming interests on section 18, Gilletts Grove township. He took up his abode upon this farm in 1900 and is now cultivating a rich tract of eighty-eight and a half acres, pleasantly located about two miles from Greenville and six miles from Spencer. In his church relations he is a man of no restricted influence, for his zeal and interest in the work is proving an element in the moral development of the community and has gained for him the respect of all who have regard for the higher, holier duties of life. His circle of friends is so extensive that his history cannot fail to prove of interest to many of the readers of this volume. He was born in Hamilton county, Indiana, near Noblesville, on the 28th of December, 1837, and is a son of Caleb and Louise (Cook) Harvey, both of whom were natives of Indiana. The father was a son of William Harvey, a native of North Carolina, who established his home in Indiana when it was still a frontier state, giving little evidence of modern development and progress. He cast in his lot with the pioneer settlers of Wayne county and later removed to Hamilton county. He became a factor in its development when much of its land was still unclaimed and uncultivated, when its forests were uncut and its streams unbridged. He

assisted in the arduous task of reclaiming the wild land for the purposes of civilization and in the course of years became a thrifty farmer of his part of the state. He married Rachel Townsend, a native of Virginia, and both lived to an old age, rearing there a family of seven children. The Harveys are of English descent but little is known concerning the history of specific ancestors back of the grandfather. The Cook family is also of English lineage, and Nathan Cook, the maternal grandfather of the Rev. N. C. Harvey, was born in North Carolina. He learned and followed the cabinet-maker's trade and on leaving the south made his way to Indiana, becoming the head of the Friends church in that state. Later he removed to Wisconsin, spending his last days in Sauk county, where he died at about the age of sixty-six years. His wife, Mrs. Anna (Wickersham) Cook, died in middle life. Their family of eight children included Louisa Cook, who gave her hand in marriage to Caleb Harvey. The latter, in support of his family, followed the occupation of farming in Hamilton county, Indiana, where he settled at an early day. There he cleared a farm, brought his fields under a high state of cultivation and in connection with the raising of the cereals best adapted to soil and climate he also set out a fine orchard and raised much fruit. He was noted for his prowess as a hunter and had ample opportunity to indulge his skill in that direction, for deer, turkeys and other wild game were abundant in those days. During the early period of his residence in Indiana there were many sections of the state in which the civilization of the white race had wrought no change, for as yet the red men had been the only inhabitants. After following farming for some years in Hamilton county, during which period he assisted materially in its development and improvement, Mr. Harvey went to Wisconsin about 1859, settling in Sauk county. There he secured a tract of land and carried on general agricultural pursuits, while he also operated a grist mill on the Baraboo river. He continued there until about 1900, when he sold out and came to Iowa with the intention of living with his son but following the death of his son's wife, he returned to Hamilton county, Indiana, where his remaining days were passed, his death there occurring in 1902, when he was eighty-seven years of age. His wife died in 1899, at the age of eighty-two years, passing away on the sixty-seventh anniversary of her wedding day. They were both devoted members of the Friends church and their lives were in harmony with the teachings of that sect, which labors always for peaceful relations among men, for charitable opinion and for kindness of purpose. In community affairs Mr. Harvey figured as a representative and valued citizen, serving as township treasurer and in other town offices.

Nathan C. Harvey was reared in Indiana until twenty years of age and pursued his education in Bloomingdale Academy. The experiences of farm life early became familiar to him and through the assistance which he rendered his father he gained that broad and practical experience which constitutes a feature in his successful work as a farmer at the present time. The year 1857 witnessed his removal to Wisconsin, where for some years he engaged in farming, devoting the summer months to tilling the soil, while in the winter seasons he taught school for several terms and thus contributed to the educational progress of the community. Following the outbreak of the Civil war, when men of every walk

of life flocked to the standard of the Union, going from the workshops, the counting rooms, the fields and the offices, Mr. Harvey also joined the army and in 1863 became a member of Company H, Twelfth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. In January, 1864, he was mustered in, and participated in all of the battles in which his regiment took part. He was also with Sherman on the celebrated march to the sea and when with his comrades he met the enemy in battle array, he proved his loyalty to the Union by his valorous defense of the old flag. At the close of the war he was mustered out at Madison, Wisconsin. He had enlisted as a private but was promoted to corporal while at Atlanta, on the 22d of July. Among the engagements in which he participated were the battles of Peach Tree Creek, Jonesboro, Kenesaw Mountain, Savannah, and numerous skirmishes, and the story of military experience with all its attendant hardships and horrors is a familiar one to him.

When the war was over Mr. Harvey returned home with a most creditable military record, happy again to be with his family. He had been married on the 22d of October, 1856, to Miss Mary M. Kersey, a daughter of Stephen and Jenima (Leonard) Kersey. After the war the family lived on a farm in Wisconsin and in connection with the tilling of the soil Mr. Harvey operated a sawmill. He owned two hundred acres of land in the Badger state, and with characteristic energy gave his attention to the task of making it a productive and valuable property.

Mrs. Harvey was born in Parke county, Indiana, while her parents were natives of North Carolina. By her marriage she became the mother of five sons and three daughters: Clementine, now the deceased wife of E. M. Horine; Wilson B., who is a carpenter living in San Jose, California; George L., a carpenter residing in Greenville, Iowa, who married Lillie Collier, who passed away during the infancy of their only child, Nathan C.; Anna L., who became the wife of Stephen Davis, and died leaving three of their five children, Ethel, Bertha and Esther; Mary Ellen, the wife of Alfred Hanson, of Newburg, Oregon, by whom she has several children, including Edward, Nellie and Willis; Horace G., of Sauk county, Wisconsin, who wedded Mary Mortimer, and has four children: Caleb, Lemmie, Mamie and Zella; Edward, whose home is in San Jose, California, and who married Rose Snider, by whom he has five children: Mattie, George, Myra, Jennie and Bud; and Jesse, of Zimmerman, Minnesota, who married Cora Kinser and has four children: Lawrence, Clara, Bessie and Dewey.

In 1897 the family were called upon to mourn the loss of the wife and mother, who passed away on the 19th of September, of that year, at the age of fifty-nine. She, too, was a member of the Society of Friends and her life was in harmony with its teachings. In the meantime the family had become residents of Iowa, removing to this state in the spring of 1887, after which the Rev. Mr. Harvey preached for the Greenville church and also at the Fisk schoolhouse and at Riverton, devoting six years to the ministry in those places. He had been ordained to the ministry in the Friends church in 1886 and has since been an earnest worker in behalf of this denomination. In 1900 he removed to his present farm on section 18, Gillett Grove township. Here he at first had eighty acres of land and now has eighty-eight and a half acres, constituting a well improved

and highly cultivated farm, pleasantly situated near Greenville. Everything about the place is indicative of his careful supervision and practical methods. In politics he is a democrat and while in Wisconsin served as supervisor of his township and also helped to locate the county poor farm in Sauk county. His life has been characterized by all that is honorable and upright in every relation and his genuine personal worth has gained for him the friendship not only of people of his denomination but of other religious faiths as well.

P. H. BOLAND.

4

Among the young men who are engaged with the plow in turning the soil of the Iowa prairies to their advantage and converting apparently barren lands into fertile fields is P. H. Boland, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Logan township, Clay county. He was born in Allamakee county, Iowa, March 17, 1870. Reared to farm life he is familiar with every phase and department of the business and his youthful energy and enterprise are fast finding wealth in the soil and leading him along the pathway of success to prosperity. He is of Irish extraction, possessing the zeal and characteristic grit of those of his nation, his parents being Michael and Anne (O'Connor) Boland, his mother having married and died in Iowa. His father came from Galway county, Ireland, to the United States in the early '50s, locating in New York city, where he remained for a brief period and then removed to Galena, Illinois, thence to Allamakee county, this state, where he remained until 1879 and then located in Webster county, where he still resides, living a retired life. Prior to locating in Webster county he successfully followed general agriculture and stock-raising for a number of years, but later engaged as section foreman on a railroad, which he followed up to the time of his retirement. He reared a large family, the surviving members being Daniel, a railroad contractor, of Pierre, South Dakota; Joseph, who resides in Washington, and P. H., our subject. Some time after his wife had departed this life Mr. Boland was united in marriage to Miss Anne O'Brien, to which union were born Thomas F., a railroad engineer of Fort Dodge, Iowa; Martin H., a baker of Vancouver, British Columbia; and Eleanor, who lives in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Two children passed away early in life.

Nothing unusual transpired in the early life of P. H. Boland. He was reared on his father's farm and engaged in the daily routine of country lads, attending the district schools during the winter, where he acquired his education. He continued in active farm work until he was twenty-three years of age, when he became employed on the railroad, remaining for three years, at the termination of which time he went to Fort Dodge and established himself in the livery business. He had not continued long in this enterprise when, deeming that there were larger opportunities in agriculture, he disposed of his interest and took up farming. Six years ago he removed to Clay county and located on section 26 in Logan township, where he owns one hundred and sixty acres of highly cultivated land upon which he has since resided. He does a general agricultural business and engages to some extent in raising horses, cattle and sheep. His

farm is well kept, having a comfortable residence and all the necessary buildings and machinery. He has a number of head of graded stock and makes a specialty of breeding Chester White hogs, their superior quality being known throughout the country. In addition to general farming and other interests Mr. Boland owns stock in the Farmers' Elevator at Ayrshire.

In 1897 Mr. Boland wedded Miss Mary E. Hale, a native of Shiocton, Wisconsin, her birth occurring October 24, 1875, a daughter of Sanford and Rose (O'Neil) Hale. Her father was born in eastern Massachusetts and located in Delavan, Wisconsin, about the year 1871, from which place he subsequently went to Shiocton, Wisconsin, there holding the position of foreman in a lumber mill, and where he died. They had one child, Mary E. After the death of her husband Mrs. Hale wedded Thomas Byrne, in 1884, and they have one child, George F. They reside about nine miles from Fort Dodge. To Mr. and Mrs. Boland have been born the following children: Valeria, ten years of age; Marie, who is passing her sixth year; and Georgia, who is four years old. Mr. Boland gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and belongs to the Catholic church in Ayrshire. He is a man whose enterprise and honesty have gained him a good reputation throughout the community and he is numbered among the progressive and substantial citizens of the township.

WILLIAM F. GALLAHER.

William F. Gallaher, one of the practical, progressive and prosperous farmers of Sioux township living on section 33, was born in Clearfield county, Pennsylvania, on the 22d of February, 1832. He was ten years of age at the time of his parents' removal westward in 1842, to Ogle county, Illinois. There the father opened up a new farm, becoming owner of two hundred and forty acres of rich and productive land. Upon that place he reared his family but later sold the property and came to Iowa, settling in Pottawattomie county, where he spent the last years of his life. He was numbered among the worthy and respected residents of the community and thus his death, which occurred in 1895, was the occasion of deep and widespread regret. His wife had passed away about two years before.

William F. Gallaher was reared on the old home farm in Ogle county, Illinois, and after mastering the elementary branches of learning taught in the common schools he had the advantage of intellectual training in a higher school. His work on the home farm also qualified him for the active duties and labors of later life. He was married on the 1st of January, 1855, to Miss Louisa Richard, who was born and reared in New York. Thus having made arrangements to establish a home of his own he settled on a farm in Ogle county, becoming owner of two hundred acres of land, which he carefully tilled until he brought the fields under a high state of cultivation. For some time he resided upon that place but later sold out and removed to Lee county, Illinois, where he again purchased a tract of land. He made it his home for a few years and then disposed of the property prior to his removal to Iowa, where he invested in a half section upon which he now resides. It was in 1896 that he took up his

abode on his present farm which is located on section 33, Sioux township, comprising the north half of the section. It is pleasantly and conveniently located near Spencer, so that the advantages of city life are easily obtainable. When he took possession of the place there was a small house upon it and only a little portion of the land was cultivated. With the indefatigable energy which has characterized him at all times, he took up the task of further developing the property and the result of his labors is today seen in a valuable farm on which none of the accessories and conveniences of agricultural life in the twentieth century are lacking. He replaced the little dwelling with a good two-story residence. There is also a large barn and substantial outbuildings, while on this land of almost boundless prairie is a fine grove of evergreen, Scotch pines and cedars, forming a most attractive feature in the landscape. He has also put out a good orchard which is just coming into bearing. His fields, too, produce abundant crops and he raises good grades of stock and also feeds considerable stock for sale.

In 1906 Mr. Gallaher was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who passed away in that year. There are two living children of that marriage: Adella, now the wife of Charles G. Grant, of Portland, Oregon; and Grant, who married Miss Carrie Dennis, a native of Illinois, but reared in this state. He is now carrying on the home farm with his father and is an enterprising young business man. Unto him and his wife have been born three children: Glen and William, who are students in the home school; and Louisa.

Mr. Gallaher has been a republican from the organization of the party. He cast his first presidential ballot for John C. Fremont in 1856 and has never failed to endorse the nominees of the party at the head of the ticket since that time. In Ogle county, Illinois, he served for three terms as assessor and in Lee county, Iowa, capably served as justice of the peace for several years. He was elected township trustee in 1901, was afterward reelected and has now continued in office for six years, discharging his duties in a manner creditable to himself and satisfactory to his constituents. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity and while in Illinois served as junior warden of his lodge. He has made his home in this county for more than twelve years and is well known in Spencer and throughout this part of the state. His activity in business and his devotion to the public welfare have made him a valued citizen who has been closely associated with the development and prosperity of Clay county. His life in its varied relations has won for him a creditable place in the regard of his fellowmen and his example in business life is well worthy of emulation, showing what industry and determination may accomplish.

DAVID O. JONES.

For many years general farming and stock raising have commanded the attention of David O. Jones, who resides in Royal, Clay township, this county, where he bears the reputation of being an enterprising and up-to-date citizen as well as one of the most substantial and highly respected farmers. He was born in Dodge county, Wisconsin, November 13, 1847, a son of Owen B. and

Anne (Edwards) Jones, the parents being natives of Wales. The father came to the United States in 1841 and located in Wisconsin, where he took up land and engaged in farming and in that state he is now living retired at the age of eighty-six years. Throughout his long life he has always supported the republican party, his allegiance to its principles being such that he has never had any inclination to become disloyal to his party. He is also gifted with the high religious nature common to the Welsh people, being a zealous Christian, and all his life he has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He was married in Wisconsin and his wife departed this life in the year 1893 in Columbia county, that state, where her remains were laid to rest. They reared a family of six children: John O., a farmer of Howard county, Iowa; Edward O., who follows the same pursuit in Fillmore county, Minnesota; Owen O., a carpenter of Dodge county, Wisconsin; Ann, who became the wife of Robert Lewis, a farmer of Fillmore county, Minnesota; Mary, wife of John Williams, who lives on a farm in Columbia county, Wisconsin; and David O., the subject of this review.

After acquiring his education in the district schools of Dodge county, Wisconsin, David O. Jones remained at home with his father and assisted in the duties of the farm for about four years when he repaired to Louisa county, Iowa, and there engaged in farming for one year. In 1871 he came to Clay township, this county, where he took up eighty acres in section 18, cultivating this land until 1890, when he removed to his present farm of four hundred acres in sections 18, 8 and 7.

His property is highly improved, composed of the best quality of soil, provided with two sets of substantial buildings and is acknowledged to be one of the finest farms in Clay township. He and his son are the owners of a quarter section in Murray county, Minnesota. He devotes most of his acreage to producing hay and grain but also pays some attention to stock raising, keeping on hand some of the best breeds of horses and cattle, feeding the latter for marketing.

In March of the year 1873, he wedded Miss Rachael Williams, a native of Louisa county, Iowa, and a daughter of Richard and Anne (Arthur) Williams, natives of Wales, her father having come to the United States at an early date. He settled in the county of her nativity and remained there actively engaged in farming until his death. Her mother, who still lives in Louisa county, Iowa, came to this country when she was thirteen years of age and was twice married, the first time to Richard Williams, by whom she had two daughters: Mary, wife of Hupling Richard, an agriculturist of Louisa county; and Rachael, the mother of Mrs. Jones. To her second union were born: William, of Colorado, where he operates a ranch; and Lewis, a banker of Louisa county, Iowa; and one daughter, Jane, who became the wife of John Pugh, a ranch owner of Carson county, Colorado. Mr. and Mrs. Jones had three children, two of whom died in infancy. The son, John O., married Celia Richards. In politics Mr. Jones gives his allegiance to the republican party, to which he has been loyal since casting his first vote and he has served for the past eight years as trustee of Clay township. He is a man of high morals and noble purposes, and considering his religious obligations his first duty in life, he and his wife attend

divine services at the Methodist Episcopal church, of which they are liberal supporters. Mr. Jones is an energetic man, having always been inspired by the spirit of progress, and his long years of success and his present prosperity are due to his own exertions.

RICHARD G. HEIKENS.

Richard G. Heikens is one of the extensive landowners of Clay county, his holdings aggregating seven hundred and twenty acres, while in addition his wife owns two hundred acres. The home place is situated on section 6, Summit township, and comprises five hundred and sixty acres. The entire farm is under cultivation and the place presents a neat and attractive appearance, indicating to the passerby the careful supervision and thorough methods of the owner. Mr. Heikens is one of Iowa's native sons and the state has reason to be proud of his record, for he is an energetic, enterprising business man, who carefully controls his individual interests and at the same time is not unmindful of his duties to the public through the relations of citizenship.

Mr. Heikens was born in Grundy county, Iowa, December 20, 1866. His father, George Heikens, was a native of Germany, in which country he spent the days of his boyhood and youth. At length the reports which he heard concerning the favorable opportunities of the new world proved an irresistible attraction, and crossing the briny deep, he became a resident of De Kalb county, Illinois, establishing his home near Forester. Later he removed to Grundy county, Iowa, where he purchased land and opened up a farm. There as his financial resources increased he added to his property until at one time he owned over two thousand acres. His investments were judiciously made and as the years passed he prospered through the wise direction of his business interests. In Grundy county he was united in marriage to Miss Anna Riekna, also a native of Germany. Mr. Heikens spent his last days on the home farm in Grundy county, his death there occurring in June, 1901. His family numbered twelve children, eight sons and four daughters, all of whom reached mature years and with one exception all married and reared families.

Richard G. Heikens, whose name introduces this review, spent the days of his boyhood and youth upon the home farm in Grundy county and pursued his education in the schools of the neighborhood. His training at farm labor was not meager. He assisted materially in the development of his father's land and remained at home until twenty-five years of age, when he married and started out in life on his own account. It was on the 11th of March, 1891, that he wedded Miss Ettie Arends, a native of Michigan, who was reared in Belmont, Iowa. They began their domestic life upon the farm where they still reside. It is situated on section 6, Summit township and is a valuable property. Mr. Heikens commenced here with only one hundred and sixty acres, which at that time was unimproved, but he broke the sod and after turning the furrows planted the seed that in due course of time brought forth abundant harvests. Carefully conducting his farming interests, he prospered in his undertakings and from

time to time added to his place all the modern improvements. He built a commodious two-story frame residence in modern style of architecture and it is now tastefully and comfortably furnished. He also built a good barn and other substantial outbuildings, so that his grain, stock and farm machinery are carefully protected from the inclement weather. He has likewise set out an orchard and grove and many evergreens and other ornamental trees adorn the place and add much to its attractive appearance. Mr. Heikens inherited his first quarter section of land and has since purchased other property until the home place now comprises five hundred and sixty acres and in addition he owns one hundred and sixty acres, all under cultivation. His wife also inherited one hundred and forty acres adjoining his place and afterward bought sixty acres more, so that the family possessions comprise eight hundred and eighty acres, all of which is well improved and returns a gratifying income in reward for the cultivation which is bestowed upon the fields. He annually has large corn crops and also raises other cereals. He likewise feeds and raises cattle and hogs, feeding from fifty to two hundred and eighty head of stock annually and shipping about a carload of hogs. He likewise breeds and raises high grade horses, owns a Percheron and also a registered Belgium stallion and a mammoth jack. His efforts have likewise been extended to commercial lines and he now owns and conducts a general store at Fostoria and likewise handles farm machinery and hardware. He began this business about 1902 and has since built up a good trade. He employs several clerks and has an efficient manager at the head of the store, to which he also gives general supervision.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Heikens has been blessed with three sons and two daughters: Rose, a student in the Spencer high school; Minnie, Robert G., John Arends and Lee R., all yet under the parental roof. The family circle yet remains unbroken by the hand of death.

In politics Mr. Heikens is independent, supporting men and measures rather than party and yet in all matters of citizenship he is progressive, giving to affairs of local moment his earnest endorsement and cooperation. He belongs to the Evangelical church and both he and his wife are held in high esteem throughout the community, having an extensive circle of friends. His business enterprise has carried him into important public relations and he has taken a most active and helpful part in the development of the northern portion of the county and is widely and favorably known in adjacent counties as well.

FRED McKEE.

Fred McKee, owning and operating a well improved and valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 22, Logan township, has also been engaged in threshing throughout his active business career. He was born in Missouri on the 16th of June, 1872, a son of David and Lorana (Goodenough) McKee. The father was a native of Stephenson county, Illinois, born February 17, 1847, while the mother's birth occurred in Dane county, Wisconsin, March 15, 1852. Their marriage was celebrated at Montezuma, Iowa, on the 14th of September, 1871.

David McKee was reared in Illinois but subsequently removed to Iowa, later went to Missouri and after a time he again made his way to this state. On the 13th of November, 1863, he enlisted for service in the Union army as a member of Company B, Forty-sixth Illinois Regiment, and, when the country no longer needed his aid, was honorably discharged on the 20th of January, 1866. He followed general farming as a life work and passed away March 3, 1902, his demise being the occasion of deep regret to many friends as well as his immediate family. His widow still survives and is now a resident of Idaho. Unto this worthy couple were born four children, namely: Fred, of this review; Blanch, the wife of John Beguin, who is engaged in farming near Idaho Falls, Idaho; Nellie, the wife of Anton Heyrend, who also follows farming near Idaho Falls; and Frankie, the wife of Fred Anderson, a miller of Idaho Falls.

Fred McKee attended school in Humboldt county, Iowa, and also in Brooklyn, this state. On putting aside his text-books he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits and for five years followed farming in Humboldt county. At the end of that time he came to Clay county, in 1898, and has since been engaged in the cultivation and development of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres which he owns on section 22, Logan township. He has erected the buildings on the property, has tilled the land and equipped the farm with many modern improvements and in his undertakings has met with that measure of prosperity which is ever the reward of earnest, persistent effort when guided by sound judgment and keen discrimination. Since the age of thirteen years he has also been engaged in threshing, now possessing a complete line of threshing machinery, and this branch of activity has added not a little to his income.

In 1894 Mr. McKee was united in marriage to Miss Mattie Battles, a daughter of Charles Battles, a native of New York, who for five years served as a soldier of the Civil war in Company B, Twenty-sixth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. During his military career he was incarcerated in Libby prison for a time. His death occurred in Missouri, September 27, 1907.

In his political views Mr. McKee is a staunch republican and has served as assessor of Logan township. He attends the Methodist Episcopal church and fraternally is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Ayrshire. The success which has attended his labors well entitles him to recognition among the prosperous, enterprising and representative citizens of the community and his many sterling traits of character have won him the warm friendship and regard of those with whom he has come in contact.

JAMES E. STEELE.

James E. Steele was born in Belmont county, Ohio, in September, 1849. He remained there until he reached the age of twenty years. While residing in Ohio he attended the common schools and then for quite a period was a student of Hopedale Academy. He taught school several years. He visited different parts of Pennsylvania and spent considerable time in that state. In 1869 he came to Iowa and located in Louisa county, and subsequently went to Clinton

and was bookkeeper for a large wholesale establishment for several years. Resigning this position, he accepted a similar one with the Peoria & Rock Island Company, and remained there one year. His aptitude and preference for the legal profession led him to resign this position and prepare himself for that vocation. He entered the law office of Hon. W. H. H. Hart, of DeWitt, now of Clinton, and an attorney of national prominence. Here he applied himself closely and attentively to reading and studying the principles of law and rules of practice. Then, as now, he was a very close student and gave his studies his undivided attention, mastering slowly and carefully every knotty problem of the fundamental principles of the law of the country. When having completed the required number of years of reading, and being sufficiently versed in law, he applied for admission, and after a vigorous and exacting examination, he entered the active work of a practitioner at the bar. He came to Spencer in 1878 and soon after opened an office, and since that date has been in continuous practice at the Clay county bar in Spencer.

Mr. Steele is now the oldest resident practicing lawyer in Spencer. He has been very successful in his profession and enjoys a lucrative practice from a varied clientele. He is methodical in his business, prudent in all his affairs and honorable in his dealings. He is extremely cautious in giving an opinion, but when once given it is safe to conclude that the law will verify him in his utterances. As an office lawyer has no superior in Spencer or in Clay county. He is modest and somewhat retiring in his manner but an extensive reader and an inveterate student. His knowledge of the law is broad and comprehensive and the positions he takes in a case are in the main tenable. He was city recorder for three years and has held other positions of trust. He was married on the 9th of July, 1873, to Miss Maggie Craig. This union was blessed with one child, a daughter, Florence, now deceased.

JOHN J. SKALITZKY.

John J. Skalizky, who follows general farming on section 33, Waterford township, his place of one hundred and twenty acres yielding to him a substantial annual revenue, is a native of Bohemia. He was born on the 18th of December, 1867, and the first eighteen years of his life were passed in the land of his nativity upon a farm on which he gained thorough knowledge of farming methods as practiced in that land. His educational opportunities were those afforded by the common schools of that country. From time to time reports reached him concerning the business opportunities of the new world. Imbued with the laudable ambition that prompts young men to start out in search of fortune, he bade adieu to friends and native country and sailed to the United States in 1885. Landing at New York, he did not tarry in the east but made his way at once to the Mississippi valley and soon afterward procured employment on a farm in Stephenson county, Illinois. There he worked by the month for a number of years, during which time he carefully saved his earnings in the hope of one day

becoming the owner of a farm. In 1893 he removed from Illinois to Iowa and two years were passed in Lynn county, after which he came to Clay county. Here he has resided continuously since 1895. He had previously visited the county in 1894 and had purchased one hundred and twenty acres on which he is still living. Following his return he took up his abode upon this farm and has continuously made his home on section 33, Waterford township. That he has not been idle is indicated in the well kept appearance of his place. When he first came here he lived in a little shanty, but as soon as he was able to earn sufficient capital to do so, he built a more commodious and substantial residence. He has used every opportunity to improve his place, has set out a grove and orchard, has built a barn, granary and hog house, and has added other improvements which are indicative of his progressive spirit, his determination and his unfaltering energy. Today his farm of one hundred and twenty acres is a well developed property that is the visible evidence of his thrift and enterprise. He is also well known because of his live-stock interests, for he raises, feeds and fattens stock and annually sells a large number of hogs which command good prices on the market.

In Linn county Mr. Skalitzky celebrated Christmas day of 1894 by his marriage to Miss Minty Houts, who was born in that county and spent her girlhood days near Cedar Rapids, in which locality she acquired her education. Her father, James Houts, was a native of Pennsylvania and on his removal west he settled in Stephenson county, Illinois, where he married a Miss Price who, although born in the Keystone state, was reared in Illinois. Subsequently he removed with his family to Linn county, Iowa, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits. Mrs. Skalitzky has been of great assistance to her husband in his business career, carefully and ably managing the household affairs while he has controlled the work of the fields. Unto them have been born three sons and a daughter, Raymond, Leroy, Francis and Beatrice. The parents are devoted and faithful members of the Everly Methodist Episcopal church, in which Mr. Skalitzky is serving as a trustee. They are much interested in the church work and the extension of its influence and their lives are in harmony with their professions. Mr. Skalitzky votes with the republican party but has no desire for office as a reward for party fealty. As the architect of his own fortune, he has builded wisely and well. He recognizes that the invariable law of destiny accords success to tireless industry when it is guided by sound judgment, and year after year he has carefully labored to win a substantial position in business circles that he might give to his children a comfortable home and such advantages as would well qualify them for life's practical and responsible duties.

ANDREW J. GOODELL.

Andrew J. Goodell, a railway postal clerk living in Spencer, was born in Erie county, New York, September 16, 1845, a son of John M. and Hannah (Baldwin) Goodell, who were natives of New Hampshire and Vermont, respectively, and parents of the following children: William and Tirzah A., both deceased; Mary Jane, wife of A. K. Frain, of Chicago; Caroline, deceased; and

Andrew J. John M. Goodell went to Illinois at an early day and kept a hotel in Somonauk, DeKalb county, where he departed this life when seventy-five years old. His wife, who was a member of the Christian church passed away in Spencer, October 29, 1896, at the age of ninety-one years. Theophilus Baldwin, the maternal grandfather, a farmer and native of Vermont, died at the age of sixty-eight years. His wife, Hannah (Mann) Baldwin was also long-lived. To this union were born five children, three of whom died early in life, while John P. attained the age of eighty years, and Mrs. Hannah Goodell was ninety-one years.

In New York state Andrew J. Goodell lived until he was twelve years old, the first seven years being spent in Erie county and the remaining five in Cayuga county, in both of which places he attended the district schools and assisted his father in the work of the farm. When fifteen years of age he left home and, starting out in the world for himself, he secured employment at which he remained until he was sixteen years and eleven months old, when he enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Thirteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, in which he served as a private soldier from August, 1862, until June, 1865. He took part in the following battles: Arkansas Post, Price's Crossroads, Eastport, Alabama, and a number of skirmishes. At the close of the war he was united in marriage and removed to Buchanan county, Iowa, but after four years' residence there he repaired to Clay county and settled on one hundred and sixty acres of land, situated six miles north of Spencer, which he cultivated for a period of fifteen years. Giving up agriculture, he engaged in railroad grading for two years and during that time assisted in building the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad and for the past twenty years he has been in the railway mail service.

On February 22, 1866, Mr. Goodell wedded Miss Ceressa Elderkin, who passed away in 1887, leaving her husband and six children, namely: L. T., William and Stella, deceased; Harry M.; Eva; and Howard in Hartley, a printer by trade but now farming in Burnett county, Wisconsin, where he resides with his children: Naomi, Mary, and Helen, wife of Frank Goodale, the couple living three miles west of Spencer, with their children: Star and Mary; Howard, served four years in the United States navy and now resides at Hartley, Iowa. On June 16, 1891, Mr. Goodell was again united in marriage to Grace M. Wood, daughter of Norman H. and Harriet M. (Wilcox) Wood. Mr. and Mrs. Goodell belong to the First Congregational church. He is a member of Evening Shade Lodge, No. 312, A. F. & A. M.; Clay Chapter, No. 112, R. A. M.; Evening Shade Chapter, No. 116, of the Eastern Star, of which his wife is also a member; and Annett Post, G. A. R. Politically Mr. Goodell gives his support to the republican party. He resides at No. 347 West Third street, where he owns an attractive home.

SAMUEL GILLESPIE.

Samuel Gillespie was born near Lafayette, Indiana, June 17, 1843. He continued to live in that part of the country until 1869, when he went to the Pacific coast and spent there two years in teaching. He came to Clay county, Iowa, in the spring of 1871, locating in Peterson and assisting in the publication

of the Clay County News, the first permanent paper published in the county. The fall of 1871 he moved to Spencer, with the newspaper with which he was connected, and has since continued to reside there, devoting most of the intervening years to work on the News.

M. B. SWIFT.

Since the spring of 1882 M. B. Swift has lived in Clay county. He came to this locality in the full strength of his manhood, realizing the opportunities of life, and imbued with a determination to make the most of his chances. He now lives on section 20, Meadow township, and the farm of eighty acres which he owns is devoted to the cultivation of grain, to the raising of stock and to the conduct of a dairy business. It is now a well improved property.

Mr. Swift was born in Allegany county, New York, August 10, 1851, and the days of his boyhood and youth were there passed, while advantages offered by the common schools enabled him to become familiar with those branches of learning which are regarded as essential as a preparation for life's practical duties. He cannot remember his father, Zipha Swift, for he was left an orphan at a very early age and has had to depend upon his own resources since the age of eight years. He worked by the month for some years and this period was one of earnest and unremitting toil. In 1881 he made his way westward to Illinois, going first to Woodstock, McHenry county, where for one year he worked on a farm belonging to an uncle. In the spring of 1882 he came to Iowa and again was employed at farm labor by the month in Clay county. He did similar work in North Dakota and in 1883, with the capital which he had saved from his earnings, he purchased the place upon which he now resides and began to till and improve the farm. He has since fenced the place, has erected substantial buildings, has set out considerable fruit and now has an excellent property. His residence, the barn, and the outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock were also erected by him, and he is numbered among the active and progressive farmers of the community. He raises stock, making a specialty of raising and fattening hogs, and he also conducts a dairy business and keeps a large number of cattle. He is likewise a stockholder in the Langdon Cooperative Creamery and also in the Fostoria Elevator Company. His business affairs have been carefully managed and his capable control of his interests has brought him well merited success.

On the 2d of August, 1884, in Clay county, Iowa, Mr. Swift was married to Miss Elizabeth Owen, who was born in Dupage county, Illinois, and is a daughter of Charles Owen, who was a farmer of Dupage county but became an early settler of Clay county and located a homestead in Meadow township. Mrs. Swift was only eight or ten years of age when she came to Iowa with her parents. Here she was reared, continuing her education in the schools of Spencer, and prior to her marriage she engaged in teaching. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Swift have been born four sons but only two are now living, Roy D. and Coy N., who are assisting their father in carrying on the home farm. They lost their first born, Samuel, in infancy, while their youngest child, Claud, also died when a babe.

Mr. Swift is a Mason, holding membership in the lodge at Spencer and in his life he exemplifies the beneficent spirit of the craft. His study of the political questions of the day has led him to believe that the republican party contains the best elements of good government and he gives to it his support where national issues are involved. At local elections, however, he votes independently, nor will he consent to hold office. He is a man of high business principles, thoroughly reliable in all his trade transactions and to his unflagging industry and well directed effort may be attributed the success that he has attained.

F. D. WAGGONER.

F. D. Waggoner, a substantial farmer and highly respected citizen of Logan township, this county, where he is proprietor of a large farm upon which he engages in general agriculture and stock-raising, is a native of Allen county, Kansas, where his birth occurred November 22, 1873, and a son of Levi Addison and Fanny Rachel (Jerrett) Waggoner, his father being a native of Ashtabula, Ohio, who located in Allen county, Kansas, in 1859, later removing to Neosho county, this state, where he still resides, carrying on farming together with work at the carpenter trade. His wife was born near Cumberland, Kentucky, and they were married in Kansas, where they are still living. They were parents of the following children: Frank, a bookmaker at the race track in Oakland, California; Joseph F., who is an agriculturist in Neosho county, Kansas, and is the twin brother of the subject of this review; Lydia, who became the wife of Henry Thurnian, who engages in general farming and stock-raising in Neosho county, Kansas; Harry, railroad engineer, who resides at Chanute, Kansas; Effie, who is united in marriage with Russ Perry, a farmer in Neosho county, Kansas; Fannie, wife of Harvey McConnell, a well driller who lives in Chanute, Kansas; Levi, a merchant living in Petrolia, Allen county, Kansas; and F. D.

The common schools afforded F. D. Waggoner his education, after acquiring which he remained at home until he was eleven years of age, at which period of his life he was employed by an uncle, with whom he remained for three years and then went to the Indian Territory, from which place he made an extensive tour of the west and returned to his native state, remaining there until 1901. He then came to this county and assumed the management of a farm owned by G. M. Dyer, the farm consisting of five hundred acres, but within five years he left this position and came to Logan township, locating on section No. 32, where he has since remained carrying on a general agricultural business and in addition paying some attention to stock-raising.

On September 22, 1905, Mr. Waggoner was united in marriage to Miss Emma Hurley, daughter of John and Nancy Catherine (Fritz) Hurley. Her father is a native of Indiana, now operating a farm in Wilson county, Kansas, where he resides with his wife. They had the following children: Isaiah McAllen, of Minnesota; Jeannette Rose, wife of G. M. Dyer, a general merchant of Iowa; Mary L., who wedded Curtis Camp, of Albert City, Buena Vista county, Iowa;

George Sylvester, who has farming interests in Kansas; Effie F. A., wife of Miller Cooley, an agriculturist of Kansas; Alma S., who became the wife of George Hostig, also a farmer of Kansas; and Emma. To Mr. and Mrs. Waggoner has been born one child, John Addison, who is now entering his third year.

Mr. Waggoner is loyal to the republican party and although he is not an office seeker, he uses his influence during campaigns in behalf of the candidates of his party. He belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen, meeting in Earleton, Neosho county, Kansas, and to the Ayrshire Lodge, I. O. O. F. Mr. Waggoner is a man whose enterprising qualities have staid by him in the attainment of his present prosperity, and being a man of good character and interested in the general welfare of the township he is numbered among its substantial and desirable citizens.

HISTORICAL

	PAGE
Introduction	7
The Indian and His Fate.....	8
First Land Title in Iowa.....	18
Early Settlement	18
Topography	25
Educational Institutions	28
State Institutions	33
Celebration of Fiftieth Anniversary, by J. C. Parish.....	38
Clay County	42
Climate, Organization	43
Pioneers	46
Creation of Townships	54
Sioux	54
Gillett's Grove	55
Peterson	58
Lone Tree	59
Douglas	60
Lake	63
Riverton	64
Summit	65
Freeman	65
Herdland	67
Lincoln	68
Garfield	69
Logan	70
Waterford	70
Clay	71
Reminiscences by J. A. Kirchner	72
Recollections of a Pioneer.....	78
Removal of the County Seat.....	80
First Railroad	82
Official Roster	87
Bench and Bar	109
Schools	121
Agricultural Societies	128
Peterson	131
Everly	138
Other Towns	141
Spencer	141

BIOGRAPHICAL

	PAGE		PAGE
Adams, John	232	Cauvel, Calvin	267
Addington, J. L.	314	Chatterton, H. L.	404
Ady, J. S.	609	Cheevers, John	440
Aebly, Henry	548	Christensen, C. P.	424
Alexander, J. H.	372	Christensen, Knud	590
Alvord, F. G.	288	Christenson, Peter	588
Anderson, Alfred	371	Clapper, Cummins	554
Anderson, Andrew	589	Coleman, F. J.	264
Anderson, G. W.	642	Cook, J. W.	366
Atwood, Ira	626	Corcoran, Hugh	517
Atwood, L. L.	270	Cornwall, W. W.	428
Avery, A. H.	490	Crone, Christian	637
		Crow, W. J.	377
Bailey, C. B.	337	Cruver, W. B.	555
Bailey, Eben	287	Culver, W. W.	369
Bailey, T. L.	399		
Bailey, W. B.	286	Delaney, T. E.	653
Barnhart, W. E.	294	Derry, E. M.	268
Batcheler, J. W.	229	Dofy, J. H.	316
Beeks, W. J.	402	Dunwell, C. A.	222
Belknap, C. W.	280	Durant, W. J.	660
Bender, G. B.	663		
Benthall, Eugene	435	Eckley, W. O.	599
Beving, D. E.	385	Eggers, H. W.	455
Bicknell, J. J.	306	Eiler, George	558
Bittinger, H. C.	640	Elder, James	658
Black, F. H.	331	Elless, T. M.	604
Boland, P. H.	670	Erffmeyer, O. H.	473
Bowman, W. P.	500	Ewoldt, George	645
Brandon, A. L.	608		
Breidinger, E. W.	586	Farmer, H. L.	506
Bronson, Earl	420	Fell, John	391
Bronson, Wirt	237	Fell, Michael	570
Brown, G. S.	543	Ferguson, Samuel	448
Brusie, Frank	636	Fisk, Samuel	252
Buckey, C. P.	526	Fisk, U. D.	644
Burger, Jacob	474	Flint, A. A.	613
Burger, J. B.	463	Flint, E. P.	253

	PAGE		PAGE
Floete, Franklin	651	Kinyon, A. B.	406
Frad, S. D.	512	Kirchner, J. A.	340
Freeburg, Gustaf	538	Kirchner, William	417
French, James	327	Kirkpatrick, Fred	421
French, J. W.	529	Knight, A. T.	350
		Kraemer, J. J.	305
Gabrielson, F. A.	617	Kruse, John	530
Gadsby, Thomas	388		
Gallaher, W. F.	671	La Brant, L. E.	484
Gillespie, Samuel	679	Lafurge, G. W.	666
Gleason, G. A.	584	Lahmon, Lewis	334
Gloyd, J. R.	346	Lammers, Julius	221
Goldsworthy, J. T.	535	Landers, E. A.	603
Goodell, A. J.	678	Lauck, M. L.	606
Green, H. O.	475	Lawler, J. J.	275
Green, J. S.	278	Lemaster, J. W.	569
Greene, A. W.	502	Lewis, J. B.	577
Griggs, T. D.	596	Lieneman, Peter	649
Gruchow, Albert	219	Livingston, A. J.	384
		Logan, D. J., Sr.	242
Hardin, A. G.	508	Long, D. D.	447
Hartman, J. W.	378	Lorenzen, John	405
Harvey, N. C.	667	Lundt, D. F.	585
Heikens, R. G.	674	Lundt, Henry	586
Hendricksen, H. W.	324		
Hendricksen, J. P.	220	McAllister, Charles	215
Hennings, N. J.	352	McConnell, A. F.	623
Herrinton, E. B.	520	McDowell, J. W.	247
Hilliard, Archie	217	McHugh, G. E.	277
Hjelm, L. J.	365	McKee, Fred	675
Hoffman, F. W.	600	McPherson, Thomas	488
Hofstad, Matthew	462	McQueen, Thomas	656
Hofstad, Olaf	434	McWhirter, John	616
Hopkins, John	230	Manning, G. W.	492
Howe, C. R.	607	Marker, E. F.	226
Hurd, L. M.	375	Marr, W. J.	231
Hurt, T. J.	527	Marsh, Alonzo	546
Huss, Frank	470	Miller, A. O.	582
		Miller, A. W.	580
James, Watkins	430	Miller, P. M.	595
Jelden, John	313	Mills, G. W.	622
Johns, C. F.	639	Mills, J. E.	360
Johnson, Henry	339	Mills, J. P.	452
Johnson, James	437	Moeller, G. W.	304
Johnson, Martin	312	Moeller, Rudolph	412
Johnston, J. C.	565	Moore, P. M.	322
Jones, A. T.	358	Morrow, Alexander	353
Jones, C. B.	633		
Jones, D. O.	672	Newman, M. O.	483
Jones, Evan	476	Ney, W. T.	227
Jones, H. E.	254		
Jones, T. H.	564	O'Brien, Joseph	238
Judson, W. A.	615	Odle, D. M.	541
		Olson, T. L.	629

	PAGE		PAGE
Paddock, A. J.	510	Sokol, J. M.	482
Parker, G. H.	394	Squire, F. A.	568
Perine, A. C.	261	Staples, F. M.	567
Petersen, Chris	401	Stark, D. J.	646
Pinneo, C. M.	262	Steele, J. E.	676
Pitcher, Benjamin	296	Struck, Fred	310
Powell, T. P.	471	Swift, M. B.	680
Randall, E. S.	612	Thuirer, C. L.	338
Raveling, Jacob	557	Tillinghast, Sam	537
Redfield, J. A.	545	Tischer, J. P.	619
Rice, W. R.	282	Torbert, W. F.	300
Riedinger, Conrad	493	Treeby, H. J.	368
Riley, F. P.	244	Turner, E. F.	259
Riley, John	625	Waggoner, F. D.	681
Ringering, John	643	Wahlstrom, Malakias	263
Roberts, T. L.	354	Wallace, D. C.	552
Robison, C. A.	457	Walstrom, Carl	650
Rogers, C. S.	414	Warren, William	392
Rood, W. I.	297	Watson, R. S.	528
Rose, W. E.	329	Watson, W. D.	556
Rusk, A. B.	662	Weaver, C. S.	445
Ryno, G. W., Sr.	382	Webb, Roy G.	525
Scharnberg, Lewis	454	Webb, W. H.	523
Schueneman, G. H.	632	Weber, O. A.	593
Scott, O. B.	439	Welch, Channing	665
Sebastian, Emil	602	Wesche, L. F.	433
Seibel, Adolph	332	Wetmore, Helon	458
Sherman, Frank	598	Whalen, Lawrence	427
Shriver, J. S.	634	Wilcox, N. T.	386
Simington, Adam	518	Williams, H. M.	659
Simington, W. H.	579	Wilson, J. B.	494
Sitz, Ed	464	Wood, F. N.	436
Skalitzky, J. J.	677	Woodcock, W. P.	245
Smith, E. D.	647	Wright, G. W.	576
Smith, H. N.	248	Zimmerman, J. H.	620
Smith, J. A.	257	Zishka, C. H.	418
Snyder, J. H.	631	Zishka, F. L.	311
Soehren, G. F.	299		

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

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

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